

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani yesterday announced that the AIC made available to the public a preliminary report on the investigation conducted with regard to a serious incident occurred on 29th October 2020, in Central Province.

Mr. Namani said *"On 29th October 2020 a Cessna 525B Citation Jet aircraft registered P2-MEH operated by Tropicair, conducted a medical evacuation flight from Kunaye Airport, Lihir, New Ireland Province to Jacksons International Airport, with two pilots and six other occupants on board the aircraft.*

"At 10:59am, as the aircraft was descending through flight level (FL) 260 (approximately 26,000 feet), the flight crew identified an indication of smoke from the cargo compartment. Subsequently, the flight crew declared emergency to the Air Traffic Services and conducted an approach and landed at Jacksons International Airport.

"After landing, the flight crew stopped the aircraft on Taxiway Foxtrot, where an evacuation procedure was conducted. No damage nor injuries were reported.

"The AIC was informed about this occurrence almost immediately. After assessing the specifics of the occurrence, it was determined that it met the criteria of a Serious Incident and, under the mandate of the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended), the AIC commenced an investigation to determine the causes and circumstances in which the occurrence took place with a view of avoiding similar occurrences in the future.

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 on International Civil Aviation, the AIC has released a preliminary report on this occurrence, which has been made available to the public through the AIC website www.aic.gov.pg

Mr. Namani added that *"the investigation is continuing and will include different areas such as the aircraft, operations, maintenance and organisational aspects, safety management systems, regulatory among others, as it is determined applicable in due time."*