



## **NIGERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

20/09/2024

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **STATUS OF 5N-BQG AND 5N-BGN AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION**

The attention of the Authority has been brought to a report by the Sahara reporters on the airworthiness status of the recently crashed helicopter with registration marks 5N-BQG prior to the crash.

In their report, it was stated that the aircraft was initially registered in the year 2004 as 5N-BGN with Aero Contractors after which it was deregistered to Canada in the year 2009. The report then went on to state that the aircraft registration was cancelled in September 2018 after it was "presumably scrapped".

Their report was concluded with a question of how the Helicopter was moved to Nigeria and registered as 5N-BQG before the crash.

Based on our records, the following items are stated here to correct the wrong information published by the Sahara reporters on the subject matter:

1. It is important to state that aircraft can be tracked not only by their registration marks but also by their Manufacturer Serial Number (MSN). The **5N-BQG** S76C+ Helicopter has its MSN as **760486** while the **5N-BGN** S76C+ Helicopter has its MSN as **760468**.
2. The S76C+ Helicopter with registration marks **5N-BGN** and **MSN: 760468** was initially registered at the age of 7 Years on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2004 with Aero Contractors as the operator and Capital Aviation Services B.V. as the registered owner. The registration was re-issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 when the ownership of the helicopter changed to RBS Aerospace Limited.
3. The S76C+ Helicopter with registration marks **5N-BGN** and **MSN: 760468** was de-registered by Aero Contractors on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 to Transport Canada.

4. The S76C+ Helicopter with registration marks **5N-BQG and MSN: 760486** was initially registered at the age of 14 Years on the 10<sup>th</sup> DEC. 2012 with Nestoil Plc as the registered operator and owner. The registration was re-issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 as a result of change of operator to OMNI-BLU Aviation LTD. and Ownership change to DANBA Associates LIMITED. A further amendment of the registration was done on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May,2022 when the ownership changed to EASTWIND AVIATION LOGISTICS SERVICES LIMITED while maintaining OMNI-BLU as the operator.
5. The final amendment to the registration was on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2024 when the operator of the S76C+ Helicopter with registration marks **5N-BQG and MSN: 760486** was changed to EASTWIND AVIATION LOGISTICS SERVICES LIMITED. By this action, EASTWIND AVIATION LOGISTICS SERVICES LIMITED became the registered operator and owner of the helicopter.

Based on the following data from our records, it is clear that Sahara Reporters could not clearly differentiate the records of the recently crashed EASTWIND AVIATION LOGISTICS SERVICES LIMITED S76C+ Helicopter with **registration mark 5N-BQG and MSN: 760486** and the AERO CONTRACTORS DE-REGISTERED S76C+ Helicopter with registration marks **5N-BGN and MSN: 760468**.

Signed  
**Capt. Chris Najomo**  
Ag. Director-General Civil Aviation