



## **Remarks by CASA PNG Board Chairman, Mr. Taunao Vai, Board Swearing-In Ceremony**

### **Opening**

Honourable Wake Goi, MP, Minister for Civil Aviation, members of the Board of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG (CASA PNG), Magistrate Billy Pidu, Senior Provincial Magistrate (NCD), Chairmen and CEOs, MDs of Aviation Agencies and Entities, CASA CEO & Director of Civil Aviation and Management of CASA PNG, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great honour that I stand before you today, having taken the oath of office as the Chairman of the CASA PNG Board.

### **Expression of Gratitude**

It is with deep gratitude that I accept the responsibility entrusted to me as the Chairman of the Board.

I thank the Minister and the Government for the confidence and trust confided in me to lead the Board of Directors of CASA PNG and to guide the organisation in the desired strategic direction and to ensure good governance practices.

I acknowledge the leadership of the previous Board Chairman and Board of Directors, the initiatives that were implemented and the achievements. Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to the Marape-Rosso Government, the Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Wake Goi, MP, for ensuring adequate funding is always available for the delivery of aviation safety and security compliance, the commitment of the CASA CEO, Management, and staff, as well as the support provided by our stakeholders and bilateral partners.

### **Statement of Responsibility**

As Chairman, I will endeavor to uphold governance, integrity, and accountability, and will ensure the Board of Directors apply the same, as we lead the organisation towards achieving its Vision of 'Enabling

and ensuring connectivity through safe and secure air travel'. The Board will ensure that CASA continues to promote compliance, and enhance safety and security outcomes through effective collaboration and engagement with its stakeholders, reaffirming dedication to the organisation's mission and values.

CASA's work is aligned with the Government Strategic Framework; the Board will continue to ensure that the organisation continues to align with the:

- Medium Term Development Plan IV
- National Transport Strategy
- Medium Term Transport Plan 3
- Minister for Civil Aviation KRAs
- Regional/global declarations (Delhi, Muscat, Doha, Suva)

The Board of Directors acknowledge the significant achievements of CASA in 2025 and assures the organisation that we will guide and support the organisation as we thrive to achieve the priorities for 2026 and beyond.

### **Acknowledgement of Key Achievements in 2025**

CASA has achieved almost 90% of its 2025 Annual Audit & Surveillance Program and Work Plan. The significant milestones in 2025 are:

- **Increase in the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Effective Implementation score for PNG from 60.7% to 80.5%, placing PNG as the leader among the Pacific Island Developing States, in terms of high USOAP EI Score, as well as, placing PNG within the 13 highest countries in the Asia Pacific Region (APAC) out of the 39 APAC States. PNG now sits above the APAC Region EI Score and the Global Average EI Score.**
- **Increase in the Universal Security Audit Programme Effective Implementation score for PNG from 35.67% to 62.95%.**
- **Closure of the two Significant Security Concerns (SSECs) placed on PNG by ICAO, resulting in nil SSECs.**

- **Strong Safety Performance:**
  - Zero fatal accidents in 2025.
  - Safety Management System maturity: Airlines at 95%, General Aviation at 90%.
  - Quality Management System maturity: Airlines at 95%, GA at 85%.
  - Incident closure rate: 304 of 432 incidents closed (70% resolution).
  
- Successful completion of the 2025 ISO Surveillance Audit, achieving zero findings.
  
- PNG was formally accepted as a member of the prestigious International group, SMS-ICG on 15 January 2025. As the only Pacific State represented in the SM-ICG, PNG has a sit at the table with the top 20 ICAO States in the world including Singapore, FAA, EASA, Australia, NZ, etc., with ICAO as permanent observer.
  
- CASA successfully closed off the outstanding Qualification and has successfully completed the audit of its Financial Statements for the 2024 financial year with a clean report. Furthermore, **CASA is the only entity subject to the PNG Public Finance Management Act Public Sector Audit Program 20 Compliance Standards to score a rating of 101%.**
  
- **Financial Performance:**
  - Total revenue: K32.6 million (K17.3m internal + K15.3m government grant).
  - Surplus: K1.6 million.
  - Expenditure: K30.9 million against K29.7 million budget.
  - Quarterly budget reviews submitted on time.

### **Strategic Direction / Priorities**

The Board's priorities for the organisation are:

- to ensure good governance, uphold the organisation's core values;
- provide support to CASA for it to continue to deliver on its mandated roles and responsibilities, as well as, the vision, mission and the key objectives of our Corporate Plan, including the priorities of the international and regional civil aviation community; and

- set the strategic direction for CASA for 2028 – 2032. The current Corporate Plan ends in 2027.

Aviation growth in the next 20 years is likely to pose many challenges for PNG, as well as opportunities. I assure the Government, the Minister, and CASA PNG that the Board will support the organisation address those challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.

### **Closing Remarks**

The Board of Directors affirms its commitment to support CASA PNG contribute towards a safe and secure aviation industry in Papua New Guinea.

Together, we will leverage on current strengths and will advance this institution toward greater heights.

Thank you once again to the Honourable Minister, and the Marape-Roso Government for your confidence in my leadership. I look forward to the work ahead.