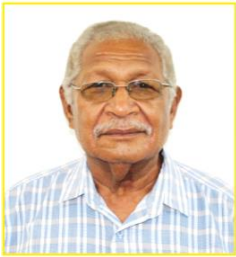


# MEDIA RELEASE

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## HELI SOLUTIONS BELL 407 HELICOPTER, P2-HSM, LOSS OF TAIL ROTOR APPROXIMATELY 15KM EAST OF WAPENAMANDA AIRPORT IN ENGA 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 Bell 407 helicopter approximately 15km East of Wapenamanda Airport, Enga Province today at 11:48 local time.



Captain Bouraga stated that, *“The AIC was notified by the Operator of the accident flight through a phone call at 12:29 local time after the accident.”*

The helicopter was reportedly operating on a Charter flight from Malamaunda Airstrip, Enga Province for Mt Hagen Airport, Western Highlands Province, then amended destination to Wapenamanda Airport. According to the pilot, he heard a loud noise from the tail of the helicopter, and subsequently experienced a loss of tail rotor effectiveness. He immediately carried out an emergency landing in a nearby garden. It was identified through images provided by the Operator to the AIC that the helicopter sustained substantial damage to its tail rotor assembly. It is reported that there were 2 persons onboard; one Pilot and one Loadmaster. There were no injuries reported.

Captain Bouraga stated that, *“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)



*Source: Picture courtesy of Post Courier through Facebook*