30th March 2021

Press release

France participates to the global effort to support Papua New Guinea against Covid-19.

On this Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 1:40pm, a French Armed Forces in New Caledonia’s CASA 235 aircraft will land in Port Moresby Jackson Airport, delivering a shipment of 60 tents to the Papua New Guinea authorities to support its response to the ongoing Covid-19 surge.

French ambassador Guillaume Lemoine will welcome the arrival of this shipment, accompanied by New Caledonia representative to PNG, Mr. Alexandre Lafargue.

They will be joined by Papua New Guinea authorities (Health Ministry, Controller’s office) and other France’s partners: PNGDF, EU Delegation, UN, WHO, Australian and New-Zealand HC.

These supplies were sourced from France’s prepositioned strategic stock in Noumea established to bring assistance under the FRANZ agreement to countries in the region affected by crises. This arrangement enables a strong coordination with Australia and New Zealand to deliver relief assistance when requested by partnered countries.

In the coming days, another shipment will arrive from Paris, with other supplies, equipments and materials such as PPE, antigen tests, oxygen therapy related devices such as oxygen generators and concentrators, oxygen bezels, flowmeters, pulse oxymeters, low- and high-concentration oxygen masks, transportable ventilation devices, etc.

France is also working on proposing to PNG authorities some transport or logistic solution to deliver the aid (material, equipments, medical teams, vaccines) within the country, and specially to places hard to reach by road or plane. Further announcements will be made.

These assistance is organized from Paris under the supervision of the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The French embassy in Papua New Guinea thanks and acknowledges its valued partners on the ground: the National Department of Health, the National Control Center for Covid19, the World Health Organisation, Australia and New Zealand High Commissions, the European Union delegation, and the UN agencies.

France stands together with PNG and its Pacific partners in these challenging times.

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