



OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR NAC TOKUA EMPLOYEES FOLLOWING BOAT INCIDENT

The National Airports Corporation (NAC) extend our heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, institutions, and businesses in New Ireland and East New Britain Provinces, who responded swiftly and selflessly in the response and rescue of seven passengers including five NAC Tokua employees, after their boat capsized in rough seas between Duke of York Island and West Coast Namatanai.

A team from NAC Headquarters in Port Moresby travelled to Tokua at the weekend to personally meet with the rescued employees and their families and we are fully supporting our staff in their recovery, including providing access to counselling and other recovery services.

The boat incident occurred around midday on Thursday 7th of July and thanks to the timely efforts of local responders and national agencies, the passengers were rescued on Friday at 7:30 am while still clinging to the overturned boat between Umudu and Makada.

NAC Tokua Airport, acted immediately upon receiving information of the incident, and alerted the Provincial Disaster Office and other agencies who responded swiftly to rescue the passengers.

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their critical support and coordination:

- Tesin Boy, boat operator from Namatanai, for promptly reporting the sighting of the capsized vessel despite challenging conditions.
- Gaspar Kilol, boat owner from Vunapope, for his cooperation and assistance in the rescue coordination.
- East New Britain Provincial Disaster Office and the National Disaster Centre, for their immediate escalation and deployment of rescue resources.
- National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) and the Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre (MRSCC), for activating search protocols and notifying vessels in the area.
- Manolos Aviation, for facilitating aerial coordination and communication with the Rescue Coordination Centre.
- Kokopo Police Station, for formally logging the incident and supporting the emergency response.

- Tokua Airport Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), for activating response protocols and maintaining communication throughout the rescue efforts.

NAC appreciates your collective efforts which reflect the strength of community, professionalism, and compassion in a critical time of need.

Approved for release,



Dominic Kaumu, ML OBE

Acting Managing Director/CEO
National Airports Corporation