

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

GURNEY AIRPORT UPGRADE PROJECT GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY AND LAUNCHING OF CADIP II

Today marks another significant milestone for Papua New Guinea's air transport sector as the National Government, the Asian Development Bank and key partners break ground to mark the official start of the Gurney Airport Upgrade Project.

The ground breaking today also coincided with the official launching of phase two of the Civil Aviation Development Investment Project (CADIP II), an initiative of the Government of Papua New, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented by the National Airports Corporation (NAC).

The Gurney Airport Upgrade Project is the first under CADIP Phase II, to be awarded on the 15th of December 2023 to the contractor, China Railway Construction Engineering Group Co. Ltd (CRCEG) at a value of **PGK 76.84 million**.

The project scope will include;

- Asphalt Surfacing on all existing and new aircraft pavements that will increase the lifespan of the pavement up to 15-20 years requiring less maintenance.
- The widening of the existing apron to accommodate Regular Public Transport (RPT) operation by Fokker 100, Boeing 737 and Air Niugini's new A220 jet aircraft.
- The new state of the art New Terminal Building will be equipped with improved passenger and cargo facilities for effective processing turnaround time. The facility will complement aircraft safety, security and enhance operational efficiency for Kiosks inside the new terminal building for local Small Medium Enterprise (SMES) opportunities to sell food items and handcrafts.
- The new Airfield Lighting systems will improve visibility during inclement weather and provide an avenue for night operations.

The project is scheduled to fully commence by the 15th of May 2024 and NAC will work closely with the contractor and the respective stakeholders to ensure that the project is completed within 26 months as anticipated.

The event also marked a significant day for NAC and the Milne Bay Provincial Government who have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the implementation of the Gurney Airport Upgrade project. The MoA gives a clear direction on the specific roles and responsibilities of both parties during the duration of the project.

Meanwhile, a separate tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed today between the NAC, the Milne Bay Provincial Government (MBPG) and the PNG Fire Service. The MoU outlines the roles and responsibilities of respective institutions in addressing security and compliance at Gurney airport.

This includes:

- Cooperating to address any safety and security issues.
- Taking steps to support aviation businesses at the airport.
- Allocating resources for ongoing maintenance of firefighting equipment.

- Working together to meet minimum firefighting requirements.

NAC acknowledges the MBPG and the PNG Fire Service for their support and cooperation and looks forward to a good working partnership.

CADIP II OVERVIEW

The Civil Aviation Development Investment Program II (CADIP II) is an ongoing initiative by the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) with support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Implemented by the National Airports Corporation (NAC) and other sister agencies.

CADIP II is a continuation of CADIP I which ended on the 24th of November 2021. The CADIP II loan was signed between the GoPNG and ADB on the 14th of December 2022 at a value of USD\$ 171.5 million (PGK 595.10million). The loan will finance certain projects already identified by the NAC, NiuSky Pacific Limited, Civil Aviation Safety Authority PNG, PNG Accident and Investigation Commission, National Weather Service and Rural Airstrip Agency (through the Department of Transport).

CADIP II aligns with the National Government's Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV) 2023 -2027. It aims at revitalizing the nation's aviation infrastructure in ensuring operational safety, security compliance, and creating a sustainable civil aviation network to meet current and future demands while aligning with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards administered by CASA PNG.

Approved for release



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