



## MEDIA RELEASE

### PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE A SECOND NIUGINI AVIATION SERVICES PAC 750 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AT TEKIN AIRSTRIP

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani has opened another investigation into an accident involving a PAC 750 aircraft at Tekin, Sandaun Province.

The AIC was notified at 10:13 local time, today (26 January), by Niugini Aviation Service Limited (NASL) about a landing accident, involving another one of their PAC 750 aircraft, registered P2-BWC.

Mr Namani expressed that: *"it is a major safety concern for travellers and the Tekin community due to the fact that there have been two accidents in a space of nine (9) days at Tekin and with the same operator. With the AIC's accident site authority, the airstrip has been declared closed for the on-site investigation to be conducted"*.



*P2-BWE and P2-BWC accidents final resting postions at Tekin Airstrip Sandaun Province*

After the release of the accident site (Airstrip) by the AIC, the West Sepik Provincial Government is expected to engage appropriate organizations such as the Rural Airstrips Agency (RAA) to cause a reassessment of the airstrip before normal operations can resume.

Mr Namani stated that: *“due to the safety concerns over Tekin the AIC has recommended to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA PNG) to prohibit operators from conducting fixed wing (aeroplane) operations into Tekin until the airstrip is deemed safe for such operations.*

NASL has now been involved in two accidents at the same airstrip with the same aircraft type in just over a week. *“NAS has informed the AIC that they have temporarily halted all operations”,* Mr Namani said.

Mr. Namani stated that: *“the AIC will conduct a full investigation into this second NASL PAC750 accident in accordance with the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended) and pursuant to Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The sole purpose is the improvement of aviation safety and not to apportion blame or liability”.*

Both accidents are actively under investigation and a team has been deployed for on-site investigation activities. A ‘preliminary report’ will be released within thirty days of each respective accident date in accordance with ICAO Annex 13.

The media release can be found on the following link below.

<https://www.aic.gov.pg/index.php/news.>