



Ref: 7917

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

Aircraft Registration	ZS-LHX	Date of Accident	15 February 2005	Time of Accident	1550Z
Type of Aircraft	Cessna T188C	Type of Operation	Agricultural		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial	Age	59	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	17000.0	Hours on Type	8700.0	
Last point of departure	Private aerodrome on a farm in the Delmas district				
Next point of intended landing	Private aerodrome on a farm in the Delmas district				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Runway 30, Private aerodrome on a farm in the Delmas district					
Meteorological Information	The pilot reported the following weather conditions: Wind: North Easterly at 4kts. Temperature: 26°C Visibility: Good with no cloud				
Number of people on board	1	No. of people injured	0	No. of people killed	0

Synopsis

The pilot had completed an agricultural detail and was in the process of taking off for another flight with 100 litres of water onboard to clean the spraying system, when the accident occurred.

During the take-off run as the pilot raised the tail of the aircraft, he spotted several Egyptian geese on the runway in front of the aircraft.

In an attempt to prevent a collision with the birds, the pilot steered the aircraft to the left and inadvertently allowed the left-hand wing to make contact with a maize crop on the left-hand side of the runway.

The aircraft yawed uncontrollably to the left and departed the left-hand side of the runway and came to rest in an inverted attitude 8m from the left hand side of the runway and 109m after first contacting the maize crop.

The aircraft was extensively damaged but the pilot was not injured.

The last MPI (Mandatory Periodic Inspection) was certified on 4 February 2005 at 8791.4 airframe hours. At the time of the accident the aircraft had accumulated a further 59.2 airframe hours since the last MPI was certified.

Probable Cause

In an attempt to prevent a collision with a flock of Egyptian geese on the runway, the pilot steered the aircraft to the left of the runway and inadvertently allowed the left-hand wing to make contact with the maize crop on the left hand side of the runway which resulted in an uncontrollable yaw to the left and collision with the ground.