

## POMSOX/MEDIA RELEASE

**Port Moresby – Wednesday, 25 May 2011**

### **AIRLINES PNG EXPANDS NETWORK TO MADANG AND HIGHLANDS**

Hard on the heels of the recent successes announced by Airlines PNG comes news of an expansion of their network to become effective 14 June 2011.

The strong financial result for the 2010 year and the subsequent fleet investment in additional aircraft has seen Madang added into the network plus additional capacity and frequency being added into key Highlands areas.

Madang will now benefit from daily flights ex Lae plus connection through to Port Moresby and international sectors. This schedule comes as a result of requests from local businesses and individuals looking for support for their commercial activities.

“Daily Madang services offer Madang residents the opportunity to be connected to the rest of PNG, at times which suit their needs” said Gary Toomey, CEO of APNG. “This vibrant and progressive community needs greater access to other markets than has previously been provided to them and we are confident that the region will become stronger as a result of this initiative”.

Highlands region has also benefitted from the investment made by Airlines PNG with a far more comprehensive schedule offering greater flexibility and option for travellers. Highlights of the schedule include:

- Services to Mt Hagen ex Port Moresby up to 12 per week;
- Daily service to Daru ex Port Moresby;
- Non-stop services to Kiunga and Tabubil 6 days per week from Port Moresby;
- Lae to Tabubil through Mt Hagen now 6 times per week;
- Improved connections providing access for Port Moresby to Goroka, Wewak and Madang;
- plus Madang connection to Goroka and Mt Hagen;
- In total, 34% increase in seats available when compared to the current schedule.

“This is a significant investment being made by Airlines PNG” continued Gary Toomey. “It’s an investment we are proud to make in order to provide options and choice for travellers in Papua New Guinea and we will continue to expand our services to support the growth of local communities.”

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