



J10/2/7072

A99-081

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	14/7/1999	Time of Accident	1305Z
Aircraft Registration	ZS-MJV	Type of Aircraft	Beech E55
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Private		Licence Valid Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	3 215	Total Hours on Type 1 240
Type of Operation	Private		
Last point of departure	Buffelshoek near Mala Mala		
Next point of intended landing	Grand Central Aerodrome		

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

Grand Central Aerodrome

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1+ 5	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None

Synopsis

The pilot accompanied by five passengers was engaged on a private flight from Buffelshoek near Mala Mala to Grand Central Aerodrome.

En route total electrical failure was experienced. Due to the electrical failure it was not possible to lower the landing gear without using the emergency landing gear extension system. However, it was not possible to free the handle of the emergency system as it was positioned behind the upholstery cover.

After flying several circuits overhead Grand Central the pilot decided to carry out a wheels-up landing on the grass surface between the runway and the taxiway. The aircraft bounced several times during which it collided with a notice board with the left wing. The aircraft came to rest inside the boundary fence of Grand Central approximately 200m from the threshold of Runway 17.

All the occupants disembarked the aircraft uninjured.

Probable Cause

- (i) It was not possible to determine the cause of the electrical failure during the investigation due to the interference by the parties concerned.
- (ii) The emergency landing gear handle was positioned behind the upholstery panelling with neither the pilot nor any of the passengers being able to release the handle to extend the landing gear.