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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION RELEASES FINAL REPORT ON AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED AT TEKIN AIRSTRIP, SANDAUN PROVINCE

The Acting Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Captain Aria Bouraga, today announced the public release of the AIC's Final Report on the investigation conducted into a PAC 750 aircraft accident that occurred on 18th January 2022 at Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province.

Captain Bouraga explained that *"On 18 January 2022, at about 09:26 local time (23:26 UTC) a PAC 750XL aircraft, registered P2-BWE owned and operated by Niugini Aviation Services Limited (NASL), was conducting a single pilot VFR charter flight from Kiunga Airport, Western Province to Tekin Airstrip, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea when during the landing roll, the aircraft sustained a left main landing gear (MLG) assembly collapse and subsequent runway excursion."*

The AIC was notified of the accident 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 ICAO Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The Final Report stated that the aircraft touched down on the grass strip, about 2 m from the edge of the landing strip and about 7 m from the threshold markers. Immediately subsequent to touchdown, the main wheels contacted the edge of the landing strip, which was elevated approximately 15 cm. The landing impact force could have transferred up through the structure and it may have compromised the structural integrity and caused the left MLG to collapse due to less damping effect on the oleo or the tyre.

Capt. Bouraga explained that following the collapse of the left MLG assembly, the left-wing assembly dropped and hit the ground, and the flap detached and began to drag on the surface creating marks. The aircraft immediately began veering left, towards the eastern edge (boundary) of the airstrip and impacted the drainage ditch adjacent to the runway where it came to rest.

The Final Report of the investigation is available on AIC's website www.aic.gov.pg.