

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

Aircraft Registration	ZS-MXZ	Date of Accident	3/8/2002	Time of Accident	0815Z	
Type of Aircraft	CESSNA 206		Type of Operation		Private	
Pilot-in-command License Type		Private	Age	53	License Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience		Total Flying Hours	331.8		Hours on Type	309.0
Last point of departure		Potgietersrus Aerodrome				
Next point of intended landing		Pietersburg (FAP)				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)						

1.4km from the threshold of Runway 26 (FAP)

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1 + 4	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None

Synopsis

The pilot, accompanied by four passengers, was engaged in a private flight from Hazyview to Potgietersrus. While at Potgietersrus the pilot decided to fly to Pietersburg, a flight of approximately 18 minutes to uplift fuel before returning to Hazyview.

Prior to their departure from Hazyview and during the pilot's pre-flight check he noted the fuel contents of the aircraft to be approximately 150 litres, with 90 litres in the left tank and 60 litres in the right tank.

The first leg of the flight was approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes. Approximately 5 minutes after taking off from Potgietersrus on the second leg of the flight the pilot changed tanks from left to right. Runway 26 was selected for landing. While turning final at a height of approximately 400 feet above the ground the aircraft lost power. The pilot noted that the fuel flow gauge indication was low. Fuel tanks were changed from right to left and after no response, the right tank was again selected.

According to the pilot he had lost a considerable amount of altitude at this stage and it was decided to carry out a forced landing, approximately 1.5km from the runway threshold in bushy terrain.

Prior to touch down full flaps was selected and the aircraft came to a halt within a distance of approximately 150m. Nobody was injured in the accident.

Probable Cause

The cause of the engine failure could be attributed to fuel starvation, aggravated by fuel mismanagement.