

FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the sixth issue of this year's Invest PNG Monthly Newsletter.

As we venture into the third quarter of 2026, we are pleased to share the latest updates on our ongoing efforts to promote investment, trade, and sustainable development across Papua New Guinea and the wider region.

This month, the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) has been actively engaged in several key events that highlight our dedication to strengthening economic ties and fostering growth.

Notably, we participated in the 5th EU-PNG Business Forum held in Port Moresby, where I reiterated PNG's position as a rising investment destination—focused on sustainable sectors and driven by ongoing reforms. For more details, see the story inside.

Additionally, we were involved in the Korea Import Expo 2026, a vital step in establishing PNG's cocoa industry foothold in the Korean market. With continued effort and strategic engagement, PNG aims to expand its export footprint and build lasting trade relationships.

Locally, the IPA recently concluded its participation in the Joint Agency Spot Check Operation (JASCO) across East New Britain Province. The operation

identified ongoing compliance challenges among local businesses, particularly in the oil palm and logging sectors, underscoring the importance of regulatory adherence and sustainable practices.

Furthermore, PNG had the honor of hosting the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices from across the Pacific. More on this significant event can be found in this edition.

Thank you for your continued interest and support and we hope you enjoy this edition of the Invest PNG Newsletter.

Happy reading!!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

NEWS

Current investment climate and priority opportunities in PNG: Insights from IPA Managing Director at EU-PNG Business Forum

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is steadily positioning itself as an emerging destination for European investment, with a strategic focus on sustainable growth sectors and ongoing reforms.

This was highlighted during the recent EU-PNG Business Forum held in Port Moresby, where the Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), Mr Clarence Hoot delivered an insightful presentation on the current investment landscape and future opportunities.

Mr. Hoot emphasized PNG's commitment to creating a conducive environment for investors through streamlined procedures.

"The IPA oversees mandatory registration and certification processes, ensuring compliance with tax and labor laws. Sector-specific licensing and permits are required for activities in mining, petroleum, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, and environmental sectors. Financial regulations are also managed in coordination

with the Bank of Papua New Guinea and the Securities Commission of PNG," said Mr Hoot.

He said PNG's investment focus is anchored on sustainable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism and that opportunities abound in downstream processing, value-adding activities, and cold chain logistics for commodities like coffee, cocoa, vanilla, coconut, and spices.

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Mr Hoot said the construction and infrastructure sectors—including roads, ICT, energy, and real estate—are also key areas of interest, alongside forestry, resources, wholesale and retail trade, renewable energy, and ICT services.

The forum highlighted several investment avenues aligned with both EU Global Gateway initiatives and PNG government priorities:

Mr Hoot further highlighted that despite the promising outlook, PNG faces hurdles including land access issues, aging infrastructure, security concerns, high operational costs, and unemployment.

He emphasized that reforms are underway to address these challenges, including opening opportunities for private

investment in State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), reforming the ICT sector and harnessing technology to improve security and law enforcement, streamlining business processes through digital platforms to reduce operational costs and addressing anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) concerns.

Since the inaugural PNG-EU Business Conference in 2019, the trade and investment relationship between PNG and the EU has grown significantly. Mr.

Hoot reaffirmed the IPA's commitment to facilitating more business interests and fostering partnerships.

"The ongoing reforms and strategic sector focus underscore PNG's attractiveness as an investment destination despite its challenges.

PNG's investment climate is evolving, buoyed by government reforms, strategic priorities, and international partnerships. The country remains open for business, with new opportunities emerging in sustainable sectors and infrastructure development. The IPA stands ready to connect investors with lucrative ventures, championing PNG's journey toward economic diversification and sustainable growth," said Mr Hoot.

IPA participates in the Hausples Real Estate Expo



IPA officers attending to participants during the Expo.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) took part in the largest real estate event of the year, the Hausples Real Estate Expo, held this month at the Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby.

Over 20 industry players and exhibitors converged for the two-day event which was held on the 26th and 27th of June, transforming the venue into a hub

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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*.

Companies Act 1997 (As Amended)

AUTHORITY CONSENT FORM

APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF AN AUTHORISED AGENT

To:
The Registrar of Companies
PO Box 1181
Port Moresby
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Entity Name (if Number): _____

By virtue of this document constituting a notice of special resolution, the board hereby appoints an Agent for the purpose of Registrar of Companies. This appointment shall effectively supersede/override/replace any previous appointment(s) and shall be accepted to be the ultimate source document pertaining to all Authorised Agent matters. The duly appointed Authorised Agent shall effectively assume duties as entrusted and be accountable to the board/committee until further notice by the same board/committee. The authorised agent's acceptance by way of countersigning this authority instrument is proof of the agent's willingness/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. Any falsifications will be criminally dealt with.

a) Name _____
(Note: State the full name of the Authorised Agent including registration number in the case of a registered entity. An authorised agent may be an individual or a registered business entity and must be easily verifiable by the Registrar.)

b) PO Box _____
Physical Location: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____
(Note: State the full address of the authorised agent including PO Box, physical location email and telephone as above requirements.)

c) I, _____, hereby understand this role, accept responsibilities and do agree to act only as directed by the board/committee/owner on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

d) Use of legitimate and eligible voting members of the board and their signatures

Names of the Director/Owner/Committee	Signatures	Date
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		

Note: An assurance may be made in relation to item d) where necessary in which case the assurance must be specifically marked. A director or part owner or an eligible member may be appointed to hold an Executive Authority holder need from other associated persons. An Authorised Agent must be a natural person having formal identification as a registered entity other than PNG or in other jurisdictions where proof of existence must be provided. Misstatement or untruthful names will not be accepted for this purpose.

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of property and investment activity.

The IPA's booth drew an overwhelming number of visitors eager to learn about the authority's services and how they can facilitate property investments and business registration processes in PNG.

Officers from the Business Registration Division provided on-the-spot information, showcasing the authority's commitment to streamlining investment procedures and supporting the growth of the real estate sector.

The free-entry expo served as a vital platform connecting property seekers with leading real estate agencies, financial institutions, and building material suppliers.

Attendees had the opportunity to receive immediate quotes and expert advice on home loans, as well as conduct eligibility checks for superannuation housing advances—making the event a comprehensive resource for prospective homeowners and investors.

Key sponsors and industry players featured prominently, including diamond sponsor BSP Financial Group, Nambawan Super, and Vodafone PNG, among others. The event highlighted the latest trends, developments, and opportunities within



IPA officers; Vanessa Vaina (Left) and Roselyn Makinza manning the IPA booth.

PNG's dynamic real estate market.

The 2026 Hausples Real Estate Expo maintained its reputation as the premier platform for property seekers and investors across Papua New Guinea. It provided a unique opportunity for attendees to connect directly with industry professionals, explore investment options, and access essential services—all in one loca-

tion.

The IPA's participation underscores its ongoing commitment to supporting the growth of the real estate sector and facilitating investment opportunities in PNG. As the country's property market continues to evolve, events like Hausples serve as crucial catalysts for economic development and homeownership aspirations.

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.

IPA Facilitates Papua New Guinea's Wilyete Cocoa Entry into Korean Market



IPA Marketing Officer, Kathleen Aku (Centre) showcasing the PNG-Made cocoa products.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) successfully supported a local SME, Wilyete Cocoa Processors (WCP) and three (3) cooperatives from Morobe Province at the Korea Import Expo (KIE) 2026, held in Seoul from the 23rd to the 25th of June, 2026.

The event, organized annually by the Korea Import Association (KOIMA) and supported by Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Resources along with KOTRA, provided PNG with an important platform to showcase its cocoa products to Korean industry professionals.

The IPA coordinated efforts alongside the PNG Embassy in Seoul to facilitate PNG's participation. The event drew exhibitors from 30 countries, offering a vibrant marketplace for food, beverages, cosmetics, jewelry, and more. Over 10,000 Korean buyers, distributors, and retailers visited the expo, with particular interest in food and beverage products, including cocoa.



Wilyete Cocoa Processors, a burgeoning local enterprise, showcased their cocoa products and sought market entry into Korea. The IPA's support included booth setup, promotional materials, and facilitating business-to-business (B2B) meetings. The company's products attracted strong interest, especially in value-added items such as cocoa powder and butter.

Alongside WCP, three Morobe Province cooperatives—Takom, Unasmu, and Weleki—also exhibited dried cocoa beans and processed products. These cooperatives were supported by the Cocoa of PNG, Department of Commerce and Industry, and Markham District Authority, and participated in B2B meetings with Korean businesses.

Two significant meetings emerged from the expo including one with GADOSH, a prominent Korean food distributor who expressed strong interest in WCP's cocoa powder. The company received product samples



for testing. However, progress hinges on WCP meeting Korea's certification standards, including approvals from the Korea Ministry of Food and Drug Safety and establishing Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) protocols. The PNG Embassy is currently reviewing these requirements.

Another meeting was with JN Global, a Korean food manufacturing company, showed interest in WCP's cocoa butter. The owner purchased two sample bottles for testing and is now requesting export pricing. IPA and WCP are engaging to facilitate further negotiations and export arrangements.

The expo revealed promising market potential for PNG's cocoa products, especially in value-added segments. The interest from Korean distributors and manufacturers signals opportunities for future exports and partnerships.

However, challenges remain which includes, certification and regulatory compliance with Korea's food safety standards are necessary before commercial trade can commence.

The Korea Import Expo 2026 marked a significant step for PNG's cocoa industry in establishing a foothold in the Korean market. With continued effort and coordination, PNG aims to expand its export footprint, leveraging these initial engagements to build sustainable trade relationships in Korea. The IPA and the PNG Embassy remain committed to supporting local exporters like Wilyete Cocoa in reaching new international markets.

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.

Intellectual Property Office of PNG hosts Heads Of Intellectual Property Offices in the Pacific



Deputy Registrar of IPOPNG Ms. Louisa Magalu (left) and Registrar of IPOPNG Ms. Amelia Na'aru.

Papua New Guinea, through the Intellectual Property Office of PNG hosted intellectual property leaders and focal points from across the Western Pacific in Heads of Intellectual Property Office Countries (HIPOC) meeting in Port Moresby.

The two-day event was attended by IPO representatives from Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, as well as partners from the World Intellectual Property Office, Japan Patents Office and other development organizations.

Discussions focused mainly on two key areas primarily on understanding development challenges and the role of intellectual property in addressing these changes. The conference also discussed practical implementation and country planning where participants explored tangible strategies and opportunities for cooperation that could be translated into action at the national level.

In opening the conference, Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority Mr. Clarence Hoot told participants that the conference was timely for the region given that our economies continue to evolve and diversify and prompting intellectual property to become increasingly important in supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, trade, cultural preservation, and sustainable development. He said Pacific Island Countries shared many common opportunities and challenges, and forums such as HIPOC provided an important platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration.

Mr. Hoot said: "Papua New Guinea's

decision to host HIPOC 2026 reflects our commitment to strengthening intellectual property as a tool for national development and regional cooperation. As one of the largest and most culturally diverse countries in the Pacific, PNG recognizes the value of protecting and promoting innovation, creativity, traditional knowledge, and indigenous products. We also recognize that no country can advance its intellectual property ecosystem in isolation."

"As we move from understanding challenges to identifying solutions, I encourage all participants to engage actively and share openly so that together we can strengthen intellectual property as a catalyst for innovation, economic growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable development across the Pacific," Mr. Hoot said.

For Papua New Guinea, the conference provided an opportunity not only to share experiences and lessons learned, but also to learn from its Pacific neighbours and explore new opportunities for collaboration. Through the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches, the IPOPNG hopes to collectively build stronger and more resilient intellectual property systems that deliver meaningful benefits to our people and economies.

Since the establishment of HIPOC, it has grown into a respected platform for dialogue and partnership among intellectual property leaders in the Pacific. In advancing WIPO's Development Agenda, HIPOC has contributed to strengthening institutional capacity, supporting legislative and policy reforms, and fostering regional cooperation on key intellectual property issues.



Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority Mr. Clarence Hoot told participants that the conference was timely for the region given that our economies continue to evolve and diversify and prompting intellectual property to become increasingly important in supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, trade, cultural preservation, and sustainable development.

East New Britain Province's Joint Agency Spot Check Operation highlights persistent compliance issues and challenges



The recent Joint Agency Spot Check Operation (JASCO) conducted across East New Britain Province from this month, has revealed ongoing compliance challenges among local businesses, particularly in the oil palm and logging sectors. The comprehensive inspection, organized by the East New Britain Provincial Government's Commerce Division, involved multiple government agencies and targeted a broad spectrum of companies operating within the province's four districts: Kokopo, Pomio, Rabaul, and Gazelle.

The multi-agency team, comprising representatives from the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), PNG Immigration & Citizenship Services Authority, Department of Health, Department of Labour & Industrial Relations, Internal Revenue Commission (IRC), PNG Customs Services, the Censorship Board, Police, Bank of PNG, and local authorities, conducted thorough spot checks on logging camps, sawmills, oil palm plantations, and local business premises. The primary objective was to verify compliance with statutory requirements, including valid business registration, work permits, tax filings, occupational health and safety standards, and adherence to trading and licensing regulations.

The operation aimed to ensure that companies operate within the legal framework, do not engage in illegal activities such as illicit trading or illegal employment, and uphold safety standards. The inspection also sought to address concerns regarding illegal activities like drug trading, illegal gambling, and unauthorized business operations reserved for PNG citizens. Despite previous efforts, the 2026 inspections underscored

that many compliance issues identified in 2024 remain unresolved. Companies continue to breach regulations, often failing to adhere to penalties or corrective measures imposed.



During the inspection period, the IPA team visited a total of 136 companies across the four districts: 12 in Pomio, 19 in Rabaul, 78 in Kokopo, and 27 in Gazelle. The team revisited companies with outstanding issues in the final week, emphasizing the importance of compliance for sustainable business operations.

The operation concluded with a closing event hosted by the ENBPG, attended by key stakeholders, including the Chief Minister's Office, IPA, and provincial officials.

The JASCO team faced several hurdles, primarily resource constraints and incomplete records, which limited the scope and frequency of inspections. The terrain and unpredictable weather further hampered efforts. Additionally, many business owners lack awareness of updated regulations, often relying on agents, which leads to inad-

vertent non-compliance.

The report emphasizes that compliance is not optional. It is vital for protecting the provincial economy, maintaining law and order, and building business credibility. Business houses are urged to proactively engage with regulatory agencies, rectify non-compliance issues promptly, and seek lawful advice.

To address these persistent issues, the report recommends strengthening local government capacity to monitor and regulate businesses. It advocates for increased resource allocation, improved inter-agency coordination, and enhanced awareness campaigns targeting business owners and employees.

Furthermore, upgrading port security with cargo scanners, enforcing vehicle safety standards, and harnessing local authorities' powers are critical steps toward ensuring a safer, fairer, and more compliant business environment in East New Britain.

The 2026 JASCO operation underscores the importance of sustained efforts and multi-stakeholder collaboration in fostering compliance and integrity within East New Britain's economy. Tackling the identified challenges will require concerted action from all levels of government and the private sector to secure a prosperous and lawful future for the province.





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)



**KNOW
ABOUT** 

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

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



Steps on how to register an Association

The first step to incorporate an association is to file the Notice of Intent to Incorporate an Association.

The Notice of Intent starts a long incorporation process that is outlined as follows:

- i) Once the Notice of Intent is accepted/approved by the Registrar the applicant will undertake a public notice of the Intent which is published in the media;
- ii) Any person may object to the proposed incorporation, with objections being filed with the Registrar;
- iii) If no objections are received within 1 month from the date of this Notice, the incorporation may proceed;
- iv) If an objection(s) is received, the registry will send an email to the applicant and a different process must then be followed, with the applicant being given a chance to respond to the objection. The Registrar will consider the grounds on which the objection(s) were raised and the applicant's response and decide on whether the incorporation may proceed. The decision of the Registrar may be appealed to the Minister.

After all information is collected, you will be able to review your work before it is submitted to the Registrar for review.

1. Required Information for the Notice of Intent includes the following:
 - o **Proposed Association Name:** Enter the proposed name. Note: this cannot be the same or nearly the same as a name already in use by another registered entity.
 - o **Name and address of applicant.**
 - o **Initial Committee Members:** Name and address for the initial committee members.
 - o **Public Officer:** Name and address for the officer.
 - o **Addresses:** Registered office and other relevant addresses.
 - o **Rules/Constitution:** A copy (PDF) of the proposed rules governing the association.
 - o **Other Information:** the online form collects other information, such as the qualifications for membership, a statement of objectives, primary business activity.
2. Once the Notice of Intent is complete and the public objection period ends you may complete the online Application to Incorporate the Association.
 - o After your application has been submitted, it will be sent to the Registrar for review. Upon approval of your application, a Certificate of Incorporation will be emailed to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Business Advantage Investment Conference

8th -11th August, 2026

To be held at Brisbane, Australia.

For more information:
Contact Beverly Piawu by emailing:
Beverly.Piawu@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

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

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