



Ref: 7493

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	ZS-NOT	<b>Date of Accident</b>	27 April 2002	<b>Time of Accident</b>	1100Z
<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	PIPER PA-31-350		<b>Type of Operation</b>	Domestic Charter	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Commercial	<b>Age</b>	33	<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	3744	<b>Hours on Type</b>	140	
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Northam Aerodrome				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Messina Aerodrome				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Runway 16, Northam Aerodrome					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Fine weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1 + 6	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	Nil

### Synopsis

The aircraft was on a charter flight from Northam to Messina. During the take-off at Northam Aerodrome's Runway 16, the pilot rotated and attempted to fly the aircraft at too low an airspeed and the aircraft sank back on the runway surface.

During the investigation it was discovered that the aircraft was not maintained as required. It had over-flown the time to the next Mandatory Periodic Inspection by an unknown amount of flying hours.

### Probable Cause

The pilot rotated and attempted to fly the aircraft at too low airspeed. This gave rise to the aircraft ending up on the wrong side of the drag curve and sinking back onto the runway after the undercarriage was retracted.

Contributing factors were the error in the reading of the airspeed indicator at the lower range and the high density altitude.