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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC TEAM TO INVESTIGATE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT IN KIMBE AREA

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (PNG AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced that at about 6 pm on Sunday 11 August 2019, the AIC was informed by PNG Air Services Limited (PNGASL) of a Bell 427 helicopter accident in the Kimbe area.

The circumstances of the accident are as yet unknown, but it is understood that the helicopter failed to arrive at Kimbe at its estimated time of arrival of 11.10 am local time on Sunday. At around 1 pm it was confirmed that the helicopter had ditched in the water and the pilot had been rescued.

The pilot was the only occupant, and the information provided to the AIC by PNGASL indicated that he received minor injuries in the accident.

The AIC immediately commenced an investigation and will send a team of investigators to Kimbe on Monday morning.

The investigation will include the examination of the operational and technical aspects of the flight and will examine the engineering and flight operations records as well as recorded Air Traffic Services data and transmissions and GPS tracking data from the operator, and the Search and Rescue activities. When the helicopter is recovered from the water it will also be examined by the AIC.

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

Hubert Namani, LLB
Chief Commissioner