



MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Office of the Minister

PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION REFERS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE PNG AIC

The Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Jelta Wong, MP, today announced his support to the recent developments made by the Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) to improve safety in the aviation system through accident and serious incident investigation.

Minister Wong said *"To conduct independent, no blame and unbiased accident and serious incident investigation is a responsibility of PNG with the international community, being a State signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. This role has been assigned to the AIC and its independence needs to be always acknowledged and respected."*

"Besides international obligations, the Government of PNG has a duty to its citizens and as the Minister for Civil Aviation, I am here to ensure PNG meets and exceeds the international standards set by the International Civil Aviation for aviation safety."

"I am pleased to find out that the AIC has been committed to improve safety since its establishment, and during recent years a number of achievements have positioned the organisation as one of the top accident investigation authorities in the world. The AIC has also developed a series of Safety Recommendations of international and national reach as a result of its investigations."

"During my visit to the AIC, I could witness the efforts of the team for achieving the highest standards for accident and serious incident investigation in a systematic and conscious manner, to fulfil the requirements of international standards and national regulations while optimizing structures, processes and procedures to avoid unnecessary expenditure of resources, which is reflected in the series of strategic documents I have endorsed today."

"I would also like to acknowledge the AIC for maintaining the community as part of its primary focus. The new website launched today is a sample of how the AIC is continuously improving the relationship between the organisation and the public, making relevant information available and easy to access."

"Safety is one of the pillars for the development of a State. A safer aviation system provides more and better opportunities for market development and expansion, promotes trading and connects people. Therefore, safety continues to be a priority in which all aviation authorities including AIC and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA PNG), aviation service providers like the National Airports Corporation (NAC) and Niiskus Pacific Limited, air operators and aviation stakeholders have a role to play. As the Minister for Civil Aviation I will ensure all parties work together for the effective implementation of AIC Safety Recommendations and other strategies to continuously improve safety, for the benefit of PNG and its citizens."



Hon. Jelta Wong, MP

Minister for Civil Aviation

29th October 2020