



MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE OCCURRENCE NEAR VANIMO, SANDAUN (WEST SEPIK) PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC is gathering information to investigate an aircraft accident occurred today near Vanimo, Sandaun (West Sepik) Province.

Mr. Namani said “On 2nd June 2020, the AIC was informed by PNG Air Services Limited (PNG ASL), about an aircraft accident occurred early in the day near Vanimo, Sandaun Province. According to the initial information available, the accident involved a foreign aircraft. PNG ASL further indicated that all PNG registered aircraft had been accounted for.”

In accordance with the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)* and considering the provisions of *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation* of which PNG is a signatory State, aircraft accidents occurred in PNG shall be investigated by the AIC, without distinction on the *State of Registry* of the aircraft involved.

Mr. Namani explained that “At this stage, initial information on the aircraft, its occupants and the circumstances surrounding the accident is being gathered. The AIC has appointed a team of investigators to comply with the mandate of the national legislation and conduct the investigation. Coordination with different authorities will be essential to facilitate the development of on-site activities.”

Mr. Namani added that “As part of its international obligations as per *Annex 13*, the AIC will notify the occurrence to the appropriate States and Parties, to ensure timely exchange of relevant information in the context of the investigation.”

The PNG AIC conducts independent, no-blame accident and serious incident investigations. These investigations, as per the *Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended)*, are conducted with complete independence from any other Statutory organisation or aviation stakeholder, with the main purpose of avoid similar occurrences in the future. Further information on AIC investigations can be found on its website www.aic.gov.pg