



## MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

### Office of the Minister

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## PRESS STATEMENT

### PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION ASSISTING FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA INVESTIGATION INTO AIR NIUGINI ACCIDENT AT CHUUK

The Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, MP, today announced that immediately following the notification of the Air Niugini aircraft accident at Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) he authorised the PNG Accident Investigation Commission to send a team of investigators to Chuuk to assist with the investigation in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Standards* that allow the State of Registration of the aircraft to participate in the investigation by a foreign State.

Mr Manase said, "the Hon. Lukner Weilbacher, FSM Minister of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure said that he welcomed the offer of assistance from the PNG AIC and requested assistance by the AIC throughout the investigation".

On Friday 28 September 2018, the Accident Investigation Commission was informed that a Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by Air Niugini, landed in the Chuuk Lagoon about 60 metres short of Chuuk International Airport's runway 04. All occupants exited the aircraft and were promptly rescued and brought to shore by local boaters. There were 12 crew members and 35 passengers on board. Six passengers were seriously injured, and one passenger is unaccounted for.

Mr. Manase said "the AIC team arrived in Chuuk at 8am on Saturday 29 September, about 22 hours after the accident and immediately commenced assisting the FSM investigation team. The FSM Investigator-in-Charge expressed appreciation for PNG's rapid response and support and has delegated the responsibility for the downloading, decoding and analysing the data from the Flight Data and Cockpit Voice Recorders and the Quick Access Recorder and any other recorded medium to the PNG AIC.

"A FSM investigator will accompany the recorders to Port Moresby and will work with the AIC team, both for investigation and training purposes".

Mr. Manase added, "he PNG AIC is currently in the advanced stages of negotiating a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and other States in the Pacific Region.

"While the MOU has not yet been signed, the AIC is joining with the FSM team in investigating this major aircraft accident in accordance with the terms of the draft MOU."



Hon. Alfred Manase, MP

Minister for Civil Aviation and member for Kandep Open



**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**  
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Office of the Secretary

September 30, 2018


Hon. Alfred Manase (MP)  
Minister of Civil Aviation & Member of Kandep Open  
PNG National Parliament  
Papua New Guinea

Dear Hon. Manase,

As the Secretary (Minister) of the Department of Transportation Communications & Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia, responsible for civil aviation, I write to formally welcome the offer of support by the Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission (PNG AIC) and further request its assistance in the investigation (in accordance with the requirements of the ICAO Annex 13) of the accident/incident in Chuuk, FSM on September 28, 2018, involving an Air Niugini aircraft.

Assistant Secretary of FSM TC&I, Mr. Master Halbert, is the lead investigator for FSM. I kindly request for your team to coordinate with Mr. Halbert's team in Chuuk. I look forward to your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Lukner Weilbacher  
TC&I Secretary


Having given by the Secretary of TC&I full authority to direct the investigation, and as head of the FSM Investigation team ("FSM Investigator-in-charge" or "FSM IIC") to conduct the no-blame Annex 13 investigation into the aircraft accident in Chuuk involving the Air Niugini Boeing 737-800 operating as flight no. PX 73 ("Chuuk aircraft accident"), I have decided the following:

1. As the State of Registration, in accordance with Annex 13, paragraph 5.18, the PNG Aircraft Accident Investigation Commission ("PNG AIC") is entitled to appoint an accredited representative and advisors to participate in the investigation, and has offered assistance to the investigation. FSM IIC appreciates and welcomes PNG AIC to assist with FSM retaining control of the investigation.

2. PNG AIC is delegated and designated the responsibility of downloading, decoding and analyzing the data from the Flight Data Recorder, Cockpit Voice Recorder, and the Quick Access Recorder, and from any other recording media, either in FSM or in Port Moresby. Qualified FSM National Government official(s) and/or designated representative(s) need to accompany the boxes to PNG, and the official(s)/representative(s) shall be present in the actual analysis, for investigation and training.

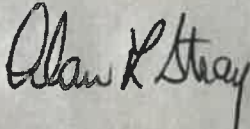
3. PNG AIC shall share full information to FSM IIC in connection with those data, and provide timely report and feedback to FSM IIC, in connection with this delegation. In accordance with Annex 13, FSM may request, and PNG AIC has agreed to provide, any further information, assistance, explanation or clarification with regard to this delegated responsibility.

4. FSM IIC and PNG AIC, and members of their respective teams are to observe strict confidentiality in regard to any information relating to this Chuuk aircraft accident. Public release of any information regarding the progress or status of the investigation must first be approved by the FSM IIC.

  
Master Halbert  
Assistant Secretary, FSM TC&I

Date: 9-30-18

Concurred:

  
Alan Stray  
PNG AIC Investigator Manager

Date: 30 SEPT 2018