

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION GATHERING INFORMATION ON DISTRESS SIGNAL NEAR PAPA LEALEA, PORT MORESBY, NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC is gathering information on a distress signal of an aircraft detected on 26th July 2020 near Papa Lealea, Port Moresby, NCD.

Mr. Namani said “On 26th July 2020, the AIC was informed by PNG Air Services Limited (PNG ASL), about the activation of an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) near Papa Lealea, Port Moresby, National Capital District. PNG ASL also reported that all aircraft had been accounted for.”

An ELT is part of the aircraft equipment in according to national regulation and international standards. In the event of an aircraft accident or upon manual activation by the pilot, an ELT transmits a distress signal, which assists in planning and conducting Search and Rescue activities.

Mr. Namani explained that “The AIC appointed a team of investigators which is currently gathering information in the area of the distress signal to commence an investigation if an accident or serious incident is confirmed, in compliance with the mandate of the national legislation. Coordination with Government authorities including Police is essential to facilitate the development of on-site activities.”

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