

SOUTH AFRICAN



**CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY**

INTERIM STATEMENT

The information provided herein is of an interim nature. Readers are advised that new information may become available that may alter this interim statement prior to the publication of the final report.

1. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) is conducting a safety investigation into a Henleyair flight involving ZS-HDW Bell206b which flew into power lines on 06/10/2015 near Football field next to Blouberg Health center in Bochum Limpopo.
2. The investigation is being conducted in accordance with the international protocol set out by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The investigation team includes Investigator In-Charge (IIC) from the South African Civil Aviation Authority.

History of flight

The helicopter ZS-HDW departed FAGM at 0458z on the morning of 6 October 2015. The aircraft ZS-HDW landed at FAPI at 06:54z for a fuel stop and it departed FAPI 07:29z for Ad Hoc Landing Site which was a soccer field near Blouberg hospital. The purpose of the flight was to relocate the helicopter to the soccer field for the operation the aircraft was hired for, which was to airlift the technicians and diesel fuel to the nearby Blouberg Mountain, for maintenance on communication towers.

According to witnesses and the videos that were taken by witnesses, The Pilot accompanied by two passengers were engaged on the commercial operation when the helicopter impacted with power lines during lift off and crashed few meters after impacting power lines. During the accident sequence two people that were walking by the main road were injured by the power lines as they broke off during the impact. The Pilot and one of the passengers were fatally wounded during the accident. And another passenger managed to escape with serious injuries. The helicopter was engulfed by post impact fire.

3. Although the investigation is ongoing, the following findings have been made:

- 3.1 The operation at the time of the accident was a commercial operation.
- 3.2 The helicopter was maintained by an approved Aircraft Maintenance Organisation (AMO) that was in possession of a valid AMO Approval.

- 3.3 The flight was conducted under the provisions of Part 127 of the Civil Aviation Regulations of 2011, as amended, and the Operator was in possession of a valid Air Service Licence as well as an Air Operating Certificate (AOC) at the time of the incident.
- 3.4 There were dangerous goods on board of the helicopter at the time of the accident.
- 3.5 Two people on the ground were injured after the aircraft collided with power lines and impacted the ground.
- 3.6 The pilot and passenger were fatally injured during the accident.
- 3.7 Passenger survived the accident with serious injuries.
- 3.8 The helicopter was consumed by post impact fire.
4. **At this moment no safety recommendation has been issued by the SACAA.**
5. **The investigation is on-going and we will be looking into other aspects of this accident which may have safety implications.**

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