



FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Greetings Readers.

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Invest PNG newsletter for May 2026.

Once again, we are pleased to bring you an engaging and informative edition filled with the latest news and stories from the Investment Promotion Authority. This month has been particularly dynamic, highlighted by our active participation in the 41st Australia-PNG Business Forum held in Brisbane from May 13th to 15th. I personally led the IPA team in this important event, which began with a two-day regional outreach visit to Papua New Guinean-owned businesses

around the Brisbane City.

These visits, conducted in collaboration with the PNG Diaspora Business Council of Australia, are a vital step in strengthening economic and cultural ties between PNG and its diaspora communities in Australia. They are part of our ongoing efforts to foster greater trade, investment, and support networks, empowering PNG entrepreneurs abroad to contribute meaningfully to both their communities and our national economy. As our delegation concluded this regional tour, the message was clear: continued collaboration and targeted support are key to unlocking the full potential of Papua New Guinean businesses overseas. More on this inspiring story can be found inside this edition.

Additionally, this month we hosted a significant workshop in Port Moresby, in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO). Titled 'Brand to Market: Strengthening Women-Led Enterprises through Trademarks and Designs', the three-day event empowered over 30 women entrepreneurs from various industries with vital skills and knowledge to enhance their product branding and market competitiveness through intellectual property rights. This initiative

underscores our commitment to fostering inclusive growth and supporting women-led businesses across PNG.

Looking ahead, we are excited to prepare for the upcoming 5th EU-PNG Business Forum in June, scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd in Port Moresby. This event promises to deepen our trade relations with European partners and open new avenues for investment. Notably, PNG's exports to the EU have grown remarkably, increasing by 60% over the past decade from 2015 to 2025—an encouraging sign of our nation's expanding global footprint.

As always, our dedication remains unwavering in driving progress, encouraging collaboration, and creating a conducive environment for doing business in Papua New Guinea. I invite you to explore the articles within this edition to learn more about our recent activities, achievements, and upcoming initiatives.

Thank you for your continued support, and happy reading!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

Tips & Traps

IPA introduces the Authority Consent Form for agents to sign when requesting authority over entities

There have been constant accusations and public misconception on the administration of records in the IPA's Online Registry System (ORS). The Office of the Registrar of Companies has introduced an "Authority Consent" Form which serves as a notice of special resolution appointing an authorised agent or person.

In signing the consent form, the appointment effectively supersedes any previous appointments.

The new authorised agent is required to countersign the Consent Form whereby he or she declares his or her consent to abide by rules, responsibilities and be liable for any failures under the laws administered by the *Office of the Registrar of Companies* and any other related laws including *Criminal Code*.

The 41st Australia-PNG Business Forum and Trade Expo sparks momentum for economic diversification and investment



Pict. courtesy: BUSINESS ADVANTAGE PNG's website

The 41st Australia-Papua New Guinea Business Forum & Trade Expo, held in Brisbane, Australia from the 13-15th of May, 2026 ended on a high note.

Under the theme "Game On for Growth," the forum brought together key stakeholders from both nations to chart a path forward amid Papua New Guinea's rising economic momentum and after the country's 50th anniversary celebration.

The event showcased strategic initiatives and tangible outcomes aimed at transforming PNG's economic landscape, emphasizing diversification, investment facilitation, and regional cooperation.

PNG government leaders, including the Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso and Minister for International Trade and Investment, Hon Richard Maru, who attended the event, have underscored their commitment to shifting away from traditional resource reliance.

They have championed sectors like agriculture, tourism, and the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as pivotal to fostering sustainable growth and creating new employment opportunities.

The forum highlighted several reforms designed to attract Australian capital and streamline investment processes. Notably, PNG announced the launch of a new online trade portal, improved investment guides, and a "red-carpet" approach within SEZs to facilitate investor entry and operation, signaling a more welcoming environment for business collaborations.

Building on existing commitments, officials from Australia and PNG advanced discussions under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme. The focus remains on creating better employment pathways, upskilling PNG's youth, and enhancing remittance channels—measures aimed at empowering communities across PNG provinces.

Discussions also centered on unlocking substantial capital for key infrastructure projects, particularly the land-side devel-

opment of ports like Kimbe Port. These efforts are supported by the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), which aims to bolster regional trade and logistics capacity.

The forum served as an important networking platform, laying the groundwork for ongoing engagement. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the official proceedings, delegate lists, and presentation materials available through the Australia Papua New Guinea Business Council. Additionally, the event set the stage for the upcoming Business Advantage PNG Investment Conference, scheduled to be held in Brisbane in August 2026, further strengthening economic ties and investment prospects between the two nations.



IPA Managing Director, Clarence Hoot with his staff representatives posing for photoshoot at the IPA booth.



Assistant Public Relations Officer, Nasayau Lurang (Left) with Leah Manuai, Executive Secretary, Corporate Services.

IPA launches outreach initiative to support Papua New Guinean entrepreneurs in Australia

In a strategic move to bolster Papua New Guinean entrepreneurs operating abroad, the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) of Papua New Guinea embarked on a proactive outreach tour across several regions outside Brisbane city in Queensland. Led by IPA Managing Director Clarence Hoot, the delegation aimed to engage with PNG-owned businesses, assess challenges, and identify opportunities for government support to enhance their growth and sustainability.



The tour commenced on May 11th in Geebung, a northern suburb of Brisbane situated approximately 11 to 12 kilometers from the city's central business district. There, the team met with PNG entrepreneurs managing small shops and enterprises, gaining valuable insights into their daily operations, hurdles, and aspirations.

Following Geebung, the delegation traveled on May 12th to three key regional centers: Toowoomba, Gatton, and Ipswich. Each location offered a unique glimpse into the diverse economic activities of PNG diaspora communities.

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Known as the "Garden City," Toowoomba lies 132 km west of Brisbane within the Darling Downs region. As the second-largest inland city in Queensland, it serves as a vital regional hub renowned for its agricultural productivity and vibrant communities. The IPA team connected with PNG entrepreneurs residing in Toowoomba, many of whom expressed optimism about the numerous business opportunities available but highlighted the need for more structured government support to realize their potential.

Next, the delegation visited Gatton, approximately 45 km east of Toowoomba and about 93.5 km west-southwest of Brisbane. Celebrated as Queensland's "Salad Bowl," Gatton is famed for its fertile agricultural lands and diverse farming outputs. During the visit, the team met a couple from Enga Province who have become prominent real estate investors in Gatton. They also rent out properties to seasonal PNG workers engaged in local farms and butcheries.

A notable highlight was the high demand for locally grown PNG produce, especially taro, among Pacific Islanders living in Australia. Wendy Kange, a PNG

business owner operating a small shop in Gatton, shared, "Organically grown vegetables like taro have a high demand among Pacific Islanders. Our businesses are thriving here, but we need more support from our government to sustain and expand our ventures."

Finally, the delegation visited Ipswich, a city just a 40-45 minute drive from Brisbane's CBD. Known for its rich history as a former mining settlement and boasting over 6,000 heritage-listed sites, Ipswich is a key regional city with vibrant public parks and cultural landmarks. The team visited a family-owned pub where the co-owner expressed her willingness to help PNG nationals find employment opportunities in Australia.

Throughout the tour, the IPA team engaged with local PNG business owners, assessing their challenges and exploring avenues for support. The visits were supported by the PNG Diaspora Business Council of Australia, which advocates for PNG professionals and entrepreneurs across sectors such as agriculture, construction, creative industries, health, and education.



The IPA team engaged with local PNG business owners, assessing their challenges and exploring avenues for support.

LEGAL UP-DATE

New Associations Incorporation Act 2023 sets framework for PNG's Non-Profit and Community groups

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) has introduced a significant legislative reform with the passage of the Associations Incorporation Act 2023, which was enacted by Parliament on the 11th of January 2023 and certified into law on the 29th of May 2023.

This new legislation replaces the long-standing Associations Incorporation Act 1966, marking a major update in the legal framework governing incorporated associations in the country.

The Associations Incorporation Act 2023 modernizes and streamlines the regulation of non-profit organizations, community groups, and other associations,

providing clearer guidelines for their establishment and operation. The law aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and good governance among incorporated associations, aligning PNG's legal standards with contemporary practices.

The IPA through its Registrar of Companies Office, is designated as the primary agency responsible for administering and implementing the new Act. This role includes overseeing registration processes, compliance, and the ongoing regulation of incorporated associations under the updated legal framework.

The Associations Incorporation Act 2023

draws upon principles from both the repealed 1966 Act and the Companies Act 1997 (as amended). Practitioners and organizations may find it useful to review interpretations of these laws for additional context and guidance, ensuring compliance with the new legal requirements.

As PNG continues to modernize its legislative landscape, the enactment of the Associations Incorporation Act 2023 marks a significant step towards fostering a more robust and transparent environment for non-profit and community organizations across the country.

Intellectual Property Office empowers women entrepreneurs with Trademark and branding knowledge



Participants of the Trademarks and Designs workshop.

More than 30 women entrepreneurs from various industries were capacitated with skills and knowledge for developing their product brands through Trademark and Designs.

The IPA through the Intellectual Property Office of PNG in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) and Japan Patent Office (JPO) hosted the three-day workshop in Port Moresby.

The Workshop titled 'Brand to Market: Strengthening Women-Led Enterprises through Trademarks and Designs,' was designed specifically for small and growing women businesses seeking to strengthen their market presence and competitiveness with the use of intellectual property rights, particularly trade-

marks.

Most of the women who attended the workshop own products which are in circulation in the domestic market while a few have reached international markets. The workshop provided an avenue for the women to share their experiences on how they aspire to build the reputation of their products while at the same time focusing on growing their customer base.

Senior Counsel with the Asia Pacific Division of WIPO Mr. Mahmoud Esfahani Nejad opened the workshop by encouraging participants to gain as much knowledge and information from the workshop because intellectual property rights was a necessary tool for them to

confidently promote their identity and creativity in their products.

Registrar of the Intellectual Property Office of PNG, Ms. Amelia Na'aru in welcoming participants said the workshop was relevant for the women as product owners because with knowledge on intellectual property rights, it can safeguard their brands while at the same time being competitive in the market. She acknowledged the support by WIPO and JPO and encouraged the women to take advantage of the sessions to build their businesses.

Participants of the workshop were appreciative of the knowledge gained and thanked the IPA through the IPO for organizing the event for them. Tina Manamb, owner of Kumul Organics appreciated the skills acquired stating that it was timely for her given that she has entered the market with a brand but has not received protection over her brand because she did not understand the value of protecting your brand through the registration of Trademarks. "This workshop has made me realize the importance of branding through trademarks and designs and the need to protect my trademarks."

Participants were also given practical exercises to make them understand the types of words, marks or symbols they need to be mindful of when they're developing their trademarks to register with the Intellectual Property Office of PNG or IPOPNG.

Participants also acknowledged how intellectual property also supports business growth while protecting the creativity of their minds.

The IPOPNG is a division within the IPA and they administer the Trademarks Act, Industrial and Designs Act, Patents Act and Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act.



Guests of the Trademarks and Designs workshop with Deputy Registrar of IPOPNG Ms. Louisa Magalu (second from left) and Registrar of IPOPNG Ms. Amelia Na'aru (Far right)

Wilyete Cocoa Processing: Pioneering Papua New Guinea's Cocoa Industry

“A Small SME Making Big Strides in Global Markets”

Founded in 2022 and officially incorporated as a limited liability company on December 26, 2023, Wilyete Cocoa Processing (WCP) has rapidly established itself as a promising player in Papua New Guinea's cocoa industry. Headquartered in Vanimo, Sandaun Province, WCP specializes in purchasing and processing raw cocoa beans into semi-finished products destined for international markets. With its own 3-hectare cocoa farm in Vanimo, the company complements its processing activities with locally sourced premium cocoa beans, ensuring quality and sustainability.

WCP's vision is clear: “To Be First Locally Owned Company and a Class Cocoa Processing Factory Of International Standards.” This reflects the company's ambition to achieve excellence in food manufacturing on a global scale, setting new benchmarks for quality and local ownership.

Its mission underscores a commitment to community development and economic growth: “To process premium cocoa beans and bring in foreign currency into the province and country for the benefit of rural cocoa farmers and improving the cash economy in our rural villages and the country at large.” This focus not only targets economic benefits but also emphasizes the health and wealth potential of cocoa as a nutritious and valuable commodity.



Wilyete Cocoa Processing operates a dedicated processing facility in Vanimo Town, capable of handling an annual throughput of 150 to 200 metric tonnes of organic, premium West Sepik cocoa beans. The plant is distinguished by its exclusive use of locally grown cocoa beans from its own farm and smallholder farmers, blending different varieties to produce high-quality raw materials. This local sourcing strategy supports community farmers and ensures the beans meet strict quality standards, aligning with WCP's vision for premium and sustainable cocoa production.

WCP produces a diverse array of cocoa-based products, primarily semi-finished goods such as:

- Dry Cocoa Beans-(50% of net sales)
- Cocoa Liquor- (10%)
- Cocoa Butter-(20%)
- Cocoa Powder- (20%)

Looking ahead, the company plans to expand its product portfolio to include branded chocolate bars and chocolate-coated peanuts (pebbles), aiming to capture both local and international confectionery markets.



These value-added products will help WCP diversify revenue streams and increase its footprint within the global chocolate industry.

A striking feature of WCP's business model is its focus on export markets, which account for approximately 90% of net sales. The company is committed to exporting high-quality, premium cocoa products to Southeast Asia and Europe, positioning Papua New Guinea as a key player in the international cocoa trade. This strategic export orientation not only boosts foreign currency inflows but also elevates PNG's reputation in the global cocoa industry.

While detailed financial data is limited, WCP has experienced some recent fluctuations. Notably, its net sales revenue declined by about 70%, primarily due to operational challenges and low cocoa production in the province. Despite this, the company reported a 65% increase in operating profit, indicating efficiency improvements and potential for future growth. These financial trends highlight both the resilience of WCP and the opportunities for strategic improvements to stabilize and grow revenue.

WCP's commitment to quality and compliance is evidenced by its certifications from the PNG Cocoa Board, including

registration as a Dry Bean Dealer, Microlet Exporter, and an Export License. The company is also in the process of registering with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) to facilitate direct exports into China—a market with significant growth potential—with licensing expected by December 2025. These certifications ensure WCP meets international standards and regulatory requirements, paving the way for expanded global reach.

Wilyete Cocoa Processing stands out as a pioneering SME in Papua New Guinea's cocoa landscape. As the first local company to export cocoa products from Vanimo, it embodies the spirit of local entrepreneurship with a keen eye on international markets. Supported by the PNG Cocoa Board, FAO Streit PNG, and local cocoa farmers, WCP aims to produce premium quality beans and finished products that elevate PNG's reputation in the global cocoa and chocolate industry. With its strategic focus on quality, community development, and export growth, WCP is poised to make a lasting impact on PNG's economy and the global cocoa market.

Trade Relations between the EU and PNG reach new heights



Papua New Guinea has maintained a strong and growing trade relationship with the European Union.

Ambassador of the European Union to Papua New Guinea, Her excellency, Erika Hasznos said this partnership continues to evolve since the country became the first Pacific nation to ratify the EU–Pacific Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) in May 2011.

The Ambassador said that this historic move has granted PNG full duty-free and quota-free access to the EU single market, fostering expanded opportunities for its exports.

Recent updates from the European Commission shed light on the impressive trajectory of EU-PNG trade.

“The EU, comprising 27 mem-

ber states united in a single market, is now PNG’s fourth-largest export destination, accounting for approximately 10% of the country’s total exports. This positions the EU as a vital trade partner, trailing only behind Australia (32%), Japan (15%), and China (13.5%),” said Ambassador Hasznos.

Trade statistics reveal remarkable growth, with PNG’s exports to the EU soaring by 60% over the decade from 2015 to 2025.

PNG’s export profile remains anchored in fisheries and high-value agricultural commodities such as coffee, cocoa, and vanilla. Importantly, PNG is making a rapid shift toward verified sustainable supply chains in these sectors, emphasizing

environmentally responsible practices and quality standards.

“When considering total trade—including both exports and imports—the EU ranks as PNG’s fourth-largest trading partner, underscoring the significance of this economic relationship. The expanding trade ties highlight the mutual benefits and strategic importance of fostering closer economic cooperation between the EU and Papua New Guinea,” said Ambassador Hasznos.

As PNG continues to diversify and strengthen its export industries, the partnership with the European Union is poised to play a crucial role in supporting sustainable development and economic resilience in the region.



KNOW ABOUT IP

Why is it important for SMEs or businesses to protect their Intellectual Property Rights?

SMEs or businesses must dedicate time and resources to protecting their intellectual property assets.

By doing that, they can increase their competitiveness in a variety of ways.

Intellectual property protection helps in:

- Preventing competitors from copying or closely imitating a company’s products or services.

- Avoiding wasteful investments in research and development and marketing;

- Creating a corporate identity through a trademark and branding strategy;

- Negotiating licensing, franchising or other IP-based contractual agreements;

- Increasing the market value of the company;

- Acquiring venture capital and enhancing access to finance;

- Obtaining access to new Markets.

In addition, enterprises which search

systematically for conflicting IP rights of others prior to seeking IP protection are able to avoid unnecessary litigation, thereby saving time and resources.

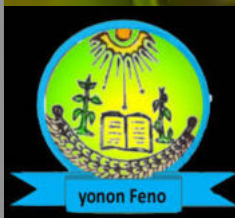
For more Information on Intellectual Property:

Contact:

Tel: (675) 321 7311/308 4432/321 3900

Email: registrar.ipopng@ipa.gov.pg

Website: www.ipopng.gov.pg



Value-Added Vanilla Production - Yonon Feno Agro Business

Investment Proposal

Yonon Feno Agro Business is engaged in the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of dried vanilla for export markets. Founded in 2020 and formally registered in 2023, the business operates on a 5-hectares farm with an annual production potential of approximately 1 ton of vanilla. Like many ventures in the agricultural export sector, Yonon Feno Agro Business aims to increase its value addition capabilities, which includes acquiring essential equipment such as a vanilla sealing machine, a vanilla extraction machine, and a 5 Kva generator to support consistent production.

To expand its operations and enhance product quality, the project seeks a strategic foreign investment partner. This partnership would combine the investor's management expertise, advanced technology, and capital with local market insights to increase production efficiency, improve product standards, and access broader markets. The investment would drive the business to scale and achieve long-term growth.

Project Strengths

In terms of strengths, the business benefits from a 5-hectare farmland dedicated to vanilla cultivation, along with an on-site labor force familiar with the harvesting and processing of vanilla. Additionally, the global high demand for vanilla, driven by its use in various industries such as food, beverages, and cosmetics, provides a strong market opportunity. This demand, coupled with limited global supply, positions the business to achieve competitive pricing and establish a reliable customer base.

Projected Annual Sales

31.9K EUR

Products or services resulting from project

Vanilla

Opportunity Type

Establishing a Joint Venture

Project Country

Papua New Guinea

Project Location

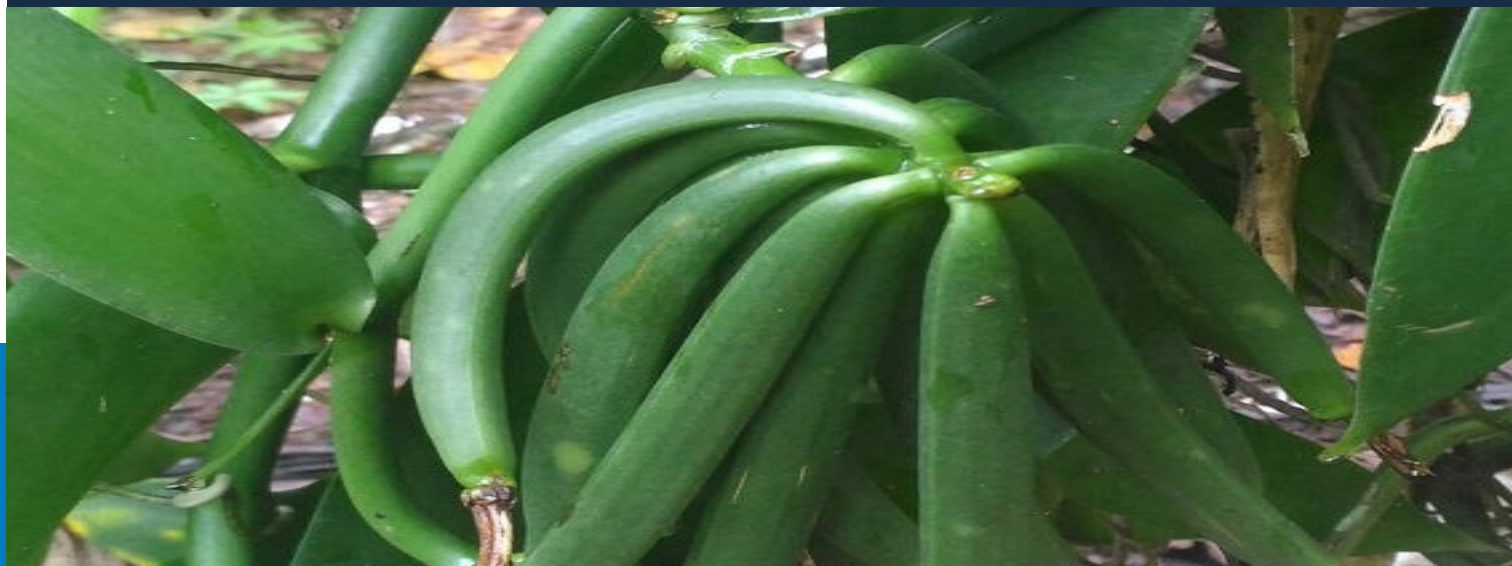
Yonon Feno Agro, P. O. Box 1285, Sapmanga, Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea., Lae, Morobe, Papua New Guinea

Projected Employment

26

Total Investment (Funding Gap)

49.0K EUR (44.0K EUR)



Call for Research Papers on the Reserved Activities List under the Investment Promotion Act to be Presented at the 2026 Business Regulators Summit

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) is calling on research and think tank institutions, academics, lecturers, researchers, and university students to prepare and present papers and participate in a structured debate session as

part of the Academic and Student Engagement Program during a 2 days Business Regulator's forum which will be held at the University of Technology in Lae, Morobe Province from the 8th to the 9th of July.

This IPA flagship event will be the third summit that the IPA has hosted since the inaugural one in 2019. Under this year's summit theme, **"Balancing National Participation and Global Investment: Reforming Reserved Business Activities for Inclusive Growth,"** the initiative seeks to broaden national discussion on how Papua New Guinea can support citizen enterprise while also maintaining a competitive, transparent, and efficient investment environment.

This call is intended to promote critical inquiry, evidence-based debate, and policy-relevant research on the Reserve Activities List (RAL) under the Investment Promotion Act 1992.

The IPA is encouraging contributors to examine the legal and policy rationale of the RAL, critically assess its economic and social impact, debate the trade-offs between national enterprise and sovereignty protection with and market efficiency, and identify research gaps and practical reform options for consideration by policymakers and regulators. Contributions may be analytical, empirical, legal, comparative, or policy-focused, provided they support informed discussion and practical policy learning.

Suggested Research Paper Themes

- The legal and historical basis of the Reserve Activities List under the IPA Act.
- The economic impact of reserved business activities on small and medium-sized enterprises, market entry, and competition.
- Socio-economic impact of the RAL, including citizen participation, youth engagement, gender inclusion, and regional development.
- Enforcement challenges, nominee arrangements, regulatory overlaps, and compliance gaps.

- Comparative perspectives from other Pacific and developing economies on reserved sectors and foreign investment regulation.
- Policy options for periodic review, sector-specific reservations, and complementary reforms to support local enterprise growth.
- Report actionable evidence to promote reforms for a stronger private sector in a developing economy (like PNG), with data that are comparable across economies and over time.

Suggested Debate Topics

- Is the Reserved Activities List (RAL) the most effective policy tool for building national business capacity?
- Does the RAL effectively protect citizen enterprise or not?
- Does the RAL unintentionally reduce efficiency and innovation?
- Should reserved activities be narrowed and targeted, or expanded to protect more sectors for national participation?
- How can Papua New Guinea balance national economic sovereignty with openness to quality investment?
- What reforms are needed to improve enforcement, transparency, and coordination across agencies involved in RAL implementation?

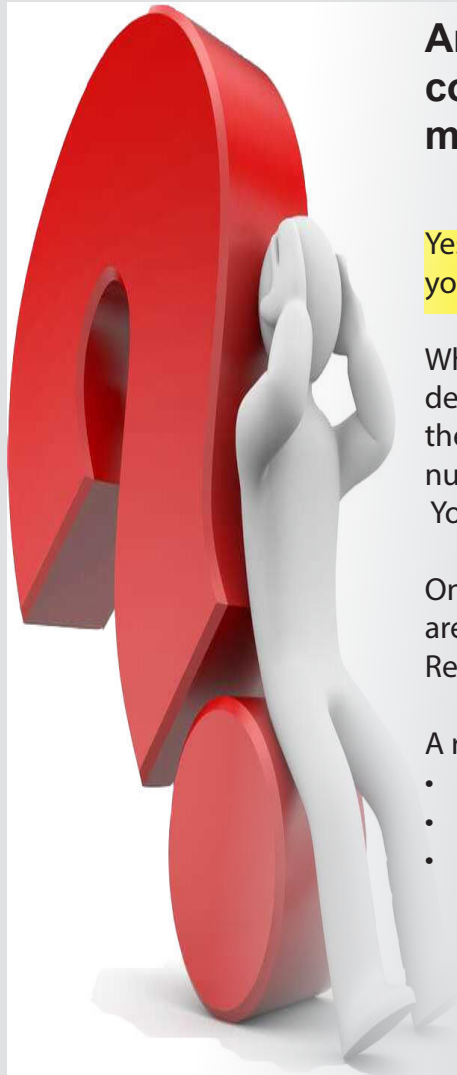
The IPA encourages early expressions of interest from institutions and student groups wishing to participate to contact the IPA before the 18th of June, 2026. Selected papers and presentations will be informed by the 20th of June, 2026.

The IPA looks forward to strong engagement from the academic community and policy research sector in building a more informed and constructive national conversation on the future of the Reserve Activities List.

For more information about the paper submissions, presentation formats, program content and topics, please contact the Manager- Investment Promotion, Mr. Kamis Yalakun on email: kyalakun@ipa.gov.pg or Senior Investment Officer- Mr. Desmond Pokajam, on email: desmondp@ipa.gov.pg

Authorised by

Mr. CLARENCE HOOT
Managing Director
Investment Promotion Authority



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



PROVINCIAL WARENESS ON RE-REGISTRATION OF ASSOCIATIONS

4th -5th August, 2026

To be held at Alotau Bay Hotel,
Alotau, Milne Bay Province.

For more information:
Contact IPA by emailing:
AssociationsRegistry@ipa.gov.pg

Stakeholder Awareness

“I would like to sincerely thank the IPA team for organizing and delivering a very informative and engaging Information Session. The session was highly beneficial and has greatly enhanced our understanding of the Online Registry System and how it can be effectively used to support ICAC's investigative work.

The insights shared on accessing company information, conducting searches, and utilizing the system for compliance and due diligence will be particularly useful in strengthening our work processes.

Participant



**We have covered
the globe and we're
expanding.**

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 *Invest PNG* newsletter.

PUBLICATION

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Your Investment,
Our advice”**

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