



**MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY**  
*Office of the Minister*

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**Fourth batch of Refugees leave Port Moresby for the US**

[29 May, 2018] Eighteen (18) refugees found eligible for resettlement in the United States have left Port Moresby this morning, Immigration and Border Security Minister Hon. Petrus Thomas, MP has confirmed.

Minister Thomas said the departure today of the 18 refugees brings the total to 102 refugees so far being resettled in the United States.

This is the fourth batch of refugees who left PNG following on from the first three batch of 84 refugees who have already resettled in the United States.

“I am happy for this group of refugees to be moving on with their lives in the United States,” said Minister Thomas.

Minister Thomas said Immigration and Citizenship Authority will continue to assist the United States Government officials continue their process and we look forward to seeing more refugees find a durable settlement pathway.

The Minister reminded those non-refugees found not to be owed protection to take the assistance package available and depart voluntarily to their country of origin. He warned that non-refugees have no right to remain in PNG and if they continue to stay they will be detained and removed.

“PNG is welcoming to those in genuine need of protection however, non-refugees having been found not to be owed protection need to return home and move on with their lives,” said Minister Thomas.

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE**