



MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday 11th July, 2025

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON PROJECT PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY, UNDERMINE AIRPORT WORKS

The National Airports Corporation (NAC) is deeply concerned about the recent violent attacks against our project personnel and property at Gurney and Hoskins Airports. These cowardly acts are a direct threat to national development, safety, and the lives of individuals dedicated to delivering vital infrastructure projects.

On the evening of Thursday, 10 July 2025, armed criminals ambushed our contractor's personnel while they were transporting a paver machine to the Gurney Airport project site. Two Chinese nationals were attacked, one sustaining serious injuries to the head and wrist and is currently receiving treatment at the Alotau Hospital.

Earlier in the week on the night of Sunday, 6th July 2025 at around 10pm, at Hoskins Airport, a national supervision consultant was robbed during a break-in at his residence. Critical project documents and his laptop were stolen, which may affect project timelines.

NAC condemns these violent and criminal acts. We consider such attacks not only a threat to individuals but a direct obstruction to progress and service delivery for the people of Papua New Guinea.

We appeal to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, Provincial Governments, and local communities to work together to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice. These criminals must not be allowed to derail national projects.

The incident at Gurney threatens to delay runway asphaltting works, currently in progress, which may prolong the current aircraft downgrades. At Hoskins, the theft of documents, reports, and equipment will impact contractor progress. Such incidents risk compromising project timelines and cost efficiency.

Despite these setbacks, NAC remains committed to delivering safe, secure, and functional airports across Papua New Guinea. We are reviewing risk mitigation measures and ensuring appropriate support for all personnel in project sites. We thank our staff, contractors, and communities for their continued resilience and support.

Approved for release,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kaumu'.

Dominic Kaumu, ML OBE

Acting Managing Director/CEO
National Airports Corporation