

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON INVESTIGATION REGARDING ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN SANDAUN PROVINCE**

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 an accident occurred on 1 December 2020, in Wobagen Airstrip, Sandaun Province.

On 1 December 2020, at 09:13 local time, a Viking DHC-6-300 (Twin Otter) aircraft, registered P2-ASM, operated by Air Sanga Limited, experienced an airstrip excursion accident during the take-off roll at Wobagen Airstrip, Sandaun Province.

Mr. Namani explained that *"The aircraft commenced its take-off roll after completing a 180 degrees turn at the threshold of strip 12 of Wobagen Airstrip. The PIC tried to maintain the aircraft on centreline by using asymmetric thrust, as the aircraft initially showed a tendency to veer right. However, as the aircraft accelerated down the strip, the tendency to veer right increased. About 154m down the strip, the aircraft began tracked away from the centreline."*

*"As the aircraft passed the strip boundary (cone markers), with a recorded groundspeed of 40kt, the crew aborted the take-off; power to idle and applied full brakes. The aircraft continued forward and veering right and impacted with a drain."*

*"The nosewheel subsequently separated from the fork causing the nose to drop and the nose gear subsequently collapsed. The momentum of the aircraft caused it to continue another 8m with the nose dragging across the ground before it impacted the right edge drain."*

Within the 9 persons on-board, one passenger reported to have sustained minor injuries. The aircraft resulted substantially damaged.

Mr. Namani added that *"To issue a Preliminary Report within 30 days of the date of occurrence of this accident, allows PNG to comply with international standards of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. As the investigation continues, it will include but not limited to flight operations, aircraft airworthiness and serviceability, weather related aspects, airstrip conditions and human and organisational aspects, to the extent relevant for improving safety in the aviation system."*

As a Statutory Organisation with complete independence from other State authorities and aviation service providers, the AIC conducts aircraft accidents and serious incident investigations with the sole objective of establishing their causes 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."

More information about this investigation can be found at [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg)