MEDIA RELEASE

AIC RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON AN AIRBUS HELICOPTERS MBB-BK117 D-2 HELICOPTER ACCIDENT

The Acting Board Chairman of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE, today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report, AIC 22-1005, involving an Airbus Helicopters MBB-BK117 D2 Helicopter registered P2-PHA, that sustained substantial damage to the Fenestron .

Captain Bouraga explained, *"it is the policy of the AIC to publicly release a preliminary investigation report for each accident or serious incident being investigated within 30 days from the occurrence date pursuant to requirements of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation."*

At this stage, the AIC has established that the helicopter was conducting a VFR medical evacuation (Medivac) flight from Fogomaio Airstrip, Southern Highlands Province to Tari Hospital, Hela Province, when during landing, at the Hospital helipad, the helicopter sustained significant damage to its fenestron a foreign object debris (FOD) was ingested by the helicopter's fenestron and caused substantial damage. The helicopter landed safely without further event.

The AIC is in the process of analyzing and verifying information and evidence relevant to the investigation which include Flight Operations, Organizational, Regulatory aspects and other areas as applicable. All relevant information will be published in the Final report of the investigation. The AIC investigation will determine the circumstances and contributing factors to ensure all safety lessons which can help improve aviation safety are learned.

In accordance with its legal mandate, all AIC investigations are conducted with the sole purpose of improving safety for the travelling public, with complete independence from other state authorities, aviation service providers and stakeholders. AIC investigations do not apportion blame or liabilities to any person or organisation.

More information about this investigation can be found at www.aic.gov.pg