

1995

MINISTRY OF WORKS, COMMUNICATIONS & TRANSPORT  
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH

AIB BULLETIN

5Y-FKI

Aircraft type & Registration : PIPER PA 31-350 NAVAJO CHIEFTAIN  
 Date and Time : 16 MAY 1995 AT 1311 HOURS  
 Location : LIULI AIRSTRIP  
 Type of Flight : AIR CHARTER  
 Persons on board : FOUR  
 Injuries : NONE  
 Nature of damage : AIRCRAFT EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED  
 Commander's Licence : ATPL  
 Commander's total flying  
 Experience : 3500 HOURS

ALL TIMES UTC

The aircraft was taking off from Liuli (Lake Nyasa) for a flight to Dar es Salaam. It was carrying a pilot and three passengers as well as a cargo of live fish estimated at 300kg. The endurance was 3.10 hours.

The pilot said that the initial acceleration was good and when he had covered half of the runway length he encountered tall grass which decreased his acceleration. He rotated the aircraft at the end of the runway. The aircraft lifted off and subsequently banked to the left. As it did so the left wing hit the ground causing it to rotate through 360 degrees before it came to rest on a cultivated field. There were no injuries among the four occupants but the aircraft was extensively damaged. Some crops were also damaged.

The pilot was reported to have based his take off performance calculations on a runway length of 1200 metres (4000 ft). The actual length of the runway was 914 metres (3000 feet).

The Chief Inspector of accidents has ordered a full investigation into the circumstances of this accident.