

# ICA focuses on national security

BY MIRIAM ZARRIGA

ANYONE considered a security threat will be deported immediately, says Immigration and Citizenship Authority chief migration officer Stanis Hulahau.

"If you are found to be involved in criminal activities, have overstayed your visa, have no passport or have not changed your work permit, you

are at risk to be deported," he said. "You must at all times maintain contact with the ICA to ensure your papers are in working order."

Mr Hulahau said expatriates who wished to do business within PNG must at all times advise the Immigration office of their movements, especially when moving employees to a new office.

"If sponsors are moving their em-

ployees across their many business operations within the country, they must notify PNGICA," he said.

"But those foreign nationals found to be seriously in breach of their visa and work permit conditions will be deported."

"Their presence in the country is a threat to PNG's national security, they will be deported."

In the past week, an ICA Special

Operations team has been conducting spot checks in East Sepik Province.

Travelling into Maprik, Angoram, Wewak and Aitape in West Sepik, the team has found many discrepancies which have been identified and companies have been served infringement notices.

Mr Hulahau said most employers were not aware of the laws of this

country.

"They think they can move their employees from one place to another, it doesn't happen that way, if your employee has to be working in another part of the country, the work permit must have the new location on the permit card," he said.

"Before your Visa expires, ensure you have contacted your agent to have your visa renewed."



FROM left: PNGDF Commander Major General Mark Goina and New Zealand High Commissioner Phillip Taula officiating the launch of the Kumul Leadership Centre at the Murray Barracks in Port Moresby. -PICTURE: SUPPLIED

## Leadership Centre opened

THE Kumul Leadership Centre launched last Friday in Port Moresby now boosts the capabilities of the PNG Defence Force to properly train and develop its men and women.

This significant contribution came about, thanks to the partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force.

Funded by the New Zealand Government, the leadership centre will provide a dedicated space and learning environment for leader development within the kumul leadership framework, which was developed corroboratively with the New Zealand Defence Force and completed in 2017.

Principal for the NZDF's Pacific Leader Development Program, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Milward said the leadership centre would also support ongoing leader research and development activities, including instructor and facilitator training, and foster inter-agency leader collaboration.

"The opening of the leadership

centre marks a significant contribution to the PNG Defence Force's (PNGDF) leader development capability," he said.

"The centre provides a permanent home for the PNGDF's dedicated and professional leadership staff, and a place of learning that the PNGDF men and women can return to, as they grow on their leadership journeys."

New Zealand High Commissioner Phillip Taula said the leadership centre was a practical contribution that would support the leadership development process.

"The Kumul Leadership Centre is practical and functional, and will support PNGDF to develop future leaders for years to come," he said.

"Contributions from local artists and crafts people have ensured that people, culture, and recognition of diversity are at its heart."

"The centre is an example of what can be achieved when we work as partners towards a resilient Pacific region."

## Aust increases support to PNG

AUSTRALIA has increased its aid support to PNG after passing its annual budget recently.

Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey has welcomed the news of increased official development assistance through bilateral regional programs.

The increase is expected to be from A\$587.8 million (K1.57 billion in 2021-22) to A\$596.1 million (K1.59 billion) in 2022-23.

"The Australian budget presented last week by my friend, Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, continues with good news of support for the PNG people and the economic reform programs of the Marape-Basil Government," he said.

"In addition, in recent years, the Australian Government has provided direct budget assistance support. This level of financing support is not included in the official aid figures."

Last year, Australia provided A\$650 million (K1.743 billion) in similar support.

Mr Ling-Stuckey said they were in discussions with Australia for further

assistance this year as the Government continued with the process of budget repair and reconstruction.

"The increase includes ongoing support for COVID-19 due to its ongoing impacts throughout the Pacific region," he said.

"Even better news is that the level of likely support to PNG is probably going to be even larger than set out in the Australian Budget documents."

"The reason for this is the doubling in the size of the Australian Infrastructure Finance Facility for the Pacific."

"This has increased in size from AUD1.5 billion (K4.0 billion) to AUD3 billion (K8 billion)."

"As PNG is by far the largest country in the Pacific, PNG would be expected to benefit substantially from this program."

"The program has supported infrastructure initiatives in PNG covering ports, energy and roads."

"The Australian budget is a further demonstration of the strong ties between PNG and Australia."

## Expat charged with bribing officers

A BANGLADESHI man has been charged with one count of perverting the cause of justice after he allegedly tried to bribe the Immigration and Citizenship Authority Special Operations team by giving K1000 to two officers who had gone to his shop along Dagua Road, Wewak, East Sepik Province on Friday morning.

The man who has been identified as 35-year-old MD Rafiqul was charged by Wewak police.

ICA chief migration officer Stanis Hulahau said offering a bribe in the form of money, promise of money or other items to an ICA officer was something not taken lightly.

"I want to warn any expatriate caught doing that, they will be dealt with severely by our local police depending on which province the bribe was offered," he said.

"In this case, Wewak police have taken carriage of the case with the man charged and police bail approved at K1000."

"In good faith, the man was released, and he is expected to appear in court any time this week."

The *Post-Courier* was at the store when the man (the owner) gave an envelope containing 10 K100 notes to two ICA officers. It is alleged, on a first inspection of the shop on Thursday, the man was asked by ICA officers if there was anyone else in his shop, the man said there was no-one.

However, on Friday morning as ICA officers went into the shop they were surprised to see a woman also from Bangladesh sitting behind the counter. When local workers were asked they identified the woman as the wife of the owner of the shop.



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