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MEDIA RELEASE

PNG ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION INVESTIGATING A SERIOUS INCIDENT DUE TO A LOSS OF CABIN PRESSURE IN FLIGHT

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC was investigating an aircraft serious incident occurred on 18th March 2020, 63 miles North West of Goroka airport, Eastern Highland Province.

Mr. Namani said “On 18th March 2020 a Fokker 100 aircraft operated by Air Niugini Ltd, was in a flight PX121 from Boram Airport, Wewak, East Sepik Province, to Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, NCD suffering a loss of cabin during flight.

“According to the information initially obtained, the loss of cabin pressure occurred at 35,000 feet, and the flight crew conducted an emergency descent to a lower altitude and deployed oxygen masks.

The aircraft diverted from its original destination to Madang Airport, where it safely landed. No injuries or damage was reported.”

As part of its international obligations and being a contracting State of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, PNG through the Accident Investigation Commission 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.

Mr Namani said “as with all AIC investigations, a team of qualified personnel has been appointed to conduct the investigation considering all the relevant factors that could be involved in the occurrence.”

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