

MEDIA RELEASE

AIC DETERMINES OCCURRENCE AT KIUNGA AIRPORT, WESTERN PROVINCE, TO BE AN INCIDENT.

The Acting Board Chairman of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE, today announced that the AIC has assessed an occurrence that had occurred at Kiunga Airport, Western Province involving a Cessna 208 Caravan aircraft registered P2-HFA, to be an incident.



Captain Bouraga stated that, *“the AIC was notified at 05:53 pm on 17 October 2022 by NiuSky Pacific Limited about an occurrence involving a Cessna 208 Caravan aircraft registered P2-HFA, operated by Helifix Operations Limited which occurred at 04:04 pm, on 17 October 2022, at Kiunga Airport, Western Province.”*

It was reported that P2-HFA experienced a runway excursion during landing roll when the left main wheel tyre burst. There was one crew member and no passengers onboard. There were no reported injuries.

Captain Bouraga also stated that *“a team of investigators was dispatched to gather evidence and determine the causes and circumstances surrounding the reported occurrence. The investigation team collected evidence and conducted inspections on site. Investigators determined that the tire damage and subsequent inadvertent left veering of the aircraft was caused by compromised left tire tube (deflated), upon landing.*

The recorded flight data showed that there was no runway excursion as initial information suggested. The aircraft had actually come to a stop while it was still on the runway, and the pilot used engine power to taxi the aircraft off the runway onto the side to clear the runway for other aircraft.

“Based on the AIC’s assessment, pursuant to the provisions of ICAO Annex 13, it has been determined that it did not meet the criteria to be classified as an accident or serious incident. Therefore, the AIC will not be conducting an investigation into the subject occurrence.”

Captain Bouraga added that *“in accordance with the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended), the AIC has notified the Civil Aviation Safety Authority that it will not be conducting an ICAO Annex 13 investigation into the incident.”*

Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE
Acting Chief Commissioner