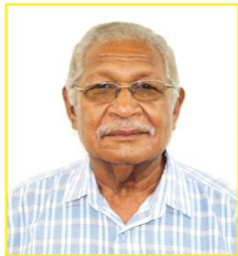


# MEDIA RELEASE

## PNG AIC RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON AIR NIUGINI LIMITED FOKKER 70 CABIN PRESSURISATION EVENT IN FLIGHT

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 23-2001, related to the Air Niugini Limited Fokker 70 aircraft registered P2-ANT which had a cabin pressurization event 20 NM Northwest of Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby Papua New Guinea on 20 February 2023, at about 16:00 local time, (0600 UTC).



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.”*

The AIC was notified of the serious incident by CASA PNG on 22 February 2023, during an aviation safety briefing. The AIC immediately commenced an investigation.

Captain Bouraga added that *The flight crew had decided to return to Jacksons International Airport after observing weather at Mt. Hagen Airport, the planned destination, was not suitable for an approach and landing.*

*On descent into Jacksons Airport, the crew actioned the Fokker 70 Normal Procedures Before Approach Check and subsequently noticed that the Landing Elevation Setting had not been set for an arrival into Jacksons but was instead, still maintained at about 5,500 ft, which they initially set for Mt. Hagen Airport.*

*The crew, observing a need to pressurize the for a landing into Jackson, they actioned the Fokker 70 Quick Reference Handbook (QRH) Abnormal Procedures for Manual Cabin Pressurization Control Procedure, and continued with the approach. Seeing that the indication was above the maximum allowable cabin differential for landing, the crew terminated the approach and initiated a Go Around to hold and reduce the cabin differential. Once the cabin differential was reduced, they conducted an approach and landed on Runway 14 L.*

Four passengers were reported to have sustained serious injuries and 18 passengers had minor injuries as a result of the pressurization event in flight. All crew and the remaining 45 passengers reported no injuries.

The AIC is in the process of analysing and verifying information and evidence relevant to the investigation which include flight operation, aircraft systems, airworthiness and serviceability, performance, organisational aspects, weather etc. All relevant information will be published in the final investigation report. 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 liability to any person or organization.

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