



Opportunity

Issue #04- April, 2022

Business News, reviews and overviews from the IPA

MD's INBOX



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Dear Readers and welcome to the 4th edition of the *Opportunity Newsletter*.

It comes with a refreshing atmosphere and is indeed a great relief to see our international borders reopening as of last month (February) after two years of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we start receiving international visitors into the country whether it be in tourism, business, or even fellow citizens returning home, we would like to warmly welcome you, our inward travellers onto our shores.

We have put efforts in upgrading our regulatory framework to ensure that the economy is conducive for businesses to thrive and FDIs to flow in.

In this regard I am happy to announce that the Parliament had passed two Bills submitted by the IPA. The Bills include the Companies (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Business Groups (Amendment) Act 2021. The proposed Investment Promotion (Amendment) Act and the new Association Incorporation Bill are yet to be passed.

The Investment Promotion Act of 1992 regulates the operation of the Investment Promotion Authority and the review is aimed at achieving the Government's policy objective of protecting local MSMEs. The proposed amendments aims to strike a balance between allowing PNG to remain open to foreign investment and at the same time improve processes for reviewing

the Cottage Business Activities List (CBAL) which is the Reserved Activities List (RAL). A new list called the Restricted Activities List will be introduced as part of the proposed changes. Read more about the legislative amendments in our inside story.

In this issue we also give you a round up of the world expo in Dubai which IPA was directly involved in. Read more about this in the Pavilion decommissioning article.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and we surely look forward to your feedback in the contents of this publication.

Happy reading!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

IN THE NEWS

Immigration and Investment Promotion Authority sign MOU on cooperation and information sharing



Chief Migration Officer Mr. Stanis Hulahau and Investment Promotion Authority, Managing Director Mr. Clarence Hoot

The Chief Migration Officer Mr. Stanis Hulahau and Investment Promotion Authority, Managing Director Mr. Clarence Hoot signed a milestone Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to strengthen the ongoing cooperation between Immigration and IPA.

The MOU will solidify the relationship between the two State Agencies to share information, improve compliance in the area of doing business in Papua New Guinea and cooperation on operational matters of mutual interests and for the country.

"The IPA plays a significant role to attract

foreign businesses to do business in and within PNG and issuing businesses the appropriate registration certificates that enables them to obtain other permits and licences that should allow the businesses to operate in the country.

On the other hand, ICA gives foreign business owners the entry permit to live and work in the country. In any case, both the IPA and ICA operations must be independent but both their operations must be seen to be working together in areas where we need each other's support so this MOU binds that relationship," says CMO Mr Hulahau.

Continue on to next page.....



The Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICA) is a border security agency responsible for facilitating international travels, issuing travel documents, citizenship, Work Permit and generates revenue for the Government.

Mr Hulahu said the partnership is necessary as it enables both agencies to exchange information on a person of interest or to seek information on company ownership and registration. The MOU also enables IPA to request ICA to impose travel alerts on owners of non-compliant foreign companies.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) is a statutory body mandated to promote and facilitate investment in Papua New Guinea by national, citizen and foreign enterprises and ensure of compliance of the laws that IPA administers through the certification and registration of such enterprises.

Mr. Hoot said that the partnership has been in place for quite a while. We recognize the importance of the relationship and wish to strengthen the relationship further through the provision of timely, effective, and efficient exchange of information arrangements.



Senior Officers for ICA and IPA at the signing of the MOU

The signing ceremony of this MOU took place at the Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICSA) Headquarters in Port Moresby and was witnessed by the Senior Management staff of both Agencies.



OFFICE OF THE EXPO COMMISSIONER GENERAL

MEDIA RELEASE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PAVILION DECOMMISSIONING

The 6-month world Expo2020 in Dubai has ended on the 31st of March with great success giving different participating countries including the Papua New Guinea expo team great learning experiences and key take away tasks to implement to further develop the country's economy.

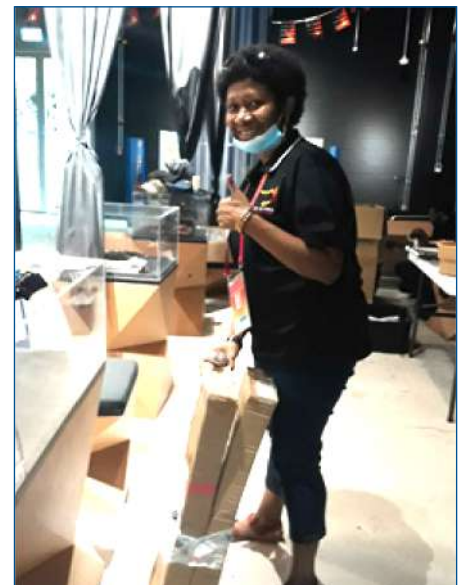
The Papua New Guinea pavilion officially closed its doors on March 31st but remained open on April 1st to give opportunity to pavilion staff from other countries, expo volunteers and workers to come and visit given the lack of opportunity they had to visit other country pavilions during the course of the expo.

The closing now leads to the next phase of expo which is the decommissioning of the pavilion. The PNG expo team has been busy over the last few days dismantling and packing display banners in the pavilion. The items will be packed in a container which will then be shipped back to Papua New Guinea.

The first lot of pavilion staff left Dubai on the 10th of April while a skeleton team remained to organize a post expo networking dialogue with partners and interested investors in UAE.

The full expo team is expected to be in Port Moresby at the end of the month to prepare for an interagency post expo workshop where stakeholders will be called in for a briefing on PNG's participation outcomes in Expo2020.

During the official closing dinner of the pavilion, PNG Expo Commissioner General and Ambassador to Belgium and the EU, His Excellency Joshua Kalinoe commended the staff saying that they had lived up to the expectation of their people and country as they worked very long hours, 24-seven, not only in pavilion duties but also planning and executing trade and investment events during the expo led thematic weeks.



Caption: PNG pavilion staff and Tourism Promotion Authority Marketing Director Alice Kuaningi packing banners in the PNG pavilion as decommissioning continues.



“Papua New Guinea was one of the countries that actively participated in expo led programmes within the context of the pavilion’s strategic participation framework that was approved for implementation by the Marape Cabinet,” Ambassador Kalinoe said.

The PNG pavilion delivered a number of forums and events as part of its participation strategy and maximized PNG’s visibility during the expo. The key events included;

- 5 investment forums promoting PNG economic industries and sectors such as agriculture and downstream processing, bank-

ing and finance, tourism and connectivity, fisheries and ICT.

- 2 roundtable discussions focusing on education, research and science and innovations and how they can add value to PNG’s mass biodiversity and contribute to PNG’s economy.
- Line up of one week cultural performances and PNG reggae musician Anslom Nakikus has lead up to the Papua New Guinea national day which was celebrated on February 28.

- A trial exercise on bringing PNG sea food and fresh produce into UAE to understand the market requirements, ease of access and costs.
- Government to business seminar focusing on the ICT sector.

PNG also participated in the thematic events organized by expo.

The PNG pavilion together with other smaller pavilions will be demolished and the expo site will be converted to District 2020, a suburb of Dubai city.

Tips & Traps

Understanding Different Entity types

Before coming to the IPA to register an entity, it is important to understand the suitable business or entity type that suits your business idea.

Given that company is a common entity type, people have the tendency to register a company to perform any business activity. Although it is still alright, it is important to understand the other entity types available that people can utilize when trying to do business.

There are four (4) entity types that are registered at the IPA. They are;

- 1- Business Names
- 2- Company
- 3- Business Group
- 4- Association

A **Business Name** allows the business to carry out only one type of business activity. For example, if a person registers a hire car business then the name is specifically for the hire car business. That person can’t use the same Name to run a trade store. They will need to register a separate Business Name to operate a trade store. By law Business Names expire after a year but can be renewed. It costs K200 to register a Business Name manually or K150 if you do it online.

A **Company** on the other hand can do more than one type of business activity. A company needs to have a director or directors and a shareholder or shareholders as a primary prerequisite. A director runs the day to day operations of the company and the shareholder is the owner of the company. Every year, a company is required by law to lodge annual returns or runs the risk of being deregistered. It costs K600 to register a company or K450 if you do it online.

Government announces National General Election

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape has called for peace and order to prevail as the 2022 General Election begins.

He thanked the Australia Government for assisting Papua New Guinea with safe and secure printing and delivery of ballot papers, and the Indian Government for supplying the indelible ink for voters.

A total 118 seats will be contested for, including seven new ones recently passed by Parliament.

PM Marape said voters, especially women, must be allowed to vote on their own conscience and must not be coerced into voting for a particular candidate. He reminded the people, on the eve of the 2022 elections, that life imprisonment is now the maximum penalty for illegal usage and ownership of firearms. The Prime Minister has instructed Police to monitor hotspots known for usage of guns during the 2022 elections.

He recently tabled the Firearms Amendment Bill 2022 in Parliament, unanimously supported by all MPs, for life imprisonment for unlawful possession of firearms. Life imprisonment is now the maximum penalty for:

- Illegal possession and use of firearms;
- Illegal possession of prohibited firearms; and
- Ownership and possession of machine guns.

PM Marape said the country had seen enough of illegal firearms issues, including in the 2017 General Election when there were several gun-related deaths, and added there would be zero tolerance this time.

Source: Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council website



- Manufacturing of homemade guns;
- Illegal ownership and possession of firearms;



A **Business Group** is usually rural based and can consist of many members from the same family, clan or tribe. This entity type is only allowed for Papua New Guineans. A Business Group is required by law to lodge a statement of assets and liability every year or runs the risk of being deregistered. The registration fee is K100.

An **Association** is a not for profit organisation and must NOT carry out business. It is registered for the purpose of achieving a common goal as agreed by the members in the association's constitution. However, the association can register a Business Name or company which will operate as a business to make money to fund the operations of the Association.

IN THE NEWS

First tourists from Dubai expo in the country

Ramil: "The people are very friendly, the nature is so beautiful and the food is great."

The country has welcomed the first two tourists from Dubai after the visitors were convinced by the beauty of Papua New Guinea displayed at the world expo in Dubai.

Ruslan Tarpan and Ramil Shaidullin from Ukraine and Russia respectively visited the PNG pavilion at the expo2020 and were blown away by the images and videos about the country. They were also introduced to locally made products such as coffee, honey, artefacts and jewelry, which they purchased.

The duo arrived in the country earlier in the week on a 10-day tour to several places in the country including Ambua Lodge in Tari, Karawari in East Sepik, Mt Hagen and Kokopo in East New Britain.

"The people are very friendly, the nature is so beautiful and the food is great," said an excited Ramil from the mountains of Ambua.

Ramil who has now called himself Mangi Tari seems to love everything he comes across such as the decorations and masks in the lodges, artefacts and is interested to take them back to Dubai.

"Everything is good but the internet is not good," he told IPA Officer Mrs. Beverly Piawu. "But the main thing is that we are having a great experience in the green outbacks of PNG." The duo chartered a plane to take them around their visits.

During the Dubai world expo's thematic week on Travel and Connectivity in January, the PNG Expo Team hosted an investment forum to promote the ICT and tourism sectors. The key message delivered during the forum was that digital technology in this century and access to broadband internet for our citizens and visitors would add value to the natural environment and cultural diversity of Papua New Guinea and therefore, PNG needed an integrated tourism and visitor connectivity infrastructure system. The team highlighted the call out for investors and experts that would help plan and deliver the connectivity system in a sustainable way.

Expo Commissioner General and PNG Ambassador to Brussels and the European Union His Excellency Joshua Kalinoe

said he was happy to see the results of expo starting to come into fruition. He said this was a result of the efforts put in by the team during the six-month long expo. He also stressed that PNG was an exotic country but it needs visitors to experience a mixture of both the modern and traditional means of PNG lifestyles so that even if they spend time on the remote mountains or islands they can still have access to internet and electricity.



Ramil and friends



Ramil in Ambua Lodge



Ramil and Huli people

A journey of success

The PNG Commissioner General for Expo2020 and Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union, His Excellency, Mr. Joshua Kalinoe has described Papua New Guinea's participation in the Dubai Expo2020 as the "journey of success".

He was officiating on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Hon. Sori Eoe at the Pavilion Closing Dinner he hosted to thank all the pavilion, staff, partners, stakeholders and the PNG community in Dubai, at the Pullman hotel on Monday 27 March. Minister Eoe was unable to attend due to other urgent commitments.

Ambassador Kalinoe, said that the staff of the pavilion, led by the Deputy Commissioner General Mrs Jacinta-Warakai Manua, have done their country proud.

"The staff has lived up to the expectation of their people and country as they worked very long hours, 24-seven, not only in pavilion duties but also planning and executing trade and investment events during the expo led thematic weeks.

"Papua New Guinea was one of the countries that actively participated in expo led programmes within the context of the pavilion's strategic participation framework that was approved for implementation by the Marape Cabinet," Ambassador Kalinoe said.

He said for most of the long term pavilion staff, days and months have been going so fast as if it was like a few weeks away when they first arrived on the shores of the United Arab Emirates and sadly the time has come for them to leave.

"Apart from speaking to thousands of people going through Pavilion from the four corners of the World, the Pavilion staff also made friends with individuals and colleagues from both the Pacific Islands region, and other parts of the World. Expo2020 was a truly, one world-village experience," he said.

He said by attending to events organized by the Expo2020 Secretariat and other pavilions, we have learnt, listened and shared from each others' experience and innovations.

"For PNG, this experience has opened up visibility and created new opportunities for trade, investment and innovations that we would accommodate into our mix of variables in Living in Balance with Nature, the catch word we used throughout the Pavilion's organized programmes," Ambassador told the audience.

He said, like the other Pacific Islands states, we are an island nation sharing the vast Pacific Ocean. The Blue Economy is also important for us. In Expo 2020 however, PNG focused on the Green Economy because the Island of New Guinea host the third largest rainforest in the World, of which PNG has the largest share.

He said through Expo2020, we have told the world of our efforts to protect this international asset through our two-part Roundtable discussions and several business forums where the forest, tourism and agricultural resources the country is so blessed with are sustainably utilized. This means living in balance with Nature.

He said the two roundtable discussions on Living in Balance with Nature have resulted in a very positive response from Europe, North America, Asia and the United Arab Emirates. Ideas on the sustainable use of the forest through science, research and innovation where exchanged and positive outcomes were concluded, including the following;

1. MOU was signed between a PNG Forest Concession Holder Company and a North American Environment Management Company for Carbon Trade partnership.
2. A coalition of international academics formed to carry out scientific research into the forest biodiversity, agriculture and other economic use of the land and

natural resources, including in hydrogen gas conversion and production as well as block chain and crypto currency trade.

3. Establishment of a private equity venture capital Sustainable Development fund.

"During the Agriculture thematic week the Pavilion signed a Letter Of Intent (LOI) with the Dubai Multi-commodities Centre (DMCC) for trade in agriculture and mineral products and discussions a ongoing with a Abu Dhabi based company for similar partnership arrangements.

"The PNG-DMCC partnership has in fact started with the launch of the PNG-DMCC coffee brand last month where PNG Coffee beans are brewed and packed at the DMCC Coffee Centre in Dubai and distributed through the DMCC marketing system." Ambassador Kalinoe said.

He said in April, we will take the post Expo journey to Abu Dhabi were a B2B and G2B networking dialogue will be staged and it is hoped that more LOIs will be signed from the Expression of Interests that the Pavilion has received to date.

Because PNG is not well known throughout the World, we also used the Pavilion Journey to create visibility. Click Media, a Dubai based media platform partnered with us and the PNG Pavilion story has been told throughout the Arab World and parts of Europe, Asia, and North America

While the Pavilion journey will stop at midnight on 31 March, the journey to connect the World and keep alive some of the outcomes and connections using the Dubai and UAE experience will continue. Through the pavilion journey we have learnt that the UAE is truly a springboard for PNG to jump from to access opportunities in the East, West, North and the South.

LET'S HEAR IT!

New air freight and logistics company enters domestic market

Papua New Guineans, especially small businesses who wish to have their products air freighted and delivered to their clients on time have been given another option to consider with the introduction of a new player in the air freight and logistics industry.

Carpenters Air Logistics (CAL) is a subsidiary of W.R Carpenters and is a new cargo and freighting company currently operating in six major cities in the country. The company came into operation since June 2021 and has been expanding its services since then. The company became fully operational this year.

The company has its head office in Port Moresby with branches in Lae, Rabaul, Mt. Hagen, Goroka and Madang. CAL uses Air Niugini and PNG Air as its carriers for door-to-door shipments from major airports in Tabubil, Mt. Hagen, Goroka, Madang, Lae, Rabaul and Port Moresby.

PNG currently has three major freighting companies including DHL, Express Freight Management and FedEx.

Contact CAL for more information on Larissa Lee on LLee@cal-png.com.

CAL
CARPENTERS AIR LOGISTICS

PORT MORESBY
Ground Level, Daltron Building, Daltron Avenue, Gordons, Port Moresby, 121
Ph:(675) 302 4200

KOKOPO
Boroko Motors Building Kamuk Street, Section 37, Lot 38 Kokopo, ENBP, 613
Ph:(675) 982 8042

LAE
Boroko Motors Building Cnr Milfordhafen Road & Montoro Street
LAE, Morobe Province, 411
Ph:(675) 472 5790

GOROKA BRANCH
Boroko Motors Building Cnr Fox, Elizabeth & Garden Street, Goroka, EHP 441
Ph:(675) 7700 7824
Email: J.Mara@cal-png.com

MADANG BRANCH
Carpenter Agricultural & Manufacturing (T/A-Globe) Ltd
POBOX 1078, CNO Division
Section 53, PNGPorts - Modilon Road
Madang 511, Madang Province
Direct Line: 422 0961
Mobile: 7700 7828
Email: Mdulau@cal-png.com

Opening in May/June
Mt Hagen, Tabubil & Kimbe



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* Opening in May/June - Mt Hagen, Tabubil & Kimbe

This notice serves as a warning to the general public and an alert especially our people living in the remote villages of the country. It has been brought to our attention that there are certain fraudsters going around collecting fees for business registration in the pretense of being officers from the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA).

Please avoid being victimized by falling into their trap and to their demands, as the IPA will not be liable in the event your business is not registered.

The IPA has not entered into any arrangements with any individual to facilitate business registrations except through the Memorandum of Understandings executed with nine provincial administrations to date.

On this premise, any such illegal activities using the IPA name and logo must be reported immediately to the IPA and the Police in the first instance. For any verifications about business registrations, please contact the Investment Promotion Authority's Head office or any of our regional IPA office branches on the details below.

IPA BRANCHES:

Port Moresby, Head Office

Level 1, IPA HAUS, Munidubu Street
(Corner of Lawes Rd and Champion Pde)
Konedobu, Port Moresby

Phone: (675) 308 4400 / (675) 321 7311
Facsimile: (675) 320 2237
Email: ipa@ipa.gov.pg

Lae Regional Office

Level 1, Nambawan Supa Building,
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Morobe Province

Phone: (675) 479 2001 / 479 2606
Fax: (675) 479 2001
Email: ipalae@ipa.gov.pg

Mt. Hagen Regional Office

Level 1, Gapina Building,
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Fax: (675) 542 0599
Email: ipahagen@ipa.gov.pg

Kokopo Regional Office

Ground Floor, Marau Haus,
P. O. Box 870, Kokopo,
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Buka Regional Office

Commerce Office, Haku Street
P. O. Box 782, Buka
AROB,

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Fax: (675) 973 9344
Email: ipa_buka@ipa.gov.pg

**IPA**www.ipa.gov.pgwww.ipopng.gov.pg

KAJAMA INVESTMENT

(CROCODILE & COW HIDE TANNING PROJECT)

The proponents of the above Company are looking for a potential investor to partner in downstream processing and marketing of tanned crocodile and cow hides.

Project Proponent: KAJAMA INVESTMENT
Sector: Animal Products- Skin and Hides tanning
Location: Pagwi Government Station. Gawi Local Level Government, Wosera-Gawi District, East Sepik Province
Projectsize/Investment Vaue: US \$ 20, 000

Description:

The project involves crocodile and cow hide tanning. It is a rural based operation which started in 1999.

The project site is located in the Pagwi Government Station area of Wosera-Gawi District, East Sepik Province. This site is within the Sepik River riverine. The Sepik River is the longest river on the island of New Guinea. The Sepik River is home to some of the world’s largest fresh crocodile populations.

The project began after the realization of the value from leather products that can be made from crocodile skins. There is huge opportunity in this venture given the population size of the crocodiles and the farming and conservative avenues that can be explored.

At this stage, the project owner is seeking partnership arrangements with investor partners to build the capacity of the tannery processing facilities and to bring necessary skills and equipment in downstream processing of crocodile leather products for the local market. He is looking at the local market in the short to medium term and the export market in the long term.

The project site is located on State land and the project owner has traditional rights to the riverine as well as access to the villages and the local population.

He has the capacity to produce more than 50 tanned crocodile skins in a year at his facility. However, he seeks to increase that output and to use the skins for production at the site.

Necessary information and documents such as business plan, company profile as well as IPA and IRC certificate’s concerning the project are available upon request.

Contact	Details
Mr. Rodney Awai	KAJAMA INVESTMENT (675) 7271 0354
IPA PNG	PO Box 5053, BOROKO, 111, NCD PNG investment@ipa.gov.pg



QUESTION TIME

Question:

Hi IPA Team, with regards to your editorial on company obligations to lodge annual returns to the Office of the Registrar of Companies, does this also apply to sole entrepreneurs as well?

Answer:

There is no provision under the Business Names Act to provide an annual return hence a sole proprietor registered as a Business Name is not required to file an annual return with the Registrar.

Your only obligation to the IPA after registration would be renewing your Business Name Registration annually.

A Company upon incorporation whether it has one (1) director/shareholder or more, and whether big or small, trading or not trading is subject to the requirements of the Companies Act and is obligated to file an Annual return and pay the applicable fees including penalty fees.

Applicants are responsible for making sure they know the different types of business entities (Companies, Business Names, Associations and Business Groups), their requirements and determine which one is suitable for them before they register. If unsure they should ask officers.

Do you have a general question about the regulatory side of running a business or have a query on investment promotion or Intellectual Property rights?

If so, email your question to: [click](mailto:beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg)



beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg

We will publish a selection of questions and our answers in each issue of Opportunity.

IPA BRANCHES:

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Intellectual Property Office
Papua New Guinea

www.ipopng.gov.pg

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