

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced the public release of the *Preliminary report* with regard to the *serious incident* occurred on 21st November 2019, involving a Fokker F70 aircraft registered P2-ANY, operated by Air Niugini, while conducting the PX-207 flight from Tokua Airport, East New Britain to Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, NCD.

Mr. Namani said “On 21 November 2019, 15:21 local time, a Fokker 70 aircraft, registered P2-ANY, owned and operated by Air Niugini Limited, travelling on a passenger flight from Tokua International Airport, East New Britain to Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, experienced a rapid decompression/depressurisation event.

“At about 23,000 ft (approximately 7,000 metres above mean sea level) while descending into Jacksons International Airport, the ‘*Excessive Cabin Altitude*’ warning activated along with the Master Warning alert. The flight crew carried out the emergency procedures, which included donning their oxygen masks, deploying passenger oxygen masks manually and performing an emergency descent to 10,000 feet (approximately 3,000 metres above mean sea level). Then, the crew reverted to the normal descent and continued to land at Jacksons International Airport.

“No damage nor injuries were reported in this occurrence and the Air Niugini flight landed in Jacksons Airport as intended.”

On the same date of the occurrence the AIC commenced the *serious incident* investigation number AIC 19-2002, which is accordance with the provisions of *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)*. It will include technical, operational, environmental and organisational aspects to establish the circumstances in which the occurrence happened and to determine safety lessons to assist avoiding the recurrence of similar events, contributing to make aviation safer for PNG citizens and for all users of this mean of transport.

Mr. Namani explained “Safety of aviation transport, especially with regard to scheduled commercial passenger flights, is one of the main concerns of the *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)*. For this reason, every time an ICAO member State such as PNG conducts a serious incident investigation involving airline passenger flights, is expected to publish the findings at different stages of the investigation, for the benefit of the aviation community. *Preliminary reports*, which are intended to be published no later than 30 days after an occurrence, are part of these international obligations.”

Mr. Namani expressed “as with all AIC investigations, this investigation is independent of the providers of air services and aviation related services. It is also separate from judicial and administrative proceedings to apportion blame or liability.”

Further information on this and other accident and serious incident investigations is available at AIC’s website www.aic.gov.pg