

FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Dear Readers,
Welcome to the 4th edition of the **Invest PNG newsletter**.

As we round up programs that we rolled out in April in this newsletter I am confident that PNG remains vibrant and the challenges faced continue to pose as untapped opportunities for those who wish to do business in PNG.

Amidst trying tough economic times, let's all join hands to turn challenges into

positives. These challenges are global as experienced by other economies around the globe as well and therefore, we must mitigate challenges diligently towards sustainable priority sectors such as the agriculture sector. The positive news of taro exports the United States, Australia and New Zealand are testimony of opportunities in this sector as well as the astronomical high prices of cocoa beans. At the IPA front, I paid a visit to our regional offices in the New Guinea Islands (NGI) and was able to take a glimpse of how businesses are doing in Kokopo and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

Whilst the economic situation is a bit harsh at this stage, it is encouraging to note the efforts by farmers who continue to use the favourable market prices to harvest and sell their crops.

Apart from the NGI region being located within PNG's maritime zone, Kokopo and AROB have been enjoying high prices in agriculture commodities especially in cocoa which shot up highest in April and even valued more than some other commodity prices in the world market.

This has caught the eyes of investors

resulting in a genuinely increased number of investment interests in cocoa.

While cocoa is enjoying high market prices, oil palm is also picking up after a drop last year. To support the oil palm industry, the IPA partnered with the Bank of South Pacific and Hargy Oil Palm Limited in a bid to formalise businesses owned by oil palm block holders in Biialla, West New Britain Province, so that cashflow in the area is managed well. **Read more about this in our inside story.**

In the compliance side, we have switched on the automated button in the registry system for companies to file their Annual Returns. **Read more about this in the Tips and Traps section.**

All in all, I wish you well in your endeavours and keep striving for the best.

Happy reading!!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director,
Investment Promotion Authority

NEWS

Invest PNG newsletter

IPA joins BSP and Hargy in registering oil palm block holders

A team from the Investment Promotion Authority consisting of the Senior Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Beverly Piawu and Team Leader Company Registrations, Ms. Belinda Karl and the West New Britain Provincial Government were part of the team that conducted a compliance awareness exercise in Biialla, Nakanai District with Bank South Pacific (BSP) and Hargy Oil Palm Limited.

The exercise is part of BSP and Hargy's efforts to create a cashless payment eco-system for oil palm block holders in



Picture session after the awareness session with Biialla oil palm block holders and Hargy Oil Palm officers.



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Bialla District.

Currently, there is a circulation of K3-4 million in cash being circulated in Bialla district mainly from oil palm block holders or local oil palm farmers. The high circulation of cash in the area poses security issues not only for the farmers but also for BSP and Hargy Oil Palm.

Given the above scenario, Hargy had invited BSP to assist by potentially registering block holders as merchants and also assist their contractors with banking services to minimise the use of cash. However, some of the block holders and contractors were business owners which therefore needed IPA to be involved in the

whole eco system.

As part of the exercise, IPA conducted an awareness and training to the oil palm block holders and Hargy contractors. The team also assisted in renewing their business certificates as well as creating online accounts for the owners.

The exercise was the first of its kind in the area and the block holders appreciated the visit by IPA. Speaking on behalf of the participants, local businessman and private sector representative Mr. Nixon Volele said even though they were the fortunate ones to receive help during the exercise, there were other SMEs in the area that needed similar intervention from IPA. He

made a request to the IPA to consider setting up an office or help desk in Bialla given that it is now a new District. He however thanked the IPA for the awareness and the opportunity for him to sort out his company records. Bialla District is one of the oil palm producing areas in the country and there is potential for other agricultural commodities. The District Administration is investing in maintaining law and order in the area in order for the local economy to thrive.

Bialla District Administration focused on boosting investor confidence



Bialla District Officers and the IPA team after meeting with the District Administrator Mr Jefferey Osa (fourth from right).

Bialla District Administration focused on boosting investor confidence

Bialla District is aiming to be a model district in the country by investing in infrastructure and law and order as the key priorities in the next five years.

District Manager Mr. Jefferey Osa gave a run down on the District's key priorities when meeting with the IPA team that was in his district to create compliance awareness to oil palm block holders and farmers.

The District will soon be open-

ing its new modern style administration building which has been completed and awaiting the official launching. The district court house is also 90% completed while a new police station and barracks, hospital and market are some of infrastructures in the plan for immediate construction.

Mr. Osa with the support of the Member for Nakanai Hon. Francis Maneke are focused on making Bialla a model district in the country by investing in law and order.

Tips & Traps

Users of the IPA's Online Registry System may have noticed in their emails reminders from the system regarding their companies.

Recently we switched on several new features of the registry system which includes automated reminders to companies when their annual returns are due for filing.

The system sends out messages to companies when their annual returns are due;

- 6 months prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date.
- 5 months prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date.
- 4 months prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date.
- 3 months prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date.
- 2 months prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date.
- 1 month prior to the Annual Return lodgement due date

If the company still fails to comply by filing its Annual Return on the due date then the system will automatically remove the company. This means the company status will now be changed to "Removed", and it will have to go through the reinstatement process and pay the required penalty fees to have it reinstated in order for the status be changed to "Registered".

Intellectual Property Office of PNG celebrates World Intellectual Property Day

Every year on April 26th, the Intellectual Property Office of Papua New Guinea (IPOPNG) join the World Intellectual Property Organization to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day, an occasion set aside to reflect on the crucial role that intellectual property rights play in fostering innovation and creativity across the globe.

This year 2024, the theme for the World IP Day is "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity."

In commemorating the day, IPO-PNG has hosted a Virtual Exhibition at the Vision City Main Atrium from 9am – 2:30pm on Friday 26th of April, 2024. The Virtual Exhibition has showcased videos from all over the world including our local content in relation to the theme.

The aim of the virtual exhibition was to show the audience on how innovations protected by intellectual property can act as critical catalysts

in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The interplay between intellectual property (IP) and sustainable development presents a unique opportunity to foster social and economic growth. Diving deeper into the implications of IP on critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as no poverty, quality education, and clean water and sanitation, it becomes clear that the strategic use of IP rights can accelerate progress in our lives.



Acting Senior IP Registration Officer, Geno Raka explains to the public the importance of IP



NEWS

NEW REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES



David Kil, Registrar of Companies

The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Hon. Win Bakri Daki has recently appointed the new Registrar of Companies, Mr. David Kil who has now taken on the post.

Mr. Kil takes over from Ms. Harriet Kokiva who has been acting Registrar of Companies for some time. In facilitating the appointment of Mr. Kil as the Registrar of Companies, IPA Managing Director Mr. Clarence Hoot introduced Mr. Kil to all the staff of the IPA and urged all staff to work with the new registrar. In welcoming the new Registrar, the Managing Director also acknowledged the outstanding work by Ms. Kokiva during her acting tenure

highlighting key achievements including the successful delivery of the new Online Registry System and the amendments to the various pieces of legislations under the purview of the IPA. Mr. Hoot also facilitated the change of the signatories and confirmed the authenticity of the new signature of Mr. Kil on the Business Certificates and Certificates of Good Standing issued by the IPA through the Registrar of Companies' Office.

Mr. Kil is not new to the IPA Office as he was once the Registrar of Intellectual Property Office and is familiar with the administrative processes of the IPA.

PNG official appointed in the Standard and Trade Development Facility

Papua New Guinea's Dr Nime Kapo has been selected as a Development Country Expert on the Working Group of the Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for the 2024-2025 biennial period.

The STDF is a global partnership between the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank (WB), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), which works to strengthen food safety, animal and plant health capacity in developing countries.

It encourages the use of good practices in developing countries to facilitate safe trade globally.

Papua New Guinea has benefited in million-kina funds from STDF of which the current one is called 'expanding cocoa trade in PNG'. The objective of the project is to increase financial returns, yields, quality/safety and market access for smallholder cocoa growers and grower groups. The project is aimed at ensuring increased competitiveness and the sustainability of Papua New Guinea's cocoa industry through the consistent supply of high-quality, safe cocoa from smallholder-driven value and supply chains.

Nime Kapo is a veterinarian with over 20 years of experience in animal health. He has worked as a regional veterinarian and as Chief Veterinary Officer for the government of Papua New Guinea's (PNG)

biosecurity service. Notably, he was PNG's first delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and initiated the country's implementation of the WOAH Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Tool.

Six developing country experts from different regions worldwide are part of the STDF and they rotate every two years. Developing country experts take part in STDF Working Group meetings, share experiences on SPS technical cooperation, provide guidance to review funding applications, and promote the STDF in relevant regional and international events.

LET'S HEAR IT!



FREE SHIPPING ON 1KG BEANS & 60-PACK CAPSULES

Papua New Guinea | Kabiufa



This month we are thrilled to bring you an exciting coffee sourced in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea by coffee trainer Ryan Howell.

Ryan was able to visit Moses Venapoe of Riverside Coffee and spend time with the growers. Moses has kicked off a small revolution in the coffee growing community of Kabiufa and it's an exciting time for us to be involved.

After attending a series of workshops on best practices by an exporter working in Papua New Guinea, Moses decided in 2019 to lead the charge in creating a process wherein local coffee growers would be recognised for high quality, rewarded with fair pricing and put to market as a unique coffee growing origin.

This was a far cry from the practices around Kabiufa at the time, where coffee beans were submitted anonymously at roadside weigh stations and sold as unnamed bulk lots. He brought together a network of 50 smallholder producers, and took only the best coffee cherries from each, before processing them at his wet mill, Riverside Coffee.

Five years down the track, Moses and his community have come together to produce an extraordinary coffee, with a note of honey sweetness running through from the aroma to the finish. Aromatics of cedar and coffee pulp (the fruit coffee seeds grow in) add to the sweetness and depth.

Blueberry, orange, and milk chocolate flavours combine in the cup to create an overall impression of soft sweetness, with layers of flavour developing as the coffee cools. The aftertaste of lemon zest gives the finish a tiny kick, a beautiful counterbalance to the persistent sweetness of the honey note.

COFFEE ORIGIN PROFILE

- Country:** Papua New Guinea
- Region:** Eastern Highlands
- Farm:** 50 smallholders, processed by Riverside Coffee
- Varietals:** mixed
- Process:** washed
- Altitude:** 1750m above sea level.

KABIUFA TASTING NOTES

Papua New Guinea Kabiufa has a lovely note of honey running through from the aroma to the finish. Aromatics of cedar and coffee pulp (the fruit coffee seeds grow in) add to the complexity and depth.

KABIUFA BREW RECOMMENDATIONS

Honey, blueberry, orange and milk chocolate notes mean the Papua New Guinea Kabiufa suits all styles of brewing. In this writer's opinion, PNG is a sleeping giant of specialty warm and rich base to a latte, flat white or cappuccino. The Kabiufa has been impeccably processed, so it's nice and clean with minimal bitterness, even if you're leaning towards a long black.

For all our filter-loving friends, give the Kabiufa the pourover treatment and you'll enjoy the juicy blueberry, orange and lemon zest mingling sweetly with the honey and milk chocolate. Aeropress is always good for extra body, but you'll be trading the orange in for a deeper honey flavour. However you have it, treat it with care and we promise you'll be pleasantly surprised.

CUPPING OVERVIEW

- Score:** 85.5
- Aroma:** honey, coffee pulp, cedar
- Flavour:** honey, blueberry, orange, milk chocolate
- Acidity:** juicy
- Body:** layered
- Aftertaste:** lemon zest.



STATUS UPDATE ON THE ASSOCIATIONS ACT & REGULATION

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), under the Registrar of Companies Office is responsible for the administration of and implementation of the Associations Incorporation Act, together with other business laws.

The Associations Incorporation Act 2023 ("the Act") was enacted by Parliament on 11 January 2023 and certified on 29 May 2023. The Act replaces the now repealed Associations Incorporation Act 1966 ("the old Act"). This was the first time the Associations Incorporation Act was reviewed since 1966.

The Association Regulation 2024 is undergoing the vetting process before it is gazetted for implementation. One of the requirements before we commence the process of vetting to the State Solicitor is to compile

a Consultation Report on the Reporting Threshold Amounts proposed for Associations. These include;

1. Revenue and Donation Threshold Amounts
Donations/income received by the Associations;
- and
2. Employee Threshold Amount

Salary/Wages of persons employed by Associations/ NPOs. Consultations were completed in 2023 and the review of the regulation is being undertaken with the technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank through its Private Sector Development Initiative program.

AWARI POULTRY

An Investment Opportunity >>>



Continue on to next page.....



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Awari Poultry is a local SME business specializing in Layer Poultry Farming that involves raising egg-laying poultry birds for Commercial Egg Production. Awari Poultry, owned and managed by a local woman entrepreneur, was established in 2018 and the company is based in Banz, Jiwaka Province. Since its establishment, Awari has been serving various customers within the Banz area who have a demand for both poultry birds for meat and fresh eggs that are being produced daily. The objective of this project is to expand the production capacity of this poultry business to serve the increasing level of demand from within the Jiwaka province as well as the demand from the neighboring highlands provinces.

To realize this poultry layer farming expansion project, Awari Poultry is seeking to partner with potential investors to help support the establishment of an additional production facility and the establishment of a storage or distribution/ sales outlet as well as the purchasing of new machinery and equipment. Some of the materials that will be purchased include, and are not limited to, roll wires, feeders and drinkers, sawn timber for making egg boxes, a tuffa tank for water storage, light for the poultry shed and stock feeds. This farming business also seeks business

partners for other types of collaboration to access new markets (domestic or international buyers), access production materials and components at affordable prices, and access technology and know-how expertise for the employees who will be employed under this expansion project. This project is expected to create employment for women and youths while it will also serve as a source of income for many families in the local community.

Project Strengths

The poultry industry in PNG generates over K800 million annually and more than 80% of this is produced by out-grower farmers living in villages in rural areas. In addition, the poultry industry in PNG formally employs around 3,000 people, 90% of whom are women. Awari Poultry is one of the experienced poultry operators in the Banz constituency. Awari is an established member of a chick/chick feed supplier and poultry farmers network in the province. Awari often deals directly with operators who provide various services such as the provision of guidelines and continuously updated information vital to effectively compete in the market. Furthermore, there are a very limited number of competitors and fewer resources are expected for the marketing and promotion of our products. The main competitor is the Christian Leaders’ Training College in Banz, which is a renowned poultry/ egg supplier in the Highlands Region. There are few other out-grower farmers in the province but Awari already has established buyers with high demand that surpasses the supply. A limited number of competitors, high profitability, no marketing expense, and not easy entry show that the poultry farming business has a very stable business environment it will pay off well. Other project strengths include the availability of land and local labor to produce fresh eggs/meat that is affordable and accessible to various types of buyers.

Products or services resulting from project: Birds’ eggs, in shell; fresh, fertilised eggs for incubation

Projected Annual Sales: 156.8K EUR

Total Investment (Funding Gap): 294.0K EUR (284.0K EUR)

Contacts:

Kilip Village, Banz LLG, P.O. Box 23, Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, PNG, Other, Jiwaka, Papua New Guinea OR
Please contact the Investment Promotion Authority (PNG) on **3084501/4400** or email likavape@ipa.gov.pg

Am I required to lodge Annual Returns for my company even though I have not been making money for my company?

Yes. You are required to lodge your Annual Returns every year even though your company is not operating or making money.

When lodging your Annual Return, you are simply confirming the existing details of your company in the system and indicating accordingly whether there have been any changes in the details of shareholders/directors or number of employees, etc.

You are not required to lodge or submit your financial statements.

Only companies who come under the category of a “reporting company” are required to submit their financial statements when lodging their Annual Returns.

A reporting company has the following;

- total assets exceeding K5 million or
- more than 25 shareholders or
- more than 100 employees

Companies Office Investment Promotion Authority
Form 22 | Annual return
 Section 215(1), Companies Act 1997

Notes
 The information on this form must be either typewritten or printed legibly in BLOCK letters.

If there is insufficient space on the form to supply the information required, attach a separate sheet containing the information set out in the prescribed format.

Place barcode here

Company name

Company number

1. Date of annual return

This must be a date within the month allocated by the Registrar for filing your annual return.

2. Date of the annual meeting held or deemed to be held

3. Addresses

There are no changes in addresses (tick this box if applicable and skip to item 4).
 If there are changes to any addresses, provide the current information below.

Address of registered office
 Provide the suburb, street name and number, or allotment and section number. The district and province must be stated. If at the premises of a firm or in a building the particulars must be provided. A PO box is not allowed. A village address is insufficient.

District and Province:

Address for service

The address for service is the same as the registered office address

Regulators Summit - IPA.
TBC, Port Moresby

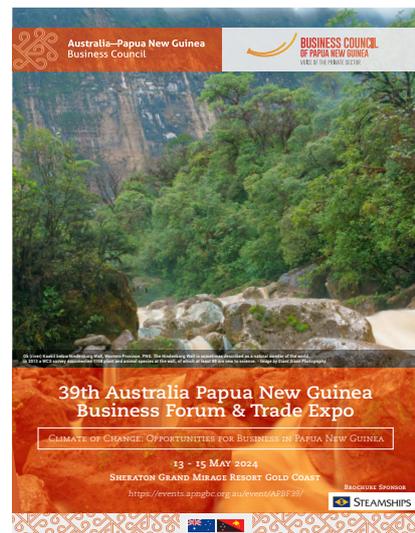
The aim of the second Summit is to identify synergies amongst the Government and the statutory regulatory agencies to take stock of reforms and progress being undertaken to achieve Government’s e-commerce agenda and digital transformation.

The discussions intend to focus on the following priority areas;

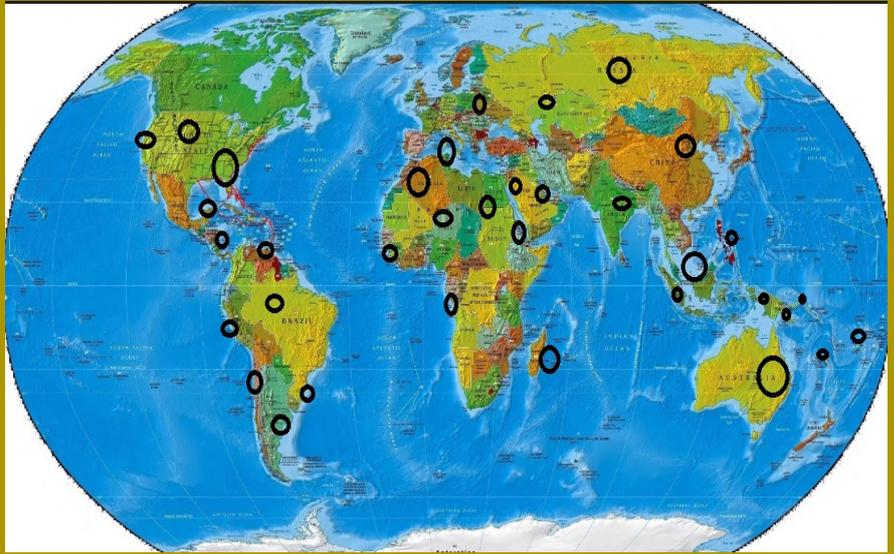
- Stock take on Government departments, agencies and industry regulatory bodies have progressed in adopting e-commerce and digital transformation in their operations and improved clientele service delivery;
- Promote dialogue and identify central depository point for regulatory agencies to converge and create synergies and work towards achieving optimization of business processes; and
- Provide policy recommendation for Government’s consideration and action.

39th Australia PNG Business Council Forum and Trade Expo

May 13-15 Gold Coast,
Queensland Australia



**YOU SAID IT...
EMU HEREVA**



Good customer service feedback for IPA Kokopo Office

"We are grateful for the exceptional customer service you provided in assisting one of our partner organisations in renewing their lapsed business registration. Your professionalism, attentiveness, and dedication reflect positively on IPA, and it is important to acknowledge and commend outstanding performance when it occurs. Your knowledge and expertise were evident throughout the entire process."

Once again, thank you for your exceptional customer service."

We have covered the globe and we're expanding.

PUBLICATION

The **Invest PNG** newsletter is produced by the Public Relations Team of the IPA.

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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 business, Your Investment, Our advice"

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