

BALUS TOKTOK

NEWSLETTER

CEO's Message



CEO, Bruce Alabaster

Welcome to this edition of Balus Toktok Newsletter for July 2021.

This month has seen continuous changes in our schedule to cater for

services into the ports affected by the NAC airport upgrades.

Early in the month, the runway lengths at Madang and Wewak airports were further shortened resulting in flights being operated by Link PNG's Dash-8 aircraft. Due to the shortened length of both runways even these Dash-8 aircraft have restrictions on the number of passengers they can uplift. For the period from 26th July to 16th August the runway at Madang was further shortened such that Madang have been

temporarily suspended for this period. With Madang temporarily suspended there are direct flights between Lae and Wewak using the Dash 8 200 series aircrafts, and additional direct services between POM and Wewak.

During the period of suspension, Tropicair is basing a smaller Twin Otter aircraft at Madang to operate services to and from Lae and Mount Hagen, where passengers can connect with Air Niugini flights.

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PNG & AIR NIUGINI'S LONGEST SERVING PILOT RETIRES AFTER 45 YEARS

Papua New Guinea and Air Niugini's longest serving pilot, who is also the country's first Airline Jet Captain, Captain Paun Nonggor-r has retired on 30th June 2021 after 45 years and 21,000 hours in the air.

From inside the flight deck, Captain Nonggor-r watched Air Niugini grow from a few DC3s and F27s in a domestic operation, to a significant regional airline operating flights to Australia, Asia and the Pacific.



Captain Paun Nonggor-r being wheeled out of the aircraft after his final flight signifying the clipping of his wings.

Now after four and a half decades, Air Niugini's seniority number one pilot finally hung up his stripes.

Captain Nonggor-r operated his final flight, PX 004 from Brisbane to Port Moresby's Jackson International airport on June 30th arriving at 2pm to a traditional wash down or water salute to mark his final flight and retirement from flying duties.

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37 YEARS OF FLYING THE JET AIRCRAFT INTERNATIONALLY

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Captain Nonggor-r said, "My flying duties on the larger ANG aircraft comes to an end after 45 years. I am mentally prepared for this eventuality."

"I am a product of late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's vision in 1975. Somare wanted Papua New Guineans to be pilots and professionals in their own country and I was too glad to be a part of this vision, helped by the Australians. I was the first National off the block and I have stuck with Air Niugini instead of leaving for more money overseas."

From Ramdi Tribe of Koepka village, Western Highlands Province, Captain Nonggor-r first made Captain on the Fokker Friendship (F27) in 1982 at the age of 26 after Minson Peni of New Ireland.

In 1983, he became the first Papua New Guinean to command a Passenger

Jet Airliner, the F28. From there, he progressed onto International wide body aircraft, the Airbus 300, the Airbus 310 and then the Boeing 767 aircraft. He has been on the international routes on the wide body jet aircraft since 1985, clocking 37 years.

Captain Nonggor-r attended NASA flying school in Cessnock, New South Wales, north of Sydney Australia in January 1975.

In June 1976, he attained his first Commercial pilot's license and returned to PNG and Air Niugini where he was assigned to the F27 as First Officer (FO).

In 1982 when he turned 26, Nonggor-r was the second Papua New Guinean to become Captain on the F27. A year later, he attained his command on the F28, becoming Papua New Guinea's first Jet Captain.

"I consider this as the



Captain Nonggor-r clocked in 37 years of flying the jet aircraft internationally and total 47 years with PX.

greatest achievement/highlight of my career, becoming the country's first F28 Jet Captain at a very young age." Nonggor-r said.

He recalled that flying the F27 and F28 was challenging as they were both analogue aircraft that required a lot of thinking, planning and skills.

In 1985, he moved onto flying the wide body aircraft, beginning with the iconic "Big Bird" Airbus A300 for four years prior to operating the A310, and later the Boeing 767 aircraft where he achieved his command as a fully-fledged B767 captain in 2003. He has

since been flying the Boeing jet for 19 years.

"Although, it can be stressful at times, it's a highly self-disciplined and regimented profession. The secret that has kept me flying all these years is fun and passion for the job."

Apart from flying, Captain Nonggor-r had a stint as General Manager, Flight Operations in charged of management of Pilots, Cabin Crew, Aircraft Operations Control and others. So much has happened during his 45 year flying career but Air Niugini's longest serving pilot recalled two particular events that come to mind.

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Captain Paun Nonggor-r and son Jason who is also a Captain at PX on the Fokker 100 jet aircraft.

CAPTAIN NONGGOR-R GRATEFUL FOR COLOURFUL 46 YEAR CAREER

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These include the attempt to land at Sydney airport in windshear conditions where landing was abandoned and flight diverted to Brisbane, and the recent one being the diversion of an aircraft to Manila alone after the First Officer became unwell.

He said, "Successfully dealing with situations like these are a result of good training, coupled with pilot/crew experience.

"There is only one way of flying an aeroplane and that is by strictly adhering to the rules and procedures/processes that our Australian friends taught us.

You have to keep training and standards high - if you allow them to deteriorate, this could ultimately lead to accidents. There is no PNG way of flying an aeroplane - rules and procedures must be adhered to at all times."

Captain Nonggor-r has three children, daughter Leilani and sons, Jason and Duece who are both

pilots. Jason is a Fokker 100 Captain with Air Niugini, attaining his command two years ago. Captain Nonggor-r acknowledged his wife, Anna who is an ex ANG flight attendant for raising their children while he was always away working.

"I did not push my boys to fly. It's a decision they made and I supported.

It's their life, not mine and I only provide parental advice."

Captain Nonggor-r is grateful to Air Niugini and all the airline's employees for a colourful 46-year career.

"Air Niugini has been my whole life. On behalf of my family and I, we would like to thank the Air Niugini family from the domestic ports, the international airports, reservation centres, flight operations, head office, engineering, commercial, catering, traffic, cargo, porters, cleaners, tea boys like Martin and the rest for aiding and supporting me during my time with Air Niugini," Captain Nonggor-r concluded.



A crowd gathered to witness the arrival of Captain Paun Nonggor-r's final flight at the Jacksons Inter. Airport

FLIGHTS TO MADANG TEMPORARY SUSPENDED

Air Niugini flights to Madang have been temporary suspended due to the shortened length of the runway.

For the period from 26th July to 16th August the useable runway at Madang will be too short for even limited Dash-8 operations, therefore customers are reminded that Air Niugini flights to Madang during this period are temporarily suspended.

During the period of suspension, Tropicair will be basing a smaller

Twin Otter aircraft at Madang to operate services to and from Lae and Mount Hagen, where passengers can connect with Air Niugini flights.

For bookings and tickets on these Twin Otter flights customers should contact Tropicair directly on 73647065, or by email: bookings@tropicair.com.pg.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Tropicair sales office at Jackson's airport, or at the Madang Resort kiosk inside the Air Niugini

terminal in Madang. Check in for the Tropicair flights will be from the Air Niugini terminals at Madang, Mount Hagen and Nadzab airports.

We look forward to

resuming our Fokker jet services to Madang once the runway maintenance is completed.

This is presently forecast by the NAC to be in October, weather permitting.



Passengers at Madang Airport boarding a Fokker 70 aircraft to Port Moresby before flights were suspended.

LINK PNG RESUMES FLIGHTS TO WAPENAMANDA

Link PNG resumed services to Wapenamanda airport, Enga Province on Sunday 18th July 2021.

Flight PX 990 arrived to a small but significant ceremony at Wapenamanda airport witnessed by Enga Governor, Sir Peter Ipatas, Link PNG General Manager Alex Kia and staff. Link PNG suspended services to Wapenamanda in September 2019 to allow for major upgrade works to the runway by National Airports Corporation (NAC). These runway upgrade works have now been completed with Link PNG restoring services to Wapenamanda and the surrounding communities

once again. General Manager, Link PNG Alex Kia on behalf of the board, management and staff of Link PNG acknowledged Governor Sir Peter and his provincial government for their continuous support towards Link PNG.

He said "The governor has been supportive of

this service for a very long time. We have now resumed services with up to three flights per week, however if there is demand, we may further increase the number of flights to Wapenamanda."

Governor Ipatas commended Link PNG for its services over the years. He said it is very

convenient for the people of Enga who do not have to travel for more than one hour to get to Mt Hagen to catch the next flight out.

"You do not have to risk your lives on the road when the service is being provided right at your door step. Pls make use of the airline services which are now being provided. I also appeal to everyone to look after the airline and airport facilities which have now been upgraded." Sir Peter said.

Link PNG will be operating three weekly direct flights between Port Moresby and Wapenamanda, every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, using Dash-8 aircraft.



Engan singing group welcomes the Link PNG flight on arrival at the Wapenamanda Airport.

ACTING CEO: WE WELCOME LINK PNG'S SERVICES TO WAPENDAMANDA

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Check in for the Tropicair flights is done from the Air Niugini terminals at Madang, Mount Hagen and Nadzab airports.

We look forward to resuming our Fokker jet services to Madang once the runway maintenance is completed. This is presently forecast by NAC to be in late October, weather permitting.

On a positive note, Link PNG resumed flights to Wapenamanda, Enga Province on Sunday 18th

July, 2021. Link PNG suspended services to Wapenamanda in September 2019 to allow for major upgrade works to the runway by NAC.

Link PNG is operating three weekly direct flights between Port Moresby and Wapenamanda, every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, using Dash-8 aircraft. More flights will be added as demand increases.

As you all may know, the Air Niugini Training Centre at 7mile in Port

Moresby continues to provide Dangerous Goods (DG) training to external organisations for two years now.

This month we had ten staff from Puma Energy and HeviLift PNG attend the weeklong training.

Well done to training instructor Mr Martin Tugano for ensuring these training programs are successfully carried out.

We also saw changes to travel requirements for passengers on our international flights

departing from overseas destinations on or after Friday 02nd July, 2021. Passengers entering PNG must now be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and provide evidence in the form of a vaccination certificate at check-in.

Air Niugini operates six flights per week to Brisbane, one flight to Sydney, four flights per week to Singapore, and twice weekly flights each to Manila and Hong Kong.

Thank you!

David Glover on behalf of the CEO

DANGEROUS GOODS TRAINING FOR EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS

Air Niugini is the only organization in the country offering Dangerous Goods (DG) training to external clients under the airline's Part 141 training organization, through the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's (CASA), Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) Part 92, Standard Aviation Training Certificate (SATC).

This month, saw yet another group complete their week-long training.

The group comprised of participants from Hevi Lift PNG, Puma Energy (Aviation), Daru Hospital (shipment of Infectious substances) and Unitech Lae (Chemical Safety Department).

Air Niugini's Non-Technical Training Instructor, Martin Tugano who normally conducts DG training explained that dangerous goods can be flammable liquids,



The participants from Hevi Lift PNG, Puma Energy, Daru Hospital and Unitech Lae who were involved in the

explosives, radio-active materials, dangerous chemicals, infectious substances (Covid-19, TB, Polio cultures or samples) compressed gases, poisons and aerosols among others that pose high risks to the airlines, passengers and crew.

Tugano said, "Dangerous Goods, especially hidden DGs like lithium batteries, aerosols, paints, mercury, human or animal blood or body samples and tissues must

be carefully checked and packed in accordance with regulations before they are airlifted."

He said transportation of dangerous goods by air is very restricted because of the pressure, temperature and vibrations experienced during air transport and therefore, it is important that companies who deal with dangerous goods need to undergo this training to help them understand what DGs are and how they can safely

prepare them for transportation.

Tugano also emphasized that passengers must comply and answer airline's dangerous goods safety questions during check-in.

These questions are necessary so that any risk to the aircraft and its passengers and crew posed by hidden dangerous goods are eliminated or minimized on the ground rather than in the air.

There was positive feedback from participants emphasizing that they have learnt a lot.

Jesse Wangoa from HeviLift said, "Although the training was intense, it was very helpful and worth the money spent. The instructor is very knowledgeable on the subject matter."

Apart from the training on dangerous goods by Air Transport, Air Niugini also conducts training on Dangerous Goods by sea transport (IMDG Code).

Air Niugini has trained many nationals and expatriates in all sectors, mostly targeting mining, exploration, airlines, freight forwarders, packers and chemical manufacturing companies.



Air Niugini's Non-Technical Training Instructor, Martin Tugano explaining to the participants the different types of Dangerous Goods.

STAFF AT WORK



From left: Captain Wayne Allport, Cabin crew Jay Torrance, First Officer Tom Manjin and Captain Andrew Casupang at Wapenamanda airport following the arrival of PX

990, marking the resumption of Link PNG services to Enga Province, operating three weekly direct flights between Port Moresby and Wapenamanda.

Chairman, Sir Kostas Constantinou (in black shirt) visited Link PNG staff at Tari airport this month where he gave an overview of the

airline's current performance and acknowledge the staff for their hard-work and commitment.



Some senior Air Niugini pilots bidding farewell to their colleague, Captain Paun Nonggor-r at Port Moresby's Jacksons International airport on Wednesday 30th June, 2021 following his final flight. Captain Nonggor-r flew

the National Airline for 45 years. Captain Nonggor-r said, "PNG being mountainous with localized weather patterns, it can be challenging, however, it was fun, exciting and I enjoyed the thrill of being in the cockpit."

ICCC DECLINES APPLICATION TO PURCHASE SHARES IN PNG AIR

In November 2020, Link PNG was approached by PNG Air to reapply to ICCC to purchase shares in PNG Air (being the shareholding presently held by Nasfund). Upon PNG Air's request, Link PNG made this re-application to ICCC. Link PNG understood this request was a consequence of the ongoing effects of Covid-19 on PNG Air, but

equally we remain of the view that the proposal provided significant benefits to the people of PNG, whilst still ensuring competition remained in the PNG aviation market, and airfares did not increase. It was the view of both airlines that the operational cost savings from the proposal would enable a stronger and more dynamic airline industry in PNG over the longer term.

ICCC has advised that the application to purchase shares in PNG air has been declined,

and consequently Link PNG has advised PNG Air of this outcome.



A LinkPNG Q400 aircraft parked at the APEC Charter terminal

GALLERY



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The National Airline of Papua New Guinea

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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

BSP WORK PLACE BANKING FOR AIR NIUGINI STAFF

To: All Staff,

Please be advised that BSP Workplace Banking for Air Niugini staff that was conducted every Thursday is being re-introduced.

The first session took place on Thursday 01 July, 2021 and continues every Thursday thereafter.

The venue is at the PX Apartments Balcony area commencing at 1100hrs.

Staff have been sent the various banking forms/documents that you may require to complete before you see the BSP staff.

Thank you,

Rei Logona

General Manager Human Resource

Tel: +675 327 3289

PAYROLL OPERATION - NEW COUNTER SERVICE

To: All STAFF

Since the relocation of PAY OFFICE to Finance Department – ANG Haus 1st Floor, in March 2021 our operating hours remain unchanged:

- MONDAY – FRIDAY
- From 8 AM – 5PM

Except where a PUBLIC HOLIDAY falls within the week, this office is closed.

Further, be informed that [all payroll enquiries shall now be attended to, at the NEW COUNTER located outside the Pay Office.](#)

Therefore, with immediate effect please use the counter for your queries.

*Note that, this office values your issues and enquiries with high esteem, and we shall deliver with discreet in addressing them accordingly.

Looking forward to your usual mutual understanding and co-operation in working with you within our new office environment.

Thank you

Team Payroll

