

FROM THE MD's DESK



CLARENCE M HOOT
Managing Director

Greetings, readers, and welcome to the seventh edition of our Invest PNG newsletter for the month of July, 2026.

It is again our pleasure to bring you another engaging and informative edition filled with the latest news and stories from the Investment Promotion Authority. We hosted our 3rd Business Regulators Summit at the prestigious University of Technology in Lae, Morobe Province on the 8th and 9th of July—an event that

brought together key stakeholders to discuss and shape the future of business regulation in Papua New Guinea. Be sure to read more about this significant gathering within these pages.

Coinciding with the summit, I had the honor of launching our new promotional website (www.investpng.gov.pg), a vital platform dedicated to showcasing PNG as a premier investment destination. We believe this digital initiative will play a crucial role in informing and attracting investors worldwide.

On another hopeful note, we are pleased to announce the signing of MoUs with SANTOS and the Papua New Guinea Institute of Directors (PNGID). These arrangements aim to identify and promote investment/business opportunities, strengthen governance, compliance, and leadership within landowner companies and SMEs operating in SANTOS project footprints—an essential step toward sustainable development.

Looking ahead, we are excited about working closely with the newly appointed Minister for Commerce & Industry, Honourable Wake Goi, MP. His recent

visit to our Port Moresby office and his commitment to advancing key projects, including submissions to the NEC and legal reforms, signal a positive trajectory for improving Papua New Guinea's investment climate. More details on this story can be found in this edition.

As always, our commitment remains steadfast—to foster progress, encourage collaboration, and create an enabling environment for doing business in Papua New Guinea. I invite you to explore the articles within this newsletter to learn more about our recent activities, achievements, and future plans.

As usual, we welcome contributions from you, our readers, and your thoughts mean a lot to us as well.

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

NEWS

IPA successfully hosted its 3rd Business Regulators Summit, focused on Reforming Reserved Business Activities

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) successfully hosted its 3rd Business Regulators Summit at the University of Technology in Lae, Morobe Province from the 8th and 9th of July, 2026.

The summit which was supported by Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited and the National Fisheries Authority explored critical issues surrounding the Reserve Activities List (RAL) and its role in promoting inclusive economic growth.

Continue on to next page.....



Participants gathered for photo session during the 3rd Regulators Summit.

continued from previous page.....

Under the theme "Balancing National Participation and Global Investment: Reforming Reserved Business Activities for Inclusive Growth," the summit was aimed at fostering dialogue among government regulators, industry stakeholders, academia, civil society and international experts. The event builds on previous summits held in 2019 and 2024, emphasizing

entrepreneurs while attracting foreign investment.

The summit's primary goal is to promote understanding and collaboration across sectors, addressing concerns that foreign entities may be taking over businesses meant for national operators.

Participants scrutinized the RAL's role, identify regulatory gaps, and develop

regulatory environment.

Day one featured a forum with sessions on benchmarking PNG's regulation against regional and global best practices, sectoral licensing, and enforcement challenges. Day two focused on academic engagement, encouraging research, debate, and policy analysis on the impacts of the RAL on local participation, economic growth, and social inclusion.

The event also aimed at involving provincial and municipal authorities, ensuring regional voices are heard in shaping policies that balance national interests with international investment opportunities. It underscores PNG's commitment to fostering a regulatory framework that supports indigenous businesses, enhances local content, and facilitates sustainable economic development.

The summit represents a significant step toward refining PNG's business environment and ensuring that regulatory reforms support both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors, ultimately contributing to inclusive growth in the country.



Participants during the 3rd Regulators Summit at the University of Technology, Lae.

the need to reform and better regulate business reservations to support local

policy recommendations to create a more transparent, efficient, and digitally driven

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.

Registrar of Companies discharged following committal court ruling

The Board and the Management of the Investment Promotion acknowledge the ruling delivered by the Waigani Committal Court on 16 July 2026, in which Senior Provincial Magistrate Albert Daniels struck out all charges against the Registrar of Companies, Mr David A. Kil, and ordered his immediate discharge.

Mr Kil had been charged with Official Corruption, Abuse of Office and Conspiracy to Commit a Crime. After considering the Police Hand-Up Brief and hearing submissions from both parties, the Court found and ruled that the charges were defective and the evidence presented by Police was insufficient to warrant the matter being committed to the National Court for trial.

In relation to the charges of Official Corruption and Abuse of Office, the Court found that the Registrar did not receive anything or benefit personally and his actions were undertaken in compliance with a valid National Court Order directing the reinstatement of the company concerned. The Court held that compliance with a lawful court order could not, on the evidence before it, amount to criminal conduct.

The Magistrate also found that the charges had not been properly pleaded and were defective from the outset. In

addressing the Abuse of Office charge, His Worship Albert Daniels queried how a public official could be arrested and prosecuted for complying with a National Court Order, remarking that such a case was unprecedented in Papua New Guinea, if not the world.

With respect to the conspiracy allegation, the Court found that the Police case was fundamentally flawed. The Magistrate noted that the Police alleged that Mr. Kil and another had conspired to take out the National Court Order a month after the relevant National Court Orders had already been made and entered, and remarked that "common sense had to prevail" in assessing the chronology of events.

Having found that the essential elements of the offences had not been established and that there was insufficient evidence to sustain the charges, the Court ordered that all charges be struck out, the Registrar be discharged immediately, and his bail monies refunded. The Court affirmed that the whole case was an abuse of the Court process.

The Office further notes that another staff member, **Ms Belinda Karl**, who was also implicated in a related matter concerning the same entity. On the **9th of March 2026**, the **Public Prosecutor** filed

a *Nolle Prosequi* application in the **National Court**, formally discontinuing the prosecution, The Public Prosecutors office informed the National Court that the evidence compiled by the Police Investigation was insufficient to pursue the allegations. The National Court, per Berrigan J, granted the application and discharged Ms. Karl, thereby ending the proceedings entirely.

The discharge of the Registrar's case and the Public Prosecutors' refusal to prosecute Ms. Karl's case reflects that the proper legal and administrative processes were followed and that appropriate steps were taken to deal with these matters. The outcomes in both cases demonstrate that the allegations were ultimately unable to be sustained before the Courts. The Board of IPA and the Office of the Managing Director welcome the Court's decision, which affirms the importance of public officials carrying out their statutory duties in accordance with lawful orders of the Courts. The Office remains committed to upholding the rule of law, maintaining the integrity of the corporate registry, and performing its functions independently, impartially and in accordance with the Companies Act and the laws of Papua New Guinea.

LEGAL UP-DATE

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.

Santos partners with IPA and PNGID to strengthen landowner company governance



Santos SVP PNG Stakeholder Management Wayne Kasou and PNGIPA Managing Director and PNGID President Clarence Hoot (front) with Santos, PNGIPA and PNGID representatives at the signing of two MOUs to strengthen governance and leadership capability for landowner companies in Port Moresby on 31 July 2026.

Santos has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority (PNGIPA) and the Papua New Guinea Institute of Directors (PNGID) to strengthen governance, compliance and leadership capability among landowner companies and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in Santos project areas.

The partnerships reflect Santos' commitment to building local business capability and supporting sustainable economic participation in communities connected to its operations across Papua New Guinea.

Under the agreement with PNGIPA, San-

tos and the Authority will work together to identify business opportunities for the local people, deliver governance, statutory compliance and business capability programs for landowner companies and SMEs. The initiative will focus on strengthening director capability, regulatory compliance, financial reporting awareness, and anti-fraud practices, while improving understanding of PNGIPA reforms and digital systems.

Santos has also formalised a three-year partnership with PNGID to provide director development training for Santos-contracted landowner companies, selected Santos

employees and community-based SMEs. The program will deliver training in corporate governance, board effectiveness, strategic leadership, financial literacy, and risk management, helping to build a stronger pipeline of capable local business leaders. Santos Senior Vice President PNG Stakeholder Management Wayne Kasou signed both agreements on behalf of Santos with IPA Managing Director and President of the PNG Institute of Directors Clarence Hoot.

Mr Kasou said the partnerships represented an important investment in the long-term success and sustainability of landowner companies and local businesses.

By working with PNGIPA and PNGID, Santos is supporting stronger governance standards, improved compliance and enhanced transparency across landowner companies operating in its project footprints. The partnerships will help equip directors and business leaders with the skills and knowledge required to participate more effectively in Papua New Guinea's growing economy and resource sector.

Mr Hoot on the other hand stressed the importance of the partnership and the potential collaboration to promote business opportunities for our local people while also driving the transparency, accountability and good governance amongst landowner companies.

New Minister for Commerce and Industry visits IPA and expresses his support

This month, the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) welcomed the newly appointed Minister for Commerce and Industry, Wake Goi, during his introductory visit to IPA.

The Minister also held a brief meeting with IPA's Managing Director, Mr. Clarence Hoot.

The Minister was accompanied by his First Secretary, Mr. Reuben Maino, and Deputy Secretary for Policy with the Department of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kelly Sulum. Minister Goi was warmly received by IPA management and staff, who observed the discussions.

During the meeting, Mr. Hoot briefed the Minister on the mandate and current initiatives of the IPA, which the Minister appreciated and acknowledged. Hon. Wake Goi expressed his openness to collaborating closely with the IPA Board, management, and staff to advance the agency's work.

He also indicated that he plans to return soon for further engagement with IPA staff, emphasizing his strong support and willing-



The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Wake Goi, (Centre) held a brief meeting with IPA's Managing Director, Mr. Clarence Hoot, and senior management of IPA during the visit at IPA Head Office, Port Moresby.

ness to assist in progressing key projects, including submissions to the National Executive Council (NEC) and legal reforms aimed at improving the investment climate.

Mr. Hoot advised IPA divisions working on NEC

submissions and legal reform matters to take note of the Minister's support, which is expected to facilitate smoother progress through Cabinet and Parliament.

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.

Continue on to next page.....



◀ continued from previous page.....

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.

PUBLICATION

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

Authorizing Head: Mr Clarence Hoot, Managing Director

Beverly Puton Piawu: Senior Public Relations Officer
Nasayau Lurang: Assistant Public Relations Officer
Raphael Momong: Graphic Designer

IPA BRANCHES:

Port Moresby, Head Office
Level 1, IPA HAUS, Munidubu Street
(Corner of Lawes Rd and Champion Pde)
Konedobu, Port Moresby

Phone: (675) 308 4400 / (675) 321 7311
Facsimile: (675) 320 2237
Email: ipa@ipa.gov.pg

Lae Regional Office
Level 1, Nambawan Supa Building,
P.O. Box 1074, Lae,
Morobe Province

Phone: (675) 479 2001 / 479 2606
Fax: (675) 479 2001
Email: ipalae@ipa.gov.pg

Mt. Hagen Regional Office
Level 1, Gapina Building,
P.O. Box 1834, Mt. Hagen,
Western Highlands Province,

Phone: (675) 542 0399
Fax: (675) 542 0599
Email: ipahagen@ipa.gov.pg

Kokopo Regional Office
Ground Floor, Marau Haus,
P.O. Box 870, Kokopo,
East New Britain Province,

Phone: (675) 982 9460
Fax: (675) 479 2001
Email: iparabaul@ipa.gov.pg

Buka Regional Office
Commerce Office, Haku Street
P.O. Box 782, Buka
AROI

Phone: (675) 973 9344 / 973 9189
Fax: (675) 973 9344
Email: ipa_buka@ipa.gov.pg



IPA

www.ipa.gov.pg



www.ipopng.gov.pg

**“Your business,
Your Investment,
Our advice”**

Disclaimer > Opportunity is intended to provide information of a general nature only. The content of this newsletter is not intended to be advice or recommendation. It is not appropriate for the purposes of carrying out a transaction or making an investment decision. > The IPA takes reasonable steps to ensure the information provided in the newsletter is accurate and up-to-date at the time of issue, as well as to obtain reliable content from third parties. However, the IPA does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information or endorse the views or opinions given by any third party provider, nor takes responsibility for any errors made in the process of providing this newsletter.