

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board
Aircraft Accident Report

BASIC INFORMATION

Aircraft Registration No. : RP-C1955
Aircraft Type/Model : Cessna 152
Operator : FAST Aviation Academy Inc.
Address of Operator : RPMCI Hangar, GAA, Manila Domestic Airport Complex,
Pasay City
Place of Accident : Brgy Decoliat, Maria Aurora, Aurora Province
Date/Time of Accident : November 7, 2017/1300H (Local)
Type of Operation : Flight Training
Phase of Flight : Cruise
Type of Accident : Controlled flight into terrain

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 7, 2017 at around 1223H, a CESSNA 152 with Registry Number RP-C1955 owned and operated by FAST Aviation Academy Inc. sustained substantial damage following collision with a terrain while enroute to Baler, Aurora for a dual cross-country flight.

Both Flight Instructor (FI) and the Student (PPL Holder) sustained serious injuries as a result of the impact. The crash site is located at Brgy. Decoliat, Maria Aurora, Aurora Province about 14 Nautical Miles west of Baler Airport with elevation of approximately 2,600 feet AMSL.

The aircraft took –off runway 08 of Lingayen Airport at about 1012H bound for Baler, Aurora. While cruising over Pantabangan Dam at 3000 feet altitude, they noticed a build-up of clouds with approximate cloud base of 2500 feet. They decided to descend below the base of the cloud 2000 feet and continue their track. After passing the clouds they started to climb back to their cruising altitude of 3000 feet.

While approaching Alfonso Castañeda the weather deteriorated and the visibility dropped. The FI decided to take the controls and initiated a 180 degrees turn to head back to Lingayen Community Airport. While turning, they became disoriented due to lack of visual reference and subsequently collided with the terrain.

With injuries, the FI was able to call up the School’s Head of Training using his mobile phone to report the accident. Communication was established to both occupants until the pilots were rescued 25 hours later.

PROBABLE CAUSE

The Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board determined that the probable cause of this accident was:

- The Flight Instructor's late decision to discontinue the flight and return to departure aerodrome when deteriorating weather condition was observed in the area.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of this investigation, the Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board made the following safety recommendations:

- For **FSIS-CAAP** to ensure that the FI involved in the accident to be subjected to re-training on VFR flying and flying on mountainous environment before exercising his FI License privileges.
- For **FSIS-CAAP** to ensure that all Pilot Schools conducting cross-country flight or other training exercises in mountainous areas such as Baler or similar Airports to provide lectures/seminars to their Instructors and Trainees on *Flying in Mountainous Terrain* to be aware of the threats and hazards associated with it.