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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON AIRCRAFT SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED AT MOUNT HAGEN AIRPORT, WESTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE**

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani, today announced the public release of the AIC's Final Report on the investigation conducted into a DHC-6-400 Twin Otter aircraft serious incident that occurred on 18th October 2020 at Mount Hagen Airport, Western Highlands Province.

Mr. Namani explained that *"On 18 October 2020, at about 08:54 local time (17 October 2020 at 22:54 UTC), the crew of a DHC-6-400 Twin Otter aircraft, registered P2-KSY, operated by Hevilift (PNG) Aviation Limited, identified the presence of smoke in the cockpit while overflying Mount Hagen Airport, Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province, following a discontinued approach to runway 30."*

The AIC was notified of the serious incident the day after the occurrence. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation in accordance with its mandate under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and pursuant to Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The Final Report produced by the AIC stated that due to the inconsistent operation of the hydraulic pressure switch, the hydraulic relay switch remained engaged and continued operating the hydraulic pump beyond its normal operation limit and overheat. As a result, numerous alerts were triggered, and smoke was observed by the flight crew in the cockpit.

Mr. Namani explained that *"The Aircraft Manufacturer was aware of this abnormal condition related to the hydraulic pump, as there had been similar reports from other Operators of the DHC-6-400 aircraft. The Aircraft Manufacturer therefore sent out a directive for pilots to action existing procedures at the onset of the abnormal condition. However, our investigation found that the Operator did not disseminate the Aircraft Manufacturer's directive to its flight crews. As a result, the flight crew were unaware that it was mandatory to action the existing procedure for the abnormal condition at the time that they encountered it."*

The Final Report of the investigation is available on AIC's website [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg).