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MEDIA RELEASE

PNGAIC CONFIRMS PARTICIPATION IN INVESTIGATION INTO AIR NIUGINI FLIGHT EMERGENCY LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has confirmed its participation in the investigation involving an Air Niugini Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, registered P2-PXW operating flight PX019 from Hong Kong to Port Moresby, which diverted to Davao International Airport in the Philippines on Saturday 21 November 2026, at 12:04 am Philippines local time (02:05 am PNG local time).

Preliminary information indicates that the aircraft experienced a right-engine fire indication while in flight, prompting the crew to shut down the affected engine and divert to Davao, where the aircraft landed safely. The aircraft's right main landing gear wheel assembly overheated during the landing roll. After the aircraft came to a stop, an emergency evacuation was conducted using the aircraft's evacuation slides, with assistance from Davao International Airport emergency services responding. Some passengers reportedly sustained injuries during the evacuation.

There were 146 persons on board; 2 pilots, 7 cabin crew and 137 passengers on board. The Commission is relieved that all passengers and crew survived the occurrence and acknowledges the actions of the flight crew and the prompt assistance provided by Philippine air traffic control, airport authorities and emergency services.

As the State of Occurrence, the Philippines is responsible for conducting the investigation. In accordance with ICAO Annex 13, the AIC has designated representatives to participate and coordinate with the Philippine investigation authorities on behalf of PNG, as the State of Registry and State of the Operator.

The investigation will establish the circumstances and contributing factors surrounding the reported engine malfunction, landing gear overheating and subsequent emergency evacuation, with the objective of identifying safety lessons to prevent future occurrences.

Separately, the AIC is assessing a reported engine-related aborted take-off at Vanimo Airport earlier today to determine whether an independent safety investigation is warranted. If not, the matter will be referred to CASA PNG for appropriate regulatory safety assessment and follow-up.

The Commission emphasises that these are separate occurrences, with no established connection between them. The media and public are encouraged to refrain from speculation and circulating unverified information while the relevant authorities establish the facts through their respective processes.

The AIC remains committed to independent, evidence-based safety investigations and continued cooperation with national and international aviation authorities. Further information will be provided as appropriate and in accordance with established investigation protocols.

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner