

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER IMPRESSED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE'S ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY



**From Left to Right: Capt. Aria Bouraga - Deputy Chief Commissioner (AIC), Dean Kuri - CEO (AIC), Capt. Andui Koralyo – Commissioner (AIC), Civil Aviation Minister and Member for Namatanai - Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, Benedick Oraka - Director/CEO – (CASA PNG), Hubert Namani, LLB - Chief Commissioner (AIC).**

Following his first official visit to the AIC, newly appointed Minister for Civil Aviation and Member for Namatanai, Honourable Walter Schnaubelt said he was quite impressed with the achievements of the Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) and the professional environment in which the AIC was operating in. Despite financial constraints, the State's Authority mandated on behalf of the State for investigating and reporting on aircraft incidents and accidents in the country has been performing to international standards. The entity has been able to investigate almost 100% of all reported incidents and accidents throughout the country since its inception in 2010.

Minister Schnaubelt noted the critical continuous improvement nature of the Commission's work in promoting aviation safety, further noting that as a result of these work, there have been a number of significant contributions made by the AIC for improvements in the aviation sector both domestically and internationally.

The AIC Board Chairman and Chief Commissioner Mr Hubert Namani, LLB, confirmed the achievements and attributed the high performance to responsible and diligent oversight from the Board and a very passionate and engaged workforce led by an equally passionate Chief Executive Officer providing the leadership at the front. Mr Namani said apart from delivering on the State's obligation to investigate and report on aviation accidents in accordance with International Civil Aviation (ICAO) safety standards, the AIC has also undergone significant transformation as an organisation.

Mr Namani mentioned that during his tenure since 2017 the AIC has evolved into a very professional and responsible state entity. These improvements include.

- A fully pledged team of Papua New Guineans running the show at the AIC since July 2020. Mr Namani acknowledged that performance has been nothing short of international standards.
- For the first time in as many years the AIC received an Unqualified Audit Opinion from the Auditor General of PNG in the 2020 financial audit.
- In accordance with the Beijing Accord, the AIC has signed one MOU with one Pacific State and is in the process of signing MOUs with other Pacific States to provide resources and assistance in the area of aircraft accident investigation.
- The AIC was accorded Membership status to the International Transport Safety Association (ITSA) which comprises mainly of first-world countries such as USA, Canada, Australia, UK, and countries of the EU.
- The AIC's Flight Data Recorder Processing Laboratory is amongst the top 5 countries in the world. The Laboratory is equipped with the 'state of the art' system capable of data downloading, readout and analysis, including animation capability.

Mr Namani said on behalf the Board Commissioners, the CEO and his workforce, the AIC looks forward to working with Minister Schnaubelt in the remaining 5 months of this term of Government to consolidate the achievements of the AIC and to commence work on achieving some of its strategic objectives before the issue of writs for the 2022 National General Elections.