

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING AN AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY HEVILIFT IN MOUNT HAGEN

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC was investigating a serious incident occurred on 18th October 2020, in Kagamuga Airport, Mount Hagen, Western Highland Province.

Mr. Namani said *“On 18th October 2020 at 8:51 am local time, following a go-around runway 30 of Kagamuga Airport, Mount Hagen due to low visibility, the flight crew of a twin-engine De Havilland DHC-6-400 (Twin Otter) aircraft owned and operated by Hevilift PNG Limited, declared an in-flight emergency to the air traffic services.”*

The AIC became aware of the occurrence on the 19th October 2020 and immediately commenced an investigation under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and aligned with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Mr. Namani explained that *“According to the information gathered at the initial stages of the investigation, the flight crew identified a hydraulic failure and presence of smoke, which led to the emergency declaration. At 9:00 am, the aircraft successfully landed on runway 12 of Kagamuga Airport.”*

“No injuries within the 14 persons on-board the aircraft and no damage to the aircraft were reported as a result of the occurrence.”

As per its mandate under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended) and aligned with PNG international obligations derived from Annex 13 to the Convention, the AIC conducts investigations with complete independence from any other State authorities, service providers and stakeholders with the purpose of determining the circumstances and causes of the occurrences with a view to avoiding their recurrence in the future, rather than to ascribe blame to any person.

Mr Namani said *“the team appointed to conduct this investigation will consider operational, technical, organisational and environmental factors to the appropriate level, to determine the circumstances in which the serious incident occurred.”*

“As a result of the investigation, the AIC will also issue Safety recommendations with the aim of ensuring effective safety actions are developed and implemented, to improve aviation safety for the benefit of PNG citizens and for all travelling public.”

In accordance with International Standards, the AIC will issue a Preliminary report within 30 days. More information about the AIC can be found on its website www.aic.gov.pg