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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION INVESTIGATING AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT IN MIYANMIN AIRSTRIP, SANDAUN (WEST SEPIK) PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani announced on 15th February 2020 that the AIC was investigating an aircraft accident that occurred in Miyanmin airstrip, Sandaun (West Sepik) Province.

Mr. Namani said “The aircraft, a single-engine Cessna 208 aircraft operated by two pilots from Mission Aviation Fellowship, was in an instructional flight from Telefomin airstrip to Miyanmin airstrip, Sandaun Province.

“According to the information gathered at the initial stage of the investigation, at 2:45pm of Friday 14th February 2020, while the flight crew was performing the landing manoeuvre at Miyanmin airstrip, the aircraft skidded off the runway. During its runway excursion, the right wing and the propeller blades impacted the ground resulting damaged.”

PNG as a signatory State of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* has an international obligation of conducting independent, no-blame accident and serious incident investigations. The *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)* require these investigations to be conducted by the AIC with complete independence from any other Statutory organisation, to determine the circumstances and causes of accidents and incidents with a view to avoiding similar occurrences in the future, rather than to ascribe blame to any person.

Mr Namani said “the AIC has appointed a highly qualified team to conduct the investigation, to ensure an objective and unbiased approach which will include the examination of engineering and flight operations records, operational and technical aspects of the flight and organisational and individual performance within the context of the occurrence.”

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