

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION DISCONTINUES INVESTIGATION AS OCCURRENCE NO LONGER MEETS INVESTIGATION CRITERIA

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced a recent development related to accident investigation being conducted by the AIC.

Mr. Namani said *"On 3rd November 2020, the AIC commenced an accident investigation, as a result of official information received and initial inquiries conducted, with regard to the occurrence that took place on 28th October 2020 at 2:40pm, involving a single engine Cessna 208 Caravan aircraft registered P2-HFB operated by Helifix, which collided with an ant hill during landing in Malam airstrip, Western Province.*

"As with all AIC investigations, a team of investigators was appointed to carry out the process to determine the causes and circumstances in which the occurrence happened, in compliance with AIC's mandate under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and aligned with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

"The team immediately commenced the process of collecting evidence and information about the occurrence and, as part of that process, this afternoon, they obtained significant and substantiated evidence that, contrary to the official information initially received, revealed that the relevant extent of the damage was limited to a bolt that connects to the nose landing gear which, as a result of the dynamics of the impact with the ant hill, was sheared off.

"Based on this new evidence available this afternoon, the AIC re-assessed the occurrence and determined that it no longer met the criteria to be classified as accident or serious incident. For that reason, the investigation will be discontinued. However, the data obtained from this occurrence will be recorded for statistical purposes, to assist in the identification of underlying conditions for improving safety in the future.

Mr. Namani also said that *"The importance of timely dissemination of relevant and accurate information is paramount not only for the AIC, but to preserve safety across the entire aviation system. In this case, it was only because significant and substantiated evidence was provided to the AIC shortly after commencing the investigation that the team was able to re-assess the occurrence classification, avoiding unnecessary allocation of resources that should be efficiently oriented to prevent accidents through accident and serious incident investigation, as per AIC's legal mandate."*

More information about the AIC can be found on its website www.aic.gov.pg