

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced the public release of the *Preliminary report* with regard to the aircraft accident occurred on 14th February 2020, involving a Cessna 208 aircraft registered P2-MAI, owned and operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship PNG Limited, during landing in Miyanmin airstrip, Sandaun (West Sepik) Province.

Mr. Namani said “On 14 February 2020, at 14:48 local time, a Cessna 208 Caravan aircraft, registered P2-MAI, owned and operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) PNG Limited, experienced a loss of control during the landing roll at Miyanmin Airstrip, while conducting a non-scheduled flight, from Telefomin, Sandaun Province.

“There were 11 persons on board the aircraft at the time of the occurrence, none of them was reported injured and the aircraft sustained substantial damage as a consequence of the force dynamics involved in the accident.”

On the same date of the occurrence the AIC commenced the investigation number AIC 20-1002, which is accordance with the provisions of *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)*. It will include maintenance, operational and organisational aspects, aircraft performance and handling characteristics, environmental influences, airstrip data and accident notification to the authorities. The analysis of the information will allow AIC to determine safety lessons to assist avoiding the recurrence of similar events.

Mr. Namani explained that “to issue a *Preliminary report* within 30 days from the date of an accident or a serious incident is one of the international obligations of PNG as a State signatory to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*. The AIC will always ensure that any Preliminary report issued should be entirely based on the evidence gathered at the initial stages of an investigation, to provide accurate and timely information to the PNG citizens and international community, contributing to make aviation transport safer.”

Mr. Namani expressed “as with all AIC investigations, this investigation is independent of the providers of air services and aviation related services. It is also separate from judicial and administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability.”

Further information on this and other accident and serious incident investigations is available at AIC’s website www.aic.gov.pg