



Interim Statement

AIC 20-1006



P2-ASM

Air Sanga Limited

P2-ASM

Viking DHC-6-300 Aircraft

Runway Excursion (RE) during takeoff roll

Wobagen Airstrip, Sandaun Province

Papua New Guinea

1 December 2020

ABOUT THE AIC

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) is an independent statutory agency within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The AIC is governed by a Commission and is entirely separate from the judiciary, transport regulators, policy makers and service providers. The AIC's function is to improve safety and public confidence in the aviation mode of transport through excellence in: independent investigation of aviation accidents and other safety occurrences within the aviation system; safety data recording and analysis; and fostering safety awareness, knowledge and action.

The AIC is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation in PNG, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving PNG registered aircraft. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations.

The AIC performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As amended)*, and the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1951*, and in accordance with *Annex 13* to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk. AIC investigations determine and communicate the safety factors related to the transport safety matter being investigated.

It is not a function of the AIC to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include relevant factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. At all times the AIC endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why it happened, in a fair and unbiased manner.

INTERIM STATEMENT

On 1 December 2020, at 09:13 local (23:13 UTC), a Viking DHC-6-300 aircraft, registered P2-ASM, operated by Air Sanga Limited, was conducting a VFR charter flight from Wobagen Airstrip, Sandaun Province to Bak Airstrip, Sandaun Province, when during the take-off, the aircraft ran off the side of the airstrip into a drainage ditch adjacent to the airstrip.

The AIC immediately established contact with Air Sanga Limited and gathered additional information about the occurrence. Subsequently, the AIC commenced an investigation and on the following day, investigators were deployed to the accident site to conduct an on-site investigation.

During the investigation conducted by the AIC, all relevant information regarding the occurrence was gathered and analysed. It included aircraft operations and maintenance, organisational and human factors, as well as other elements necessary to establish the cause, contributing factors and circumstances in which the occurrence took place.

Currently, the *Draft Final Report* finalized by the AIC for dissemination to parties for consultation and comment pursuant to *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. The AIC will await these parties to provide their significant and substantiated comments on the report in accordance with ICAO provisions.

Upon completion of period for comments to the *Draft Final Report*, the AIC will release the *Final Report* in accordance with *Annex 13 Paragraph 6.5*.



Hubert Namani
Chief Commissioner
1 December 2021