



FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Greetings Readers and welcome to the fourth edition of our Invest PNG newsletter for 2026.

Here at the IPA we are committed to sharing the progress we are making in fostering a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable business environment across Papua New Guinea.

This month, we participated in the Pacific Energy Investment Forum held at the APEC Haus in Port Moresby. I had the honour of delivering the keynote address, emphasizing key investment strategies, the importance of a business-friendly environment

in PNG, and how IPA continues to support renewable energy projects. I highlighted the vital role of innovative and increased investment in accelerating the energy transition across the Pacific Islands.

In addition, we co-organized the PNG-China Business Roundtable and B2B meetings in Guangzhou, China — a milestone event that brought together over 300 government officials, industry leaders, and investors. This high-level engagement underscores PNG's strategic priorities to expand market access, attract foreign investment, and deepen economic ties with China. It also provided an excellent platform to showcase sector opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, mining, energy, and tourism, fostering valuable business linkages.

Watch this space for more followup engagements.

Locally, our efforts included our participation in the annual Cocoa Show of Excellence in Wewak, East Sepik Province. We also facilitated visits from international chocolatiers to connect with local cocoa farmers in Yangoru-Saussia District, Morobe Province, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville — a vital

step towards promoting the growth of PNG's cocoa industry.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to jointly host the 5th EU-PNG Business Forum in June, an event poised to strengthen ties with European partners and open new avenues for investment.

As always, our dedication remains steadfast in driving progress, encouraging collaboration, and creating an enabling environment for doing business in PNG. 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.

Happy reading!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

NEWS

IPA Highlights Growing Energy Investments in PNG

The Energy sector remains one of the key sectors which the Government of Papua New Guinea continues to provide incentives for investors. Such incentives include tax holidays for qualifying projects, infrastructure tax credits, accelerated deductions and concessions for renewable energy equipment.

Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority, Mr. Clarence Hoot

highlighted this when delivering his keynote speech at the Pacific Energy Investment Forum held at the APEC Haus in Port Moresby.

His presentation highlighted key investment strategies, the business-friendly environment in Papua New Guinea, and how IPA supports renewable energy projects.

Mr. Hoot emphasized on how vital



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innovative and increased investment is speeding up the energy transition across the Pacific Islands. He mentioned that IPA is still the main investment facilitator in the country, aiding both local and foreign investors with business registration, investment promotion, and policy advocacy.

His presentation also outlined the investment climate, emphasizing how the PNG Government fosters the improvement of business competitiveness and increases economic activity in the country.

Mr Hoot further revealed the impact of major foreign investors over the last five years, including countries like Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia. "These nations have put substantial funds into areas like energy, infrastructure, mining, construction, logistics, and financial services," said Mr Hoot.

He said the LNG industry is a key player in the nation's economy, with ongoing expansions and downstream processing projects pushing growth. Meanwhile, Mr Hoot further added that investments in

renewable energy like hydropower, solar power, and rural electrification are on the rise as the country aims to enhance energy accessibility and reliability.

Despite a favorable outlook of investments, Hoot acknowledged the various challenges which he said remained as binding constraints yet presented themselves as possible business opportunities. He said areas such as the infrastructure gaps, high operational costs, limited access to financing, and a lack of skilled labor hindered business and investment growth in the country. Mr. Hoot on the other hand pointed out existing opportunities that emerge through renewable energy projects such as industrial parks, local supply chains, and public-private partnerships.

Mr. Hoot concluded his presentation by urging long-term investment partnerships that foster sustainable economic growth and energy-driven development, not just in Papua New Guinea but across the Pacific region.

Papua New Guinea and China strengthen trade ties at Guangzhou Business Roundtable



Prime Minister Marape highlighted PNG's commitment to expanding trade and investment, emphasizing opportunities in downstream processing, renewable energy, and infrastructure.

The PNG-China Business Roundtable and Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings held in Guangzhou, China this month marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, attracting over 300 participants including government officials, industry leaders, and investors.

Convened during Prime Minister James Marape's official visit to Guangzhou and Shenzhen in China, the event was jointly organized by PNG's Investment Promotion Authority and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), with strong coordinated support from the PNG Embassy in Beijing.

The high-level engagement was aligned with PNG's strategic priorities to expand market access, attract foreign investment, and deepen economic ties with China.

It was also aimed to promote PNG as a prime investment destination, showcase sector opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, mining, energy, and tourism, and foster direct business linkages.

The PNG delegation comprised over 34 officials and business leaders, while Chinese representatives included senior CCPIT executives and provincial authorities, representing major Chinese enterprises across various sectors.

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.

Six (6) months after your company fails to pay the penalty and the annual return fees, it will be removed from the IPA Registry. The Companies status will now show as REMOVED and owners of the company will now have to pay the reinstatement fee of K2500 plus the outstanding annual return fee of K250 and the penalty fee of K1000.

For business names, after 2 years of not renewing your business, the business name will be cancelled and you will now have to pay a penalty fee of K250.

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.

Prime Minister Marape highlighted PNG's commitment to expanding trade and investment, emphasizing opportunities in downstream processing, renewable energy, and infrastructure. Sector-specific presentations and discussions led to numerous business leads, notably in coffee, fisheries, agriculture, and energy.

Chinese companies expressed strong interest in sourcing PNG coffee, developing fisheries partnerships, and investing in

renewable energy and infrastructure projects.

The event also saw the signing of an agreement in principle to enhance institutional cooperation between PNG's IPA and CCPIT, focusing on joint investment missions and information exchange. Despite positive outcomes, challenges such as logistical costs and the need for streamlined processes were acknowledged.

Recommendations to sustain momen-

tum include establishing a PNG-China Investment Working Group, fast-tracking high-interest sectors, and increasing PNG's promotional presence in China.

The success of this roundtable lays a solid foundation for ongoing trade and investment cooperation, promising robust economic growth and stronger bilateral ties between Papua New Guinea and China.

Sepik Cocoa Show of Excellence and Trade Expo 2026



It was all about cocoa and quality at the Cocoa Show of Excellence in Wewak, East Sepik Province.

The Greater Sepik Cocoa Show of Excellence & Trade Expo 2026 ended was held from the 21st to 23rd April, 2026, at the Sir Michael Somare Stadium in Wewak, East Sepik Province.

The show is a major national event and showcased premium PNG cocoa and connected local farmers directly with international specialty buyers.

Chocolatiers from Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Europe flew into Wewak to participate in the event.

The three-days expo was attended by local farmers from all over East and West Sepik Provinces and other Provinces, including Milne Bay, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Chimbu, Morobe, Madang, East and West New Britain, Oro Central, and New Ireland Provinces.

The event drew over 20 specialty cocoa buyers and thousands of attendees, including farmers and extension officers from East and West New Britain.

The Cocoa Show exposes market op-

portunities for the local farmers directly to the buyers.

This was the first Cocoa of Excellence event led jointly by the East Sepik and West Sepik Provincial Governments rather than centrally by the Cocoa Board, marking a shift toward regional leadership.

Along the margins of the event, the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) facilitated the visit of – Ms. Jodie Stewart of Pacific Islands Trade Invest-Europe, Mr. Yann Gaitan of Valrhona and a group of chocolatiers, who were in the country to conduct research through farm/plantation visits in East Sepik Province, Morobe Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).



Urimo Cocoa farm - Sauso LLG, Yangoru - Saussia, East Sepik Province



Nursery at Wia Trade in Lae, Morobe Province

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Mr. Gaitan's mission focused mainly on gathering information on specialty cocoa, traceability, and consistency in supply. Furthermore, Mr. Gaitan also focused on quality farm management practices – including planting methods, pruning, and post-harvest methods such as fermenting, drying and storage.

The chocolatiers who were part of the delegation include pastry chefs, cocoa sourcers, and those who have a shared interest in PNG's cocoa. The Pacific Island Invest-Europe facilitated the involvement of these chocolatiers.



Arigua Plantation, Central Bougainville, AROB

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 longstanding 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.

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.

5th EU – Papua New Guinea Business Forum

The European Union Delegation has announced that registrations have been opened for the 5th European Union – Papua New Guinea Business Forum in Port Moresby on the 2-3 June 2026 at the Hilton Hotel.

The theme of the forum is *“the EU Global Gateway for Sustainable Investment, Connectivity and Growth in Papua New Guinea,”* and is aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and promote sustainable investment opportunities between Papua New Guinea and the European Union.

The two-day forum will focus on three key thematic areas, namely sustainable infrastructure and green transition, inclusive and sustainable

extractive industries development and agriculture value chains. Discussions will also cover renewable energy, safe water access, digital transformation, and connectivity.

According to the organizers, the forum will provide a dedicated platform for participants to advance economic ties and unlock the full potential of the EU – Papua New Guinea trade and investment partnership. The program will feature panel discussions, interactive sessions, and site visits around Port Moresby related to the forum themes.

A limited number of travel support opportunities will also be available for micro, small, and medi-

um-sized enterprise (MSMEs) from Papua New Guinea located outside of Port Moresby, as well as participants from the European Union.

The forum is being organized within the framework of the EU-Papua New Guinea partnership and Government of Papua New Guinea. It is coordinated by the Delegation of the European Union to Papua New Guinea in partnership with the International Trade Centre and in cooperation with the PNG-Europe Business Council Inc.



KNOW ABOUT IP

IPO PNG's new e-filing system

If you have a business entity that has a trade mark, a patent and a industrial design you can protect your IP rights by registering with the Intellectual Property Office of Papua New Guinea.

The good news is that the Intellectual Property Office of PNG now has a new e-Filing system” for Trademarks, Patents and Industrial Designs.

The new eFiling system is a single online portal for local IP Agents and IP right holders to electronically file new trade mark, patent, industrial design applications with supporting documents to the National IP Office.

To access IPOPNG e-Filing System please go to the web address-www.ipopng.gov.pg/ipopng-e-filing-system And to register as IPOPNG e-Filing System User, download the [User/Agent Registration Form](#).

For further queries send email to: registrar.ipopng@ipa.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)



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to Company Directors, Shareholders and Authorized Agents

LIST OF REMOVED COMPANIES AND EXPIRY OF TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESTORATION OF COMPANIES REMOVED ON 5TH DECEMBER 2023

This notice serves to inform company directors, shareholders and authorized agents that the prescribed two-year period for undertaking administrative reinstatement of companies that were **de-registered** on the **5th of December 2023** expired on the **5th of December 2025**.

That is, after **5th December 2025**, administrative reinstatement no longer applies to companies deregistered on 5th December 2023; instead, removed companies will now be required to apply to the national court for reinstatement.

However, we have extended the administrative reinstatement period for another 3 months which will **expire** on **31st MARCH 2026**. We have made this decision considering the difficult operating environment for businesses so to allow sufficient time for companies to come forward and undertake administrative reinstatement. It must be reiterated that after 31st MARCH 2026, companies will need to apply to the national court for reinstatement if they fail to apply by then.

As a background, pursuant to **Section 439A** of the **Companies Amendment Act 2022**, all companies were required to file re-registration application within a 12-months period on or before **1st December 2023**, the transitional end date. The purpose of this re-registration process was to update company records to be compliant with the new statutory requirements.

Companies that failed to comply with this requirement were consequently removed from the Register of Companies on **5th December 2023**. They were then given 2 years from the above removal date to undertake administrative reinstatement process pursuant to **Section 378A(2)(a)** of the **Companies Amendment Act 2022**. That 2-year period had **lapsed** as of **5th December 2025** hence this extension by another 3 months to **31st March 2026**.

Considering the above, this office strongly urges all affected companies to take advantage of the stated extension of time to avoid the additional legal and procedural requirements associated with court-ordered reinstatement.

For ease of reference, a consolidated list of removed companies has been published on our website which can be directly accessed through

<https://www.ipa.gov.pg/Documentation/PG/PublicNotices/PG.EntitiesRemovedForLateAR.PDF>

Note that it is illegal to carry on business under a removed company name. We further advise that, under Section 373 of the Companies Act, all assets of removed companies are vested with the Registrar of Companies. As such, stakeholder regulatory bodies (MVIL, Lands Department, IRC and FASU) and Financial Institutions/Banks are strongly advised to take appropriate clients/customer due diligence actions as well.

If your company is on this list and continuing to carry on business, it is advisable that you take immediate steps to reinstate your company. We will be happy to assist you through the processes. Please contact our customer service team at ipaonline@ipa.gov.pg or nashh@ipa.gov.pg

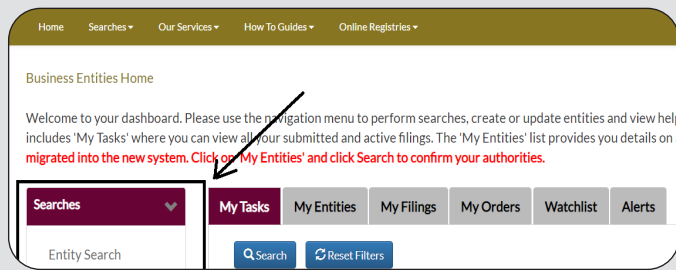
Authorized by:

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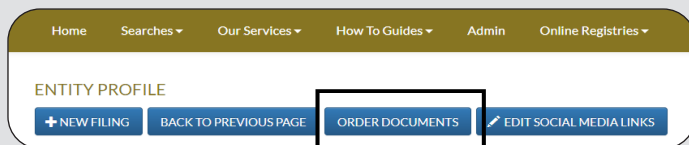
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

How to view, access or order Certificate of Good Standing

1. Create an online account (if you still don't have one).
2. From the dashboard of your online account, conduct an Entity Search.



3. Type in the name of the business entity you are after and click on Search. Locate the business entity name and click on it.
4. This should take you to the Entity's Profile. Click on "Order Documents".



5. Select document you want to order and make payment.
Note: Full Entity Profile Access for 24 hours costs K10, COGS short form costs K20 and COGS long form costs K50.
6. If payment is successful, go back to your **Dashboard** click on **My Order**, type in the name of your business entity in the appropriate box and click on **Search**.

Take Note when making an Order or Viewing Records:

- (a) If a business entity has been reregistered or updated:
 - (i) You can see the field for "Order Document"
 - (ii) If you are an **authorized user**, you can view your business entity's existing records and searches for FREE. But you will still need to order a COGS and pay a fee;
 - (iii) If you are **not** an **authorized** user you can view only very basic information and can Order Documents for full Entity Profile access or order a COGS.
- (b) If the business entity is not reregistered or has not filed an update:
 - (i) You will not see the field for "Order Document"
 - (ii) You can only view the name of the entity, registration number and date, status, registered address, postal address, email address and names of types of filings made (not the contents of the filing)
 - (iii) You are urged to reregister or update the business entity or urge the entities to do so for the system to generate a COGS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Regulators Summit

8th -9th July, 2026

To be held at Unitech,
Lae, Morobe Province.

Contact;
Daroa Peter on daroap@ipa.gov.pg or
Kamis Yalakun on kyalakun@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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