



**National
Airports
Corporation**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 17th December, 2024

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

NAC strongly condemns attack on staff at Tokua Airport Compound

The National Airports Corporation (NAC) strongly condemns the violent attack on our Senior Airport Safety Officer and his family, along with other staff members, at the NAC staff compound at Tokua Airport in East New Britain Province.

This unprovoked attack, happened in the early hours of this morning (Tuesday 17th December, 2024), by unknown persons and has left three NAC staff injured and requiring hospital treatment. We are relieved to confirm that they are recovering, but the trauma caused by this senseless act remains deeply concerning.

The NAC is working with the member for Kokopo and other East New Britain leaders to find a long-term solution to this issue, as this is not the first time our employees have been attacked in such a violent manner.

The safety and security of our employees, other airport workers and the traveling public are paramount, and such incidents undermine the efforts to maintain safe and secure operations at Tokua airport which is critical to the economic and social well-being of the province and country.

We are providing all necessary support to the affected staff and their families, including medical assistance and counselling services, to aid in their recovery during this difficult time. Their health and safety are our top priorities, and we are committed to ensuring they receive the necessary care and support.

The NAC remains committed to providing safe and secure operations at all our airports, however, we cannot do so without the cooperation of all stakeholders including local communities and provincial authorities. We appeal for immediate action to restore law and order to ensure the safety of all airport staff and travellers at Tokua airport.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the affected staff and their families during this difficult time as we work closely with authorities to investigate this incident and ensure those responsible are held accountable.

Approved for release,

Dominic Kaumu ML, OBE

Acting Managing Director/CEO
National Airports Corporation