

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND INQUIRY BOARD

FINAL REPORT

<u>RP-C8262</u> <u>PIPER AIRCRAFT CORPORATION/PA-31</u>

OPERATOR: CYCLONE AIRWAYS, INC.

TYPE OF OPERATION: NON-SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: MAY 3, 2023

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE: PALANAN COMMUNITY AIRPORT, PALANAN, ISABELA, PHILIPPINES

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(Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31, RP-C8262 Final Report)

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FOREWORD

This report was produced by the Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board (AAIIB), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, MIA Road, Pasay City, Philippines.

The report is based upon the investigation carried out by the AAIIB in accordance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Republic Act 9497 Section 42, and Philippine Civil Aviation Regulation Part 13.

Readers are advised that the AAIIB investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing aviation safety. Consequently, AAIIB reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purpose. It should be noted that the information in AAIIB reports and recommendations is provided to promote aviation safety, and in no case is it intended to imply blame or liability.

Furthermore, no part of the AAIIB report or reports relating to any accident or investigation shall be admitted as evidence or used in any suit or action for damages arising out of any matter mentioned in such report or reports.



FINAL REPORT

TITLE: A serious incident involving a Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31, type of aircraft with Registry Number RP-C8262 operated by Cyclone Airways, Inc. that overshoot the runway upon landing at Palanan Community Airport, Palanan, Isabela, Philippines on May 3, 2023 at about 1029H/0229UTC.

Notification of Occurrence to National Authority

The notification of serious incident to AAIIB CAAP was relayed by the Operator of the aircraft at 1300H (LOCAL) on May 3, 2023.

Identification of the Investigation Authority

The Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board (AAIIB), the mandated accident investigation organization within the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) as the state of Occurrence/Registry/Operator conducted the investigation.

Organization of the Investigation

In accordance with provisions of Philippine Civil Aviation Regulation (PCAR) Part 13, an Investigator-In-Charge was appointed.

Authority Releasing the Report

The Final investigation report was released by Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board (AAIIB) and published on the CAAP website on **<u>08 July 2025.</u>**

Synopsis:

On May 3, 2023 at about 1029H, a Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31 with Registry Number RP-C8262 owned and operated by Cyclone Airways, Inc., sustained no damage upon overshooting the runway after its right main landing gear brake malfunction during the landing roll at Palanan Community Airport, Palanan, Isabela, Philippines.

The pilot, with nine (9) passengers, and one (1) infant on-board, did not sustain any injuries. Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) prevailed at the time of the incident. The cause of the incident was attributed to the failure of the right-hand brake forward hydraulic master piston resulted in the aircraft overrunning the runway.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAIIB	:	Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board
AD	:	Aerodrome
AIP	:	Aeronautical Information Publication
AMO	:	Approved Maintenance Organization
AOC	:	Air Operator Certificate
ATS	:	Air Traffic Service
CAAP	:	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CPL	:	Commercial Pilot License
CSIS	:	Civil Security Intelligence Service
FSIS	:	Flight Standards Inspectorate Service
FT	:	Feet
GPS	:	Global Positioning System
LCD	:	Licensing and Certificate Department
Μ	:	Meter(s)
MTOW	:	Maximum Take-off Weight
NDRCC	:	National Disaster Rescue Coordinating Center
OFSAM	:	Office of the Flight Surgeon and Aviation Medicine
Р	:	Pilot or Pilot in control of the aircraft
PCAR	:	Philippine Civil Aviation Regulation
RPUY	:	ICAO code for Cauayan Principal Airport
RPLN	:	ICAO code for Palanan Community Airport
RWY	:	Runway
UTC	:	Universal Time Coordinated
VFR	:	Visual Flight Rules
VMC	:	Visual Meteorological Conditions
WIP	:	Work in Progress
WX	:	Weather



1. FACTUAL INFORMATION

Aircraft Registration No.	:	RP-C8262
Aircraft Manufacturer/Model	:	Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31
Operator	:	Cyclone Airways, Inc.
Address of Operator	:	Cauayan Airport, San Fermin, Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines
Place of Occurrence	:	Palanan Community Airport, Palanan, Isabela, Philippines
Date/Time of Occurrence	:	May 3, 2023 at about 1029H/0229UTC.
Type of Operation	:	Non-Scheduled Commercial
Phase of Flight	:	Landing
Type of Occurrence	:	Runway side excursion

1.1 History of Flight

On or about 1029H local time, May 3, 2023, a Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31 type of aircraft with Registry Number RP-C8262 overshot the runway following a right main landing gear brake malfunction during the landing roll at Palanan Community Airport, Palanan, Isabela, Philippines.

The flight took off from Cauayan Principal Airport (RPUY) at about 0953H local time bound for Palanan Community Airport (RPLN) with one (1) pilot, nine (9) passengers, and one (1) infant on board. Cyclone Airways Incorporated operates the aircraft on a non-scheduled flight. The aircraft was not damaged after a full stop.

According to RPLN airport duty personnel of the Civil Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the aircraft landed normally at about 1013H local time using RWY02. However, during the landing roll, the aircraft suddenly veered towards the right side of the runway centerline, about fifty (50) meters before the threshold. The main wheels of the aircraft exited the paved section of the runway and continued rolling for another ten (10) meters to the AAIIB-2025-229 Final Report RP-C8262, PA-31 1



grassy area. The pilot steered the aircraft to the left, narrowly missing a pile of aggregate rocks.

The aircraft came to a full stop at coordinates 17° 4' 12.12" and 122° 25' 46.51" E, with a final heading of three hundred (300) degrees. The CSIS immediately alerted other airport duty personnel to help secure the aircraft. No fire ensued, and all aircraft occupants safely egressed.

The pilot reported that after the aircraft touched down, he applied brakes. After repeated braking applications, the pilot noticed that the right-side brakes were not working properly.

Airport operation was suspended for a while as the aircraft was removed and towed to the ramp by local National Disaster Rescue Coordinating Center (NDRCC) personnel using a pick-up truck for further damage assessment. At about 1123H local time on the same day, they cleared the runway obstruction and resumed normal airport operation.



Figure 1 – The aircraft at its final resting point.

Injuries	Crew	Passengers	Others
Fatal	0	0	0
Serious	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0
None	1	9	0
TOTAL	1	9	0

1.2 Injuries to Person (s)

2

1.3 Damage to Aircraft

The aircraft did not sustain any damage.

1.4 Other Damages

There were no reported other damages in relation with the occurrence.

1.5 Personnel Information

1.5.1 Pilot (P)

Gender	:	Male
Date of Birth	:	March 22, 1971
Nationality	:	Filipino
License	:	106944 - CPL
Valid up to	:	August 31, 2024
Type rating	:	Airplane: Single & Multi Engine Land- Instrument: C182, C206, BE58, BE55, PA31-350, PA32-301 (June 17, 2022)
Medical Certificate Valid up to	:	Class 1 valid until October 24, 2023
Total time of Aircraft	:	20+00 hours
Grand Total time	:	8,390+00 hours

The Pilot had his Pilot proficiency flight test by CAAP-LCD pilot examiner last June 6, 2022 on the Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31 type of aircraft for additional rating.

1.6 Aircraft Information

The Piper PA-31 Navajo is a family of twin-engine utility aircraft designed and built by Piper Aircraft for small cargo and feeder airlines. In September 1972, Piper unveiled the PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain, A Navajo B stretched by two (2) feet (61cm) for up to ten (10) seats, with more powerful engines and counter rotating propellers to prevent critical engine handling problems. It is a simple and rugged aircraft that has been used for various purposes, such as private transport, air taxi, bush support, and medevac. RP-C8252 was used as a Non-scheduled flight based on Cauayan Principal Airport (RPUY) to Palanan Community Airport (RPLN) and nearby airports.





Figure 2 – The PA-31-350 "Chieftain" aircraft.

1.6.1 Aircraft Data

The aircraft completed its maintenance inspection for the original issuance of its Certificate of Airworthiness on February 28, 2022 by CAAP-FSIS inspector.

Registration Mark	:	RP-C8262
Manufacturer	:	Piper Aircraft Inc.
Country of Manufacturer	:	United States of America
Manufacturer/Model	:	Piper Aircraft Corporation/PA-31
Operator	:	Cyclone Airways Incorporated
Serial No./Line No.	:	31-7552035
Year of Manufacture	:	1975
Certificate of Airworthiness	:	Valid until September 6, 2023
Certificate of Registration	:	Valid until May 4, 2023
Category	:	Normal
Number of Flight Crew	:	1
Number of Passenger Seats	:	9
Airframe total time	:	18,591+18 Hours

1.6.2 Engine Data

The Chieftain was powered by a 350hp Lycoming variant engines, with an oppositerotation on the right-hand wing, and maximum take-off weight (MTOW) was increased to 7,000lbs. (3,175Kgs). Lycoming 540 is a family of air-cooled six-cylinder, horizontally opposed fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter engines of 541.5 cubic inches (8,847cc) displacement, manufactured by Lycoming Engines.



The engine of RP-C8262 had its 100 hours inspection on December 7, 2021 by Vortex Aircraft Maintenance Morabbin Airport, Victoria, Australia. Thereafter, a ferry flight to the Philippines was executed.

Manufacturer	:	Avco Lycoming	Avco Lycoming
Туре	:	Piston	Piston
Model	:	TIO-540-J2BD (1)	LTIO-540- J2BD (2)
Engine SN#	:	L-8303-61A	L-2776-68A
Engine total time	:	971+30 Hours	971+30 Hours

1.6.3 Propeller Data

Hartzell Propellers was founded in 1917 by Robert N. Hartzell. It produces composite and aluminum propellers for certified, homebuilt and ultralight aircraft. Hartzell HC-E3YR-2ATF - has an opposite-rotation on the right-hand wing, 80 inches diameter 3bladed propeller, 80 pounds in weight. 2,400 hours with about 6 years TBO, current design and lower noise.

Manufacturer	:	Hartzell Propeller	Hartzell Propeller
Туре	:	Variable Pitch	Variable Pitch
Model	:	HC-E3YR-2ATF (1)	HC-E3YR-2ATF (2)
		FC8468-6R	FJC8468-6R
Propeller SN#	:	DJ11098A	DJ12343B
Date last Installed	:	February 16, 2022	September 01, 2021
Propeller total time	:	23+30 Hours	204+24 Hours

1.7 Meteorological Information

Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) prevailed at the time of the occurrence. The pilot managed to acquire weather (WX) information through a company "spotter".

The "spotter" is a person who monitors the environment at Palanan Aerodrome and relays the observation to assisting company personnel and the pilot until the aircraft departs. The spotter has the authority to declare "go" or "no go" based on the observable sky condition, which relies solely on visual interpretation from the forecast, regardless of whether it's rainy, cloudy, dry, windy, or calm. RPLN has no ATS facility.

1.8 Aids to Navigation

RPLN does not have any ground-based navigational aids installed. The flight departed under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) until 15.2 nautical miles away, then transitioned to RPLN, maintaining VMC, and landed using portable Garmin GPS for guidance.



1.9 Communications

The aircraft is equipped with a standard radio transceiver. Communications were carried out between the pilot and other air traffic. RPLN has no ATS facility; pilots are to transmit an advisory of their intentions for RPLN traffic information.

1.10 Aerodrome Information

Palanan Community Airport (RPLN) is operated by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and is listed in the CAAP approved aerodrome facility data as well the Philippine Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP as of May 2022).

1.10.1 General Information

Aerodrome Name ARP coordinates and site at AD	:	Palanan Community Airport – RPLN 170348N 1222556E Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippings
Aerodrome Operator address	•	Palanan Airport, Palanan, 3334 Isabela
Types of traffic permitted (IFR/VFR) Apron surface	:	VFR Surface: Concrete
Tavinasuuidth	:	Width: Nil
surface and strength		Surface: Nil. Strength: Nil.
Aerodrome Obstacles		02/20 Hill with Trees APRX 500M FM THR RWY20 Trees. Exercise caution during landing and take-off.
ATS Communication Facilities	:	Nil
Frequency/Operation	:	121.90 Mhz (Unicom) / 2300 - 0800
Runway Direction	:	02/20
Runway Length	:	1,000 Meters
Runway Width	:	30 Meters
Surface	:	17,010KG/0.5MPa Concrete

1.11 Flight Recorders

The aircraft is not equipped with any flight recorders and existing Philippine Civil Aviation Regulation does not require such for that type of aircraft.



1.12 Wreckage and Impact Information

During the landing roll, the aircraft suddenly veered towards the right side of the runway 02 centerline, about fifty (50) meters before the threshold. The main wheels of the aircraft exited the paved section of the runway and continued rolling for another ten (10) meters to the grassy area. The pilot maneuvered the aircraft to the left, narrowly avoiding a pile of aggregate rocks due to a work-in-Progress (WIP) on the runway edge (Figure 3), which caused its threshold to shift. However, the aircraft sustained no external damage.

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Figure 3 – RPLN "NOTAM" on the displacement.

The aircraft came to a full stop at coordinates 17° 4' 12.12" N and 122° 25' 46.51" E, with final heading of three hundred (300) degrees. The CSIS immediately alerted other airport duty personnel to help secure the aircraft. No fire ensued; all aircraft occupants safely egressed and were accounted for (Figure 4).



Figure 4 – The aircraft at about 10 meters from the edge RWY 02.



1.13 Medical and Pathological Information

The pilot possesses a medical certificate and underwent the medical examination at the Office of the Flight Surgeon and Aero Medical (OFSAM-CAAP) on May 9, 2023.

1.14 Fire

There was no post-crash fire reported by airport personnel.

1.15 Search and Survival Aspects

Because the incident occurred at an aerodrome, local emergency responders and airport duty personnel were able to assist and secure the aircraft immediately. The occurrence was survivable.

1.16 Organization and Management Information

Cyclone Airways Inc. is located at Cauayan Airport, San Fermin, Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines, as its primary place of business. The company has a principal base operation at Cauayan principal airport. Cyclone Airways Inc. is authorized to perform commercial air operations as defined in their Operations Specifications with a valid AOC# 2010034 issued by CAAP. The company offers non-scheduled flights and air charter. The aircraft RP-C2078, is included on their AOC Operations specification equipment list.

The maintenance function of RP-C8262 is being undertaken by Cyclone Airways Inc. Repair Station with official address at Cauayan Airport, San Fermin, Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines with a current Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO).

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 General

The pilot was properly certificated and qualified under PCAR to conduct the flight. The investigation revealed that the flight was uneventful until it touched down at RWY02 Palanan Community Airport.

According to RPLN airport duty personnel of the Civil Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the aircraft landed normally at about 1013H local time on RWY 02. However, during the landing roll, the aircraft overshot the runway. The main wheels of the aircraft exited the paved section of the runway and continued rolling for another ten (10) meters to the





grassy area. The pilot steered the aircraft to the left, narrowly missing a pile of aggregate rocks.

The pilot reported that after the aircraft touched down, he applied the brakes. After multiple brake applications, the pilot discovered that the right-side brakes were not working.

And so, the occurrence happened. Airport operation was suspended for a while as the aircraft was immediately removed and towed to the ramp by local National Disaster Rescue Coordinating Center (NDRCC) personnel using a pick-up truck for further damage assessment. The runway obstruction was cleared, and normal airport operation resumed about 1123H on the same day.

2.2 Aircraft Maintenance

The investigation revealed that there was no external damage to the aircraft. Unfortunately, the aircraft's right rudder/brake pedal forward hydraulic piston (brake master) had a leak from its gasket/seal. This resulted in a leak of hydraulic fluid on the right-side wheel brake system, causing the right main landing gear brake to malfunction (Figure 5). As part of its maintenance program, the company should conduct a thorough inspection of the aircraft's right rudder/brake pedal forward hydraulic master piston. Since this is the first time this kind of event has manifested itself, the pilot and maintenance crew may have overlooked the signs that the pedal component is deteriorating.



Figure 5- Right rudder/brake pedal forward hydraulic master piston.

The company sent two (2) mechanics to Palanan Community Airport to address the event's brake component issue. What the mechanics did was clean the aircraft's right hand brake pedal forward hydraulic piston. One of the mechanics placed a rag under the pedal to check for leaks after testing the component several times and finding it operable (Figure 6). The AMO included the affected part in the 50- and 100-hour inspection package, as specified in the manufacturer's aircraft service manual, during





the annual aircraft inspection, and released it to service on June 10, 2022. However, during the inspection, the component was functioning normally (Figure 7). The mechanics declared the affected component serviceable after performing the necessary maintenance. The mechanics ferried the aircraft back to Cauayan's principal airport and placed it in the operator's hangar for further assessment.



Figure 6- The rag placed to observe a leak.

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Figure 7 - Work done by the AMO.

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3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 FINDINGS

- **a.** The aircraft has valid certificates of airworthiness and registration.
- **b.** The aircraft was properly released for flight without any discrepancies noted in its logbook.
- **c.** All aircraft occupants safely egressed the aircraft.
- **d.** The pilot was qualified to operate the PA-31-350 type of aircraft.
- e. The pilot has a valid airman's license issued by the CAAP.
- f. The flight was conducted under VFR.

3.2 Probable Cause

3.2.1 Primary Cause Factor:

a. The failure of the right-hand brake system resulted in an aircraft overrunning the runway.

3.2.2 Contributory Cause Factor:

a. The insufficient maintenance inspection by the company to check the integrity of the aircraft's right rudder/brake pedal forward hydraulic master piston.

4. SAFETY RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The safety deficiencies detailed in this report have been fully addressed as a result of the safety measures implemented by the Operator. Consequently, no further safety recommendations are being proposed.

5. SAFETY ACTIONS

- **5.1** Following the occurrence, Cyclone Airways Inc., initiated the following safety corrective actions:
 - a. The operator has repaired the right rudder/brake pedal forward hydraulic master piston as per ASM (App 1-2) and the aircraft was released back to service.
 - b. The operator also conducted an initial and re-currency training of their mechanics covering the subject aircraft and issued a memorandum regarding the enhanced maintenance of the aircraft hydraulics ad brake system components (App 3-4).

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18 January 2024 CAPT. HONORIO F. CAMPOSAGRADO. Accountable Manager / President CAPT. ADNORIO F. CAMPOSAGRADO. Accountable Manager / President Darmin, Old Apport Gausy an City Jabela City, Philippines Super: <u>REQUEST TO CONDUCT IN-HOUSE TRAINING</u> Dar Capt. Camposagrado: In is is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 January 2024 regarding your request to coduct training on the following subject: 1. Textron Aviation Inc. (Cessna 150, 152, 172 & 182) - Initial and Re-current 2. Piper (PA31-350) Meabority interposes no technical objections and same is hereby APPROVED. Way truly yours. By Authority of the Director General:
CAPT. HONORIO E. CAMPOSAGRADO Accountable Manager / President CYLIONE AIRWAYS San Fermin, Old Auport Cauayan City Isabela City, Philippines Subject: <u>REOUEST TO CONDUCT IN-HOUSE TRAINING</u> Dear Capt, Camposagrado: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 January 2024 regarding your request to conduct training on the following subject: 1. Textron Aviation Inc. (Cessna 150, 152, 172 & 182) - Initial and Re-current 2. Piper (PA31-350) - Initial Please be informed that after review and evaluation of the submitted documents, this Authority interposes no technical objections and same is hereby APPROVED. Very truly yours, By Authority of the Director General:
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MEM	ORANDUM
Alexante	ONTROPERS
Date: May 26, 2625	Memo no.: 2025-005
TO: AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE DE	PARTMENT
In relation with the incident involving ou C&262, that happened at Maconacon Airp maintenance department to implement recommendations of the authority:	r aircraft, A Piper PA-31-350 with registration RP ort, Isabela last May 8, 2023, I hereby instruct th t the following actions to adhere the safet
 Enhance maintenance inspection p more detailed checks on the inte system components by 	protocols in the Brake Master Cylinder to includ egrity of hydraulics especially in critical braking
b. Reminder to ensure and conduct every flight.	a proper Pre-flight and Post-flight inspection o
In this regard, the undersigned will check (15) days upon issuance of this Mem maintenance department has undertaken of and the schedule of implementation	the revised maintenance procedure within fiftee torandum the full details of the measures that or propose to undertake to implement the revision

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