

MEDIA RELEASE

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION COOPERATING WITH REGIONAL NEIGHBOURS

The Chief Commissioner of the Accident Investigation Commission, Mr Hubert Namani, today announced that the AIC is in advanced negotiations for the exchange of Memorandums of Understanding between the AIC and the aviation investigation agencies of Fiji, Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

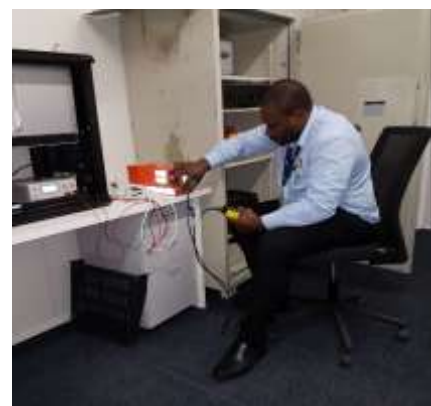
Mr Namani said “the purpose of the MoUs is to facilitate cooperation between the AIC and the investigation agencies in these countries, in the exercise our shared aviation safety investigation functions for the enhancement of aviation safety in our respective countries.”

He said “the MoUs cover a range of investigation activities including shared resources and training opportunities.”

Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, MP said “I am very keen to see these important MoU initiatives in place. With Air Niugini expanding its route network including the commencement of direct flights from Narita to Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia, and flights to Fiji via Honiara, cooperation in aviation safety investigation is vital. We want the people of PNG people to know that their safety is paramount whether they are travelling in PNG or flying abroad. Our respective Nation’s resources are finite, so it is important that small countries such as PNG and its regional neighbours share resources and cooperate in the interest of safety improvement.”

Mr Namani said “the AIC’s Flight Recorder Laboratory and trained investigators are at the disposal of our Regional neighbours if needed. While the AIC is still in need of some specialist Flight Recorder hardware and software, the achievements of the AIC investigators has been outstanding and they are producing world class results providing irrefutable evidence for investigations.”

The AIC commenced using a Drone in December 2017 for investigation photography at accident sites. Mr Namani said “the drone can fly at altitudes above 10,000 feet, and has already proven its worth at an accident site on the Sarawaget Ranges at 9,500 feet. This invaluable tool in the hands of our trained investigators is also available to our neighbours through the MoUs.



Approved:

Hubert Namani
Chief Commissioner

For further information contact:

PNG Accident Investigation Commission
Alan L Stray, PSM
Investigations Manager
+675 3232911