

	SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY			
J10/2/7227 A00-084				
ACCIDENT REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY				
Date of Accident	04/08/2000	Time of Accident	0920z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-HKP	Type of Aircraft	Bell 206B	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Private Pilot Licence		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	Heli 74.1 hrs Aero 2050 hrs	Total Hours on Type	Heli 14.4 hrs
Type of Operation	Private flight			
Last point of departure	Farm in Witriver area			
Next point of intended landing	Mine at Steelpoort			
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)				
On the farm Welgevonden in the Steelpoort district (S24°46.503' E030°17.667').				
Meteorological Information	Weather was fine.			
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed
Synopsis	<p>The pilot bought the helicopter a few weeks before the accident and completed his conversion training 4 days after he accepted the helicopter. He flew the helicopter back to Lanseria Airport in order that the turbine module of the engine could be exchanged. On the morning of the accident, the pilot/owner of the helicopter flew from his farm in the Witriver area to a mine in the Steelpoort area. A witness stated the rotor blades were rotating at a lower rate than he was used to when helicopters fly over the farm. He indicated that the helicopters flew lower than what he was used to and it appeared to him that the main rotor was losing rotational speed and nearly became stationary. All this time the helicopter was losing height and at approximately 20 m above the ground the helicopter fell almost vertically to the ground.</p> <p>During the investigation the compressor to turbine coupler in the engine was found fractured and different opinions were expressed as to the reason for the failure of the coupler and the engine.</p>			
Probable Cause				
<p>The engine failed during flight and the pilot was unable to execute a successful autorotation. The cause of the engine failure could not be conclusively established.</p>				