

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON INVESTIGATION REGARDING SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN MOUNT HAGEN

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

On 18 October 2020, at 08:54am, a DHC-6-400 Twin Otter aircraft, registered P2-KSY, owned and operated by Hevilift Aviation Limited, that was conducting an IFR passenger flight from Kairik Airstrip, Enga Province to Kagamuga Airport, Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province, experienced a smoke event and a hydraulic failure in flight after conducting a go around due to low visibility in the approach to runway 30 of the destination airport.

Mr. Namani explained that *“During the arrival of the aircraft at Mount Hagen area, the air traffic services (ATS) instructed the flight crew to approach and land on runway 30. Due to the presence of low cloud and poor visibility, the crew was instructed by ATS to perform a go-around.”*

“After completing the go-around, the flight crew identified smoke emanating from the floor area on the co-pilot’s side and concurrently observed a series of alerts and fault messages related to the aircraft’s hydraulic system.”

“The crew identified cloud breaks and better visibility along the approach path of runway 12 and, after being cleared by the ATS, a successful approach and landing was performed.”

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 part of its international obligations on behalf of PNG, the AIC is required to issue a Preliminary Report within 30 days of the date of the occurrence, meeting the international standards set by Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Mr. Namani added that *“The investigation conducted by the AIC in this serious incident has the sole objective of establishing its cause and circumstances with a view of preventing accidents and serious incident in the future, rather to ascribe blame or liability to any person or organisation. As the investigation continues, it will include areas related to flight operations, aircraft systems, performance, airworthiness and serviceability, weather and organisational aspects, among others, to the extent relevant to improve safety for the travelling public.”*

More information about this investigation can be found at www.aic.gov.pg