



## **MINISTER *for* TRANSPORT & CIVIL AVIATION**

PO Box 1489, PORT MORESBY, NCD, Papua New Guinea, CASA PNG Office, Enga Haus, Airways Road, 7-Mile  
Telephone: (675) 327 9500 Facsimile: (675) 323 3339

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Cessation of Aerodrome Operations - Nadzab and Kiunga.**

As the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, I am watching the social media commentary in relation to the closure of the Nadzab and Kiunga aerodromes which has compelled me to issue this statement.

The priority of the Marape - Rosso Government and my Ministry in the PNG aviation environment is Safety. Safety of the travelling public cannot and will not be compromised.

These are the facts:

1. The NAC Board and MD have allowed the Aerodrome Operating Certificates for Nadzab and Kiunga to expire on the 31st July 2022.
2. The NAC Board and MD allowed operations into Nadzab and Kiunga without an Aviation Document (Part 139 Aerodrome Operating Certificate) for 30 days.
3. CASA PNG has taken the responsible action to advise NAC to cease aerodrome operations at Nadzab and Kiunga on 30th August 2022 due to the expiry of the Aerodrome Operating Certificates.
4. The NAC Board and MD have not taken the responsible step to uphold safety by ceasing operations.
5. NiuSky Pacific Limited has responsibly issued a NOTAM to cease civil aircraft operations on 31st August 2022 on advice from CASA PNG; as the NAC Board, MD and Management have not taken the responsible step to cease operations until the non-compliance issues are resolved and the Aerodrome Operating Certificates are re-issued.

6. Air Niugini and PNG Air have responsibly advised the travelling public on 31st August 2022 that they will cease operations to Nadzab and Kiunga.
7. An Independent Director of the NAC Board has taken me to court which prevents me from assisting NAC correct the undesirable safety issues.

I urge the National Airports Corporation Board, MD and Management to work with CASA PNG to address the non-compliances to ensure the safety of the travelling public and speed up the re-issue of the Aerodrome Operating Certificate for Nadzab and Kiunga so that operations can recommence at the said aerodromes as soon as practically possible.

It is an offence under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 to conduct operations without a necessary aviation document.

Section 280. Acting Without Necessary Aviation Document.

A person who -

- (a) operates, maintains, or services; or
- (b) does any other act,

in respect of any aircraft, aeronautical product or aviation related service, either without holding the appropriate current aviation document or knowing that a current aviation document is required to be held in respect of that aircraft, product or service before that act may lawfully be done and knowing that the appropriate aviation document is not held, is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Where a person convicted on an offence is -

- (a) a corporation a fine not exceeding K50,000.00; and
- (b) other than a corporation - a fine not exceeding K10,000.00 or imprisonment for a term *not exceeding 3 months*, or both.



**Walter D. Schnaubelt, MP**

***Approved for Media Release  
01<sup>st</sup> September, 2022***