

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AIR ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PRELIMINARY REPORT

OPERATOR:	NORTHWOOD AGENCIES LTD
AIRCRAFT TYPE:	AS350 B2
MANUFACTURER:	EUROCOPTER
YEAR OF MANUFACTURE:	March 2008
AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION:	5Y-EVG
AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBER:	4439
DATE OF REGISTRATION:	TBD
TYPE OF ENGINE:	ARIEL 1D1
DATE OF INCIDENT:	4 MAY 2014
TIME OF ACCIDENT:	1015
LOCATION OF INCIDENT:	KIPILIKWANI CAMP, MASAI MARA
TYPE OF FLIGHT:	CHARTER
NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BOARD:	6
INJURIES:	NIL
NATURE OF DAMAGE:	AIRFRAME PANELS
NAME OF CAPTAIN:	G. GITONGA
CAPTAIN'S FLYING EXPERIENCE:	YK-4428-CL (H)

All times given in this report are Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). East African Local Time is UTC plus 3 hours.



Damaged Helicopter 5Y-EVG at Kipilikwani camp in Masai Mara

REMARKS

The Helicopter, an AS350 B2 Eurocopter registration 5Y-EVG, operated by Northwood Agencies Ltd, was on a chartered flight to the Kipilikwani camp in Masai Mara game reserve. It departed from Wilson Airport on 3rd May 2014 for the flight to the Mara game reserve via Kabete, Nairobi.

On 4th May 2014, the helicopter took off for an aerial flight with the 5 passengers and the pilot. The pilot reported that after 20 minutes a male passenger became unruly. The helicopter was then flown back to the camp and landed safely after the unruly passenger was restrained by another passenger on board on instruction from the pilot. The unruly passenger proceeded to damage the packed helicopter as the security was called in to arrest him.

No person was reported injured in the incident.

The helicopter was damaged at the following areas;

- Left and right side passenger door glass
- Front canopy
- Dents on the fuselage
- Left and right side cargo hold doors

The helicopter was then given a temporary repair on site to enable safe ferry back to Nairobi on 5th May 2014. It is currently undergoing repair work at the Lady Lori Hangar at Wilson Airport.

The unruly passenger was charged in a court of law on 6th May 2014, for malicious damage to property and was released on a 2 million bond. He is due to appear in court next week.

Investigator in Charge

22 May 2014