



LIMITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT
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Reference Number		CA18/2/3/10163						
Classification	Accident	Date	24 May 2022	Time	1435Z			
Type of Operation		Private (Part 94)						
Location								
Place of Departure		Kroon Airfield, Pretoria North, Gauteng Province		Place of Intended Landing		Kroon Airfield, Pretoria North, Gauteng Province		
Place of Occurrence		Runway 29 at Kroon Airfield, Gauteng Province						
GPS Co-ordinates	Latitude	S25° 39'.33. 90"	Longitude	E27° 59' .53.37"	Elevation	4330 feet		
Aircraft Information								
Registration		ZU-ICK						
Model/Make		Savannah VG (Serial Number: 090651829)						
Damage to Aircraft		Substantial		Total Aircraft Hours		1321.9		
Pilot-in-command								
Licence Valid		Yes	Gender		Male	Age		35
Licence Type		Private Pilot Licence (PPL)						
Total Hours on Type		139.3		Total Flying Hours		263.9		
People On-board		1 + 1	Injuries	0	Fatalities	0	Other (On Ground)	0
What Happened								
<p>On Tuesday, 24 May 2022, a pilot accompanied by a passenger on-board a Savannah VG aircraft with registration ZU-ICK took off on a private flight from Kroon Airfield in Pretoria North (close to the N4 Highway to Rustenburg) with the intention to land back at the same airfield. Visual meteorological conditions (VMC) by day prevailed at the time of the flight. No flight plan was filed for this flight. The aircraft was operated under the provisions of Part 94 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011 as amended.</p> <p>The pilot reported that before the flight, he conducted a pre-flight inspection on the aircraft and nothing abnormal was detected. Good weather conditions prevailed at the time with the outside air temperature (OAT) recorded by the pilot as 13°C. The aircraft had 60 litres (l) of Avgas 100LL in the tanks. At approximately 1400Z, the pilot commenced with the take-off roll from Runway 29 with the flaps set at 20°, and rotated at an indicated airspeed of 35 miles per hour (mph).</p>								

The aircraft climbed to an elevation of 4900 feet (ft), travelling at 90 miles per hour (mph). The pilot completed a circuit, followed by a successful touch-and-go landing on Runway 29. He flew another circuit and, during the landing roll on Runway 29, he spotted a flock of guineafowls (birds) that were flying at low-level, and approaching from the right-side of the runway in the direction of the aircraft's landing path (which was in a westerly direction).

In trying to avoid colliding with the birds at high speed, the pilot intentionally applied the left rudder pedal to ground-loop the aircraft. The aircraft's nose gear strut broke during the process and the propeller struck the runway's surface. The aircraft came to rest in a tail-high position, balancing on its nose and left wing. The aircraft sustained substantial damages; none of the occupants were injured.



Figure 1: The aircraft at the accident site. (Source: Pilot)

Airfield information:

Kroon Airfield is a private unlicensed grass airfield situated on the south part of the N4 Highway to Rustenburg, about three nautical miles (nm) north-east of the red and white radio mast that is mounted on the northern side of Magaliesberg Mountain ridge. The airfield is unmanned, thus, has no air traffic control (ATC) service. It has a single grass runway that is 750 metres (m) long and 20m wide, and an elevation of 4330ft. The airfield has a weather station, and the grass Runway 11/29 is properly maintained. The circuit is always to the north of the runway — left-side circuit for Runway 11 and right-side circuit for Runway 29. Traffic in proximity to the airfield broadcast blindly on frequency 124.8-Megahertz (MHz).

Aircraft information:

The Savannah VG is a single engine, all-metal, high-wing, two-seat aircraft with a fixed tricycle undercarriage. The aircraft was issued the Authority to Fly (ATF) certificate on 12 January 2017 with an expiry date of 31 January 2023. The last 100-hour annual inspection of the aircraft was certified on 10 February 2022 at 1270.2 airframe hours. The aircraft had accrued 1321.9 airframe hours at the time of the accident, meaning that it was flown a further 51.7 hours since the last 100-hour annual inspection was completed.

<p>Probable cause:</p> <p>The pilot intentionally ground-looped the aircraft during the landing roll on Runway 29 to avoid colliding with a flock of birds.</p>
<p>Safety Action/s</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Safety Message and/or Safety Recommendation/s</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Purpose of the Investigation</p> <p><i>In terms of Regulation 12.03.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011, this report was compiled in the interest of the promotion of aviation safety and the reduction of the risk of aviation accidents or incidents and not to apportion blame or liability.</i></p>
<p>About this Report</p> <p><i>This report provides an opportunity to share safety message/s in the absence of an investigation.</i></p> <p><i>All times given in this report are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) and will be denoted by (Z). South African Standard Time is UTC plus 2 hours.</i></p>
<p>Disclaimer</p> <p><i>This report is produced without prejudice to the rights of the AIID, which are reserved.</i></p>

This report is issued by:

**Accident and Incident Investigations Division
South African Civil Aviation Authority
Republic of South Africa**