



13/2024
22 August 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON AIR NIUGINI LIMITED 737-800 SERIOUS INCIDENT AT JACKSONS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PORT MORESBY, PNG

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Ms. Maryanne J. Wal, today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report, AIC 24-2002, related to the serious incident involving the spillage of hazardous material, mercury in the cargo compartment of an Air Niugini Boeing 737-800 aircraft at Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 23 July 2024.

The Commission 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 on the day of the occurrence, as cargo handlers were loading P2-PXB for flight PX 102 to Nadzab, they observed liquid leaking from one of the packages. After further inspection by Air Niugini engineers, they confirmed that it was mercury. The package had seven 330 ml containers, filled with mercury and concealed inside an office 3 in 1 printer. The flight was subsequently cancelled, and all passengers and crew disembarked. None of the aircraft’s occupants were injured. The aircraft has remained grounded since the date of the occurrence.

The investigation is continuing and will include relevant 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

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner