



J10/2/7024 A99-033

## SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

### ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Date of Accident</b>	22 March 1999	<b>Time of Accident</b>	2100Z	
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-DYT</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>Piper PA28-235</b>	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Private		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	<b>Total Flying Hours</b>	344.50	<b>Total Hours on Type</b>	294.00
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private			
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Mmabatho near Mafeking			
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Lanseria international airport			

**Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)**

25° 52' 023 South and 026° 23' 186" East at an Elevation of 5450AMSL, 45nm east of Mmabatho.

<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Adverse weather conditions – Thunderstorm activities east of Mafeking.				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	3	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	3

**Synopsis**

On 22 March 1999 at approximately 1920 Z, the pilot uplifted 194 liters (51 USGal) of fuel into the aircraft at Mmabatho International Airport. Shortly after, the pilot accompanied by two passengers took off as per Flight Notification from Mmabatho and intended to drop off one passenger at Lanseria Airport before proceeding to Vereeniging Aerodrome. According to the weather Bureau, infrared satellite image indicated a band of cloud with imbedded thunderstorm activities east of Mafeking.

A detresa was declared when the aircraft failed to arrive at destination. The aircraft wreckage was located by a farm labourer and his wife on 23 March 1999 at approximately 0600 Z, 45nm east of Mmabatho. The aircraft impacted the ground in a slight nose down attitude. The pilot and two passengers were fatally injured. The CAA investigators arrived at the scene at approximately 1645 Z.

**Probable Cause**

Due to the darkness, adverse weather conditions with no moon and possibly flying in cloud, the pilot may have had no visual reference when he impacted the ground in a fairly level attitude at a fairly high speed, direct on course for Lanseria.