



## MEDIA BRIEF

### **Heli Solutions Ltd Helicopter Accident at Gebrau, Madang Province. AIC to conduct Investigation**

AIC REF: Investigation AIC 23-1006

This Media Brief serves as an update to the Media Brief released on 23 September 2023.

On 22 September 2023, at about 03:15 pm local time, a Bell 407 Helicopter, registered P2-HSN, operated by Heli Solutions Ltd, while operating a chartered passenger flight from Sengapi Airstrip to Gebrau Airstrip (about 80 km north of Mt. Hagen), when the helicopter experienced a loss of control and subsequently crashed into the ground.

There were 6 people onboard the helicopter: 1 pilot and 5 passengers. All persons onboard were male. It has been confirmed that injuries were sustained by all persons onboard, and one passenger is confirmed to have suffered serious injuries. The investigation team has confirmed that a number of local bystanders on the ground within proximity of the accident site also sustained injuries. I regret to report that one of the injured local bystanders did not survive his injuries and passed away early hours the next day (Saturday).

I was informed that Heli Solutions Ltd subsequently conducted a rescue operation in coordination with Air Traffic Control but were unable to access the accident site on the day of the accident due to deteriorating weather. It was reported that the persons injured during the accident were taken in by villagers as the nearest aid post is located a few kilometres away from the accident site.

The deceased man was a local and has been laid to rest at Gebrau.

The Operator conducted rescue operations for all persons onboard the accident flight, including the locals that sustained minor injuries. The injured locals, pilot and one passenger were airlifted to Mount Hagen the day after the accident (Saturday) as permitted by weather conditions. The rest of the passengers were rescued this morning (Sunday).

The Operator organized to have the following persons taken to Kudjip Hospital for medical assistance:

- Pilot
- One passenger that has sustained serious injuries
- 4 local bystanders that sustained injuries

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has commenced an investigation into the accident and has deployed a team on Saturday 23 September 2023. The team is currently operating out of Mount Hagen while awaiting weather conditions at the accident site to permit access. In the meantime, the investigation team is closely liaising with the Operator for further evidence gathering.



The AIC will investigate in accordance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. As the AIC conducts investigations for the sole purpose of improving aviation safety, I expect that all parties will harmoniously cooperate and comply with the AIC investigation process.

*Authorised for Release*  
Hon. Walter D. Schnaubelt, MP  
Minister for Transport & Civil Aviation



