

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON RECENT SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. Namani said *"On 23 December 2020, at 1:52pm, an ATR 72 – 212A aircraft, registered P2-ATB, operated by PNG Air Limited, on a scheduled passenger flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province had a No. 2 engine (right-hand) fire warning activation, during the approach for landing at its destination, Mount Hagen Airport, Western Highlands Province."*

Less than two hours after the occurrence, the AIC was notified about it by Niusky Pacific Limited via email and shortly after by a phone call from the operator of the aircraft and immediately commenced a serious incident investigation under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended) and aligned with the international standards of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Investigations conducted by the AIC have the sole purpose of improving safety in the aviation system and do not apportion blame or liability.

Mr. Namani explained that *"The information gathered during the initial stages of the investigation indicates that the flight crew had completed the before landing checklist and configured the aircraft for landing and during the base turn of the approach, as the crew continued along the base leg for approach, the No. 2 engine fire warning activated."*

"The flight crew identified and confirmed the warning and shut down the engine and, on final approach, discharged the fire extinguishing agent for the affected engine."

"While in the landing roll, the flight crew notified ATC about engine fire. The flight crew exited the runway and taxied to the parking bay. As the aircraft came to a stop, and a normal passenger disembarkation was conducted."

"No injuries were reported among the 63 persons onboard the aircraft and no damage to the aircraft was reported as a direct result of the occurrence".

Mr. Namani also explained that *"A Preliminary Report is issued within the first 30 days of an occurrence as part of the international obligations of PNG as a signatory State to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. It contains factual information. Analysis of that information, findings and contributing (causal) factors, other factors, safety actions, and safety recommendations are established in the course of the investigation and, therefore, are reserved for the Final Report."*

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