

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH



AIB BULLETIN

No. 7/96

Aircraft type & Registration : Piper PA28-140 CHEROKEE;
5H-MTG
Date and time : 6JUNE 1996 at 09:55 hours
Location : Mafia Airport (07° 54'S
39° 40'E)
Type of Flight : Air Charter
Persons on board : One
Injuries : Nil
Nature of damage : Right main gear sheared off its
attachment point.
Commander's Licence : CPL
Experience : 500 hours

ALL TIMES UTC

The aircraft had taken off from Dar es Salaam for Mafia at 0828 hours on a charter flight with 4 persons on board. The flight to Mafia was uneventful. It landed on Runway 15 at 0640 hours and taxied to the apron where three passengers disembarked. The pilot had to wait for their return.

The pilot had a feeling on his way to Mafia that his engine had not been running satisfactorily. After the aircraft engine had cooled down (about 2 hours after landing), he decided to take the aircraft for an engine run at the threshold of runway 15. He carried out an engine performance check which was satisfactory.

The weather at Mafia was fine and there were gusting winds of 340° at 15 to 20 knots. As the aircraft departed runway 15 for the apron, about 100 metres along the taxiway the right main gear dropped into a $\frac{1}{2}$ metre gully which had formed due to soil erosion from the heavy rains recently ended. The gully had developed from the right side into the taxiway about one metre from the edge of the taxiway.

As the main gear plunged into the gully, the front end of the gear hit the wall of the gully and sheared off its main attachment area. The pilot heard a bang. He subsequently shut down the engine and braked immediately. The tip of the right wing settled onto the edge of a concrete culvert with the rest of the wing settling slightly ahead of the culvert. The flap settled on the detached main wheel. The pilot was not injured. The damage to the aircraft was confined to the main gear attachment point.

The runway at Mafia airport is rough and is full of pot holes from recent heavy rains.

There was no notam issued to pilots on the state of the runway nor the development of the gully which is eating into the taxiway. The AIP had not been ammended to reflect that the runway surface is no langer tarmac, nor has the strength been specified. Runway 15/33 is 2094 metres long and 34 metres wide is located southwest of the main island.