



MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

Office of the Minister

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PRESS STATEMENT

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA CONFIRMS MISSING PASSENGER LOCATED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE WRECKAGE AND FLIGHT DATA RECORDER RECOVERED FROM THE AIRCRAFT

The Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, MP, today announced that at 2:50pm on Monday 1 October 2018 the body of the passenger missing in the aircraft accident at Chuuk had been located in the aircraft wreckage.

Mr. Manase said “The aircraft is on the seabed 30 metres below the surface of the Chuuk Lagoon. Due to the contamination of the water from leaking aircraft fuel, the search of the aircraft had been delayed until the contamination dispersed to a level safe for the divers. US Navy divers successfully extracted the deceased passenger from the aircraft.

“The body was taken to the Chuuk State Hospital. The FSM Government is notifying the Country of nationality through its Foreign Affairs Department, and Air Niugini is arranging the repatriation of the deceased once next of kin has been notified.

“At 2:35pm on Tuesday 2 October 2018 the civilian divers contracted by FSM recovered the Flight Data Recorder (Black Box) from the aircraft. The diving will continue on Wednesday to recover the Cockpit Voice recorder and other recording devices from the aircraft.

“The Recorders will be transported to the PNG AIC laboratory in Port Moresby accompanied by FSM investigators, for data downloading and analysis as soon as possible after all the Recorders have been recovered.”

Hon. Alfred Manase, MP
Minister for Civil Aviation and Member for Kandep Open