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MEDIA RELEASE

GRAVE CONCERNS OVER ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE DRONE FLIGHTS NEAR JACKSONS AIRPORT

Mr. Hubert Namani, Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission today raised very serious concerns over the illegal operation of Drones near Jacksons Airport.

Mr. Namani said “I have received a report of at least one UAV/Drone very recently being operated from a house or houses within Kennedy Estates, 8 Mile. The UAV was observed operating above light post height to an undetermined height.

“Kennedy Estates is less than 2 km from the Jacksons Airport boundary and under the Runway 14L flight path. This presents a significant safety risk and danger to aircraft and the travelling public, as well as to the residents of Kennedy Estates.”

I request that you seek the assistance of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of PNG and the Royal PNG Constabulary (RPNGC) to investigate this significant safety risk. Unauthorised Drone operations near any airport is a safety risk and danger to the travelling public.”

Mr. Namani called on the PNG radio, television and print media as a matter of civic duty to assist the PNG aviation and civil regulatory and enforcement authorities to stop these illegal and unsafe practices.

He said “PNG UAV retailers are urged to ensure they work with CASA PNG to supply education and warning documentation with each UAV sold in PNG.

“ most recent dangerous situation in Gatwick Airport is a salient reminder that urgent steps must be taken by PNG regulatory and enforcement agencies before we are faced with investigating a major tragedy.”

Hubert Namani, LLB
Chief Commissioner