



INTERIM STATEMENT

SEA/2019/11/19/INTR/02

Accident Investigation Bureau

Interim Statement on the serious incident involving Cessna 172 aircraft with nationality and registration marks 5N-APE operated by Skypower Express Airways (SEA) Nigeria Limited which occurred at Bini village 49.94 km South-West of Minna airport, Gbako Local Government Area, Niger State; Nigeria on 19th November, 2019.

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On 19th November, 2019, at about 08:45 h, a Cessna 172P (C-172P) aircraft with nationality and registration marks 5N-APE operated by Skypower Express Airways (SEA) Nigeria Limited, departed Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (DNAA) for Bida, Niger state; Nigeria on a Visual Flight Rules (VFR) flight plan, with two (2) persons on board (the Pilot and an equipment operator) and fuel endurance of six hours. The flight was meant for a Georadiometric Aerial Survey around Bida Basin. It was a scheduled six lines operations which will last for 30 minutes each.

The pilot stated that, at about 09:15 h, ACC transferred 5N-APE to Minna Tower. Thereafter, 5N-APE established contact with Minna Tower and subsequently proceeded to Bida basin for the Georadiometric Aerial Survey (operation).

At about 09:40 h, the aircraft descended to about 400 ft Above Ground Level (AGL) and commenced the operation. The pilot further stated that, they conducted three successful lines (sortie) and the operation was normal. At about 11:54 h, on the fourth line, there was a drop in engine revolution per minute (r.p.m.) accompanied by change in engine sound. Shortly after, engine oil splashed on the windshield and oil pressure indication was decreasing while oil temperature indication was rising. The pilot then reduced the engine r.p.m. setting and attempted to climb to higher altitude for diversion to Bida airstrip.

The pilot elected to shut-down the engine and execute a forced landing as a result of a continued drop in the engine rpm.

The aircraft hit a tree stump before it impacted the ground on its wheels which about is 3 nm from where the pilot shut-down the engine. The tail section of the aircraft was substantially damaged.

The two occupants exited the aircraft uninjured.

The incident occurred at about 12:10 h, in day time; Visual Meteorological Condition (VMC) prevailed.

ACTION

The draft final report has been completed and will soon be release to the public. This is 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 2nd 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.