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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC TEAM TO INVESTIGATE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT IN KIKORI DELTA AREA

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (PNG AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced at 7pm on Thursday 29th August that the AIC is sending a team of investigators to the scene of an aircraft accident in the Kikori Delta area.

Mr. Namani said "the aircraft, a single-engine, single-seat Air Tractor AT502 agricultural spraying aircraft was reported to have departed from Daru, Western Province at 9:40am, en-route to Gusap in the Ramu Valley, Morobe Province. The last known radio broadcast from the pilot was at 10:11am when the pilot reported flying at 9,000 ft. No further communications were heard from the aircraft."

Late on Thursday afternoon a wing of the aircraft was reported to have been located in the Era River near Kerauti Station in the Kikori Delta. The pilot who was the only occupant was not located at the end of daylight. The search will resume on Friday morning.

Mr. Namani said "the AIC has commenced an investigation and a team of investigators will fly to Baimuru on Friday morning and make their way by boat from Baimuru to the crash site."

In accordance with International Standards, the AIC will issue a Preliminary Report within 30 days.

Hubert Namani, LLB
Chief Commissioner