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MEDIA RELEASE

The Minister for Public Service, Hon. Joe Sungi in responding to the comments made by the former Acting Chief Migration Officer, Mr. Robert Barra Kennedy in today's Post Courier claiming that he will only vacate the Office of the Chief Migration Officer once clarification is made on the substantive appointment.

Mr. Sungi said that the National Executive Council in its Decision No. 05/2021 on 20th January 2021 approved to advise the Head of State to revoke the appointment of Mr. Kennedy as Acting Chief Migration Officer and approved to advise the Head of State to appoint Mr. Stanis Hulahu as the new Chief Migration Officer effective on and from 28th January 2021 as published in the National Gazette No. G47 of 28th January 2021.

Mr. Sungi said before the permanent appointment was made, Mr. Kennedy was in the office on acting basis and this acting appointment has lapsed officially on 27th January 2021.

Mr. Sungi further highlighted and clarified that Mr. Kennedy's acting appointment was extended from 10th December 2020 to 9th March 2021, however the NEC Decision and the gazettal on the new substantive appointment now supersedes the instrument of acting appointment which I can confirm is in order.

The Minister now urges the proper hand-over take-over of office to take place between the former acting Chief Migration Officer and the new Chief Migration Officer in the presence of the Minister for Immigrations and Border Security, Hon. Westly Nukundj and the new Immigration & Citizenship Authority Board.

Ends//....

Approved for Release