PNG IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP SERVICE AUTHORITY

New Script for Refugees and PIAs to be delivered with DCMO present

Hello. I am <<name>> from the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority.

Today I will tell you about the new accommodation for refugees.

By now, I expect all of you will have spent some time at the new East Lorengau Ref
Transit Centre. That centre has been built to temporarily accommodate refugees. If you
not yet seen it, you will be taken on a tour of the centre very soon.

Over the next few weeks all refugees will start to be accommodated at that new Rey
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Today I will tell you about the new accommodation for refugees.

By now, I expect all of you will have spent some time at the new East Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre. That centre has been built to temporarily accommodate refugees. If you have not yet seen it, you will be taken on a tour of the centre very soon.

Over the next few weeks all refugees will start to be accommodated at that new Regional Processing Centre.

No refugees will be permitted to remain at this Regional Processing Centre. I repeat, no refugees will be permitted to remain at this Regional Processing Centre. Even if you apply for a visa, you will be moved to the East Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre and remain there.

Those of you who apply for visas will be permitted to freely come and go from the Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre. However, if you do not apply for a visa, you will be permitted to leave the East Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre on organised excursions to seek treatment from the Lorengau Hospital. This will only change once you apply for a visa. You will not be returned to the Regional Processing Centre under any circumstances.

I know that you have many questions about life in PNG, and that some of these cannot be answered until PNG's National Refugee Settlement is approved by the Government.
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However, I can tell you these things:

- when you have learnt PNG languages and thoroughly understand PNG culture, you will be permitted to leave the Refugee Transit Centre and start work - but not in Manus Province. We will help you to find a suitable job and to relocate to wherever that job is;
- you will be free to practise your own religion;
- you will be safe. There is basic security at the Refugee Transit Centre and the local police are also nearby;
- your refugee visa will be valid for 12 months, and renewal after 12 months will be an easy process. You will not need to have your refugee claims re-assessed;
- if you depart from PNG within the first 12 months of being found to be a refugee you will not be permitted to return. However after 12 months you will be permitted to leave and return as you wish;
- when you have established yourself here in PNG and are able to support your family, they will be permitted to join you here;
after 8 years of residence you will be able to apply for PNG citizenship.

once you have a job you will need to support yourself, just like Papua New Guineans.

and,

there is no public welfare system in Papua New Guinea.

The purpose of your stay at the Refugee Transit Centre will be to prepare you for life in PNG. For that reason the facilities there will be more similar to those available to ordinary Papua New Guineans.

You will be given enough food to cook for yourself and a weekly allowance of K100. That is more than Papua New Guineans receive from their government.

There is no internet at the refugee transit centre because Papua New Guineans do not get internet. You will be given a phone and can use your weekly allowance to buy credit. If you get sick, you will need to go to the local hospital.

As the former Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection advised recently, there will be no change to these arrangements. You will never be resettled in Australia. You will never be given a temporary protection visa for Australia. You have never been accepted as a refugee by the PNG government and it is under the laws and policies of PNG that you will be housed, provided for, and cared for. Any change in your life expectancy will need to come from the laws and policies of PNG.
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As the former Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection advised some of you recently—there will be no change to these arrangements. You will never be resettled in Australia. You will never be given a temporary protection visa for Australia. You have been found to be a refugee by the PNG government and it is under the laws and policies of the PNG government that you are now being assessed and cared for. Any change in government or policy in Australia will never affect you or change your situation. Anyone who tells you anything different is lying to you.

Your choices are simple: make Papua New Guinea your home, or leave.

There are many opportunities here in PNG. Many migrants and refugees have built successful lives and careers here.

If you do not want to take up those opportunities, you are free to choose to leave Papua New Guinea and travel to any country where you have a right of entry. We will pay the cost of your surface if you choose to depart within the first 12 months of being found to be a refugee.
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There are many opportunities here in PNG. Many migrants and refugees have built successful lives and careers here.

If you do not want to take up those opportunities, you are free to choose to leave Papua New Guinea and travel to any country where you have a right of entry. We will pay the cost of your airfare if you choose to depart within the first 12 months of being found to be a refugee. After that you must pay any travel costs yourself.

Whatever your choice, you must obey Papua New Guinea’s laws. If you do not, you will be arrested and charged by the police. There will be zero tolerance for disruptive behaviour. There are also now more secure detention locations elsewhere in PNG where transferees may be accommodated if their behaviour threatens safety or security.

I encourage you to start to prepare yourself to leave this Regional Processing Centre. The purpose of your stay here was to have your refugee claims processed. This has either now occurred, or is approaching completion.

Those of you who have already received your refugee status notifications from the Minister will move to the refugee transit centre as soon as support and security arrangements have been established there. This will be within the next few weeks.
Those of you who have not yet received refugee status notifications will move to the refugee transit centre immediately after the Minister gives you your notification.

Leaving the Regional Processing Centre is an important step. You are moving forward with your life. There is no future for you here at the Regional Processing Centre, but there is a bright future for you elsewhere in PNG.

We will continue to provide you more information about settlement in PNG when you are at the Refugee Transit Centre.

In the meantime, please provide any questions to the Transfield Welfare Officers and Immigration staff before you and we will try to answer them as soon as possible. Thank you. I look forward to talking with you again.

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