



## **Pacific Immigration Development Community**

2023 Board Meeting 3

19 June 2023: Port Vila, Vanuatu

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### **Agenda item 5: RAM Board Report**

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#### **Recommendations**

Board Members are invited to **note** the PIDC Board Report and request the Chair to present the Board report to the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting.

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#### **Purpose**

The Paper provides an update of Board activities undertaken during the 2022/23 Financial Period.

#### **Background**

2. The PIDC Board plays a central role in the oversight and governance of the organisation. The PIDC Constitution requires the Board to act on behalf of the PIDC Membership to provide oversight for the activities of the PIDC Secretariat, other subsidiary bodies, and committees. Consequently, as per requirement the following is a summary of the Boards activities during this financial reporting period (July 2022- June 2023).

#### **Summary of 2022/23 Board Activities**

3. The 2022/23 Financial Year has been a very busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was expected to deliver under its Annual Work Plan and Budget endorsed by Members at the 2022 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) in Fiji. While the postponement of the RAM from June to August 2023 facilitated members request to have its first face to face meeting after 2 years of virtual meetings, it challenged the Secretariat to deliver its approved schedule of activities and programmes within a limited time frame of three quarters of the financial year. Against this new operational normality, the Secretariat had to quickly readjust its sequencing of programme activities while the Board continued to maintain the same level of scrutiny on PIDC activities to ensure processes and outcomes continue to be consistently aligned to the organisation's values of transparency and accountability.

4. The first Board meeting was held virtually in October 2019 (Samoa), the second through a face-to-face session where Board members met in Port Moresby in April 2023, and the third and final meeting is scheduled a day prior to this year's Regular Annual Meeting.

5. The Secretariat, under Agenda Item 5 has provided a detailed report on the implementation of activities in the 2022/2023 Annual Work Plan and Budget. However, it should be noted that these activities have been regularly scrutinised and vetted by the Board during the reporting period through consecutive Board and Committee meetings. While the Board and Committee meetings primarily focussed on reviewing the progress to delivering

the 2022/23 Work Plan, the Board also focussed on reviewing internal policies targeting to provide more streamlined and clear procedures in the operation of the Secretariat. More importantly, following the end of the former Head of Secretariats contract, the Board through its Human Resource (HR) Committee had spearheaded the recruitment of the new Head of Secretariat position. Following an intensive selection process that was outsourced and coordinated through the Pacific Recruitment Agency, Akuila Ratu was appointed to the Head of Secretariat position. Members are quite familiar with Akuila who has now been promoted from Deputy Head of Secretariat to the HOS position. Consequently, the Deputy HOS position has now been advertised through an outsourced regional recruitment agency with appointment scheduled to be made in late July.

6. To support the Secretariat, adapt to staffing issues during the recruitment period of a number of staff vacancies, the PIDC Board provided ongoing support to the Secretariat to assist the Secretariat in managing the workload with ongoing support provided through the respective Committees including the Human Resource Committee, Governance Committee and Audit and Risk Committees on an ongoing basis. In spite of the demands placed on Board Members to monitor the ongoing Secretariat activities, the Board has continued to consistently support the operational activities of the organisation by working closely with the Secretariat especially through its Board Committees.