

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## UPDATE ON AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT NEAR VANIMO, SANDAUN (WEST SEPIK) PROVINCE

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC continues to gather information to investigate an aircraft accident occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 near Vanimo, Sandaun (West Sepik) Province.

Mr. Namani said: “On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, the AIC was informed by PNG ASL about an aircraft accident occurred near Vanimo, Sandaun (West Sepik) Province. To this date, the accident location has not been found.”

In accordance with its mandate, the AIC investigates aircraft accidents and serious incidents to determine the causes, contributing factors and circumstances surrounding these occurrences in order to produce Safety Recommendations oriented to prevent the recurrence of similar events and supporting the development of PNG by assisting the State in providing improved conditions for air transport operations. These obligations are derived from the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and especially from its *Annex 13* that contains the *Standards and Recommended Practices for Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation*.

Mr. Namani explained that “It is not a function of the AIC to coordinate or participate in the *Search and Rescue* of aircraft in distress. These activities are treated in *Annex 12* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* and at the national level, Search and Rescue coordination is embedded in *Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) Part 176*. Nevertheless, the *International Standards* for investigation require to document and analyse the effectiveness of *Search and Rescue* related activities, in the context of a specific investigation chapter dedicated to *Survival Factors*.

“For these reasons, and in order to timely deploy a team of investigators to the accident site if the wreckage site is found, the AIC has been gathering information on the progress of Search and Rescue activities. To the current extent of information available, activities conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 by military personnel on the searching area did not succeed in finding the location of the accident site. These activities are continuing but at this time there are no further news.

“Considering the proximity of the accident area to the border, the AIC established contact with the Aircraft Accident Investigation Commission (AAIC) of Indonesia, to gather information that may have been available. Initial information provided by the AAIC late on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 indicated that all Indonesian registered aircraft were accounted for and there was no one missing.”

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](http://www.aic.gov.pg)