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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED BY JEPPESEN -INSTRUMENT APPROACH CHARTS FOR AIRPORTS IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AMENDED

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (PNG AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that all instrument approach charts for airports in the Federated States of Micronesia have been amended to list the correct *Transition Level*.

Mr Namani said "When an aircraft is operating above the *Transition Level (TL)*, the aircraft altimeter pressure setting is normally adjusted to the standard pressure setting of 1013.25 hectopascals (millibars) or 29.92 inches of mercury, and the aircraft's altitude will be expressed as a *Flight Level*. Below the *Transition Level* altimeters are set to show the altitude above sea level.

"During the investigation into the Air Niugini accident at Chuuk, FSM, the AIC investigators noted that the *Transition Level* on many of the charts for FSM airports had the *Transition Level* incorrectly listed. While the listing on the Chuuk chart did not contribute to the accident, it was a safety deficiency that could contribute to an accident if not addressed."

On 5 June 2019, the PNG AIC issued a Safety Recommendation to the chart producer, Jeppesen, for Jeppesen to ensure that standard terminology is used on both (Chuuk RNAV (GPS) Rwy 04 and Pohnpei RNAV (GPS) X Rwy 09) instrument approach charts. The AIC also urged Jeppesen to ensure that terminologies and the layout used on all Jeppesen Instrument approach charts are consistent and standardised.

Mr Namani said, "On 9 August, Jeppesen informed the PNG Accident Investigation that they had updated the charts for the FSM airports for consistency, so that all *Transition Levels* read FL055. The revised charts were released with this correction on 12 July 2019. Jeppesen provided copies of the updated suite of charts to the AIC.

"This safety action that was prompted by the AIC's Safety Recommendation is very important for international aviation safety."

The *Recommendation is available on the AIC web site, www.aic.gov.pg.*"

Hubert Namani, LLB
Chief Commissioner