



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY



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PRESS RELEASE

Search and Rescue (SAR) Operation for a Missing Microlight Aircraft 5H-MXO a BatHawk

On 19 October 2021, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority received information from Capt. (Pilot) Peter James Fox of Fly Safari Air Link that a microlight aircraft registered in Tanzania as 5H-MXO type BatHawk owned by PAMS Foundation is missing. The aircraft departed at Matemanga airstrip in Tunduru district Ruvuma region around 15:00 local time for a wildlife surveillance support mission between Matemanga and Kingupira in the Selous game reserve. The aircraft had only a pilot on board and in the course of flight neither did it contacted Air Traffic Control nor was it detected by Radar (ATS surveillance) as it was flying at a very low altitude.

Search and Rescue (SAR) operation for the aircraft was immediately instituted. Aerial search and ground search started in the morning of 19 October 2021, using three aircraft tracking the presumed route of the missing aircraft and Wildlife wardens were sent in groups to different areas in the search area. However, neither the aircraft nor the pilot had been spotted to date.

TCAA, PAMS Foundation, and other participating Search and Rescue agents analysed the Search and Rescue (SAR) activities done and the time spent for the whole exercise and concluded that thorough aerial and ground search have been conducted covering all the 'hotspot'. Unfortunately, the Search and Rescue team did not find anything linked to the aircraft and the pilot. In that regard, search and rescue activities are suspended until lead-in information from the public is received. In that context the accident investigation will begin immediately in accordance with the law.

TCAA urges the public in general, to provide any information which may lead to the locating of the aircraft and the Pilot. Such information should be directed to the Director General of Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority whose address is indicated hereunder or a nearby Police station or Local government office.

Issued by:

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