

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC RELEASES FINAL REPORTS ON THREE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced that last Friday 16th October 2020, the AIC released the Final Reports on three accident investigations recently completed.

Mr. Namani explained that *“As part of the international standards of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, aircraft accidents and serious incidents are required to be investigated by the States and Final Reports should be released to the public when investigations are completed. PNG as a signatory State to the Convention, has assigned this responsibility to the AIC.”*

“As per the provisions of the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and aligned with the international standards of Annex 13 to the Convention, the purpose of the AIC investigations is exclusively related to safety, and not to apportioning of blame or liability, and the investigations are conducted with complete independence from other State authorities, service providers and aviation stakeholders.”

The Final Reports released by the AIC are:

1. **AIC 19-1002:** Related to a fatal accident occurred on 29 August 2019, in which an Air Tractor AT-502B airplane, registered P2-SET, owned by Liddle Holdings Trust and operated by Ramu Agri Industries Limited (RAIL), that was conducting a VFR ferry flight from Daru, Western Province to Gusap, Madang Province, descended to a low level and impacted trees near the Era River, about 6.8 nm north west of Baimuru Airstrip, Gulf Province.
2. **AIC 19-1003:** Refers to an accident occurred on 7 October 2019, involving a PAC 750XL airplane registered P2-ASZ owned and operated by Air Sanga Limited that departed from Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, National Capital District to Efogi Airstrip, Central Province, Papua New Guinea and due to the combinational effects of downdraughts and tailwind gust during the final approach and use of reverse thrust, suffered a nose landing gear collapse during its landing at Efogi.
3. **AIC 20-1001:** This report is the first investigation conducted in PNG on a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA, commonly referred as drone), regarding an accident occurred on 14 November 2019 in which a DJI Matrice 210 RTK RPA, owned and operated by Applus Wokman that was being used to conduct an inspection of the underside of the jetty of the PNG LNG ExxonMobil Marine Terminal, about 11nm North West of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, collided with one of the jetty's pylons and dropped into the sea, as the pilot momentarily lost line of sight while the flight was being conducted from inside the cabin of a pilot boat by the RPA pilot.

In addition to the Final Reports released, a number of Safety Recommendations has been issued to State authorities and aviation service providers during the course of those investigations.

Mr. Namani said *“All aviation authorities, service providers and stakeholders have the duty to contribute to make aviation safer for the travelling public. The AIC contributes to this by identifying safety deficiencies and areas of concern as a result of the investigations conducted and developing Safety Recommendations to address safety deficiencies that, if not solved, can compromise aviation safety and contribute to future accidents or serious incidents.”*

Mr. Namani added that *“Safety is paramount. The AIC will continue conducting independent, no blame accident and serious incident investigation to ensure safety deficiencies are identified and taken to the attention of the appropriate parties for the effective implementation of actions to make the aviation system always safer.”*

Information about the Investigations conducted by the AIC and the Safety Recommendations developed can be found in its website www.aic.gov.pg