

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT ON A LOSS OF CABIN PRESSURE IN FLIGHT INVESTIGATION

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC publicly released a *Preliminary Report*, on a serious incident investigation regarding a loss of cabin pressure in flight affecting an Air Niugini Fokker 100 aircraft occurred on 18th March 2020, 63 miles North West of Goroka airport, Eastern Highland Province.

Mr. Namani said “On 19th March 2020, the AIC received a notification from PNG Air Services Limited, commencing an investigation on the occurrence. In accordance with the international obligations of a contracting State of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, and as per the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)*, the AIC conducts accident and serious incident investigations with complete independence from any other Statutory organisation or aviation stakeholder, with the main purpose of avoid similar occurrences in the future rather to ascribe blame to any person or organisation.

“Factual information gathered at this stage of the investigation indicates that on 18th March 2020, a Fokker 100 aircraft owned and operated by Air Niugini Limited, conducted a domestic scheduled passenger flight from Boram Airport, Wewak, East Sepik Province to Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, National Capital District. At 2:15 pm, while the aircraft was about 63 miles North West of Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, climbing through Flight Level (FL) 290 (about 29,000 feet), it experienced a loss of cabin pressure event.

“The flight crew donned their oxygen masks and initiated a fast rate descent to FL 100. As the aircraft descended through FL 170 the *Cabin Altitude Warning* activated indicating that the aircraft cabin had depressurised and the flight crew, as part of the emergency procedure, deployed passenger oxygen masks.”

The aircraft diverted from its original destination to Madang Airport, where it finally landed. No injuries or damage was reported.

Mr. Namani explained that “the investigation is continuing and will include the aircraft, its engines, maintenance and organisational aspects, safety management systems, regulatory, audit and oversight aspects and other areas as applicable.”

As part of PNG international obligations in accordance with *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* a *Preliminary Report* is required to be issued within 30 days from the date of the occurrence. The AIC has made this report publicly available on its website www.aic.gov.pg