



A99-098-7089

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	28 August 1999	Time of Accident	0755Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZU-PRG	Type of Aircraft	Aero Vodochody L39C		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Airline Transport		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	8082	Total Hours on Type	21:30	
Type of Operation	Private				
Last point of departure	Matsapha Airport, Swaziland				
Next point of intended landing	Matsapha Airport, Swaziland				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
About 1 km to the South-West of Matsapha Airport.					
Meteorological Information	Weather was fine				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	1 + 1	No. of people killed	Nil
Synopsis	<p>The pilot and co-owner (rated to fly the aircraft too) arrived at the airport at about 0550z and requested a simulated display flight before the start of the air show. This was granted and they took off at about 0752z from Runway 25. After take off, he banked the aircraft to the right and climbed to about 4000 feet above sea level. He then positioned the aircraft for a flight along the crowd-line and dived down to 400 feet above ground level to begin his planned sequence. The speed at this point was about 340 knots.</p> <p>When they reached the crowd line the pilot noticed the engine noise was suddenly louder and he heard a loud noise. The pilot from the rear cockpit informed him via the intercom system that the rear canopy flew open. He immediately prepared to land and when they reached about 144 knots he started to apply power and realised that the engine did not react. He decided to attempt a forced landing on an open field close to the starting point of the runway. Just before impact he fully extended the flaps to reduce the impact speed. The aircraft impacted the ground hard and skidded for about 50 m. The pilots evacuated the aircraft and the emergency services arrived about 5 minutes later.</p>				
Probable Cause					
The rear cockpit canopy of the aircraft was not properly closed and came adrift during the flight. The debris from the canopy entered the engine and caused it to fail.					