

BALUS TOKTOK

NEWSLETTER

CEO's Message



CEO, Bruce Alabaster

Welcome to this edition of Balus Toktok Newsletter for the month of February 2021.

It is a sad moment for the

National airline and the people of PNG as the country mourns the loss of Founding father and the first Prime Minister of PNG, the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare who sadly passed away on the 26th of February.

We all join the nation to pay tribute to a great leader, who played a major role in the establishment of Air Niugini when he launched the airline on the 1st of November 1973. On behalf of the staff and Management of Air Niugini, I extend our deepest condolences to

Lady Veronica and the family of the Late Grand Chief.

In other updates, we successfully operated the first Boeing 737 flight to Gurney airport, Milne Bay on the 26th of February.

The B737 aircraft will do three weekly services from 28th March, on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday complementing our Fokker jet aircraft that continue to service Alotau on all other days of the week.

Continue on page 3

Volume 3, Issue 2

28 February 2021

Inside this issue:

OUT PORT NEWS: FIRST BOEING 737 FLIGHT TO GURNEY 2

AIR NIUGINI INCREASES SERVICES BETWEEN PORT MORESBY AND HONG KONG 3

CAPTAIN PAUL KODOR FAREWELLED AFTER 34 YEARS 4

STAFF SOCIAL ACTIVITY 6

Gallery 7

Noticeboard 8

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT: PAILA LEKA AWARDED CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Air Niugini continues to recognise the efforts of staff who carry out their duties above and beyond their expectations.

Well done to executive manager Cargo Services, Ms Paila Leka who was awarded Certificate of Commendation on February 17th 2021 by Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster.

The award was presented in appreciation for her efforts and the level of professionalism displayed during the handling of an



Ms Leka was awarded Certificate of Commendation

extremely difficult situation regarding a disputed cargo recently this month.

General Manager Cargo, Mr Gus Kraus extended his and the Management's

appreciation for Ms Leka's handling of a situation involving the Police (Mobile Squad) and the purported BDM shippers together with the true shippers.

Ms Leka's efforts have not gone un-noticed along with the Cargo team and the level of professionalism displayed in evading and calming the confrontation was a credit to her and her masterful skill set and it is truly commendable.

OUT PORT NEWS: FIRST BOEING 737 FLIGHT TO GURNEY



Passengers disembarking welcomed by dancing group

The people of Milne Bay Province warmly welcomed Air Niugini's first ever Boeing 737 flight into Gurney on Friday, 26 February with traditional dancing with a big crowd gathered to witness the historical event.

A wash down ceremony was done on arrival at Gurney Airport.

Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster was also on board the flight and said it is a proud moment for the airline to be able to bring the Boeing 737 service into Gurney which could boost tourism in the province.

Mr Alabaster complimented the Government of PNG on all the work that they have done on the extension of the runway making it possible for the Boeing 737 service to operate.

He said, "Alotau is an important economic hub for Milne Bay Province.

"This will greatly assist in meeting demand whilst offering the fastest, smoothest, and most comfortable flights for our customers.

"Once the pandemic is over and overseas tourists return, the Boeing 737 will be a popular choice for travellers to Milne Bay," Mr Alabaster said.

Mr Alabaster continued, "The Boeing 737 will also carry more freight than the Fokker aircraft currently used, which will assist with uplifting agricultural and marine produce from Milne Bay to Port Moresby and overseas markets. We are delighted to be able to provide the greater capacity and reliability of

services that our customers deserve".

A number of provincial stakeholders were present to welcome the aircraft including Member for Alotau Mr Charles Able who thanked the national airline for having Gurney as one of the ports to operate the Boeing 737 service.

In addition, a minute silence was also given to pay tribute to the first Prime Minister and Founding father of the nation, the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare during the small welcome ceremony.

The flight was operated by Boeing 737 Captain Moses Padigaga and First Officer Bernice Watinga.



AIR NIUGINI INCREASES SERVICES BETWEEN PORT MORESBY AND HONG KONG

Air Niugini is pleased to announce that it will increase services between Port Moresby and Hong Kong from once to twice weekly, commencing Saturday 03rd April 2021.

Services will be operated by the Boeing 767 aircraft, in partnership with Cathay Pacific Airways under a code share arrangement.

Flights to Hong Kong were resumed in October last year, operating once a week on Wednesdays.

From 03rd April the Wednesday service will be complemented with a new Saturday service.

The code share with Cathay Pacific, as well as agreements with Air France, Emirates Airline, and Qatar

Airways, allows passengers to transfer between flights at Hong Kong from worldwide destinations, including mainland China, and the rest of Asia.

Air Niugini CEO Mr Bruce Alabaster said, "Hong Kong is a major global gateway and connecting hub for both passengers and freight, and Hong Kong's homebased airline Cathay Pacific is one of the largest and most



The increased services will be operated by Air Niugini's Boeing 767 aircraft, in partnership with Cathay Pacific Airways under a code share arrangement.

respected airlines in Asia. When we resumed Hong Kong flights in October last year we were confident that the service would quickly become popular with both travellers and freight shippers – and this has proved to be the case."

Mr Alabaster continued, "We are sure that the capability of Air Niugini and Cathay Pacific, as well as our other three partner carriers, to

provide seamless and convenient transfers via Hong Kong, including issuing of boarding passes from origin to destination, and through check in of bags to final destination, will prove to be a winner with our customers".

Air Niugini has the ability to increase Hong Kong services to five weekly as demand for international travel gradually recovers.

From 03rd April flight PX008/CX6898 departs POM at 1500 on Wednesdays and Saturdays, arriving Hong Kong at 1935 local time. In the return direction flight PX019/CX6899 departs Hong Kong on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2045 local time, arriving POM at 0530am on Thursday and Sunday mornings.

CEO ACKNOWLEDGES TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN DART AND SOCCER COMPS

From page 1

In addition, we will increase services between Port Moresby and Hong Kong from once to twice weekly, commencing Saturday 03rd April 2021.

Meantime, Link PNG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hides Gas Development Company (HGDC), a major landowner company

engaged with ExxonMobil, to provide chartered services. The MOU sets the platform for a partnership arrangement between Link PNG and HGDC to operate regular Charter flights into Komo Airfield.

With staff movement, we farewelled our first national retiring pilot, Captain Paul Kodor after serving Air Niugini for

34 years. Captain Kodor operated his final flight on the Boeing 767 on February 2nd, the day he turned 65 years old and was Air Niugini's first National pilot to retire upon reaching the age of 65 years.

To conclude, the annual Dart competition for staff based in POM is on again commencing with the pre-season, the Late Martin Mola Memorial Shield

followed by the Late JKP Memorial Cup which begins in March.

We also have four Air Niugini teams competing in the Annual PNG Soccer Charity Trust 7-Aside Tournament, which will be held during the Easter Weekend at the Sir John Guise Stadium.

All the best to all teams taking part!

Thankyou!

AIR NIUGINI FAREWELLS CAPTAIN PAUL KODOR AFTER 34 YEARS

Air Niugini officially farewelled our first national retiring pilot, Captain Paul Kodor last Friday, 19th February after serving the national airline for 34 years.

Captain Kodor did his final flight on the Boeing 767 on February 2, the day he turned 65 years old and is the first Air Niugini national retiring pilot under PNG aviation law to reach the retirement age of 65 years.

He was farewelled by his colleagues, family and the Air Niugini management with food, cutting of cake, a farewell toast and gifts presented by Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster and colleagues.

Mr Alabaster on behalf of Air Niugini, thanked Captain Kodor for his service to the national airline.

He said it is sad but also a moment of great pride for Air Niugini to have the first Papua New Guinean



Captain Paul Kodor (seated) with the flight crew on his final flight

end international airline operations at retirement age as it comes with a lot of determination and professionalism.

Captain Kodor started off flying the Dash 7 aircraft, then attained his command as Captain on F28 in 1994 and later promoted to fly the Airbus A310 in 1999 before moving on to

the Boeing 767.

Thankyou Captain Paul Kodor for the support you've given to Air Niugini, your role in management and training of our pilots, and for all your hardwork, dedication and loyalty to the national airline.



DEPT NEWS: LINK PNG SIGNS MOU WITH HIDES GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FOR CHARTER SERVICES

Link PNG, a subsidiary of Air Niugini, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hides Gas Development Company (HGDC), a major landowner company engaged with ExxonMobil, the operator of the PNG LNG Project- to provide chartered services for its personnel engaged within the LNG gas project in the Komo Magarima District, Hela Province.

The MOU sets the platform for a partnership arrangement between LinkPNG and Hides Gas Development Company (HGDC) to operate regular Charter flights into Komo Airfield.

The signing paves the way forward for the two parties to engage in firming the charter service schedule.

Link PNG Acting General

Manager, Mr Alex Kia said the national airline is proud of the step taken towards the partnership arrangement, and is confident this partnership with one of the biggest landowner companies (LANCOS) in the country will contribute to nation building, as the country journeys through an uncertain period brought on by the COVID19 pandemic.

HGDC Executive

Chairman, Tuguyawini Libe Parindali said HGDC was proud to enter into this agreement to ensure HGDC personnel travelling in and out of PNG LNG project site can travel seamlessly.

“Link PNG does a fantastic job in providing travel services at the convenience of its clients throughout PNG, and HGDC for the first time is thrilled to enter into this agreement with Link PNG

to boost efficiency and effectiveness in our operations. Once operational, this agreement will see Link PNG chartered flights into Komo increase to two (2) boosting LinkPNG operations into Komo and ultimately Hela – considering commercial flights into Tari,” Mr. Parindali concluded.

All Link PNG services are operated by the airline’s Dash 8 fleet.



Link PNG Acting General Manager, Alex Kia (left) and HGDC Company Secretary Myron Ipape (right) sign the MOU for regular charter flights into Komo Airfield.

BOEING PILOTS FAREWELL CAPTAIN PAUL KODOR

Pictured right; Some of our Boeing pilots on board the Boeing 767 aircraft during Captain Paul Kodor’s final flight in Port Moresby on Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

From left; B767 Technical Pilot Alex Porter, Manager Line Operations Captain Barry G. Morea, B767 Capt. Allan Vele, B767

Captain Lawrence Koyama, Manager Falcon Fleet Captain Paul Dawanincura, B767 Captain Samiu Taufa MBE, General Manager Flight Operations Captain Christopher Mileng, B767 Captain Paun B. Nonggorr and B737 Captain Samuel Siaguru.”



STAFF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

TEAM HUTJENA WINS DART PRE-SEASON COMPETITION

The pre-season of the annual Dart competition for Air Niugini staff ended on a high note with the finals played on Friday 12th February.

The pre-season competition paid tribute to one of our founding Air Niugini darts players, the Late Mr Martin Mola by naming the competition under his name.

The Late Martin Mola Memorial Shield dart challenge ran for a month with six teams that took part.

The teams were named after areas in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville where Late



Team Hutjena wins pre-season dart competition, the Mola was from, namely Sohano who were Haku, Sohano, Malasang, Hutjena, Hanahan and Lemmanmanu.

Congratulations to Hutjena for taking out 1st place after beating favourites PNG Darts Federation

president John Kuaru was present at the event and was given the honors to launch the finals on behalf of Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster who later joined during the evening to watch the match.

The 2021 season proper, the Late JKP Memorial Cup Dart Challenge 2021 will commence in March following the conclusion of the pre-season competition.

The organising committee is calling for sponsors both external and internal to come on board and support the competition.



GALLERY



Air Niugini

PO Box 7186
Boroko
NCD
Papua New Guinea
Phone: 327 3444
E-mail: customerfeedback@airniugini.com.pg



The National Airline of Papua New Guinea

www.airniugini.com.pg

Papua New Guinea's national airline, Air Niugini serves over 20 destinations domestically and 10 internationally.

Air Niugini strives to provide safe, efficient, affordable and comfortable airline services.

Mission:

To continue to be the premier airline to Papua New Guinea striving to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective and profitable air operations while exceeding the expectations of our customers and stakeholders.

Staff Noticeboard

NO MASK NO ENTRY POLICY - PEDESTRIAN VISITORS TO AIR NIUGINI HAUS AND PX APARTMENTS

Dear Colleagues

Due to the recent increase in COVID 19 cases in Port Moresby and some parts of the country, as part of taking precautionary measures, Executive Management had made a decision that all pedestrians visiting ANG Haus and PX Apartments must wear face masks upon entering.

Accordingly, as of Monday 08 March, 2021, the NO MASK, NO ENTRY policy will be applied at the Security Boom gate. Visitors entering the gate on foot that do not comply will not be allowed access. This policy does not presently apply to persons entering in a vehicle, or Air Niugini staff (and displaying their Company ID) entering the gate on foot.

Security personnel manning the boom gate have been given instructions to apply the policy accordingly.

Staff are also advised to take care and apply the preventative required steps/actions at all times in relation to COVID 19.

Thankyou,

Rei Logona, General Manager Human Resources

PNG SOCCER CHARITY TRUST TOURNAMENT 2021

Dear All

Air Niugini will be taking part in the Annual PNG Soccer Charity Trust 7-Aside Tournament, which will be held during the Easter Weekend (April 02nd - 5th 2021) at the Sir John Guise Stadium

We will be fielding teams in the following division;

- Men's Division
- Mix Division
- Women's Division
- Junior U15 Mixed Division (Ages 10- 15 only)

If you are interested please send an email to the Air Niugini Football Club President, Mr. Simeon Ealedona – sealedona@airniugini.com.pg

Invitation is open to all Air Niugini Employees, spouse and recognized dependents.

Training for the Senior Divisions is every Tuesday and Thursday from 5 – 6 pm in front of ANGH.

Thankyou!



Questions or comments? Email us at ikaprangi@airniugini.com.pg or qnaime@airniugini.com.pg or call 327 3509/3564