

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### PNG AIC INVESTIGATIONS MANAGER—ADVISER MR. ALAN STRAY, PSM RETIRES

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 that the AIC's Investigations Manager—Adviser, Mr. Alan Stray, PSM will retire on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Mr. Namani said "Mr. Stray's career in aviation commenced in January 1965 with training as an aircraft maintenance engineer. He came to Papua New Guinea in January 1970 and flew the length and breadth of the country as a Mission pilot and engineer during the next 10 years, living in a number of remote locations. Subsequently, after 7 years as a Regional Airline Captain in Australia, he joined the Australian Government as an aircraft accident investigator in January 1987. He has held an aircraft maintenance engineering Licence and an Airline Transport Pilot Licence and has more than 11,500 hours flying experience.

"While with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau as Director of International Investigations, from March 2007 Mr. Stray spent more than 3 years in Indonesia training and mentoring Indonesian accident investigators with the National Transportation Safety Committee. He retired from the ATSB in June 2010.

"Between 2011 and 2016 Mr. Stray assisted the PNG AIC on short term assignments and during that time drafted the first *Investigation Policy and Procedures* for the AIC in 2011, and conducted Investigation Basics and Report Writing Training courses for the AIC investigators.

"In 2016 Mr. Stray joined the AIC full time as Investigations Manager—Adviser to the CEO and the Board. Over the last 3 years the AIC has developed into a leading independent aircraft accident investigation agency in the Region."

Mr. Namani said, Mr. Stray has been instrumental in mentoring the AIC's investigators to conduct and report on 34 accident investigations and 9 serious incident investigations as well as 71 Safety Recommendations issued to the aviation industry in PNG and abroad to rectify identified safety deficiencies and concerns. A number of recommendations arising from the AIC's investigations have resulted in safety action, including by operators and manufacturers, that have had global safety of flight improvements."

Mr. Namani described how during his tenure over the last 2.5 years as Chief Commissioner, Mr. Stray has worked closely with the Board providing sound advice on investigation policy and procedures.

Mr. Namani said "Mr. Stray has worked long hours 7 days a week providing guidance to the young team of investigators, and this has also involved work on accident sites, which included the high-altitude accident site in the Sarawaget Ranges and the Boeing 737 accident in the Chuuk Lagoon in Micronesia."

Students on his investigation training courses have included safety officers from PNG and Pacific Region States airlines, aircraft operators and maintenance organisations, as well as from the PNGDF and PNGASL, CASA and NAC.

Mr. Namani proudly explained how the Investigation Division commissioned an engineering workshop for aircraft component and wreckage examination. The Flight Recorder Laboratory has been significantly improved with State of the Art digital technology Flight Data and Cockpit Voice Recording equipment and the software to produce flight animations from the downloaded data during Mr. Stray's leadership and management of the Investigation Division.

Mr. Namani said, "Our vision for a world recognised strong ICAO compliant independent aircraft accident investigation organisation for PNG was realised in June 2019 with the AIC being recognised for its high standards of safety investigation and capability, receiving membership of the prestigious International Transportation Safety Association (ITSA); one of only 18 countries out of the 193 ICAO Contracting States.

"Further recognition has come in the form of the AIC being invited to host the *Ninth Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group Meeting* in 2021."

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 that 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.

"Mr. Stray has led and mentored the investigators with professionalism, sound ethics and integrity. The team has embraced these high standards and is recognised throughout the aviation industry in PNG and globally for excellence, integrity and professionalism in accident and incident investigation."

Mr. Stray essentially commenced his aviation career after initial training in PNG and it is fitting that as he re-enters retirement that his full-time aviation career is ending in PNG.

A new chapter for the AIC will commence on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 with Mr. Stray's replacement commencing with the AIC.

Mr. Namani said, "Mr. Winston San Martin has been appointed as the new Investigations Manager – Adviser of the AIC. He brings to the AIC more than twenty years of experience in the aviation industry as a pilot, accident investigator and Safety Management Expert Assessor and Trainer for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

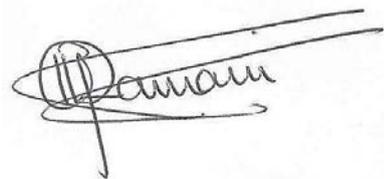
"During his professional career, Mr. San Martin has been investigator in charge of more than 40 accident and incident investigations and has participated in different roles in more than 400 investigations for the Directorate General of Civil Aeronautics of Chile. As an ICAO Expert Assessor and Trainer, he has assisted a number of States (countries) from different Regions to improve their accident investigation and safety management capabilities.

"The AIC is now poised to move to multi-modal investigations covering the aviation and maritime transport modes.

“New independent Transport Safety Investigation Legislation to meet the ICAO Standards of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation is to be introduced, and Mr. San Martin will lead the Investigation Division into this new sphere of transport safety investigation capability.”

Safe transport is essential to the health, education and welfare of PNG citizens and citizens of the Pacific Region. The PNG Government has demonstrated its commitment to transport safety for the Nation.

Mr. Namani said “The AIC’s capacity and capability to lead the Region in multi-modal transport safety investigation will be a key role that Mr. San Martin will play. The AIC Board is confident that Mr. San Martin will lead the Investigation Division at the level of excellence, professionalism and integrity that the AIC has achieved in the last 3 years, while facing the growing challenges that the global context presents every day.”



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



Winston San Martin with Alan Stray