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MEDIA RELEASE

TWIN OTTER DHC-6-300 AIRCRAFT, P2-KAL, RUNWAY EXCURSION DURING TAKEOFF ROLL AT KAIRIK AIRSTRIP, ENGA PROVINCE, PNG.

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) announced the commencement of an investigation into an accident that occurred today, involving a Kobio Aviation Limited DHC-6-300 Twin Otter aircraft, registered P2-KAL, at Kairik Airstrip, Enga Province.

The AIC was notified of the accident by Niusky Pacific at 16:05 local time on 19 October 2024. The AIC was advised that the aircraft last reported to Air Traffic Services that it was taxiing at Kairik Airstrip in preparation for a 15:30 departure to Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province. However, the aircraft failed to report its departure out of Kairik Airstrip to the Air Traffic Services. An Uncertainty Phase emergency was immediately declared on P2-KAL by the Air Traffic Services.

It was later confirmed by Air Traffic Services that P2-KAL had experienced a runway excursion during take-off.

Upon being notified of the occurrence, the AIC immediately began gathering information. The AIC established that the aircraft was conducting a VFR¹ passenger flight from Kairik Airstrip, Enga Province to Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, when during the take-off roll, the aircraft experienced a runway excursion. The aircraft veered to the left of the runway and impacted a drainage ditch. Assessment of information gathered by the AIC indicated that the aircraft sustained substantial damage to its left wing and nose.

There were five (5) persons onboard the aircraft; the pilot-in-command, Co-pilot and three (3) passengers.

The investigation will be conducted in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*. The investigation will include but not be limited to Pilot techniques, 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:

Maryanne Wal
Chief Commissioner
19 October 2024

¹ Visual Flight Rules.