

BALUS TOKTOK

NEWSLETTER

CEO's Message



CEO, Bruce Alabaster

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

This has been another

challenging month with an increase in Covid cases right across PNG.

In addition, due to the current outbreak of COVID-19 in PNG, the Australia Government has placed further restrictions on the number of passengers on board each aircraft arriving into Australia from PNG.

With all flights from PNG to Cairns suspended until at least 30th April, and the number of passengers the airline is permitted to carry into Brisbane having been

reduced. I am however pleased to announce the recommencement of Monday flights to Sydney with the first flight departing on the 29th March.

We are also upgrading selected flights to Momote Airport, Manus Island, to larger Boeing 737 aircraft from early next month, following recent upgrading and restoration work on the runway carried out by National Airports Corporation (NAC).

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AIRPORT STAFF DISPLAY SHRINE TO HONOR SIR MICHAEL SOMARE

Following the passing of founding father Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare on February 26th 2021, staff at the Jacksons International terminal paid tribute by setting up a shrine at their workplace.

The shrine was displayed for two weeks during the national mourning period, as a sign of respect and heartfelt sympathy to a great leader and father of the nation, the Late Great Grand Chief. May He Rest in Eternal Peace.



Pictured from left; Manager Customer Service & Pax Handling Freda Taralulu, customer service officers Betty Botu, Anthony Kamburi, Customer Service Supervisor, Angie Mathew and Customer Service Officer, Hannah Vila.

STAFF PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GREAT GRAND CHIEF

Several staff who attended the Air Niugini vigil for the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare yesterday, Wednesday 10th March in Port Moresby shared their personal experiences with the Late Grand Chief, during his many travels with Air Niugini over many years in his capacity as both the Prime Minister and also as a senior statesman.



The Government Liaison and Protocol Team pay tribute to the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare at the vigil.

In her emotional tribute, Air Niugini Government Liaison and Protocol Coordinator Rosie Koibua mentioned, "In his countless travel with Air Niugini, Sir Michael has never demanded to be upgraded to business class."

Some staff members sang tribute songs whilst others wrote poems which they recited to remember this

POEM BY BERNADINE WINKUARU

You announced Independence on the radio some minutes after midnight in 1975, almost the exact timing that our Heavenly Father called you home. Was this a coincidence? Maybe, maybe not?

You have left a Huge void, no one has and we highly doubt no one else will ever come close to filling your shoes. You are a LEADER of Leaders.

In all your encounters with us the people, you always had a way to inspire and speak your vision. There is not the slightest of doubt you have inspired and touched this Nation by being the person that you are. Look at us now. We have a voice. We are professionals and specialists in many fields, with many more to follow in the

generations to come.

You are the definition of Unity. At a time when everyone else thought it wasn't possible, you brought together people of a thousand tribes and languages, and formed our beautiful Nation. You are a Papua New Guinean, through and through.

What a great challenge you have left for us now to carry on with your legacy for generations to come, working together in unity for a better and greater Papua New Guinea. We are immensely saddened of and mourn your passing. But most of all we honour and celebrate your life, the life that you shared with Papua New Guinea.

May You rest in the highest regard oh Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

POEM BY JASON WANI

A dedication to Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare
A Great Leader

In a time deemed as inferior you stood unflinching and unwavering
Doubted and questioned, scorned and belittled you soared
Against prejudice, racism, injustice you did the impossible.

Divided by a thousand tribes and languages
You saw beyond the grass skirts and the kundu drums
That one day we shall be equals with the rest of the world.

An embodiment of humility, peace, kindness and love.
Peacefully united a thousand tribes and delivered a country.
Mourning your loss now though your legend lives on in our history.



STAFF OF THE MONTH: IAN KAUMAS

Our Staff of the Month for March 2021 is Ian Kaumas, Channel Manager Digital Experience.

Congratulations to Mr Kaumas for being the July 2020 first place winner for the Smart Ideas campaign (*Pictured below; Receiving his award from ANG CEO Mr Bruce Alabaster*).

His idea was about implementing an AI-powered Chatbot.

PXChatbot will be connected to our SabreSonic CSS

(booking ticketing and check-in platforms) and deployed as a widget on PX website homepage and Facebook page. Chatbot technology is smart enough to answer at least 60% of queries without any human intervention.

Hailing from the East Sepik Province, Mr Kaumas has been with the company for 10 years now, first attached with the IT Department for 7 years and then the E - C o m m e r c e Department for 3 years. He joined Air Niugini IT



Ian Kaumas from E-Commerce is Staff of the Month for

Department in 2010 through the Cadet Program, a 2-year long program that includes mentoring and rotational job placements to ensure exposure with various sections of the IT Department. After the Cadet Program in 2011, I've been with the IT Department before commencing with the Ecommerce Department in 2018. Mr Kaumas

works closely with Commercial Services Division's senior management where he contributes to the identification and delivery of digital improvement initiatives.

These include scoping and defining projects, setting achievable objectives to deliver projects to agreed measures (time, cost, quality and value).



What would you like to see happening at Air Niugini in the future?

I'd like to see Air Niugini become a complete digital retailer selling personalized, seamless travel experience. Owning the end-to-end traveler journey will play a key role in the post-pandemic environment. I see digitalizing and delivering exceptional customer experiences as a strategic differentiator for those that want to come out ahead of the game after the pandemic. One thing for sure, while customer behaviour and preferred interactions with businesses have changed significantly due to the pandemic, the uptick in the use of digital services is here to stay.

What motivates you at work?

"Don't lose sight of whom we all work for: the travelers. They are the reason I look forward to coming to work early and going home late everyday."

My words of encouragement:

Embracing failure is a simple step towards success. Instead of fearing failure, become empowered by it.

ANG MANAGEMENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR MICHAEL SOMARE



ANG Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster paid tribute to the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare.

Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Alabaster and the airline Management paid tribute to the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare during the vigil hosted on March 10th 2021 in Port Moresby.

Mr Alabaster spoke on Sir Michael's connection with Air Niugini, launching the first flight, PX 100 on the 1st November, 1973 which flew from Port Moresby to Lae, Rabaul and Kieta.

He said, "Over the

subsequent 48 years many of us have had the privilege of meeting the Late Grand Chief on the many flights he took around PNG and the opportunity to acknowledge what a humble and wonderful man he was."

Mr Alabaster said it's also appropriate to remember the Late Grand Chief as a strategist, a visionary leader and an outstanding Christian and family man, and pay respects to the Somare family for giving PNG Sir Michael for over 50 years.

General Manager

Commercial, Mr Dominic Kaumu also paid tribute, encouraging young citizens to reflect on the past to appreciate what the Late Grand Chief has done for the nation, for our freedom and gaining Independence.

Mr Kaumu told of his encounters with Sir Michael, reflecting on his great character which was simple with humility, and spoke of how he played a major role in uniting the Pacific Island nations.

To the Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, may you Rest in Eternal Peace, from all of Air Niugini, thankyou for everything that you have done for us.

AIR NIUGINI FLIGHTS TO AUSTRALIA

Air Niugini would like to advise customers that due to the current outbreak of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea, the Australian Government has placed further restrictions on the number of passengers on board each aircraft arriving into Australia from PNG. This is in order to manage the risk of arriving passengers subsequently testing positive for COVID-19 during their stay in quarantine facilities.

For the period 18th - 27th March, flights from PNG to Cairns have been cancelled, and the number of passengers



Air Niugini flights to Cairns have been cancelled and passengers permitted to carry into Brisbane cut by 30%

the airline is permitted to carry into Brisbane has been cut by 30%.

Air Niugini continues to operate five services a week to Brisbane, however as a result of the new restrictions there are no seats available on any Air Niugini flight to

Brisbane until at least 27th March, and only limited seats thereafter.

Some passengers already holding tickets will not be able to travel, and will be contacted and assisted to re-book their flights

for later dates.

Movement of freight between Brisbane and PNG (and vice versa) will not be affected by the new restrictions.

Air Niugini regrets the inconvenience caused, and appreciates our customers' patience while we manage our way through the latest restrictions imposed.

Air Niugini continues to operate with strict health and safety measures in place including temperature testing of all passengers and providing face masks and hand sanitiser to ensure your air travel is safe.

CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AND MANILA

From Friday 26th March, all passengers travelling from Port Moresby to Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila will be required to provide evidence of a negative COVID Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test at time of check-in.

This is already a requirement for all flights to Australia. Passengers who do not produce evidence of a negative test will not be able to board their flight.

The PCR test must be conducted within three days of the scheduled flight departure. These PCR tests can be completed in Port Moresby for a fee with



Air Niugini operates four flights per week to Singapore and twice weekly to Manila and Hong Kong.

results provided quickly. Other types of test such as the rapid (or Gen-X test) are not acceptable. Air Niugini continues to operate the six flights per week to Brisbane, four

flights per week to Singapore, and twice weekly to Manila.

From 28th March flights to Hong Kong and Cairns will each increase to twice weekly, while once weekly direct flight to Sydney will resume on Monday. Regular flights to other international destinations such as Honiara, Port Vila and Nadi remain suspended due to international border restrictions.

TRAINING ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS FOR NMSA

Air Niugini continues to offer training on International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) to external clients in the maritime industry and has recently conducted training for 11 officers from the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA).

The three days training carried out from March 23rd-25th at the Training Centre in Port Moresby, was specifically for NMSA Captains and Chief Engineers. Marine dangerous goods are hazardous materials/dangerous goods that endanger marine life. Some examples of these goods are; Ammonium Nitrate, Cyanide, Hydrochloric Acids, Paints, Explosives, Fuel

(Petrol, Kerosene, Diesel, Jet A1), Aerosols, Gases (Compressed, Liquefied, Refrigerated, Dissolved, Absorbed) and substances that endanger the Marine life. This was the first IMDG Code training for 2021 carried out by Air Niugini Non-Technical Training Instructor, Martin Tugano with four more planned throughout the year.

Air Niugini started offering training on IMDG to external clients a year ago and has so far ran three IMDG Code courses in 2020 for other shipping companies including Express Freight Management, Origin Energy and Hombinbo Investment Ltd.

Mr Tugano said, "NMSA is the regulator in regards to the shipping of dangerous by sea and therefore, need know the provisions of the IMDG Code to execute their duties when inspecting shipping companies in PNG."

The training covered general provision for DGs transported by Sea,

and the classifying, identifying, packing, marking, labeling/placarding and shipping documentation of Dangerous Goods.

The IMDG Code training is an approved course recognized by NMSA as the national regulator, under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements.



The participants of the IMDG training facilitated by Air Niugini Non-Technical Training Instructor, Martin Tugano.

A TRIBUTE BY JAMES TIRA FOR THE LATE GREAT GRAND CHIEF



Manager Purchasing & Supply - Engineering, James Tira reading out his tribute at the vigil for the Late Great Grand Chief .

Friday 26th February 2021, 8.00am was a normal working day for me, Walked into my office, started up my computer, for the days work with a lot of things to do.

One staff from the other end of the office gently said, he is gone! I walked out of my office and asked who is gone? The Father of the Nation is gone, Sir Michael Thomas Somare is gone! Was the response.

For a moment time stopped in me, My being was frozen within me, I walked back into my Office, sank into my chair. My throat was dry and a Lump grew against that dryness, I could not swallow as my memory flashed back into time, September 16th 1975.

Tears streaked down my cheeks this moment as I remembered at Orei Primary School, Ialibu, SHP, the lowering of the Australian Flag, singing God Save our Gracious Queen and the Raising the Flag with colours of Gold, Red, Black and White, white stars of the Southern Cross, singing O Arise all

you Sons of this Land.

A dream come true, against the odds of colonial racism, the lack of Professionals in the Public Service, Expertise in Technical Fields, Commerce and Industry, Lawyers, Accountants, Doctors and the list goes on.

Darkness and Gloom seemed to cover the British Protectorate Island. Through this Gloominess, He saw into the Future, He saw a Nation of 1,000 Tribes neatly folded and fit into one Nation. A Nation that could rule itself and determine it's own Destiny.

Onto this picture of the future, he set strategy into action, surrounded by like minded selfless leaders who lived and talked for that one destination. Who disagreed to agree, to build a Nation from nowhere, whose Captain was none other than the "Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare".

He was loyal to a cause, He was committed to the strategy to achieve that goal, the goal of

raising the Flag of the colours of Gold, Red, Black and White, white stars of the Southern Cross and to sing, O Arise all you Sons of this Land.

Wiping away my tears, I said to myself, He achieved His Goal, He lived to see it all. He was satisfied. He had declared Independence for the Nation Papua New Guinea and successfully united a land of 1000 tribes and languages. However, "He was Not Satisfied just Yet".

Again, on August 26th the Year 2007, he realised that what he could do, he had done and achieved, But for further progression of the Nation, He needed help from outside. There was much yet to be done, some things were not exactly in place as he expected or he had dreamed off.

He called on God Almighty for Divine Wisdom and help, for he knew his work, guidance and help would come to end sooner or later. With this ever in his wise mind.

He signed the Covenant with the God of Israel and Dedicated the Nation of Papua New Guinea into the Hands of God Almighty, renouncing all other gods, be they foreign or domestic, corruption or nepotism, corporate colonialism or corporate threat.

He is gone to His Eternal Father the owner of his life, soul and spirit, truly satisfied that he accomplished his purpose on earth. Thank you Grand Chief, we stand in AW and Honour you. Nupe, Nanga Ara Kani Puwiyoi!!!

By James K Tira, Ialibu, Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea.

OUT PORT NEWS: BOEING 737 AIRCRAFT TO SERVICE MANUS

Air Niugini is upgrading selected flights to Momote Airport, Manus Island, to larger Boeing 737 aircraft from early next month, following recent upgrading and restoration work on the runway carried out by National Airports Corporation (NAC).

The Boeing 737 service will touch down on Manus Island on Saturday 10th April. Thereafter the B737 aircraft will become a regular sight at Momote Airport, with non-stop services from and to Port Moresby operating every Saturday.

Fokker jet aircraft will continue to service Manus Island on all other days of the week.

Air Niugini's General Manager Commercial

Services, Mr. Dominic Kaumu noted, "By using the B737 to Manus Island this will allow the Fokker jet aircraft that currently service the route to be used to increase capacity elsewhere.

"Manus is an important destination in Air Niugini's network, and the Boeing 737 will carry up to 144 passengers per flight (16 Business and 128 Economy) compared to 101 seats in the Fokker



The Boeing 737 will do its first flight to Momote Airport in Manus on April 10th 2021.

100. This direct B737 service will take just 1 hour 20 minutes, and 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 business and leisure passengers return, the Boeing 737 will be a popular choice for travellers to Manus Island.

Mr. Kaumu also noted, "Manus Island is one of the more remote Provinces of Papua New Guinea, and the Boeing 737 will carry more freight than the Fokker aircraft currently used.

"This will assist with uplifting essential supplies and equipment into Manus Island, and potentially marine produce and other freight from Momote to Port Moresby and overseas. We are delighted to be able to provide the greater capacity and reliability of services that our customers deserve."

Elsewhere Air Niugini already operates daily Boeing 737 services to Mount Hagen, and three Boeing 737 services per week to Alotau.

CEO ACKNOWLEDGES GREAT GRAND CHIEF'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIR NIUGINI

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This month we also had the airline management and staff pay tribute to the Late Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare during the vigil hosted in Port Moresby on March 10th.

Sir Michael's connection with Air Niugini began when he launched the first flight, PX 100 on the 1st November, 1973 which flew from Port Moresby to Lae, Rabaul and Kieta.

Over the subsequent 48 years many of us have had the privilege of meeting the Late Grand Chief on the many flights he took around PNG and the opportunity to acknowledge what a humble and wonderful man he was.

May he Rest in Eternal Peace, and from all of Air Niugini, we thank him for a great leader he was to PNG, the region and the world.

In conclusion, our Niugini Non-Technical Aviation Training Centre continues to offer training on International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) to external clients in the maritime industry and has this month conducted training for 11 officers from the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA).

This was the first IMDG Code training for 2021 carried out by Air

Niugini Non-Technical Training Instructor, Martin Tugano with four more planned throughout the year.

As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise throughout the country, I encourage you all to be vigilant and adhere to the safe practices to keep you and your colleagues, families and those around you safe.

Thankyou!

STAFF AT WORK



Air Niugini ground operations staff at Gurney Airport, Milne Bay after successfully

carrying out the ground handling of the first Boeing 737 flight on February 26th 2021.

Govt Liaison and Protocol team



The Government Liaison and Protocol Team escorting the wife of the Late Great Grand Chief and founding father of the Nation Sir Michael Somare, Lady Veronica Somare to board the Q400 chartered flight home to Wewak for the burial of the Late Grand Chief.

The flight that took the funeral party of the Late Grand Chief was flown by Captain Steven Ilave. **“PNG, it was such a humbling honour to serve you today as Captain of Kumul 1 to fly Lady Veronica and Somare family and the nation’s leaders home to Wewak,” Captain Ilave stated.**



LAE STAFF PAY TRIBUTE TO LATE GC

The staff in Lae took time to pay their respects and tribute to the Late Great Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare coinciding with the main vigil held at the PX Apartments in Port Moresby on March

10th 2021. The team, led by Commercial Operations Retail Manager – PNG, Hane Garo, had a one minute silence in honour of the Grand Chief.



Words of Captain Moses Padigaga



Captain of the first Boeing 737 flight to Gurney alongside First Officer Bernice Watinga, Captain Moses Padigaga took the time to say a few words upon arrival at the airport on Friday, 26th February 2021.

has a place in our hearts. We must say thank you to NAC for upgrading the airport so that the big aircraft is able to land. This is for the people so we able to facilitate that today. I’m proud to be the Captain involved in making this happen. Thank you to the people of Milne Bay for the grand welcome.”

“It’s a real pleasure to be able to fly the Boring 737 into Gurney Airport. Both Bernice and I are from here and Alotau

GALLERY



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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

TEMPRORARY CLOSURE OF STAFF MEDICAL CLINIC

Due to prevailing circumstances, please be advised that the Management has made a decision to close the Staff Medical Clinic attending to staff for any medical cases. This temporary closure effective Tuesday 23 March, 2021 will be in place until further notice.

Accordingly, staff with medical conditions are to arrange for their own medical arrangements.

Work related medical cases during working hours – injuries etc are to be reported to HR Department immediately, and arrangements will be made to treat the staff. The contacts at HR Department for this purpose are;

Mea Gini – mgini@airniugini.com.pg or telephone extension 3289

Ritchilyn Barrios- rbarrios@airniugini.com.pg or telephone extension 3459, CUG 71040692

Rei Logona – rlogona@airniugini.com.pg or telephone extension 3289, CUG 71904858

Joanne Kilip – jkilip@airniugini.com.pg or telephone extension 3471, CUG 71079002

All OHS issues such as PCR testing for technical and cabin crew etc and other related requirements will continue to take place at the Staff Medical Clinic as and when required.

STAFF DEATH NOTICE: LATE SIMM KANGADAB



On behalf of Management and the Staff, it is with great regret and sadness that I advise of the death of the Late Simm Kangadab, who passed away this morning, Monday 22nd March 2021.

Late Simm commenced employment with Air Niugini on 27th May 2008. He was serving Air Niugini as a Maintenance Watch Officer with our Maintenance Control Department under the Engineering Department before his untimely passing. He was a loyal and dedicated staff who has served the Company for almost 13 years.

He was a dear colleague and friend to many employees of Air Niugini and will be dearly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Late Simm's family at this unfortunate time.

May God grant him eternal rest and may his soul rest in peace.



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