



# MEDIA RELEASE

## AIC COMMENCES INVESTIGATION INTO AN AIRCRAFT LANDING ACCIDENT AT BUKA

On 8 December 2017, at 13:00 local time, the Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission was informed of an accident that occurred at Buka Areodrome, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, PNG, on 8 December at 10:17 local time.

An Australian registered and operated GAF Nomad N22B aircraft, registered VH-ATO, landed wheels-up on the grass flight strip (about 32 metres to the right of the sealed runway centerline).

The AIC's Chief Commissioner, Mr Hubert Namani, said that the pilot reported that the landing gear failed to extend, and the emergency landing gear extension handle fractured after 3 or 4 pumps, to extend the landing gear manually. He elected to land on the grass to the right of the sealed runway. The pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured.

The AIC has commenced an investigation into the accident. The pilot and the operator's engineer at the accident site are assisting the AIC investigation.

The AIC will seek to improve aviation safety by conducting an independent no-blame investigation to establish the causes and contributing factors of this accident, and to communicate findings and recommendations through the release of a public report that complies with the requirements of the Civil Aviation Act, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

A Preliminary factual Report will be published within 30 days in accordance with ICAO Standards.

**Approved:**

**Hubert Namani**  
**Chief Commissioner**

**For further information contact:**

PNG Accident Investigation Commission  
Alan L Stray, PSM  
Investigations Manager  
+675 3232911

