



14/2026
07 September 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

NIUGINI AVIATION PAC 750 XSTOL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

On 07 September 2026 at 2:35pm the Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) was notified by Niusky Pacific Ltd of a missing aircraft registered P2-RNA, operated by Niugini Aviation Services.

The aircraft departed Mount Hagen Airport on 07 September 2026 at 1:03pm for Simbai Airstrip in Madang Province, with an estimated time of arrival of 1:20pm. It was reported that there were three persons on board.

At approximately 1:20pm, Niusky Pacific Ltd reported receipt of a COSPAS-SARSAT distress signal. The signal indicated a position approximately 3.6 nautical miles (nm) southeast of Simbai Airstrip.

Following the loss of communication with the aircraft and receipt of the distress signal, the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) activated search and rescue procedures at 1:43pm. The response was subsequently escalated to the distress phase at 1:49pm.

The AIC has been informed that a Heli-Solutions search helicopter located the aircraft wreckage approximately 3.6 nm southeast of Simbai Airstrip. However, due to deteriorating weather conditions, the helicopter was unable to land at the wreckage site. The helicopter subsequently tracked east of the wreckage site and landed at a suitable location, from where the search team proceeded to the site on foot. After accessing the site, the search team reported that all persons on board were found deceased.

The AIC will deploy an investigation team to Mt Hagen and then onto the accident site wherein it will commence its onsite investigations. The Niugini Aviation main base is also located in Mt Hagen.

This accident will be investigated in compliance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Where a significant safety deficiency is identified at any stage during the investigation, a safety recommendation may be issued immediately to the relevant organization for action. A preliminary report will be prepared and published within 30 days of the accident date.

More information about this investigation will become available in due course on www.aic.gov.pg.

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner