

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## HELIFIX CESSNA 208 AIRCRAFT, P2-HFA, RUNWAY EXECURSION AND NOSE GEAR COLLAPSE ON LANDING AT ELIPTAMIN AIRSTRIP IN SANDAUN PROVINCE

The Acting Board Chairman of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE today announced that the AIC has commenced an investigation into an accident involving a Helifix Operations Limited Cessna Caravan 208B aircraft at Eliptamin Airstrip today at 13:40 local time.



Captain Bouraga stated that, *“The AIC was notified by the PIC of the accident flight through a phone call two hours after the accident.”*

The aircraft reportedly was operating a Charter flight from Kiunga to Eliptamin Airstrip and experienced a runway excursion and nose gear collapse on Runway 13 during the landing roll. It is reported that there were 4 persons onboard the aircraft; one pilot and three passengers. There were no injuries reported. Damage to the gear and the nose section including propeller blade damage is obvious from the pictures.

Investigators from the investigation team that arrived in Jiwaka today for an investigation into another accident that occurred yesterday at Giramben Airstrip, will be deployed to Eliptamin to conduct onsite activities.

Captain Bouraga stated that, *“Although there are significant funding constraints on AIC operations, the AIC is determined to ensure that valuable safety lessons are learned from unfortunate events. These are the challenging tasks that help us justify financial shortfalls. Pursuant to the Civil Aviation Act, the accident site and all related evidence is under the jurisdiction of the AIC and the AIC appeals to all, especially, the interested parties and persons to not interfere with the evidence and the investigation. A full investigation will be conducted as required under the Act and in accordance with Annex 13 Convention on International Civil Aviation. Let the lessons that need to be learned from this accident be learned so that we can help improve the safety of our travelling public.”*

More information about this investigation can be found at [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg)



*Figure 1: Picture courtesy of the Pilot in Command*