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## MEDIA RELEASE

### RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TROPICAIR LIMITED DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT OF CANADA AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AT KEREMA AIRPORT, GULF PROVINCE

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) today announced the public release of the Preliminary Report, AIC 25-1001, related to the Tropicair Limited De Havilland Aircraft of Canada DHC-6-400 aircraft, P2-AXL, that experienced a runway excursion during the landing roll at Kerema Airport, Gulf Province.

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*.

Following AIC's initial investigation, it was established that the crew observed a tailwind from the right as they turned onto the final leg for landing on runway 14. On finals the effects of the tailwind from the right decreased and the speed did not exceed the aircraft's limitations therefore, the crew proceeded with the landing. The aircraft's touchdown and initial landing roll were standard. As the aircraft's speed continued to decrease during the landing roll, the PIC attempted to apply brakes to further slowdown the aircraft, the crew then noticed that the aircraft began to veer right of the centreline. The PIC applied asymmetric power and rudder inputs to get the aircraft back on to the centreline. The aircraft subsequently turned back to the left towards the centreline however, it continued passed the centreline and veered further left. The aircraft continued onto the grass surface of the runway edge and into an adjacent drainage ditch that runs along the left side of the runway, where it impacted the embankment and came to a complete stop.

There were ten (10) persons onboard the aircraft; two (2) pilots and eight (8) passengers. There were no reported injuries to the crew and passengers.

The investigation is continuing and without limiting the scope of the investigation, the AIC is looking into a range of areas, including flight operations, maintenance, organisational and safety management systems, regulatory oversight communication, weather, human factors and post-accident survival aspects

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)

*Authorised for release by:*

**Maryanne J. Wal**

*Chief Commissioner*