



AIB Bulletin

We

AIB No.12	Ref. CAV/CC/12/05	Category: 1.2
Aircraft Type:	Cessna 404 Reg. 5H-ZAY	Serial No. 0207
No. And type of Engines:	Two Continental GTSIO-520M	
Year of Manufacture:	1978	
Date and Time:	3 September 2005 at 0525 hours	
Location:	Mtemere airstrip, Selous Game Reserve	
Type of Flight:	Air charter	
Persons on Board:	Crew- 1	Passengers - 4
Injuries:	Crew- Nil	Passengers - Nil
Nature of Damage:	Damage was confined to the nose landing gear and the left propeller.	
Commander's Licence:	CPL	
Commander's Age:	52years	
Commanders Experience:	8200 hours of which about 2000 were on type.	
	Last 90 days: ? hours	
	Last 28 days: ? hours	
Information Source:	Telephone call from Arusha ATS	

ALL TIMES UTC

History of the Flight

The aircraft left Zanzibar at 0410 hour for a flight to Mtemere via Dar es Salaam. The pilot was the only occupant. Both flights were uneventful and 5H-ZAY landed at Mtemere at 0510 hours. Four passengers joined the flight and the aircraft backtracked on runway 09. Whilst turning to align for take-off from the beginning of runway 09 the nose landing gear strut sheared causing the nose and both propellers to hit the ground. There was no fire and all the occupants disembarked without any injuries.

Visual examination of the fracture surface did not indicate the presence of any fatigue crack. The surface material texture was fresh indicating the possibility of the nose landing gear strut failing as a result of overload. It is probable that the nose wheel was stuck in soft soil during the attempted turn.

Mtemele airstrip

Mtemere airstrip, elevation 200 feet, has one runway 09/27 which is 1000 metres long. The width varies along the runway length. The surface is soft soil and scattered patches of grass.

Further work

Part of the failed landing gear strut has been sent to the manufacturer for metallurgical analysis.