

# ppportunity

Issue #12 December, 2023

Business News, Reviews and Updates from the IPA

## MD's INBOX



**CLARENCE M HOOT**  
Managing Director

Dear Readers,

Congratulations in making it to the end of 2023. I know it was a tough one for businesses but I'm certain that good management skills are what kept you this far.

The IPA as a Government Agency also had a hectic year as we tried to get our systems and processes on par with the priorities of the Government of the day.

In the beginning of this year, the IPA had

a list of key priorities which we wanted to achieve this year. These were mostly programs that are in the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan which expires at the end of this year.

We anticipate that once all our new laws have been fully certified then we should be able to achieve a 100% of our Strategic Plan. We have already drafted our 2024-2027 Strat Plan which will come into effect next year.

As you will note, this newsletter edition comprises mostly of our key programs for the year and serves as year in review for the IPA.

In our compliance efforts we have ceased the grace period for Business Names and Companies who have not renewed their certificates or re-registered their certificates. See our inside story with statistics and comparisons of the number of entities registered in the registry against those that have complied.

For the first time again IPA has received Government support through the 2024 PIP budget. Given this financial support, the IPA is planning to go all out in terms of private sector support, especially the SMEs in the provinces.

With the Papua LNG Project getting off the ground and the Porgera Mine re-opening, the IPA is keen on empowering our SMEs so there is local participation in these projects through spin offs.

With these remarks let me thank you all for the partnership and collaboration this year. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we delivered our programs this year. We hope to do better in the New Year in continuing to improve our services and programs for the benefit of our clientele.

We will break for the Christmas period on Friday 22nd December 2023 and resume on Tuesday January 2nd 2024.

I wish you all a safe celebration of the festive season and may the joy and peace that come with the season fill your homes this Christmas.

*Have a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.*

Thank you!!

**Clarence M Hoot**  
Managing Director

## IN THE NEWS

### IPA YEAR IN REVIEW

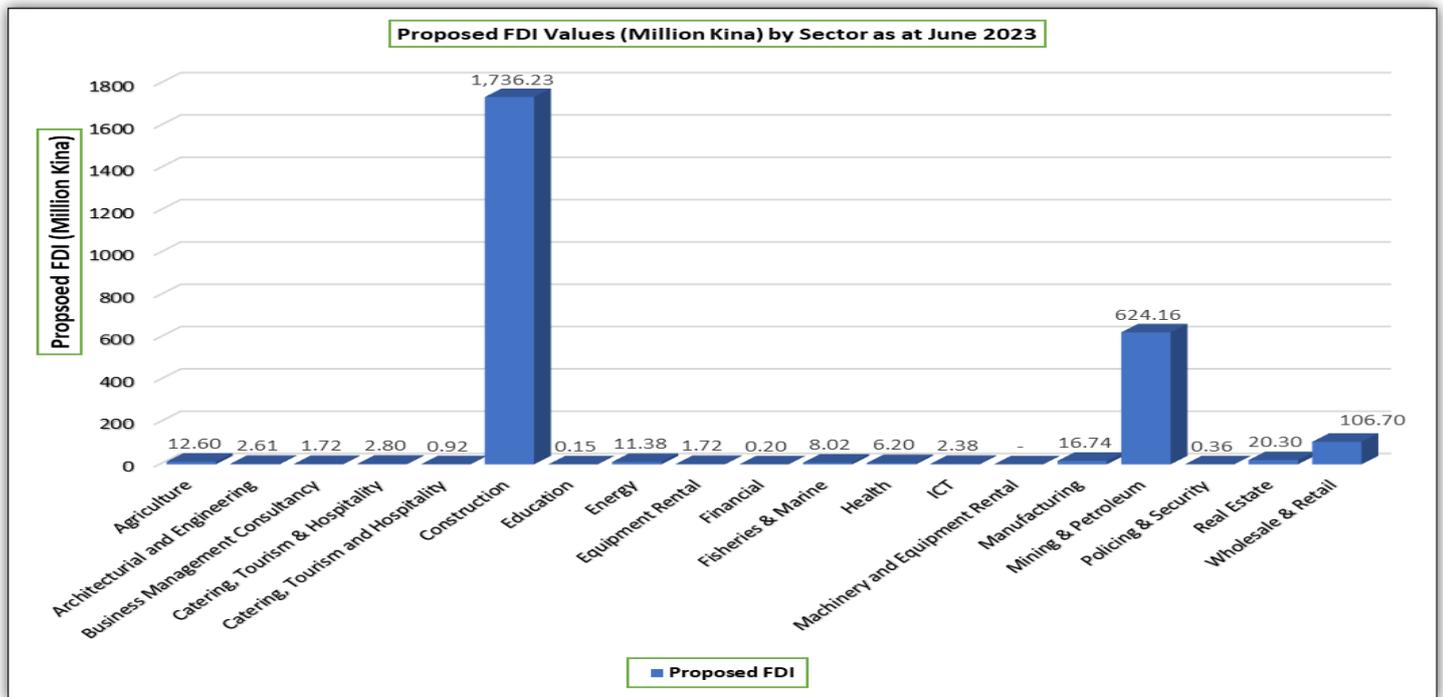
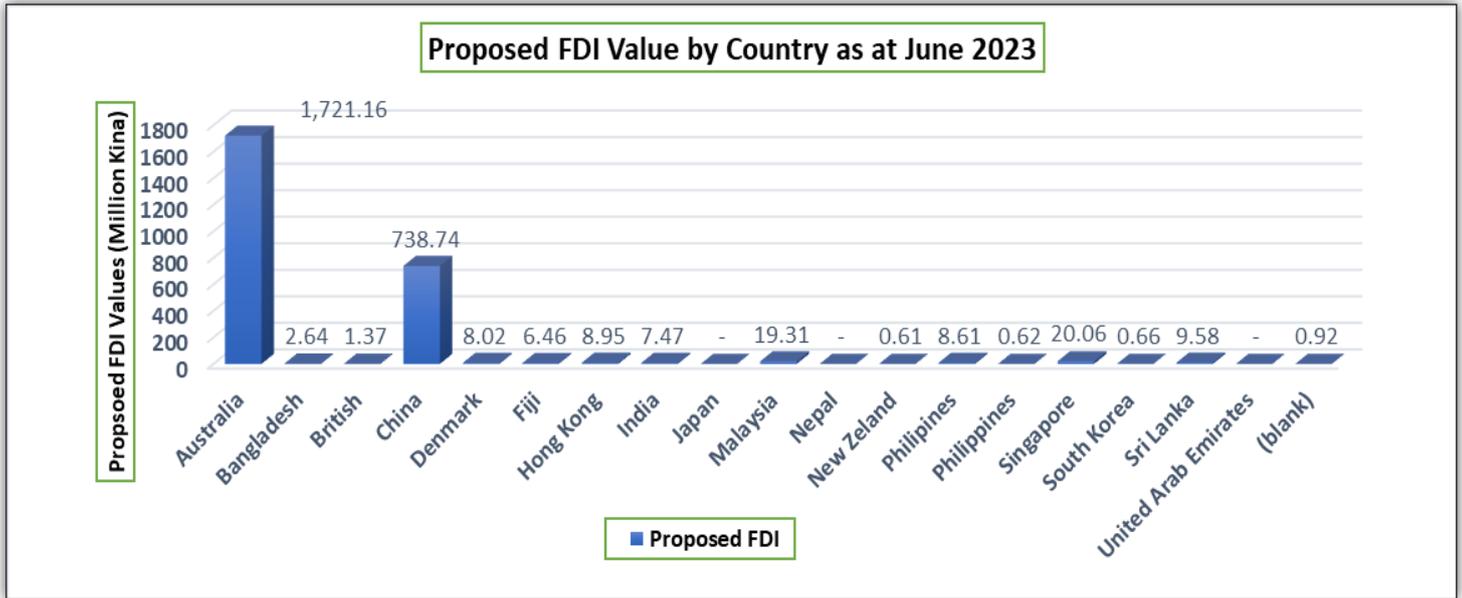
Despite the economic challenges faced in the country the IPA managed to deliver its programs successfully.

The IPA facilitated a number of investment interests from various countries this year.

The Organisation also continued assisting both foreign and local companies through its aftercare services.



## THE TABLES BELOW HIGHLIGHT THE INVESTMENT SINCE JUNE THIS YEAR.



## IPA COMMITMENT IN NATIONAL CONTENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

To ensure that IPA services are widely accessed, the IPA extended its partnership through the signing of three more Memorandum of Understanding this year with Provincial Administrations and Government Agencies.

This now brings a total of MOUs signed with Government Agencies to six and 11 provincial administrations.

Agencies that have signed an MOU with IPA so far include; Department of Implementation and Rural Development (DIRD), Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (ICSA), PNG Customs Services (PNGCS), Internal Revenue Commission (IRC), National Cultural Commission (NCC), National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA).

Provinces that have signed MOUs with IPA include; Madang, Mo-

robe, East Sepik, Milne Bay, New Ireland, East New Britain, West New Britain, Manus, Eastern Highlands, Oro and Enga.

The IPA also worked with development partners to develop export pathways for domestic SMEs. Work is ongoing with the EU STREIT program through Food and Agriculture Organisation’s (FAO) proposal to look at niche agriculture investment on vanilla, cocoa and coconut.

The IPA also conducted awareness and training programs around the country to empower SMEs and businesses in the provinces. Provinces covered in the awareness program included; Gulf, Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands, Sandaun, Morobe, East New Britain, Oro, AROB and Enga Provinces.

## POST EXPO WORK CONTINUED IN 2023

THE IPA this year coordinated a post expo ministerial delegation to Dubai led by then Minister for Commerce and Industry Hon. Henry Amuli.

The Minister took the opportunity to follow up on the investment opportunities presented through the twenty-two (22) Letters of Intent (LOIs) that were signed during the Expo 2020. These interests by investors relate to the processing and ex-

port of coffee and mineral products, smart city, port development and carbon trade prospects.

These opportunities have the potential to bring in foreign direct investment and facilitate domestic economic growth, including the creation of employment through both SME development and corporate expansion.

## RESERVED ACTIVITIES LIST

THE Reserved Activities List (RAL) is currently being reviewed. A committee consisting of reps from key economic agencies has been formed to progress consultations on the revised list.

In the new Investment Promotion (Amendment) Act 2022, it calls for the RAL to be reviewed every three years. As such, the list is now due for the next review.

## NEW ONLINE REGISTRY SYSTEM AND COMPLIANCE EXERCISE

THE IPA successfully deployed its new registry system on December 1st 2022. As of date the system is working well and certain compliance features have been added to make compliance more easier.

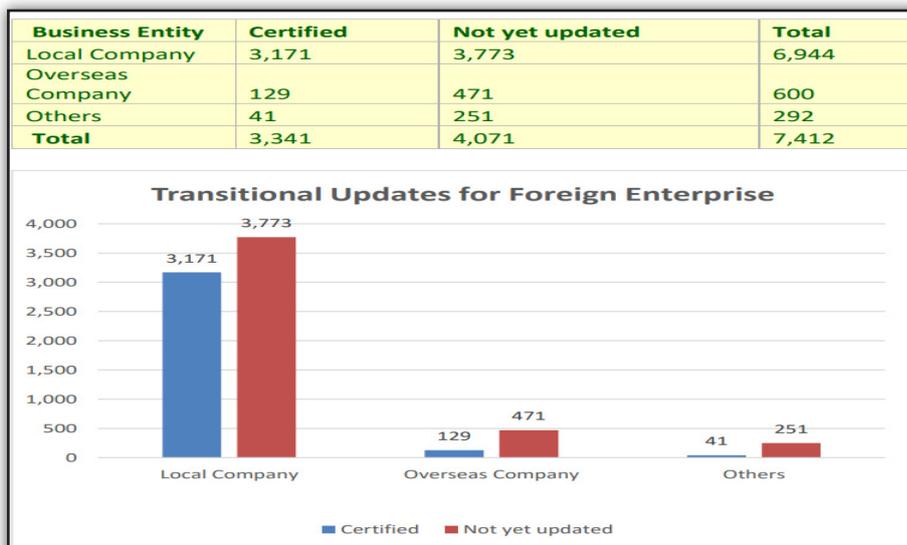
entity owners to come forward and update their entity details and further renew their Business Names and re-register their companies.

Once the new system was launched, the IPA called out to en-

*The table below indicates the compliant statistics under the re-registration exercise.*

ENTITY TYPE	REGISTERED ENTITIES PRIOR TO GO-LIVE 1 DEC 2023	ENTITIES YET TO COMPLIANT 17 Nov 2023	COMPLIANT ENTITIES - 17 Nov 2023	PERCENT COMPLIANT	NEW REGISTRATIONS AS AT 17 Nov 2023	TOTAL ENTITIES REGISTERED AS AT 17 Nov 2023
Companies - local	71,717	58,445	13,272	19%	4,877	18,149
Overseas Companies	1,099	877	222	20%	36	258
Business Names	205,230	191,383	13,847	7%	18,332	32,179
Business Groups	9,791	9,343	448	5%	719	1,167
Associations	10,810	10,121	689	6%	558	1,247
	298,647	270,169	28,478	10%	24,522	53,000

### Trends of transitional updates in the registry per our compliance efforts.



## INTRODUCTION OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY E-FILING SYSTEM

The e-filing system is the electronic means of filing intellectual property applications. Under this new system, IP right holders and business entities who intend to apply for an IP registration such as trademark, patent and in-

dustrial designs application as well as supporting documents, will do so online.

*The above programs are highlights for the year apart from the IPA's ongoing programs.*

## INVESTMENT PROMOTION AUTHORITY COMMITTED TO MAKING PNG INVESTMENT CONDUCTIVE

The Investment Promotion Authority continues to commit resources and efforts to improve key areas within its mandates that are geared towards improving the investment environment of the country.

Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority Mr. Clarence Hoot delivered this message when presenting on PNG's investment readiness during the 17th PNG Energy and Resources conference in Sydney, Australia earlier this month.

Mr. Hoot said since the IPA carried out the Papua New Guinea Regulatory Simplification and Investment Promotion Project which led to the registry system going online in 2013, the Authority has been maintaining its commitment towards the Ease of Doing Business agenda.

"To pave way for changes, the IPA, over the last seven years, has been continuously reviewing its laws, systems and processes to further simplify its processes. This has led to an improvement in PNG's

EODB ranking but a lot of work remains to be done by respective authorities," he said.

Mr. Hoot highlighted the laws IPA recently updated to make its processes clearer and simpler. These include; the Investment Promotion (Amendment) Act 2023, Companies (Amendment) Act 2022, Business Groups (Amendment) Act 2022,

Associations Incorporation Act 2023 and Business Names Act 2021.



The amendments have increased the rating of PNG in various international benchmarking surveys.

Mr. Hoot also gave statistics of the investment trend in the country as well as statistics of entities' compliance in the registry.

The IPA's presence in such indus-

try focused conferences helps the Authority to get updated insights in the industry so it can appropriately plan its programs for the industry.

IPA was visible in the conference MD's presentation at the conference and the IPA booth exhibition.

## Tips & Traps

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RE-REGISTRATION

If your company's status is showing as REMOVED, it means your company has now been removed from the IPA's company registry for failing to re-register.

The call for re-registration of companies came into being after IPA upgraded its online registry system in December 2022.

All entities including business names, companies, business groups, Associations and Foreign Enterprise were asked to re-register or update their status in order for their entity's details to be carried forward into the new upgraded system.

But for companies, the IPA gave a grace period, effective from the 1st of December 2022 to the 30th of November 2023 to come forward and re-register free of charge.

During the re-registration, companies that have outstanding annual returns were to pay, a one-off fee of K500 regardless of the number of years of outstanding Annual Returns. Companies who fail to comply have now been removed from the Registry after the 30th of November, 2023.

A company with the status showing as "Removed" can be reinstated.



The Associations Incorporation Act 2023 (“the Act”) was enacted by Parliament on 11 January 2023 and certified on 29 May 2023. The Act replaces the now repealed Associations Incorporation Act 1966 (“the old Act”) and will be implemented in due course.

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), under the Registrar of Companies Office is responsible for the administration of key PNG business laws including the Act, hence is responsible for implementing the Act.

As part of the implementation program, the IPA hosted a number of stakeholder awareness sessions to present an overview of the Act, in particular important changes to the way incorporated associations are formed and operated under the Act.

The next step is for IPA to compile the report summarising the consultations on Regulations. Once that is completed, we will submit together with draft Regulations to State Solicitors to vet and if all is in order, State Sol will issue a Certificate of Necessity (CON) (this is the start of the usual government vetting/approval process). We then progress to legislative drafters to draft Regulations and issue Certificate of Compliance (COC).

It is fair to say that all commentators recognized serious deficiencies in the existing Associations Act 1966, and the vast majority of comments were very supportive of bringing more formality, structure, governance and transparency to associations through the new legislation.



## Intellectual Property Office of PNG’s new e-filing system

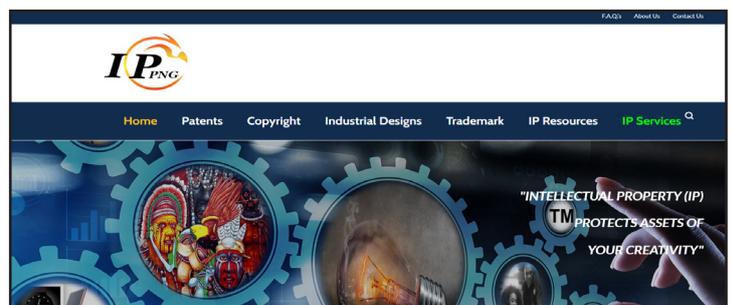
If you have a business entity that has a trade mark, a patent and a industrial design you can protect your IP rights by registering with the Intellectual Property Office of Papua New Guinea.

The good news is that the Intellectual Property Office of PNG now has a new e-Filing system” for Trade-marks, 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](http://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](mailto:registrar.ipopng@ipa.gov.pg).



# Lume Uas Cove Retreat



The beauty of Papua New Guinea's kept secret is very much alive and stylized when you travel outside of Port Moresby to Lume Uas Cove Retreat, seeing is believing.

Looking for an exotic island getaway or want to experience Lume Uas Cove Retreat, you can contact, Leah Usurup or Jethro Usurup on Mobile: (675) 72136861 or (675) 71691146.

You can also email [leahusurup@gmail.com](mailto:leahusurup@gmail.com) or [jethro.usurup@gmail.com](mailto:jethro.usurup@gmail.com)

Postal Address:  
P.O Box 547,  
Kavieng,  
New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea

Located on Tsoi island which is an hour ride by boat from Kavieng, New Ireland Province is the Lume Uas Cove Retreat. Lume Uas in the local dialect means an ancestral resting place for warriors.

This beautiful island getaway boasts of its white sandy beach and pristine blue waters with untouched coral reef and beautiful sceneries that will take your breath away. Guests who visit Lume Uas Cove will be treated to a variety of local seafood menus which will feature crayfish, fish, crabs, squid, octopus and other mouth-watering seafood cooked in different ways. Lume Uas Cove is locally owned and has been described as a hidden paradise tucked away behind a line of beautiful islands and the blue ocean.

It is an island paradise getaway with four (4) beach bungalows currently in operation and one (1) big houseman that can cater for twenty (20) people.

The setup is currently receiving few guests/visitors who visit the island on tours and holidays. It also provides its own boat tours.

The retreat boasts of a number of tourism products including snorkelling, fishing trips, surfing adventures, local tours around the island and to neighbouring islands, bird watching, camping and experiencing the local food and culture.

The bungalows at the Retreat is constructed using a mix of PNG hardwoods and local 'bush material' to create traditionally styled bungalows with an island vernacular, designed to blend in with the natural environment. Accommodation is in the form of simple yet high-quality free-standing bungalows. The rooms boast of comfortable furnishings and beautiful ocean views.

Being a relatively small facility, it can cater for limited numbers but you will experience a private, relaxed holiday environment with personalised service. Whilst all rooms are of similar construction and standard, we offer two grades of accommodation including bungalows and homes stay rooms. The Bungalows are at K160 per night and the home stay rooms are K110 per night.

The business' main vision is to make Lume Uas Cove bungalows to be the model center for eco-tourism in New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.

The project is now seeking interested potential investors or partners to come and assist to construct additional bungalows and built extensions to its current facilities such as the kitchen area for renovation and extension, reception counter, common room, and entertainment area for extension, and also build a new administration office. Other areas that will also be considered are the changing rooms and toilet facilities to be upgraded and the possibility of building its jetty and purchasing an additional boat.

This project is supporting the local community by providing job opportunities.





# Sweet Smallholder Cattle Farmer's Project

This sustainable cattle project is a high-impact Nucleus Enterprise Model project for smallholder cattle farmers in the Highlands Region and the project is located in Avi, Anglimp, Southwaghi District of Jiwaka Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The project aims to support the nucleus enterprise model to improve cattle/beef production intended for improving livestock development, particularly in this case, by a chain of existing eight (8) smallholder cattle farmers in the Highlands Region of PNG.

This sustainable project will link all the smallholder cattle farmers in the Highlands Region to access capital, market, and technical support. The project has attracted more than 8 registered smallholder cattle farmers who have produced an aggregate number of more than 700 cattle heads under the nucleus model.

The project would specifically address (a) improving cattle productivity and breeding program for the existing smallholder cattle farmers (b) increasing the skills of smallholder cattle farmers in animal husbandry and management (c) improving stockyard facilities with proper tools and equipment and grazing management (d) promote linkages for the community for technical support from district agriculture livestock officers in the region through a coordinating point and (e) provide facilities for marketing of their produce. This project has been appraised several times by both the Department of Agriculture and Livestock and the Department of National Planning and various key stakeholders of the industry support it. When the project becomes well established, it will provide quality meat for the local market, create employment, and improve the livelihood of the local community. The project is seeking potential investors for partnership and also seeking to improve its market access both domestically and internationally.

## Project Strengths

Currently, PNG produces around 1,400 to 2,000 tons of meat annually and nearly all the cattle meat is consumed domestically. However to meet the local demand, the country imports around 14,000 tons of meat annually for K30 million (US\$8.5million) of which around 70%

of imported beef is used by two commercial canneries to produce corned beef, luncheon meat, and meatloaf products. In all, the livestock sub-sector contributes about 15% of the total domestic food production and about 12% of the gross domestic product.

The current target, as established under the PNG Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030, is to increase domestic production to four million metric tons by 2030. Current production is 400,000 tons which are only 10% of the meat target set by the PNG Development Strategic Plan (PNGDSP). When the project becomes well established, it will contribute to closing the 90% gap of supply shortage experienced in the domestic market. Sweet smallholder cattle farm currently uses its customary land as well as portions 606, 605, 604, 603, 602, 598, 596, and 577 of Milinch Hagen for its grazing and cattle breeding program. The cattle farm is also in the process of acquiring part of the land portions 599 and 600.

The office of the Agriculture and Livestock continuously recognizes and supports this cattle breeding and fattening project and provides technical support from time to time. Eight smallholder cattle farms have been integrated and more cattle farmers have shown interest in this project and are expected to join. The project also has access to local labor, vital infrastructures, and the domestic market.

**Projected Annual Sales -**  
**490.0K EUR**

**Products or services resulting from project -**  
**Cattle; live, pure-bred breeding animals**

**Total Investment (Funding Gap) -**  
**3.9M EUR (3.7M EUR)**

Contact	Details
IPA PNG	PO Box 5053, BOROKO, 111, NCD PNG Email: <a href="mailto:investment@ipa.gov.pg">investment@ipa.gov.pg</a> Phone: 308 4400/ 321 7311

## **IPA SHUT DOWN NOTICE**

The Investment Promotion Authority wishes to advise its valued clients, stakeholders and the general public that its offices at the Port Moresby Head Quarters, Kokopo, Mt. Hagen, Lae and Buka will be closed for the Christmas festive season.

The Offices will be closed from 25th December 2023 to 1st January 2024. We will resume for normal business on Tuesday January 2nd 2024. However, the online registry system will still be available during the shutdown period.

We thank you all for your support and cooperation this year and look forward to further collaboration in the New Year.

The IPA wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2024.

**Merry Christmas!!**

# IPA 2023 in Review



IPA participates in the Business Registries Workshop



A visit to US Embassy Chancery in Port Moresby



IPA runs awareness session with IRC



Bankai Group enters Papua New Guinea, secures business deal with Telikom PNG Ltd



IPA staff underwent Public Service Induction



IPA runs awareness at OK Tedi Mining - Kiunga, Western Province



Goroka MoU signing, - Goroko, EHP



IPA cosponsored EU-PNG Business Investment Conference - APEC HAUS Prot Moresby

## QUESTION TIME

### Is there a deadline of when I'm allowed to reinstate my company?

If you have not re-registered your company during the twelve-month grace period given by the IPA, you will now have to apply for reinstatement of the company.

**You have a two-year period to apply for reinstatement or restoration of your company.** The two -year period starts from the date the company was removed from the register.

You must have an IPA online user account in order for you to file for the restoration of your company. You must also have authority over the company.

The Companies (Amendment) Act 2022 allows for the following persons to file for restoration of the company;

- A shareholder or director of the company at the time of removal.
- A creditor of the company.
- A party to any legal proceedings against the company.
- An undischarged claimant against the company.
- Was the liquidator or receiver of the property of the company at the time of removal.

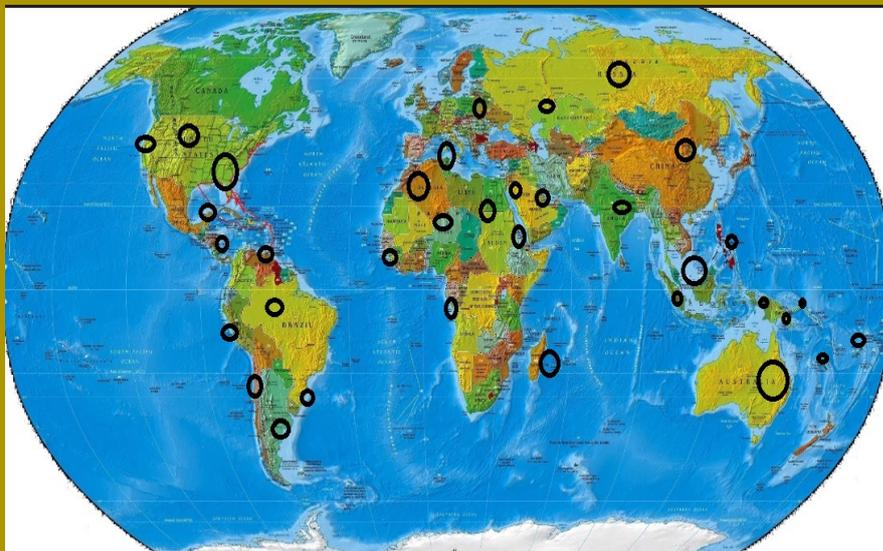
To have the company restored, you will be required to lodge your outstanding annual returns with a payment of K1000 penalty fee and the lodgment fee of K250 per year. Added to the above cost you will also be required to pay the restoration fee of K2, 500.

If you completed the filing correctly, the annual return due date will be set for the next year and a notice of restoration and re-registration will be automatically generated to be approved by the registrar.

**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?**

[beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg](mailto:beverlyp@ipa.gov.pg)

We will publish a selection of questions and our answers in each issue of *Opportunity*.



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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:iparabaul@ipa.gov.pg)

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

Phone: (675) 973 9344 / 973 9189  
Fax: (675) 973 9344  
Email: [ipa\\_buka@ipa.gov.pg](mailto:ipa_buka@ipa.gov.pg)



[www.ipa.gov.pg](http://www.ipa.gov.pg)



[www.ipopng.gov.pg](http://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.