

# MEDIA RELEASE

## PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION – WOMEN IN AIRCRAFT SAFETY INVESTIGATION

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 that the AIC's merit-based selection processes have resulted in the Investigation Division having a gender balance of 41% women.

Mr. Namani said "During the last 12 months, the AIC has sought to recruit skilled Papua New Guinean nationals with the right qualifications, experience and attitude and level of integrity into the AIC investigation team. The AIC welcomed an investigation support officer and a group of new investigators in the aviation professions of Flight Operations (Pilots), Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Instrumentation and Electronics and Flight Recorders, Cabin Safety, Safety Management Systems and Human Factors.

"These highly educated aviation professionals have embraced their new discipline of aircraft accident and serious incident investigation and support and have excelled in their training courses. All investigation Division staff undergo the same investigation basics, database, and report writing training in-house as well as on-job-training including at aircraft accident sites. Specialised training is sourced overseas."



AIC Investigator, Ms. Linda Vaso is a qualified Safety Management System (SMS) trainer and recently conducted a 35-hour training course for the AIC's investigators addressing in detail all the topics in *ICAO SMS Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*.

The overseas training courses have covered Helicopter Accident Investigation, and advanced Human Factors in Aircraft Accident and Serious Incident Investigation conducted by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau in Canberra.

Mr. Namani added, "During the last week two of our women investigators Ms. Lea Geno and Ms. Linda Vaso successfully completed the Aircraft Cabin Safety Investigation course at the Southern California Safety Institute (SCSI) in Los Angeles.



"It is crucial that our investigators are trained to examine and analyse post-accident survivability. The Cabin Safety Investigation course at SCSI involved interactive learning and practical exercises and has equipped our investigators with the knowledge and skills to conduct detailed investigation of cabin safety and survivability.

"They were taught the unique requirements for interviewing survivors and completely documenting the cabin for deficiencies, injuries sustained during the aircraft accident, escape from the aircraft, and survivability in the post-crash environment.

“The investigators attended instructional briefings at the Long Beach Airport Fire Department that covered post-accident rescue and survivability.


“The training also included instructional briefings at the SAFRAN facility where cabin interiors and safety equipment for much of the world’s narrow and wide-body fleet of aircraft are designed, manufactured, tested and certified with a particular focus on survivability.

“During the 5-day course the AIC investigators had the additional benefit of liaison and interaction with Cabin Safety Investigators from a range of countries.”



Mr. Namani said that the Nation can be assured that the Board and Management of the AIC are committed to ensuring all AIC investigators and support staff are able to meet the AIC’s International obligations and its legislated mandate.

At a time of fiscal restraint, the AIC is grateful for the government’s support to resource training of our investigators.



**Hubert Namani, LLB**  
*Chief Commissioner*