

MEDIA RELEASE

TWIN OTTER DHC6-300 AIRCRAFT, P2-BBM, RUNWAY EXCURSION DURING LANDING AT KIKORI AIRSTRIP, GULF PROVINCE.

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Maryanne Wal, announced that the AIC has commenced an investigation into a serious incident that occurred today involving a Tropicair Limited Twin Otter aircraft, DHC6-300, registered P2-BBM, at Kikori Airstrip, Gulf Province.



Maryanne Wal stated, “*The AIC was notified of the serious incident by Tropicair Limited via a phone call at 13:23 local time on 08 June 2024*”.

From initial information gathered by the AIC, the aircraft was on an IFR passenger flight from Kerema to Kikori, when during the landing roll at the Kikori Airstrip, the aircraft experienced a runway excursion, rolling past the left airstrip boundary, into the drainage ditch where the nosewheel partially bogged into the ground surface. The nose cone also impacted the ground before the aircraft came to rest. The incident was reported to have occurred at about 11:35 local time.

There were sixteen (16) persons on board; two (2) pilots and fourteen (14) passengers. The Operator reported that there were no injuries sustained by persons on board.

Upon being notified of the occurrence, the AIC immediately began gathering information, and deployed two (2) investigators to Kikori Airstrip for onsite activities. Onsite investigation observed that damage to the aircraft was limited to the nose cone.

The occurrence has been classified as a ‘Serious Incident’ and will be conducted in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*. The investigations will include but not be limited to the Aircraft and Pilot Performance, Airstrip Conditions, Weather, Maintenance and Serviceability of the aircraft, Organisational Aspects and Regulatory Oversight.

The AIC’s investigations are conducted independent of any other agency or person for the sole purpose of determining the circumstances and contributing factors so that vital lessons are learned, and similar occurrences are avoided.

More information about this investigation can be found at www.aic.gov.pg.

Authorised for release by:

Maryanane Wal
Chief Commissioner
08 June 2024