

FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Greetings, Readers, and welcome to the eighth edition of our Invest PNG Newsletter for August 2026.

It is with great pleasure that we present this month's edition, filled with exciting updates and developments from the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA). Our commitment remains unwavering in fostering a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable business environment across Papua New Guinea. Through regional engagements, international collaborations, and local initiatives, we continue to drive progress and open new doors for investment and economic growth.

This month, we participated in APEC's Second Investment Experts' Group Plenary Meeting (IEG 2) held alongside APEC's third Senior Officials' meeting in Dalian, China. Attended by senior officials and delegates from 21 member economies, the discussions centered around building a resilient regional economic community under China's 2026 Host Year theme, "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together." Key focus areas included investment promotion, sustainable investment, impact investing, and digital transformation—sharing experiences, identifying challenges, and setting priorities for collective growth.

In regional collaboration, we also took part in the inaugural Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands Investment Conference, held at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara from August 19 to 20. Organized by the PNG-Solomon Islands Business Council and Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), the conference aimed to strengthen economic ties between our two nations under the theme, "From Opportunity to Investment: Building the PNG-Solomon Islands Growth Corridor." More on this story can be found later in this edition.

Additionally, our participation in the 14th Annual Business Advantage PNG Investment Conference in Brisbane, Australia, reaffirmed our dedication to showcasing PNG's invest-

ment potential on the global stage. This annual event continues to serve as a vital platform for connecting investors and decision-makers with the opportunities that our country offers.

On the local front, the IPA actively engaged at the 70th PNG Agriculture & Trade Festival in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province. This vibrant event brought together government agencies, private-sector players, farmers, and stakeholders involved in agriculture and trade, providing an excellent platform to promote our services, support local businesses, and explore new investment opportunities within the region.

As always, our focus remains on driving progress, fostering collaboration, and creating an enabling environment for business in Papua New Guinea. I invite you to explore the articles within this edition to learn more about our recent activities, achievements, and future initiatives.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

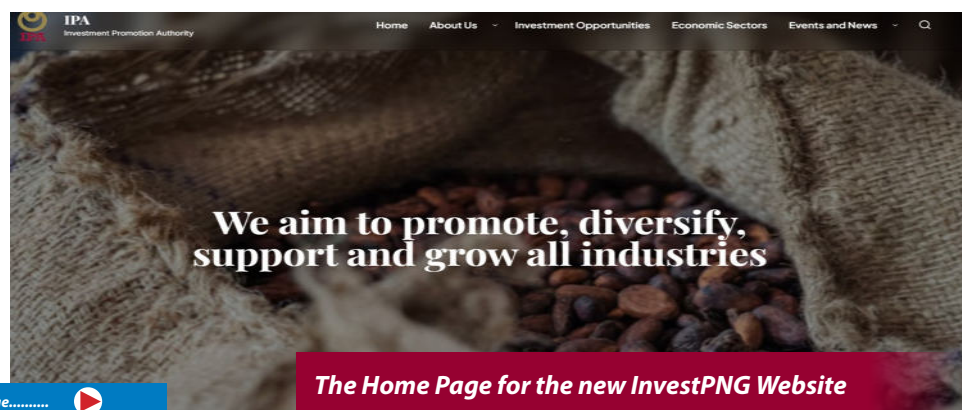
NEWS

IPA launches Invest in PNG website

The Investment Promotion Authority has launched its promotional website called the **Invest in PNG**.
www.investinpng.gov.pg

The Invest in PNG domain name itself speaks the brand and objectives of the website.

It aims to bring out the first impression of an investment promotion office by presenting the options available to a visitor who has business interests



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in PNG. It also presents options to existing investors to diversify into different sectors.

At the homepage the website welcomes visitors with the presentation of the values of the IPA which are embedded in the Organisation's Strategic Plan and mission statements. The intention is to bring out the integrity of the Organisation and give assurance and confidence to visitors / investors on the quality of services they can expect should they wish to navigate their searches further.

The homepage also gives a back-

ground of what IPA is and the kind of services provided. This information further confirms with the visitors/investors that they have reached the right address for their investment interests and/or queries.

The rest are updates and information on what makes up the investment profile of the country. The key goal is that the website should serve as the first point for call for an investor where they get the first impression of the investment climate of the country. From there they move on to specific sectoral agencies to obtain specif-

ic data and licensing requirements.

At the IPA we serve as the country's investment flagship and the gateway to investment and trade in the country. It therefore has and will always be our goal to improve our visibility to the world while at the same time provide the best and quality services to attract more investments in the country.

We remain your Investment Promotion arm and we will continue to strive for excellence to serve our people and the country better.

First PNG-Solomon Islands Investment Conference set to strengthen bilateral ties ends on high note



IPA's Manager Investment Promotion Unit, Kamis Yalakun (Centre) with officers from the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI).

The inaugural Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands Investment Conference which was held at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara from August 19 to 20, 2026, ended on a high note.

Organized by the Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands Business Council (PNSIBC) and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), the conference was aimed at bolstering economic collaboration between the two nations under the theme, "From Opportunity to Investment: Building the PNG-Solomon Islands Growth Corridor."

This high-level strategic dialogue convened government leaders, investors, business executives, development partners, and industry representatives to explore new avenues for trade, investment, and commercial

partnerships.

PNG Prime Minister James Marape led a government delegation to attend the conference. He delivered the keynote address during the forum and announced that Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are seeking to deepen economic cooperation, increase cross-border investment and develop stronger business-to-business partnerships as the two Melanesian neighbours work to translate longstanding political ties into economic gains.

Marape highlighted the need for economic independence alongside political sovereignty, urging both countries to build resilient economies. He referenced the recent signing of the Framework Agreement on Development and Economic

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Tips & Traps

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

The reminders are in relation to business entities that are due for renewals or due for the lodgement of annual returns.

Agents, owner of business names and directors of companies will automatically receive messages from their emails notifying them of the status of their business entities.

Example:

If your company's annual return is due within a particular month, the system will send you an email notifying you. Or if you have gone past the due date, the system will also

inform you.

Companies who go past the filing date of their annual returns will be charged a penalty fee of K1000.00.

Users of the system should now be able to receive;

- **Automated reminder from the system 1 month before their Business Names expires.**
- **Automated reminder 1 month after the Business Name has expired.**
- **Automated reminder 1 month before a company's annual returns is due**
- **Automated reminder 1 month after a company's annual returns is due.**

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IPA's Manager for the Investment Promotion Unit, Kamis Yalakum speaking during the conference.

Cooperation 2026-2030 by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale, which sets the stage for cooperation in trade, mining, fisheries, agriculture, and infrastructure.

PNG already has a significant investment presence in Solomon Islands, with over 126 registered projects across 18 sectors, creating employment for more than 7,500 Solomon Islanders. Marape encouraged Solomon Islands businesses to explore opportunities in PNG and highlighted potential joint ventures in mining, fisheries, agriculture, energy, and tourism.

He called for responsible resource management, emphasizing local processing of marine resources and equitable participation in mining and energy projects. Marape also reaffirmed PNG's readiness to participate in joint initiatives that ensure Solomon Islanders benefit directly from their natural resources.

The leaders discussed enhancing bilateral trade, border arrangements, air connectivity, and other areas of cooperation. Marape stressed that a stronger economic corridor would bolster regional resilience and serve as a model for broader Melanesian and Pacific cooperation.

He concluded by urging businesses to identify practical projects, establish joint ventures, and capitalize on opportunities to build a prosperous future for both nations. "Our strength is in economic prosperity," Marape said, highlighting the importance of mutual growth for a resilient Melanesia.

Key focus areas that were discussed included expanding bilateral trade, promoting investment opportunities, supporting infrastructure development, creating employment, and strengthening local industries.

A significant highlight of the discussions was on the building of existing investment landscape, which currently sees Papua New Guinea businesses investing approximately K1 billion (around SBD 1.8 billion) in Solomon Islands.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) was among other PNG Government agencies and organisations that attended the conference. The IPA was represented by IPA's Manager for the Investment Promotion Unit, Kamis Yalakum who was a speaker during the conference.

Importantly, the Conference reinforced the significant opportunity for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to deepen bilateral cooperation in areas including trade, investment, financial services, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, telecommunications, energy, and SME development.

LEGAL UP-DATE

PNG strengthens Corporate Transparency with Beneficial Ownership Reforms

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), through the Office of the Registrar of Companies, is spearheading Papua New Guinea's (PNG) efforts to enhance corporate transparency and combat financial crimes. This initiative aligns PNG with international standards and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.

Key developments include the enactment of the Companies (Amendment) Act 2022, which introduced Beneficial Ownership (BO) obligations into PNG's corporate laws. The law requires companies to identify and disclose the true individuals who control or benefit from shares or interests, ensuring ownership

is traceable beyond legal entities.

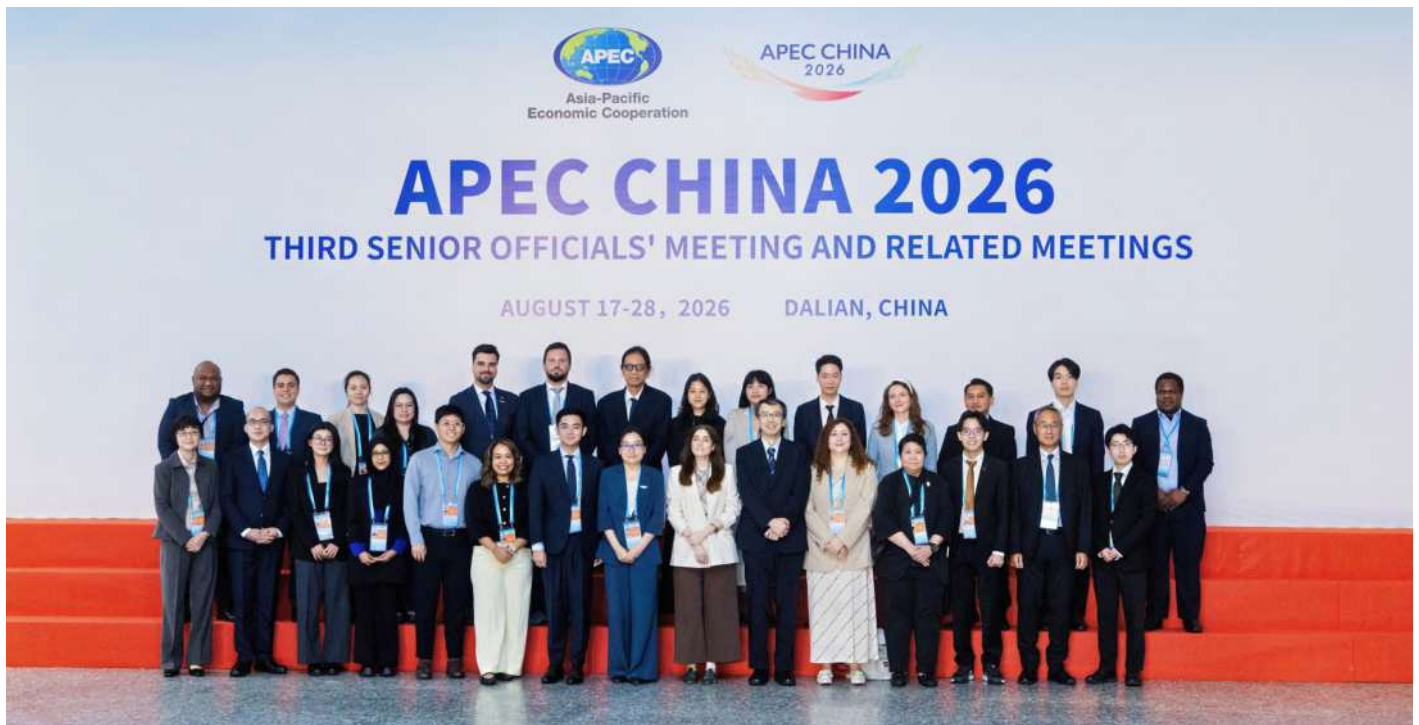
Under the amendments, beneficial owners are defined as natural persons who own or control shares or exercises ultimate effective control over a company. Companies must now collect detailed information on beneficial owners, including names, nationality, date of birth, address, and the nature of control exercised.

The IPA has conducted stakeholder engagement and awareness campaigns to educate government agencies, businesses, and regulators on legal protections, confidentiality, and the prohibition of bearer shares—anonymous ownership tools that are now banned.

These reforms aim to boost corporate accountability, strengthen governance, support law enforcement, and reduce risks related to money laundering, terrorism financing, corruption, and tax evasion. They are expected to improve investor confidence and ensure PNG's compliance with international AML/CFT standards.

Moving forward, the IPA is advancing further amendments to establish a Beneficial Ownership Register and enhance disclosure requirements, fostering a more transparent and trustworthy business environment in PNG.

APEC SOM3 and Investment meetings highlight Regional Cooperation and Impact Investing



The Third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM3) took place from August 17-28, 2026, in Dalian, China, bringing together senior officials and delegates from 21 member economies.

Under China's 2026 Host Year theme, "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together," the meetings focused on policy discussions, technical exchanges, and capacity-building to advance regional economic co-operation.

On August 22-23, the Second Investment Experts' Group Plenary Meeting (IEG 2) was held alongside SOM3, where Papua New Guinea's IPA Senior Investment Officer, Mr. Desmond Pokajam, represented the country.

Participants shared experiences on investment promotion, sustainable investment, impact investing, and digital transformation,

identifying shared challenges and priorities.

Meanwhile, PNG's Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) hosted a successful "Capacity Building Workshop on Sharing Best Practices & Approaches to Impact Investing" in Guangzhou, China, on February 2, 2026, during SOM2. The workshop's outcome report was published in June 2026, emphasizing the role of impact investing in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth.

During IEG 2, PNG presented key outcomes from the workshop, highlighting the importance of impact investing, measuring FDI impact, and adopting frameworks from global organizations like WEF, WTO, UNCTAD, and OECD. The presentation underscored the need for stronger regional collaboration and cross-fora cooperation to promote a transparent and predictable investment environment

in the Asia-Pacific region, aligned with the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action.



IPA's Senior Officers; Senior Investment Officer, Desmond Pokajam speaking during the SOM3 Meeting while Peterson Wavingare, Patent & Industrial Designs Examiner looks on.

PNGX Markets Limited alerts public to fraudulent Facebook pages using its name and logo

PNGX Markets Limited, the national stock exchange of Papua New Guinea, has issued a warning to the public regarding multiple fraudulent Facebook pages that are unlawfully using the PNGX name, logo, and official imagery to deceive individuals.

The exchange has also identified that certain Facebook pages are impersonating individual PNGX staff members, further increasing the risk of scams.

In recent weeks, PNGX has been inundated with inquiries from concerned individuals who have either fallen victim or are at risk of

losing money due to false claims made by these fake pages. The organization emphasizes that these pages are not affiliated with PNGX and warns the public to exercise caution when dealing with such online entities.

PNGX urges the public to verify any communications or offers claiming to be from the exchange through its official channels. The stock exchange also advises users to report suspicious pages or activity to Facebook and to contact PNGX directly for verification.

The authority reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and safeguard-

ing its reputation, stressing that it will take legal action against any parties involved in fraudulent activities.

For further information or to report suspicious activity, the public is encouraged to contact PNGX directly via their official website or official communication channels.



IPA Participates In 70th PNG Agriculture & Trade Festival In Goroka



IPA officers Participating during the Goroka Show. From Right: Ken Pep, Manager Marketing & Promotion Unit, Kenneth Mowi, Enforcement Officer and Solomon Silion Certification Officer.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) actively participated in the 70th PNG Agriculture & Trade Festival, held at the National Sports Institute (NSI) in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, from August 28-30, 2026.

Organized by the Farmers & Settlers Association Inc., the festival gathered government agencies, private-sector businesses, farmers, producers, and stakeholders involved in agriculture, trade, and related industries.

IPA's presence aimed to promote its services, assist businesses with registration and online account management, and explore new investment and business development opportunities within the region.

Over the three-day event, the agency received approximately 40 client inquiries, reflecting strong interest and engagement. A notable outcome was the successful introduction of Goroka Raw Honey to NISIT, offering an avenue for the business to access technical support for standards, calibration, and certification.

The festival underscored the importance of strengthening IPA's regional presence in Eastern Highlands and surrounding provinces through improved staffing, digital tools, increased visibility, and enhanced inter-agency collaboration.

The festival attracted a diverse range of private-sector participants, including companies such as Chemica, Agmark, Farmset, Hardware Haus, Brian Bell, Rumion Farms,

HomeState, PNG Ports Limited, Air Niugini, and Niugini Fruit Company.

Government and institutional representatives included the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), Food and Agriculture Program Development Authority (FPDA), Spice Board, PNG Biosecurity, Department of International Trade and Investment, PNG Tourism Organisation (NTO), SMEC, NISIT, IPA, NRI, and ICAC.

However, the absence of some key sector agencies, notably the Coffee Authority, TPA, Cocoa Board, and NFA, was noted—particularly given that the Coffee Authority is based in Goroka.

Future events are expected to benefit from increased participation by these relevant commodity and sector agencies.

Client traffic at the IPA booth was modest on the first two days, partly due to location within the NSI indoor complex. However, on the third day, relocating government agencies to the main exhibition area significantly boosted visitor engagement, indicating the importance of strategic positioning for future outreach efforts.

Overall, the festival provided valuable insights into regional business needs and opportunities, emphasizing the need for stronger inter-agency collaboration and enhanced visibility to support the growth of local enterprises in Eastern Highlands Province.



IPA officers assisting clients on how to create their IPA Online account during the show.

FACILITY BUILT FOR THE TONSU CRAB FARMING PROJECT

Work has commenced on the building of a pilot crab farm at Tanai, Napen Ward in the Tonsu Constituency, with the first export expected to be shipped in the third quarter of this year.

This was made possible by the Autonomous Bougainville Government with a funding support of K50,000 in June under its Independence Readiness Program.

Tonsu Marine Resources Limited (TMRL), the company responsible for managing the project has purchased materials and built storage facilities for the crabs. The facilities will be used to store crabs harvested or purchased from local farmers for sorting and fattening before they are packed and sent to Port Moresby for exporting.

In 2025, officials from TMRL visited a crab farm in Biotou, in the Kairuku Hiri District of Central Province, to study how local crab farms are set up and most importantly, the type of materials used to build the facilities. The trip included a visit to the National Fisheries Authority's storage facility at 8mile in Port Moresby. The mission enabled TMRL to strategise on how it could utilise traditional and available materials to build their farms. The team also sought the NFA's technical assistance in facilitating the export of Tonsu crabs to Singapore using their existing arrangements.

Member for Tonsu Constituency and Vice President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Hon. Ezekiel Masat told company executives that the project was a government supported initiative and therefore expected it to be delivered in a timely and transparent manner.

Tonsu Constituency in the West Coast of Buka is a maritime area which produces most of the crabs sold at the Buka market. Once the project is fully pledged with established smallholder farms in other Wards within the Constituency, it is expected to produce more than 10 tons of mud crabs per shipment.

The company plans to buy wild catch from local farmers in its initial stage while a satellite farm is being constructed to cater for a hatchery, fattening and other processing facilities.

The Tonsu crab farm is one of the Constituency's independence readiness projects.



How does TRADEMARK add value to Businesses?

An extract from Rebekah Houji - Category Brand Manager of Paradise Foods Limited

Workshop: Brand to Market: Strengthening Women-led Enterprise through Trademarks and Designs

Case study – How Trademarks add value to Businesses
Rebecca focuses on brand consistency and reliability

- Paradise Foods Limited is a 90+ year old company with well recognized brands such as Wopa, HiWay and emNau biscuits. Other brands to mention are Queen Emma Chocolate which is 100% PNG owned with Cocoa 100% grown in Papua New Guinea.
- Our brands have an emotional attachment to them with our consumers that have shared history.
- For example, brands like Wopa Biscuit have strong holds in Lae (Wopa Country), HiWay have strong holds in the Highlands regions when the Highlands highway had truckies going up and down from Lae and Cabin Biscuit which is sold in the New Guinea Islands Regions.
- Even with the change in bakery ownership, location, name changes, brands have long standing loyal consumers that rely on the “Paradise Foods” brand and

the product brand to trust the products are consistent and reliable.

- The history of Paradise Foods Limited can be found on the website [About Us - Paradise Foods Limited](#)
- Our brands have been successful because the quality has stayed consistent and reliable over the long 90 plus years of existence creating strong niche consumers that are loyal to the brands.
- Another important thing to note is the brands are also generationally loved. We will remember brands that people we trust use so its important to keep your products or what you offer consistent with your audience.
- Consistency and reliability protects your brand against counterfeits and copycats in trade as well.
- Protects against local competition, preventing consumer confusion and protects the reputation of your brand that you have spent years securing with your consumers.
- It is important to register not just your logo but the images associated with your brand as well.



Edidiman Frozen Taro project

Investment Proposal

The Edidiman Frozen Taro project is a component of the Regional Export Program of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. The project focused on sourcing taro from all existing Edidiman Registered Cooperatives in and Around Bougainville and Papua New Guinea and tapping into the international market with the support of key Agricultural Regulatory organizations and development partners through bilateral collaboration.

The company is seeking an international partner who is willing and capable of providing international market access to its products; bring in innovative production practices in addition to equity as foreign direct investment opportunities.

The project owner also looks to establish additional production facilities by purchasing new machinery equipment to ensure stable supply and constant production to cater to the growing demand in the market. Also, it sought other collaborations like having access to good markets abroad to ensure the return on investments equally rewards their hard work including the small farmers to boost their continuous production and supply. Sharing of technology and know-how skills is also important to make sure technical staff must be well versed in the handling or the production process to ensure quality products to compete with the other competitors.

Edidiman to date has over 1000 registered Taro Farmers to produce three

tones every 2 weeks of Taro which equates to 78 tonnes yearly with extensive quality control procedures. Farmers are actively supplying local clients such as Stop and Shop and as Disaster Relief to the Atolls of Bougainville.

Process: 1. Agriculture: Choice of perfect planting material for every product assured; periodic assessment, and review in farms to assure product quality; and the analysis process.

2. Quality assurance: Weighing & Receiving of Agro Raw Materials; Pre-Cooling; Cleaning, Blanching and Freezing processes.

3. Packaging: Storing; Packaging; Labeling 4. Shipment

Project Strengths

- * Locally grown fresh Taro
- * Providing Opportunities for the small-scale farmers
- * Creating Employment Opportunities for skilled workers
- * Establishing Markets Abroad
- * Capacity Building Training for its staff (know-how)
- * Their strength comes from valuing our partners and providing them with the highest quality of products, organic and best service. It believes in long-term relationships that bring value to both businesses.

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Projected Sector
Agriculture, hunting and related service activities
Projected Annual Sales
245.0K EUR
Products or services resulting from project
Agricultural, horticultural, forestry, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping machinery; including germination plant fitted with mechanical or thermal equipment; poultry incubators and brooders
Project Country
Papua New Guinea
Opportunity Type
Establishing a Joint Venture
Project Location
Buka Town, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea,
Projected Employment
46
Total Investment (Funding Gap)
2.0M EUR (1.5M EUR)

NOTICE BOARD

IPA CALLS FOR ASSOCIATIONS TO RE-REGISTER IN THE NEW ASSOCIATIONS REGISTRY SYSTEM

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) through the Office of the Registrar of Companies is calling on Association executives and members to come forward and re-register their entities in the Associations registry system.

This requirement comes after the Associations Incorporations Act 1966 was replaced by the Associations Incorporation Act 2023, changing how incorporated Associations operate.

All Associations are therefore required to re-register in the IPA's business registry system.

As of July 1st, 2026, all Associations in the registry have had their statuses in the registry changed and now showing as "Not yet re-registered". It is in this regard that the IPA is calling on the Associations to come forward and re-register by way of updating their information in the system.

Associations have until June 30th 2027 to re-register. Failing

to do that will result in Associations being removed from the registry.

The current status of the Associations may affect their banking transactions as well as other financial standings, hence, the need for them to re-register. More information about the process have been posted on the IPA website www.ipa.gov.pg.

Associations are encouraged to act promptly and engage with the office of the Registrar of Companies before the deadline.

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:
 - a. **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.
 - b. **Name and address of applicant.**
 - c. **Initial Committee Members:** Name and address for the initial committee members.
 - d. **Public Officer:** Name and address for the officer.
 - e. **Addresses:** Registered office and other relevant addresses.
 - f. **Rules/Constitution:** A copy (PDF) of the proposed rules governing the association.
 - g. **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. 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



IPA rolls out awareness on Association Re-registration

DEADLINE: 30 JUNE 2027

Throughout Papua New Guinea

For more information:
Contact Warren Mathias by emailing:
warren.mathias@ipa.gov.pg

YOU SAID IT... EMU HEREVA

Acknowledgement of guidance and direction received from IPA

“ On behalf of Fresh Honey Distributor Limited (FHDL) I wish to formally acknowledge the support provided by the IPA since the registration in May 2020.

The IPA was instrumental in providing guidance on investment opportunity in honey production, attending conferences and meetings within PNG.

Ms. Susie Wahasoka
Managing Director

”



**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](#)



Beverly.Piawu@ipa.gov.pg

We will publish a selection of questions and our answers in each issue of *Invest PNG* newsletter.

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Your Investment,
Our advice”**

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