



ppportunity

Issue #08 August, 2022

Business News, Reviews and Overviews from the IPA

MD's INBOX



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Dear Readers and welcome to the 8th edition of the 'Opportunity' Newsletter, a publication of the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) of Papua New Guinea.

The key highlight in this issue is the completion of the General Elections and then the formation of Papua New Guinea's 11th Parliament. As you will note from our lead story, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape has been re-elected

to cabinet and has formed the new Government. And as things become stabilised in the political arena, the IPA takes note of the Government's priorities and its focus areas and key message. Read more in the lead story on PNG's 11th Parliament formed.

In the recently held PNG Investment Conference in Brisbane, Australia I presented on PNG's investment trends which were indicative of an economy that was recovering from COVID. Read more about this in our story on PNG's Investment Trend.

The month of August was the month of Government formation and as we saw new portfolios being created by the new Government, we are optimistic that we will see more traction and positive developments from a number of our thriving industries.

We also take heed of the need to address the issue of benefit sharing for landowner companies as identified by the National Land Development Summit in 2019. A key exercise we are running to demonstrate our efforts under this program is the regional consultation exercise with key stakeholders on the development of a standard or universal

constitution for landowner companies. Read more about this article and feel free to give your feedback on the matter.

With these few words I hope you continue to find our newsletter useful and please share with us stories of your products and services so we can further share it with our readers. Our readership continues to grow and has expanded to all the different regions of the world so you are sure to get good visibility through the Opportunity newsletter.

Thank you and happy reading!!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

IN THE NEWS

Papua New Guinea's 11th Parliament



Papua New Guinea's 11th Parliament

Papua New Guinea has a new Government with Member for Tari Pori and leader of Pangu Party Hon. James Marape, re-elected as the Prime Minister and the new Cabinet Ministers were sworn into the 11th Parliament of the country. Member for Lae Open John Rosso has also been re-elected and has also been re-appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister.

The line up of the PNG 11th Parliament is as follows;

Continue on to next page.....



The 11th Parliament...



Hon. James Marape-
Prime Minister &
Minister for Planning



Hon. John Rosso
- Deputy Prime
Minister & Minister
for Lands Physical
Planning & Urban-
isation



Hon. William Duma
- Minister for State
Enterprises



Hon. Ian Ling
Stuckey- Minister
for Treasury



Hon. Soroi Eoe –
Minister for Provincial
& Local Level Govern-
ment Affairs



Hon. Rainbo Paita –
Minister for Finance
& Implementation



Hon. Kerenga Kua-
Minister for Petroleum
& Energy



Hon. Jimmy Uguro-
Minister for Education



Hon. Jelta Wong-
Minister for
Fisheries & Marine
Resource



Hon. Win Daki –
Minister for
Defence



Hon. Esi Henry
Leonard- Minister for
Tourism, Art & Culture



Hon. Aiye Tambua-
Minister for Agricul-
ture



Hon. Richard Maru-
Minister for Interna-
tional Trade & Invest-
ment



Hon. Don Polye-
Minister for Higher
Education, Research,
Science & Technology
& Sports



Hon. Pila Niningi-
Minister for Justice &
Attorney-General



Hon. Sekie Agisa-
Minister for Livestock



Hon. Joe Kuli-
Minister for
Coffee



Hon. Ano Pala-
Minister for
Mining



Hon. Justin
Tkatchenko
– Minister for
Foreign Affairs



Hon. Solan Mirisim-
Minister for Works &
Highway



Hon. Walter
Schnaubelt- Minister
for Transport & Civil
Aviation



Hon. Francis Maneke-
Minister for Oil Palm



Hon. Bryan Kramer -
Minister for Labour &
Immigration



Hon. Simon Kilepa –
Minister for Environ-
ment, Conservation &
Climate Change



Hon. Joe Sungi-
Minister for
Public Service



Hon. Henry Amuli-
Minister for Commer-
ce & Industry



Hon. Dr. Lino Tom-
Minister for Health



Hon. Jason Peter-
Minister for Commu-
nity Develop-
ment, Religion &
Youth



Hon. Salio Waipo-
Minister for Forest



Hon. Peter
Tsiamalili Jnr- Min-
ister for Internal
Security



Hon. Dr. Kobby
Bomareo- Minister
for Housing



Hon. Timothy
Masiu- Minister
for Information &
Communication
Technology

Government is yet to appoint a Minister for Bougainville Affairs but Prime Minister Marape has announced that he would do that soon.

The IPA noted from the Gazette No. G690 dated 31 August 2022 on the Determination of Titles and Responsibilities of Ministers, that the IPA will be reporting to the Minister for

Commerce and Industry while the Minister for International Trade and Investment will be responsible for the Port Moresby Stock Exchange, Securities Commission of PNG, Special

Economic Zone, PMIZ and Konebada Petroleum Park and the National Trade Office.

NEW GOVERNMENT FOCUSES ON BUILDING A K200 BILLION ECONOMY

Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Hon. James Marape has announced that his Government’s fundamental focus will be to build an economy that will reach K200 billion in the next decade and beyond.

Among other priorities, Prime Minister Marape in his official statement titled “Restructuring Governance for development outcomes” highlighted the Government’s fundamental focus which he states would assist in building a stronger economy.

He said the Government would begin its work by strengthening the democratic processes, building a resilient economy, building economic infrastructure, addressing natural resources, address business and investment confidence, address law and order, work on education and health and strengthening the institutions of state.

Given a number of issues relating to the recently concluded General Election,



the Prime Minister said that the electoral reform process was an immediate work the government would look into, beginning

with appropriate audits and improvement of the systems and processes. This will be connected to the planning and execution of the national population census.

Hon. Marape also stated that apart from securing the budget repair and reconstruction, the government will continue building economic infrastructures through its Connect PNG program in ICT development and electricity coverage. “These are the economic development enablers which our government will focus on specifically,” he said. “Infrastruc-

ture development is a key enabler to development and growth in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and in the food and vegetable sector.”

The Prime Minister specifically pointed out key investment projects which have been pending and said to “see to it” that they are progressed. He was referring to the Porgera gold mine, Wafi Golpu gold mine, Papua LNG, Pynyang LNG and Pasca A gas project as well.

In terms of investor confidence, the Government is aiming to develop very focused policies and also maintain a stable government. “We have to build transparent processes in business entry, work permits and visa reforms and a stable policy and operating environment,” Hon. Marape said.

MD Hoot presents PNG Investment statistics



Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority of Papua New Guinea Mr. Clarence Hoot (centre) presenting at the PNG Investment Conference in Brisbane, Australia. Mr. Hoot presented on the investment trend in Papua New Guinea from 2019 to 2022.

The top 5 investing countries in PNG from 2019 to 2022 are Australia, China, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. The top in-

vestment sectors in the same period are mining and petroleum, wholesale and retailing, construction, real estate and finance.

We will bring you a full report on the investment trend of PNG in our next edition.

Your Health is your wealth

The IPA conducted its annual medical check for all its officers earlier this month. Over the years, the Authority has invested in staff medicals to ensure that it has a strong and healthy workforce. Apart from the annual medical checks the Authority pays health insurance for its staff. It also participates in sporting activities organised for corporate organisations. Pictured is one of the staff members being checked by medical officers.





JOINT PRESS RELEASE

CAUTION ON THE MISUSE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA TRADITIONAL MOTIFS AND/OR DESIGNS FROM TRADITIONAL BILUM ON TEXTILE AND MATERIAL FABRIC

This notice serves to inform and/or caution businesses and the general public on the production and distribution of material fabric or textile that contains traditional motifs and/or designs or symbols of cultural significance from the traditional bilum.

There is a widespread sale of textile or fabric material and meri blouses, dresses, shirts and T-shirts containing traditional motifs and designs from PNG Bilums. Whilst there is a demand for these kinds of clothing, this is encouraging the misuse and abuse of traditional motifs, traditional designs or traditional cultural designs particularly out of its original use or intent.

It is a wide known fact in Papua New Guinea that the traditional bilum which is the “hand woven bag” belongs to different regions and provinces of Papua New Guinea. The traditional bilum is a significant traditional icon of PNG where it represents various diverse cultures and traditional skills and knowledge coming from different parts of PNG and often depicts different traditional stories, legends and even life perspectives of women and young girls in PNG who are involved in bilum /weaving. It represents a cultural heritage of skill and knowledge of bilum weaving by hand and knowledge and identification of traditional resources from the environment to make bilums.

The traditional bilum also depicts traditional motifs and traditional cultural designs and these are often owned by the weavers who are either females (women and young girls) or from traditional clans, tribes, communities or custodians of these traditional knowledge or cultural expressions. Therefore, it is only these groups of people who have the right to use and/or give permission for further modification of these designs through consent.

Furthermore, it must be made known to the public that “bilum-weaving “is a reserved activity under the Reserved Activities List. This means that only Papua New Guineans can weave bilums and sell bilums in the country. Local communities into bilum weaving should begin to take ownership of the bilum weaving knowledge and skills within their own communities and begin to document their traditional designs. NCC encourages those local communities who are into bilum weaving to come forward and register with NCC so a record of bilums and designs can be developed and regulated.

A joint inter-government task force is being mobilized by the National Cultural Commission (NCC) and its key and relevant stakeholders including the Investment Promotion Authority through the Intellectual Property Office to address this issue and appropriate policy and legislative measures will be taken under the National Cultural Policy to resolve this issue.

In the interim, we caution any business entities and individuals/entrepreneurs both local and foreign to refrain from producing, manufacturing, importing, selling and distributing or even sewing or tailoring any fabric material or textile that contains traditional bilum designs and/or motifs.

The National Cultural Commission pursuant to the National Cultural Commission Act 1994 will hereby work towards enforcing the National Cultural Property (Preservation) Act 1965 to stop this unauthorized exploitation of items which are deemed as of cultural significance to the country.

Authorized by:

Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda
Executive Director
National Cultural Commission

Mr. Clarence M. Hoot
Managing Director
Investment Promotion Authority

IPA CONDUCTS INTERNAL AWARENESS



The Investment Promotion Authority of Papua New Guinea has conducted a series of awareness sessions for its staff members to update its workforce on the new changes that will be implemented after certain laws administered by IPA were passed in cabinet.

The sessions were also aimed at educating and updating staff on the Organisation's key programs that are currently being implemented. The IPA will proceed to roll out its awareness to provinces and districts from September onwards.

Tips & Traps

Important to know the entity types before you register with IPA

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.

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.

Industrial Design

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN



Protect the visual appearance of your product.

Register your industrial design.

How important is it to protect an Industrial Design?

In our previous issue we talked about why it is important for SMEs to register their intellectual property rights.

In this issue, we'd like to talk more about one of the rights- **INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS** and why it is important to protect industrial designs.

So why protect Industrial Designs?

By protecting an industrial design, the owner of the design is given a right against its unauthorized copying or imitation by third parties. In other words, the owner of a protected industrial design shall have the right to prevent third parties not having his consent from making, selling or importing articles bearing or embodying a design which is a copy of the protected design. Therefore, you will see that protecting industrial design clearly benefits the owner of the industrial design.

Since industrial designs are that aspect of an article which makes it aesthetically appealing and attractive, they serve to add to the commercial value of the product and facilitate its marketing and commercialization.

To be protected under most national laws, an industrial design must appeal to the eye. Industrial design does not protect any technical features of the article which to it is applied.

Another benefit of protecting industrial designs is that the owner of an industrial design benefits through the industrial development of his or her products and the protection helps

to ensure a fair return on investment.

The consumer and the public at large benefit as well since industrial design protection is conducive to fair competition and honest trade practices, encourages creativity and thus leads to more aesthetically attractive and diversified products.

Also, industrial design protection injects creativity into the industrial and manufacturing sector, contributes to the expansion of commercial activities and enhances the export potential of national products.



LET'S HEAR IT!

Papua New Guinea Coffee

What makes it so special?

Is it the taste, the aroma or the packaging?

The secret is, it's all three.

As countries begin to recover from the global health pandemic, three big trends are driving the international demand for coffee. First, consumers are looking for premium, speciality coffee. Hyper-specific beans, innovative brewing methods and unique growing conditions are driving the market's attention. Second, consumers want sustainability and ethics. They want to know that they are drinking coffee from ethically and environmentally friendly producers. Finally, the world is looking for value for money.

These trends focus the world's attention on emerging coffee producers such as Papua New Guinea. Although Brazil, Indonesia and Ethiopia will remain the major exporting countries, PNG coffee producers are learning the secrets of making great specialty coffees and how to sell their coffee to a changing world.

Earlier this year, PNG coffee producers have been sharing their coffee-making stories as part of a series of webinars and online training sessions. The courses were conducted under the auspices of the [United Kingdom Trade Partnerships Programme \(UKTP\)](#) in PNG, a project implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and funded by [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#).

Gathering experts from Hong Kong SAR

China, Australia and the United Kingdom, the webinars took PNG coffee producers on a journey of discovery through the entire production process from quality farming practices at one end to the branding and marketing at the other.

The PNG producers learnt how to understand the changing global market from a buyer's perspective.

They were given practical training in the logistics surrounding micro-lots including the preparation, storage and shipping the finished product by air or sea. Contractual negotiations and obligations, such a critical aspect of international trade, were also key themes during the webinars.

For the PNG participants, understanding the basic aspects of a European Coffee Contract was a great opportunity to learn the legalities of exporting and how to present their product for maximum impact.

PNG coffee continues to gain international attention with a number of samples being presented at the Caffe Culture Show in London on 2-3 September 2021. Selected coffee producers are expected to attend the World of Coffee Fair in 2022 also in London and producers will be holding an online coffee auction later this year.

So, what makes PNG coffee 'special'? The real secret lies in the highlands of PNG and the dedication of thousands of young coffee workers perfecting their craft for a world where quality, sustainability and ethical production have become much more important.

Try some today!



Silomco – a potential oil palm development project in East and West Sepik provinces seeks partner

Local company, **Silomco Ltd** seeks a Joint Venture arrangement to develop a potential oil palm project.

Project Proponent: Silomco Ltd
Sector: Oil palm
Location: East Sepik Province to Telefomin District (Headwagi LLG) of West Sepik Province
Projectsize/Investment Vaue: USD \$620m (K2m)

Description:

The project is located in Wewak, East Sepik Province to Telefomin (Headwagi area) in the West Sepik Province and the project proponent is seeking an investment value of K2 million (USD\$620 million) for this project which holds potential in growth.

The total amount of land proposed for cultivation and associated infrastructures is 450,000 hectares while a further 150,000 can be made available for other agricultural, livestock and forestry developments.

The Silomco Project recognizes food security as an important goal to strive for and this project aims to address this issue amongst others. The business plan involves a core asset of

50,000 hectares as the central plantation while 350,000 hectares will be sub-divided into Smallholder Blocks of 7 hectares each (50,000 blocks). The remaining 50,000 hectares will be reserved for all other associated and complementary infrastructures such as a road network, an airstrip, a township with associated amenities and buffer zones including conservational areas and parks. It is expected to have up to 40 Milling Plants, several refineries and a bio-fuel processing plant.

The project proposes to construct a main highway of up to 120 kilometers connecting Aitape where a sea-port (wharf) will be built to take delivery of incoming goods and shipment of finished products to markets. The project proponents are seeking for potential developers with the technical capabilities and financial capacity to discuss options under a Joint Venture arrangement in developing this project.

For further information please contact the following via email sunset4216@gmail.com, or **Mr Kamis Yalakun** (Manager – Investment Promotion Unit, IPA, Tel: 308 4531 and email kyalakun@ipa.gov.pg

WC: 263

IPA NOTICE BOARD

Consultations on Standard/Universal Land Owner Company Constitution

The Office of the Registrar of Companies (ROC) under Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) is responsible for administering key PNG business laws and regulations.

In conjunction with the Department of Lands & Physical Planning (DLPP) and other relevant State Agencies are working together collaboratively to realize 17 resolutions passed during National Land Summit 2019 (NLS-19).

The National Land Development Program Phase II (NLDP II) has tasked each relevant State Agencies to address issues affecting the respective laws they administer. IPA is the implementing State Agency to work on Benefit Sharing that is resolution No.4 of NLS-19. Benefit Sharing on the usage of the customary land through Land Owner Companies ("LOC") remains a problem. Hence, the IPA through the ROC envisages to consult with all stakeholders to gauge their views to draft a Standard/Universal LOC Constitution.

The target groups are: -

- 1) Landowners of Natural Resources with LOCs.
- 2) Land owners of towns and cities with LOCs.
- 3) Provincial & Local Level Government officials.
- 4) Lawyers and Accountants for LOCs.
- 5) Human Rights Activists for land owners.
- 6) Others having interest in customary land usage for business purposes.
- 7) Non-Government Organizations.

Through the consultation, IPA will prepare a standard/universal LOC constitution to be used as a guide for the entities establishment, executive appointments, general operations and benefit sharing. It is intended to instill prudent corporate management and to ensure benefit for the usage of land reaches all landowners through a well-coordinated scheme that will run for generations.

In this exercise, the IPA will conduct regional consultations to get the stakeholders views

for consolidation into one document.

The consultation will be held as scheduled on the following venues and dates;

REGION/TOWN	VENUE	DATE
Momase - Lae H	Huon Gulf Hotel 2	3/08/2022
New Guinea Islands - Kokopo	Gazelle International Hotel 0	8/09/2022
Highlands - Mt. Hagen	Highlander Hotel 2	2/09/2022
Southern - Port Moresby	Holiday Inn & Suites 0	5/10/2022

Interested Stakeholders and Individuals are to register your name(s) by contacting Ms. **Michelle Marikawa on 321 7311/308 44503 or email: michellem@ipa.gov.pg**

The IPA look forward to your attendance to share your experience, views and comments on this important reform.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strategic Plan review – June 28- 29 (IPA)

Investment Conference – August (Business Advantage International)

Speakers summit – August (IPA, Parliament, BCPNG)

World Tourism Day – September 24 (TPA)

IPA Anniversary – September 28th (IPA)

IPA 3rd Quarterly Board Meeting – September 29th

EU-PNG Trade and Investment Conference – October 11-12 (IPA & EUHOD)

Karamui show – November (TPA)

IPA outreach program- July – December (IPA)

FIPIC 3 (Forum for India and Pacific Islands) December (India PNG Business Forum)

Mining and Petroleum Conference, Sydney – December 3 – 6

IPA 4th Quarterly Board Meeting – December 15th

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Annual Return query

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?

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 as opposed to the three (3) year renewal done previously.

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 the Registrar.

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*

beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg

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

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Your Investment,
Our advice”**

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