



INTERIM STATEMENT

AIC 22-1003

SIL Aviation Services

P2-SIL

BELL 206L3

Tail rotor strike during take off

Aiyura National High School

Eastern Highlands Province

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

04 October 2022



About the AIC

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) is an independent statutory agency within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The AIC is governed by a Commission and is entirely separate from the judiciary, transport regulators, policy makers and service providers. The AIC's function is to improve safety and public confidence in the aviation mode of transport through excellence in: independent investigation of aviation accidents and other safety occurrences within the aviation system; safety data recording and analysis; and fostering safety awareness, knowledge and action.

The AIC is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation in PNG, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving PNG registered aircraft. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations.

The AIC performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)*, and the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1951*, and in accordance with *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk. AIC investigations determine and communicate the safety factors related to the transport safety matter being investigated.

It is not a function of the AIC to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include relevant factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. At all times the AIC endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why it happened, in a fair and unbiased manner.

INTERIM STATEMENT

In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.6*, the Accident Investigation Commission, hereby, publishes this *Interim Statement* for investigation AIC 22-1003.

AIC 22-1003 is in relation to an accident that occurred on 4 October 2022, involving a Bell 206L3 helicopter, registered P2-SIL, owned and operated by Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Aviation. The aircraft was conducting a VFR charter flight from Aiyura National High School, in Ukarumpa, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP) to Nadzab Airport, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, when during its line-up for take-off, the tail rotor blades struck a powerline.

At the date of release of this *Interim Statement*, the investigation is nearing completion. The *Draft Final Report* was finalized and disseminated to all involved parties on 18 September 2023 for consultative comments in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. Comments from parties will be due 60 days from the date of the draft dissemination, with consideration given to significant and substantiated comments. The AIC will thereafter release the *Final Report* in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13*, to the *Convention International Civil Aviation, Paragraph 6.5*.



Capt. Aria Bouraga, MBE

Acting Chief Commissioner

4 October 2023