



NEWS RELEASE

SIKORSKY SK76 HELICOPTER (5N BQG) DITCHING: NSIB DG, CHAIRMAN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AVIATION ASSURE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY IN ONGOING INVESTIGATION

[Abuja, Nigeria, November 2, 2024]

The Director General of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), Captain Alex Badeh Jr., and Hon. Abiodun Akinlade, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Aviation and Aerospace Technology, visited the accident site of the Sikorsky SK76 helicopter, registration 5N BQG, to oversee the progress of recovery and investigation operations. Both officials reaffirmed Government's commitment to a transparent and thorough inquiry into the accident to improve transport safety in Nigeria.

The helicopter, operated by Eastwind Aviation, ditched off the coast of Bonny Finima on October 24, 2024, while transporting eight individuals. Since the accident, the NSIB, with support from local and international partners, has coordinated a search and recovery mission to locate the wreckage and examine the circumstances of this tragic event.

During the visit, Captain Badeh Jr. and Hon. Akinlade received updates from the multidisciplinary search and recovery team. The officials were briefed on recovery progress, as well as investigative procedures examining environmental factors, safety protocols, and technical variables. Captain Badeh reaffirmed NSIB's dedication to transparency, underscoring the Bureau's role in conducting an objective investigation: "We are committed to uncovering

the facts of this tragic incident. Our team is deploying the highest standards to ensure we bring clarity to the families affected, while enhancing safety measures that will benefit all Nigerians. Transparency and accountability guide this process as we work to bring closure to those impacted, and provide actionable recommendations to improve aviation safety.”

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade echoed the government’s commitment to supporting the recovery effort and NSIB’s mission, ensuring that the investigative findings contribute to safety reform. Expressing condolences to the families affected, he emphasized the government’s duty to prioritize the welfare of all citizens who depend on safe transportation:

“This tragedy affects us all, and our thoughts are with the families who lost loved ones. The safety of our citizens and the integrity of our transport system are priorities for the National Assembly. We will ensure that insights and lessons from this investigation contribute to Nigeria’s aviation safety policies and broader transport safety initiatives.

The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau remains committed to transparency in its recovery and investigative processes.

Mrs Bimbo Olawumi Oladeji
Director, Public Affairs and Family Assistance,
Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau

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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.