



NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 25, 2024: UPDATE ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT NEAR BONNY FINIMA

[Abuja, Nigeria, October 25, 2024]

In line with global best practices, we are providing an update on the ongoing search and recovery efforts following the October 24, 2024, ditching incident involving a **Sikorsky SK76 helicopter** operated by **Eastwind Aviation**. The incident occurred near **Bonny Finima**, off the coast of **Port Harcourt**. Rescue operations commenced shortly after, with teams continuing to work extensively to locate the helicopter and any signs of survivors."

On the morning of **October 25, 2024**, at **07:30 AM local time**, rescue teams resumed search operations. The search area was expanded as part of ongoing efforts to locate debris or signs of survivors.

A team of **NSIB Aviation Safety Investigators and Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development representatives** arrived at the **Nuim Antan facility** at **11:30 AM local time**. Investigators conducted interviews with relevant staff to gather information pertinent to the ongoing investigation. The investigative team completed their on-site interviews and departed the **FPSO** by **3:24 PM**.

At approximately **6:15 PM**, search operations were suspended due to diminishing daylight. Unfortunately, no debris, survivors, or bodies were recovered during the day's search. However, the divers successfully established a secured diving perimeter at an expected location

of the wreck, which will guide the operations planned for tomorrow. The **perimeter depth** has been measured at **40-50 meters**, and additional diving equipment and resources will be deployed to aid in the continuation of these efforts.

Captain **Alex Badeh Jr.**, Director General of the NSIB, stated, “We acknowledge the tireless efforts of the amalgamated rescue teams and supporting partners. We will continue these operations with every resource necessary and appreciate the cooperation and patience of all stakeholders involved.”

The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau remains committed to providing timely updates as the investigation advances and to conducting a thorough and transparent analysis of the incident. Further details will be released as they become available.

Mrs Bimbo Olawumi Oladeji
Director, Public Affairs and Family Assistance,
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About NSIB: The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau is the multimodal transport agency charged with the mandate of promoting transport safety and conducting objective, thorough, and accurate investigations into transport accidents and incidents in Nigeria with the aim of identifying the probable causes and advocating for safety improvements based on our findings.

For further enquiries or media requests, please contact NSIB through info@nsib.gov.ng and NSIB_Nigeria on its social media platforms. The Bureau can also be reached on its emergency line +234-807-709-0909.