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## **\*URGENT\***

20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

Mr. Peter Rutherford  
Managing Director  
Airport Authority  
Lynden Pindling International Airport  
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

**RE: Urgent Safety Concern at Black Point Airport, Exuma (MYEB) (SR2022-002)**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, the AAIA was notified of an occurrence that took place at the Black Point Airport (MYEB), Exuma, Bahamas involving commercial operator Flamingo Air Ltd., whose aircraft, a Beech 99 with registration C6-OFM, had a collapse of its left gear upon landing runway 11 at MYEB that subsequently led to a runway excursion taking place.

Investigators from the AAIA and the Airport Authority were dispatched the following day to conduct their respective investigations. Preliminary assessments of this occurrence by the AAIA has identified that the lack of runway markings at MYEB poses a safety hazard to pilots, operators, and by extension the wider travelling public.

There was evidence (tire signature markings) observed showing that pilots are actually landing prior to the beginning of the usable paved portion of the runway, and the absence of runway markings means that pilots are being deprived of visual references (threshold markings, aiming points, etc.) that aid in providing situational awareness to airman in the runway environment during the most critical phase of flight.

Occurrences of this nature have taken place in the past at this aerodrome, most similarly an accident in December 2019 with Flamingo Air where the exact same scenario played out, and after review of AAIA investigations occurring at MYEB within the last five (5) years, a pattern has been observed where pilots are “undershooting” the runway on approach and landing before the useable portion of the runway. Of significant note also is that such occurrences are not limited to just this particular operator, as other pilots have had occurrences as well.

## Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority

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In accordance with the **Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority Act 2019 Part V Reports and Recommendations; Subpart 27 Safety Recommendations**, which allows for the issuance of safety recommendations during any stage of an investigation in the interest of safety, the AAIA makes the following safety recommendation to the Airport Authority:

- The Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) recommends that, without delay, the Airport Authority implements the placement of appropriate runway markings at Black Point Airport (MYEB), including threshold markings that will aid pilots in landing operations.

This is a very serious concern that should be given the most urgent attention. The AAIA trusts that the Airport Authority would institute measure(s) to ensure that this potential safety hazard is mitigated against in the most effective way possible.

The AAIA requests a response from your organization within 30 days including a plan of action to address this most urgent safety concern. In addressing this safety recommendation please reference **SR2022-002** in your correspondence.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Regards,



Kendall Dorsett Jr.  
Chief Investigator of Air Accidents

Cc: Hon. I. Chester Cooper – Minister MOTA&I  
Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis – Minister MOT&H  
Dr. Kenneth Romer – Director of Aviation  
Mr. Alex Ferguson – Director General CAA-B