



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION,
HON. WAKE GOI, MP, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CASA
PNG BOARD SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

AIRWAYS HOTEL,

05TH MAY 2026

MC, thank you for your warm introduction.

**Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the
presence of:**

- **Your Worship, Magistrate Billy Pidu, Senior
Provincial Magistrate for National Capital District,**
- **Chairman, CASA PNG Board, Mr. Taunao Vai,**
- **Deputy Chairman, CASA PNG Board, Mr. Peter Pato,**
- **Members of CASA PNG Board,**
- **Chief Executive Officer & Director of Civil Aviation,
Mr. Benedict Oraka, and CASA PNG Management,**
- **Chairmen and CEOs, Managing Directors, for
Aviation Agencies and Entities,**
- **Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, I am honored to be part of this occasion, to witness the swearing-in of the new Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea (CASA PNG) Board of Directors.

The civil aviation industry is a key player in the Country's socioeconomic development, as it supports domestic and international transportation, service delivery, business, and trade and investment.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) being a signatory to the Chicago Convention, and a member to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), it is important that PNG continue to comply with the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, as well as ICAO's strategic objectives, goals, and targets.

Air transportation remains a priority of the Marape-Rosso Government. Accordingly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will continue to deliver initiatives aligned with MTDP IV, Strategic Priority Area 2 (Connect PNG – Air Transport) and Strategic Priority Area 10 (Climate Change and Natural Environment Protection), in support of national efforts to grow GDP by K164 billion toward the 2030 target of K200 billion.

Effective Policy deployment and Legislative enforcement plays a vital role in this effort, positioning CASA PNG as an important Government organisation. I fully acknowledge CASA PNG's role in helping to shape our country's aviation landscape.

PNG in the last 12 months has achieved some significant milestones. These milestones are:

- increase in PNG's Effective Implementation Score from

60.7% to 80.5% under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), placing PNG as the leading Pacific Small Island Developing State and is placed among the top 13 States in the Asia Pacific region out of 39 ICAO Asia Pacific States.

- increase in PNG's Effective Implementation Score from 35.6% to 62.9% under the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP).
- PNG was formally accepted as a member of the Safety Management International Collaboration Group (SM-ICG), a prestigious forum comprising the world's leading aviation authorities. As the only Pacific State represented, PNG now sits alongside the top ICAO States, including United States Federal Aviation Administration, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, National Aviation Authorities from Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand, with ICAO as a permanent observer.
- CASA PNG successfully completed the 2025 ISO 9001 Surveillance Audit with zero finding, further confirming the robustness of its systems and processes.
- In the area of Governance and Public Finance Management, in the inaugural Pacific Internal Auditors Conference in November 2025, on the PNG Public Sector Compliance Assessment, CASA PNG scored the highest in the Agency Financial and Governance Assessment Scorecard, making it the most compliant Agency performing above expectations.

While these achievements mark a major step forward, work is continuing to address remaining deficiencies and to further improve PNG's USOAP and USAP EI Scores.

The appointment of this Board is timely, as it support CASA PNG with strategic direction, oversight and governance, to ensure CASA PNG delivers on its mandate with integrity, discipline and results. The Government is confident that this Board, leveraging on the current strengths within CASA PNG, will take PNG a step further.

Members of the Board, as you formally assume your duties after this swearing-in ceremony, I remind you that your appointments carry with them a profound responsibility to act in the best interests of the institution, the Government, and the people we serve. I trust that you will discharge your duties with integrity, diligence, and an unwavering commitment to good governance and accountability.

Let me take this time to congratulate you on your appointment; Mr. Taunao Vai, as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Peter Pato, as Deputy Chairman, and Ms. Shelley Launa and Mr. Peter Kamong as Independent Directors.

The Marape-Rosso Government through the Ministry of Civil Aviation remains fully committed to strengthening aviation safety, security, and oversight in line with international best practices, to ensure a safe, secure, and resilient aviation sector for Papua New Guinea.

I congratulate you once again on your appointments and wish you every success in your term as the Board of Directors for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG.

Honorable Wake Goi, MP
MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION