

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **PNG AIC WILL HOST THE NINTH ASIA PACIFIC – ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION GROUP (APAC-AIG) MEETING IN 2021.**

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that PNG will host the *Ninth Asia Pacific – Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG) Annual Meeting*, in Port Moresby, in 2021.

The APAC-AIG was established under the *Regional Aviation Safety Group – Asia Pacific (RASG-APAC)*, to assist the States of the Region in the development and improvement of independent no-blame accident and incident investigation.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) report emanating from the *56th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation Asia and Pacific Region* held in Kathmandu, Nepal in August 2019, stated

*“...out of all the 14 PSIDS (Pacific Small Island Developing States), only Papua New Guinea has established an independent authority for the investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents.”*

Mr. Namani explained “ICAO has recognised that the capabilities of the PNG AIC for conducting independent no-blame accident and serious incident investigation have significantly improved over the last 3 years, and was clearly demonstrated in the two 2018 major accident investigations conducted for Pacific States under full delegation to the PNG AIC; the Boeing 737 at Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the ATR 72-500 at Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu.

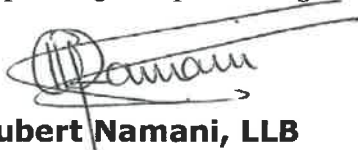
“These achievements have led Pacific Island States to look to PNG as a State in which safety is paramount and is recognised for excellence, integrity and professionalism in accident and incident investigation.”

In this context, the APAC-AIG Committee Chairman invited the AIC to host the *Ninth APAC-AIG Annual Meeting* in Port Moresby in 2021.

Mr. Namani said “In accepting the invitation to host the *Ninth APAC-AIG Annual Meeting*, the AIC Board has embraced this outstanding opportunity for the AIC to not only support and have a key role in this important Regional accident investigation activity, but also to encourage the Pacific Island States to become actively involved in a Regional cooperative framework and to participate in AIG-related activities in the Region.

“This also reinforces the AIC’s agreements to provide accident investigation support to FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Fiji.

“Holding the *Ninth APAC-AIG Annual Meeting* in Port Moresby will also showcase the AIC to the Asia Pacific States and be a clear demonstration of the PNG Government’s support for improving and promoting aviation safety, not only in PNG, but throughout the Region.”



**Hubert Namani, LLB**  
Chief Commissioner