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## MEDIA RELEASE

### RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON NORTH COAST AVIATION PAC 750XL ACCIDENT AT BUNGAWAT AIRSTRIP, MOROBE PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Ms. Maryanne J. Wal, today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report, AIC 24-1001, related to the North Coast Aviation PAC 750XL aircraft, P2-NCA, runway excursion accident which occurred on 8 January 2024 at Bungawat Airstrip, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.



Ms. Wal explained, *“it is the policy of the AIC to publicly release a preliminary investigation report for each accident or serious incident being investigated, 30 days after the occurrence date pursuant to requirements of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.”*

At this stage, the AIC has established that the aircraft had a hard touchdown towards the left of the centreline of the airstrip. The pilot subsequently applied a full right rudder to bring the aircraft back to the centerline, however the aircraft was overcorrected, resulting in the aircraft veering past the centerline and onto the right side of the strip where the right main wheel and the right wing got caught in a small drain and a nearby shrub and flowers alongside the edge of the strip, respectively. The aircraft continued despite the pilot's attempt to take the aircraft back onto the centerline. Once the aircraft's right wheel and wing were released from the drain, shrub and flowers, it subsequently made more than 180 degrees left turn and before coming to a stop. The aircraft sustained substantial damage to its right wing and propeller blades. There were 13 persons on board the aircraft; 2 pilots and 11 passengers inclusive of a child. None of the aircraft's occupants were injured.

The investigation is continuing and will include environmental, operational, organisational and technical aspects and other areas as applicable. The analysis and findings of the investigation, safety actions taken, and any recommendations to address safety concerns will be included in the *Final Report*.

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 organisation.

More information about this investigation can be found on the AIC's website: [www.aic.gov.pg](http://www.aic.gov.pg)