



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION**

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MEDIA RELEASE

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION (AIC) HEREBY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS MADE DURING THE 3RD QUARTER MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON 02-03 AUGUST 2010 IN LIGHT OF RECENT MEDIA REPORTS OF THE NON RENEWAL OF AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF A SENIOR INVESTIGATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS IN PNG AND IMPLICATIONS ON THE COMPLETION OF REPORTS. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WAS THE KOKODA CRASH ON 11 AUGUST 2009.

THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO IMMEDIATELY ENGAGE MR.SID O`TOOLE UNDER SECTION 242 OF THE CIVIL AVIATION ACT FIRSTLY TO COMPLETE ALL OUSTANDING REPORTS AND SECONDLY TO CONTINUE HIS ROLE AS INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE OF ON GOING INVESTIGATIONS AS AND WHEN THEY OCCUR. TERMS, CONDITIONS AND DURATION OF HIS ENGAGEMENT ARE BEING FINALISED.THIS IS AN INTERIM ARRANGMENT PENDING RECRUIMENT OF INVESTIGATORS UNDER THE APPROVED AIC STRUCTURE.

THE CHAIRMAN ALSO WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE COMING ON BOARD OF MR.DAVID INAU WHO WAS APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MARCH THIS YEAR. HIS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT IS BEING FINALISED. HE WILL TAKE FULL CONTROL OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMISSION INCLUDING RECRUITMENT AND SETTING UP OF HR AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS OF THE COMMISSION.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COMPLETION OF THE KOKODA CRASH REPORT.THE REPORT IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE. ONGOING DIALOGUE IS BEING MAINTAINED WITH THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT SAFETY BUREAU (ATSB). IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE REPORT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 2010. EMANATING FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS THE AIC THROUGH THE INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE HAS MADE A PRELIMINARY SAFETY RECOMMENDATION TO THE PNG CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY (PNG CASA) THAT ALL TWIN TURBINED AIRCRAFT IN PNG OPERATED BY TWO CREW BE MANDATED TO HAVE A COCKPIT VOICE RECORDER FITTED. PNG CASA HAS AGREED WITH THE RECOMMENDATION AND FURTHERRECOMMENDED THEY ALSO BE EQUIPPED WITH EGPWS EQUIPMENT, A POSITION ALSO UPHELD BY THE AIC.

MINSON PENI
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

For Chairman

Our Vision: To strive for excellence by working in partnership with the community to facilitate a well integrated and sustainable transport system for PNG