



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALLY OPENS THE NEW PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION OFFICE

The Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, officially opened the PNG Accident Investigation Commission's new office at 6 mile on 26 January 2018. Mr. Manase said "the new AIC office, with its technical resources was a major step closer to ensuring the AIC will be able to keep pace with technological advancements in the aviation industry.

The AIC is the Nation's lead agency in conducting independent no-blame aircraft accident investigations, to determine why an accident or serious incident happened and make findings and recommendations for preventing similar accidents in the future".

"As Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, I will ensure the AIC is able to meet its International obligations and its legislated mandate, through appropriate resourcing."

As a safety investigation agency of the PNG Government, the AIC acts independently of all other regulatory bodies and service providers. "The AIC is now well placed as a leader in aircraft accident and serious incident investigations in the South Pacific Region."

Mr Manase added, "I am pleased that the AIC is meeting, and in many areas exceeding, the expectations of the International Civil Aviation Organization. ICAO expects completion of investigations with the public release of reports within 12 months, so I am particularly pleased that the AIC is producing high quality investigation reports, with an average time to completion of 6.5 months".

"The Chief Commissioner, Mr Hubert Namani, and his executive management team have shown strong leadership over the last 12 months, and in particular the last 9 months, which have presented many challenges. The strength of commitment of the AIC team is obvious to me, and I congratulate all members of the AIC for the service they are performing on behalf of the Nation."

The Minister reminded staff of the AIC that they had a greater responsibility to the people of PNG, and the new start was an opportunity to embrace change and build an organisation known for its integrity in every aspect of its work.

During the week commencing 31 January 2018, Mr Manase will be in Beijing attending the *Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation*, organised by ICAO. He said "global aviation safety is achieved through partnerships and strong ties. This conference will cover a range of topics, with aviation safety being key.

I am looking forward to engaging with Regional Ministers, and having the opportunity to raise awareness of the achievements of the aviation industry in PNG in that forum. In particular to discuss Regional partnerships in aviation safety investigation. I am pleased that the AIC is in the advanced stages of formulating Memorandums of Understanding with a number of PNG's Regional neighbour States."

Approved for release:



Hon. Alfred Manase, LLB
Minister for Civil Aviation

26 January 2018