



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

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IMMIGRATION ACHIEVES IMPRESSIVE RESULTS in 2012 WITH MORE ON THE WAY

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Hon Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP yesterday tabled in Parliament some of the impressive recent achievements of the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority (ICSA) in 2012 as required under Section 18, 1(d).of the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Act of 2010.

In tabling PNG Immigration's 2012 Annual Report the Minister outlined the key achievements that the agency made last year, and pointed to the ambitious reform agenda that it is currently implementing. Minister Pato reiterated a few of ICSA's major initiatives that he had covered in his statement.

The Government's directive to the Authority was *to raise performance to support PNG's rapid economic development which relied upon efficient utilization of foreign labour.*

Taking note of this directive, the Authority focused on and delivered the following outcomes:-

- a) Introduction of data entry to streamline passport issuing and visa processing;
- b) Training of officers in Core Competency and related specific areas to enhance ability of officers to respond to clients needs;
- c) Established and supported the Advisory Board;
- d) Supported the Citizenship Advisory Board carry out its Constitutional responsibilities;
- e) Released its first ever Movement and Entry Permit Statistical and Trends Report,
- f) Established a Temporary Regional Processing Centre in Manus,
- g) Successful rollout of its Border Management System to PNG Mission at Wellington, Suva, London, Brussels, and Washington,
- h) Established its presence at the Wutung –PNG/Indonesia Border Post, and
- i) Successfully coordinated the activities of the Taskforce established by the Government to Remove Unlawful Non-Citizens.

“Parliament will soon vote to introduce dual citizenship for Papua New Guineans. This will make it easier for the thousands of Papua New Guineans who love their homeland but have also established strong links in other countries to actively participate and contribute meaningfully to its development.”

“PNG ICSA negotiated with Australia for online visa access for Papua New Guineans. This is now in place, working well and making life easier for our people.”

“PNG Immigration is now looking to establish its own online visa application process for people wishing to travel here.”

“ICSA is reviewing the PNG’s migration legislation with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration and funding from the Government of Australia. As a result I expect to present new migration legislation to Parliament early next year. This new legislation will enable PNG’s migration and border management practices to meet the economic and security challenges of the 21st century”.

“PNG Immigration will implement a cutting edge biometric passport for PNG. It has engaged experts from the International Civil Aviation Organization to assist with an audit of PNG’s passport issuance and identity management processes and to recommend an optimal biometric passport system”.

“Further technical improvements will be made by the deployment of ICSA’s Border Management System to immigration offices in Papua New Guinea and Overseas. The system already operating at PNG Missions at Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Beijing was expanded to Wellington, Suva, Brussels, London and Washington last year.” The system will be installed at all the other PNG Missions and Posts this year.

“ICSA has implemented the Regional Resettlement Arrangements for asylum seekers, which the Government entered into with Australia recently. These arrangements are demonstrably working to reduce people smuggling, encourage people to return to their home countries, and to prevent the tragic loss of lives at sea.”

“ICSA will soon commence the next phase of the Regional Resettlement Arrangements and will coordinate the settlement in PNG of people who have been determined to be refugees. PNG has a worthy history of assisting people in situations of humanitarian need and the Government is proud to be able to offer protection to the refugees who really need it.”

“As part of the Government’s focus of bringing services closer to the people, ICSA is establishing offices at key border points and regional locations. It has already established new offices in Wutung/Vanimu last year and Tokua/Kokopo recently. It will soon



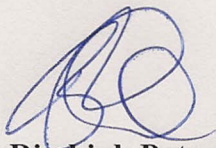
establish further offices in Nadzab/Lae, Daru, Buin, Mt Hagen and Gurney/Alotau. It will also open further overseas offices in Cairns and Singapore.”

“PNG Immigration is now a key economic enabler and driver of development” the Minister said. “The agency is making it easier for skilled workers, business people, tourists and former PNG citizens to come here. Esso Highlands, the company behind PNG’s main LNG project, recognised these improvements in praising PNG visa facilitation processes as “world’s best practice”.

“This streamlining of processes will continue in 2013 when work visas and work permits are consolidated into a single product, requiring a single application and fee, processed by a single agency – ICSA”.

“Over the last few years, ICSA has transformed from an under-performing office to become a positive model for the rest of the PNG public service” the Minister said. “The Chief Migration Officer, Mataio Rabura ISO, his management team and officers should all be commended on their dedication and hard work.”

“ICSA’s reform agenda is positioning PNG as a regional leader in the important areas of border security, migration management and travel facilitation” the Minister said.



Hon. Rimbink Pato, OBE LLB MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

The PNG ICSA 2012 Annual Report is available at www.immigration.gov.pg