



Ref: 7463

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-MXR</b>	<b>Date of Accident</b>	7 February 2002	<b>Time of Accident</b>	1615Z
<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	CESSNA P210N		<b>Type of Operation</b>	Demonstration flight	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	ATP	<b>Age</b>	64	<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	<b>Total Flying Hours</b>	22 680		<b>Hours on Type</b>	1792.8
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Pietersburg aerodrome				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Vereeniging aerodrome				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)</b>					
9.4 nm North of Vereeniging.					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Thunderstorm conditions with strong winds and heavy rain.				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1+2	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	1+2
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>On 7 February 2002 at 0526Z the aircraft departed from Lanseria Airport for a flight to Vereeniging in order to uplift two passengers (one of whom was a prospective buyer). After collecting the two passengers, the aircraft departed for Pietersburg and landed there at 1042Z.</p> <p>The aircraft again departed from Pietersburg at 1438Z approximately 4 hours later for the return flight to Vereeniging. Approximately 23 minutes after take-off while approximately 26nm outbound, the pilot requested to return to Pietersburg due to poor weather, which prevented continuing on a VFR flight to Vereeniging. While routing back to Pietersburg and while in discussion with Pietersburg ATC and Lowveld Information, the pilot filed an IFR flight plan for the return flight to Vereeniging with Lanseria as the alternate aerodrome. The aircraft was given a squawk code of 7417 and was cleared for FL140.</p> <p>At 1553Z the aircraft was approximately 5nm from the Johannesburg TMA at FL120 and was given descent clearance for FL100. The pilot continued with her descent but reported strong up-draughts. The aircraft continued towards Vereeniging and while approximately 10nm North of Vereeniging aerodrome, the pilot requested to divert to Lanseria due to being in a tremendous storm. The aircraft turned out to the right and the last radar return showed the aircraft heading in a Westerly direction at FL083 at a ground speed of 160 Knots.</p> <p>The wreckage of the aircraft was later found in the same area where radar contact was lost.</p> <p>The aircraft was destroyed and all three occupants on board were fatally injured.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
<p>The instrument rated Airline Transport pilot inadvertently entered a severe storm and in an attempt to turn out of the storm and divert to Lanseria, lost control of the aircraft and collided with the ground.</p> <p>The fact that the weather radar on board the aircraft had been intermittent and the fact that the aircraft might have sustained a lightning strike were regarded as contributory factors to this accident.</p>					