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14 February 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY REPORT ON HEVILIFT AVIATION LIMITED PNG ATR 42-500 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AT SIMBERI AIRPORT, NEW IRELAND, PNG

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) today publicly released the Preliminary Report for investigation AIC 26-1001, concerning an ATR 42-500 aircraft, registered P2-KSA, operated by Hevilift Aviation Limited.

In accordance with its Policy, and pursuant to the requirements of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the AIC releases a preliminary investigation report within thirty (30) days of the date of an accident or serious incident under investigation.

On 15 January 2026, the said aircraft departed Jacksons International Airport, National Capital District, at approximately 13:40 local time on a flight to Simberi Airport, New Ireland Province. During landing at Simberi Airport, the aircraft experienced a runway excursion to the right side of the runway and subsequently impacted a drainage area and embankment.

There were fourteen (14) persons on board the aircraft: Three crew members (Pilot-in-Command (PIC), Co-Pilot and Cabin Crew) and eleven passengers. No injuries were reported.

The investigation remains ongoing and seeks to understand the circumstances and contributing factors associated with the occurrence. Areas under examination include, but are not limited to the flight operations, aircraft maintenance, Organizational aspects, human factors, and aircraft design and manufacture.

Consistent with its statutory mandate, the AIC conducts investigations solely for the purpose of enhancing aviation safety. The Commission operates independently of other State authorities, aviation service providers and stakeholders. AIC investigations do not apportion blame or liability to any person or organisation.

More information about this investigation can be found on the AIC's website: www.aic.gov.pg

Authorised for release by:


Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner