



J/10/2/6992

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

|  |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------|
| Date of Accident   | 02/01/99                 | Time of Accident      | 1000                 |                      |      |
| Aircraft Registration  | <b>ZS-HUZ</b>            | Type of Aircraft      | <b>MBB-105-CBS-4</b> |                      |      |
| Pilot-in-command Licence Type  | CR                       | Age                   | 38                   | Licence Valid        | Yes  |
| Pilot-in-command Flying Experience   | Total Flying Hours       | 4138                  | Hours on Type        | 759                  |      |
| Last point of departure  | Johan Coetzee (PTA-West) |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Next point of intended landing   | Johan Coetzee            |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Wilgerivier Susterstoom area   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Meteorological Information   | The weather was fine     |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Number of people on board  | 3                        | No. of people injured | None                 | No. of people killed | None |
| Synopsis   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| 1.1 The pilot departed Johan Coetzee heliport to look for a missing person who was swept away by the flooded river.  |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| 1.2 While flying low level along the river the main rotor blades struck telephone wires spanned across the river. The telephone poles on the bank of the river were not visible through the trees. |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| 1.3 After striking the telephone wires severe vibration was encountered and the pilot landed in an open field on the riverbank.  |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| 1.4 The helicopter was recovered the next day and transported by road back to Johan Coetzee.   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Probable Cause   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |
| Due to the difficulty to observe the telephone wires spanned across the river, the main rotor blades struck the wires.   |                          |                       |                      |                      |      |