



INTERIM STATEMENT

NPF/2019/08/03/INTR/01

Accident Investigation Bureau

Interim Statement on the serious incident involving a Bell 429 helicopter with nationality and registration marks 5N-MDA, operated by the Nigeria Police Airwing, which occurred at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja; Nigeria on 3rd August 2019.

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On 3rd August 2019, a Bell 429 helicopter with nationality and registration marks 5N-MDA operated by the Nigeria Police Airwing (NPAW) was scheduled to drop off VIP at Iyamho in Edo state and return to Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja (DNAA).

According to the flight crew, the flight arrived Iyamho, the passengers disembarked and the flight crew carried out a quick turn around without shutting down the engines.

At 17:15 h, 5N-MDA departed Iyamho on the return flight to DNAA.

According to the flight crew, while powering down, they heard a very loud sound and the helicopter started vibrating which developed into ground resonance within seconds. The co-pilot activated the emergency engine cut-off valves and applied the rotor brakes. The helicopter drifted to the left towards a parked Bell 412 helicopter (5N-LEH) as the rotors were slowing down. Particles were seen flying in front of the helicopter. 5N-MDA came to a stop three feet from touchdown point, towards 5N-LEH.

The crew disembarked the helicopter unaided and uninjured.

ACTION

The draft final report has been completed and ready for stakeholders' review and comments in line with the requirements of chapter 6.3 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

This interim report is being issued on the 1st anniversary of the accident in accordance with the provisions of ICAO Annex 13.

In accordance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Act 2006, Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accident and Incidents) Regulations 2019, the sole purpose of this Investigation is to prevent Aviation accidents and serious incidents. It is not the purpose of any such investigation and the associated Investigation report to apportion blame or liability.