

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INCIDENT IN MOUNT HAGEN, WESTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC was investigating a serious incident that occurred on 23rd December 2020 at Kagamuga Airport, Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province.

Mr. Namani said *"On 23rd December 2020, at 13:46 local time, an ATR 72-212A aircraft operated by PNG Air Limited was on approach to runway 30 at Kagamuga Airport, Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province when a fire warning from engine No. 2 (right hand) was triggered."*

Initial information indicates that at the onset of the emergency, the flight crew shut down the engine and discharged the fire extinguishing agents to the engine, continuing with the approach and landing on the runway. No injuries were reported on the 56 occupants on board the aircraft."

The AIC received a notification from Niusky Pacific Limited at 15:35 and commenced a serious incident investigation under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and aligned with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. A team of investigators was appointed to manage this investigation and early this morning they travelled to Mount Hagen to conduct on-site activities.

Mr. Namani explained that *"As per its mandate, the AIC conducts accident and serious incident investigations, with complete independence from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA PNG), other authorities and aviation service providers and stakeholders and only with a view of improving safety, rather than to ascribe blame or liability."*

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