

MEDIA RELEASE

FINAL SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO A MAJOR ELECTRICAL POWER FAILURE AFFECTING AIRPORT FACILITIES AT JACKSONS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today released the *Final Serious Incident Investigation Report*, regarding a major electrical power failure occurred on 22nd May 2019 affecting airport facilities at Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Namani said “On 22nd May 2019, at 17:11 local time, a major electrical power outage occurred at Jacksons International Airport, which lasted for 13 hours and 29 minutes. During the electrical power outage, four aircraft that conducted scheduled passenger operations (three domestic and one international) to Jacksons were affected. Two of the aircraft diverted to alternate airports. One of the other aircraft was able to complete an approach and landed at Jacksons, while the international flight had to delay at the departure airport in order to arrive at Jacksons during daylight on the following day.”

On the 23rd May 2019, the AIC received a notification of the electrical power outage from PNG Air Services Limited and commenced a serious incident investigation in accordance with the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)* and the international obligations to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

Mr. Namani explained: “The AIC’s investigation found that, in the context of the occurrence, Jacksons International Airport was unable to maintain the provision of the services for commercial aircraft operation, including landing and navigation aids, and runway and taxiway lighting, due to the failure of both the primary and secondary sources of electrical power.

“The primary source of electrical power for the airport facilities and services relies on the electrical grid feed by PNG Power Limited. If it fails, as in the context of the investigated occurrence, the secondary power source is expected to restore the operation of the critical facilities, services and aids for air transport operation.

“However, at the time of the occurrence the secondary power source was unable to enter into operation as a consequence of faulty and failed essential system components. The investigation determined that environmental conditions, prolonged use of obsolete components, improper and inadequate maintenance and servicing, lack of technical documentation and appropriate training for technical personnel contributed to the occurrence.

“The AIC has concluded that the electrical power systems at Jacksons International Airport did not meet the international standards of *ICAO Annex 14 - Aerodromes* and national regulations included in *PNG Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) Part 139 Aerodrome – Certification and Operation* to ensure operational continuity for safe air transport operations. Upgrading Jacksons Airport electrical power systems will be essential to ensure continuous operation of essential facilities and services, to avoid similar occurrences jeopardizing aviation safety in the future.

“The AIC acknowledges the efforts of NAC to address the safety deficiencies identified during the investigation and encourages it to continuously improve safety in the aviation system, for the benefit of all travelling public.”

The AIC conducts accident and serious incident investigations with complete independence from any other Statutory organisation or aviation stakeholder, with the main purpose of avoiding similar occurrences in the future rather than to ascribe blame to any person or organisation. The AIC has made this *Final Serious Incident Investigation Report* publicly available and it will be available for download at www.aic.gov.pg.