

MEDIA RELEASE

REDUCING EXPOSURE TO RISKS ASSOCIATED TO HUMAN FACTORS

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today made an announcement with regard to measures to reduce exposure to risks for international travellers and general public and their relation to aviation safety and accident prevention.

Mr. Namani said “According to the *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)*, the human element is the most flexible of all the components of the aeronautical system. For this reason, accident prevention measures and safety enhancement need to consider physical, psychological and physiological characteristics and limitations of the human being, in order to effectively allow to reduce the potential for aviation accidents.”

The PNG AIC, in addition to complying with national and international obligations regarding the investigation of accidents and serious incidents, was directed by the Minister of Civil Aviation to comply with relevant requirements on *Safety Management* in accordance with *Annex 19 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*. Part of those *International Standards* are related to safety promotion and awareness.

Mr Namani explained that “with the increase of the aviation activity, new opportunities for the development and strengthening of the economy of the States arise. The opening of new routes and the decrease of the airfares have also made that for many people the flight has become part of the daily life, allowing to reach destinations that otherwise would not have been possible.

“In relation to the recent events associated with the outbreak of coronavirus in China, the *World Health Organization (WHO)* has disseminated various measures to prevent and contain the outbreak. At the State level, we trust that the relevant authorities such as the National Department of Health will continue implementing the necessary measures to maintain the safety and health of PNG citizens, with the support of all major transport stakeholders.”

WHO’s recommended hygiene and safe food practices to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, applicable for international travellers and the general public are:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue - throw tissue away immediately and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough;
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals;
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.”

Mr. Namani said: “Recommendations such as the ones promoted by WHO, in addition to reducing the risks of disease transmission, constitute an important element to improve the safety of air operations, by promoting a better performance of flight crews by decreasing the chance of exposure to risks associated with human factors.”