



INTERIM STATEMENT

NCAT/2025/07/23/INTR/01

Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau

Interim Statement on the Serious Incident Involving a Diamond DA40 NG aircraft with Nationality and Registration Marks 5N-BZI Operated by the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria, which Occurred at Zaria Aerodrome (DNZA), Kaduna State, on 23 July 2025.

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On 23 July 2025, a Diamond DA40 NG aircraft, with nationality and registration marks 5N-BZI, operated by the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria, was scheduled for a second solo training flight. The flight involved circuit and landing exercise under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). The flight was conducted by a Student Pilot (SP).

At 13:20 h, 5N-BZI departed runway 23 and executed five uneventful exercises. Information available to the Bureau indicated that, at 13:50 h, the SP made a final landing, intended to be full stop landing. Following a successful landing, the SP requested the clearance of the Duty Air Traffic Controller (DATCO) to turn and backtrack towards the apron. DATCO approved the request with instruction to expedite, to which SP read back.

According to the SP, 5N-BZI was on Idle Power when manoeuvred to the right to gain more space for the left turn. During the manoeuvre, the aircraft's Nose Landing Gear entered grass verge, and the Right Main Landing Gear entered a pothole covered with overgrown grass at the edge of the paved runway surface.

At 13:51:59 h, the DATCO instructed the SP, *expedite please, 5N-BZI, how do you read?*

At 13:52:01 h, the SP responded *5N-BZI read you five.*

At 13:52:02 h, the DATCO asked the SP, *how do you read? Any problem?*

At 13:52:12 h, the SP responded *Yes, Problem.*

At 13:52:17 h, the DATCO responded *say roger, you have problem.*

At 13:52:20 h, the SP replied *yes, problem, confirm.*

At 13:52:24 h, the DATCO asked, *confirm, what is the nature?*

At 13:52:28 h, the SP reported to DATCO *off the runway*.

At 13:52:33 h, the DATCO asked, *you are off the runway, confirm*.

At 13:52:34 h, the SP replied *confirm*.

The DATCO informed the Watch Room and requested an immediate dispatch of ground personnel to assess the situation on site.

The SP exited the aircraft unhurt. The incident occurred in daytime, and visual meteorological conditions (VMC) prevailed.

ACTION

The draft final report is completed and is awaiting internal review.

This interim report is being issued on the 1st anniversary of the serious incident in accordance with the provisions of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

In accordance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the Nigerian Safety Investigation (Establishment) Act, 2022, and the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations, 2026, the objective of this investigation is to prevent aviation accidents and serious incidents. It is not the purpose of such an investigation, or of the associated investigation report, to apportion blame or liability.