

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MINISTER SCHNAUBELT ENDORSES THE PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION'S 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



**From Left to Right: Capt. Andui Koralyo - Acting Deputy Chief Commissioner), Dean Kuri – Chief Executive Officer of AIC, Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, Member for Namatanai and Minister for Civil Aviation, Capt. Aria Bouraga, Acting Chief Commissioner.**

Minister for Civil Aviation and Member for Namatanai, Honourable Walter Schnaubelt commanded the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) as one of the best performing government agencies in the Public Service, when he was present to launch the AIC's 5 Year Strategic Plan on Thursday 7th April. Minister Schnaubelt acknowledged the safety critical role the AIC has been mandated to perform on behalf of the independent State of PNG to improving safety in the air transport system both in PNG and internationally. The Minister commanded the Team for the consistent level of professionalism displayed since its inception in 2010.

He also acknowledged that due to the diligent work of the AIC, civil aviation is leading the way within the larger transport sector in understanding the circumstances that causes an accident and then taking the necessary steps to improve air transport safety. The Minister also acknowledged the contribution of stakeholders in aviation who have collaborated and cooperated with the accident investigation authority (AIC) and the regulator CASA PNG to address safety concerns raised by the AIC. Minister Schnaubelt stressed the importance of strengthening all cooperation arrangements and relationships with stakeholders both nationally and internationally as being critical for maintaining high aviation safety standards in the country and the region.

AIC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dean Kuri said the Minister was spot-on with his remarks regarding the requirement for cooperation of key players in the aviation system. Strategic partnering with key stakeholders in the aviation and transport system at large form one of the strategic pillars of the **AIC 5 Year Strategic Plan** as the agency focuses on the next 5 years.

Mr Kuri agreed the AIC has come of age over the last 10 years, however the road ahead promises new challenges in light of the Government's goals to improve rural connectivity for increase participation and access by our rural communities to government services and economic opportunities. The Government's significant investment programs in improving transport infrastructure across all modes of the transport sector promises significant increase in the movement and mobility of people and freight in the coming years. This positive trends also promises significant stress on the agency's ability to continue to meet its legislative mandate for aviation accident investigation.

Mr Kuri, described the 5 Year Strategic Plan as the AIC ***“road map to ensure the AIC continues to make its contribution to improving safety in air transportation which is important for sustained economic and social viability of PNG and the region”***, and said he and his team were extremely pleased to have the 5 Year Strategic Plan endorsed by Minister Schnaubelt.

More information about this investigation can be found at [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg).