

MEDIA RELEASE

CAA VANUATU DELEGATES AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TO PNG AIC

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu (CAAV) has delegated the investigation of an aircraft accident occurred on 23 October 2018 in Dillon's Bay, Vanuatu, to the AIC.

Mr. Namani said "On 23 October 2018, at about 15:23 local time a Cessna U206G aircraft, registered YJ-AL5, operated by Air Vanuatu Air Charters suffered an engine failure in flight. The pilot elected to make a forced landing on the nearby Dillon's Bay Airstrip. However, he was unable to extend the glide to the strip and the aircraft impacted a lightly timbered, heavily grassed area about 100 metres short of the strip 10 threshold.

"As part of the undergoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) PNG provides support and assistance for accident and serious incident investigation to Vanuatu. The AIC already provided guidance to CAAV to comply with the International obligations of notification and reporting of this aircraft accident in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*."

Mr. Namani explained that "the Director of CAAV expressed that the investigation has reached a stage in which further progress is difficult, due to the limited capabilities for accident and incident investigation of Vanuatu, and requested to delegate in part the investigation to the AIC under the provisions of *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*, which include issuing the Draft Final Report, Final Report and Safety Recommendations."

This is not the first time AIC provides support to Pacific States. On 2018, the AIC conducted two major accident investigations on behalf of Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu respectively. These investigations allowed AIC to issue Safety Recommendations of global impact, reaching aircraft manufacturers, air operators and other aviation stakeholders worldwide.

Mr. Namani said "The role of AIC in obtaining learnings from accidents and incidents through investigation and developing Safety Recommendations to avoid these occurrences to repeat in the future is a paramount contribution to the efforts of the Government of promoting the enhancement of safety as part of the essential elements of a robust aviation transport system which supports economic growth of PNG.

"The request of delegation of the investigation made by Vanuatu is a sign of the high level of integrity and professionalism of the AIC in conducting independent, no blame and unbiased investigation in accordance to *International Standards*, principles that led AIC to be internationally recognised as the only independent accident investigation organisation in the Pacific Region."