



IPA

InvestPNG

Newsletter

October, Issue #10

◆ Business News

◆ Investment Opportunities

◆ Updates from the IPA



FROM THE **MD'S DESK**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another edition of our **InvestPNG** newsletter for October.

This month has been an exciting and dynamic period for the Investment Promotion Authority. Following the celebration of Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary, we have been actively engaged in fostering international connections to showcase our country's investment potential.

This is in our usual bid to promote PNG as an investment destination.

A key highlight was the successful facilitation of a

high-level Business Delegation from Israel, focused on exploring opportunities within our rapidly growing ICT and cybersecurity sectors. Be sure to read more about this visit in this issue.

Additionally, we hosted a delegation from New Caledonia led by the President of the Government of New Caledonia, Mr. Alcide Ponga. This visit was an important step toward strengthening trade and investment ties, as we explore new partnerships and opportunities between Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

On the domestic front, the IPA also participated in several local events, including the annual Bilum Festival in East Sepik Province and the Chocolate festival in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Read more on these stories in this issue.

We now invite you to share your success stories with us and thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy reading this edition and stay tuned as we continue our journey toward economic prosperity for Papua New Guinea.

Clarence M Hoot
Managing Director

IPA facilitates Israeli investment fact-finding mission



IPA Managing Director Mr Clarence Hoot (Right) with Managing Director of an Israeli based Information Communication Technology company, Amboya Investments, Mr. Amos Goldman

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) successfully facilitated a high-level Business Delegation from Israel, aimed at exploring investment opportunities in the country's burgeoning Information Communication Technology (ICT) and cyber security sectors.

The delegation was led by Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Sharren Miriam Haskel-Harpaz, accompanied by the Managing Director of an Israeli based Information Communication Technology company, Amboya Investments, Mr. Amos Goldman and senior Government officials from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation decided to visit PNG on this fact-finding mission to explore opportunities for business partnerships and investment in the ICT sector, particularly in the Telecommunication and Cyber security space.

The visit which took place from October 20th to 22nd, was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen international partnerships and attract foreign direct investment from the Israel. In addition, one of their goals was also to engage with PNG's private and public sector organizations to assess opportunities for collaboration and technology transfer.

Managing Director of Amboya Investment, Mr. Goldman highlighted that his

company is interested in exploring potential partnerships and investments in PNG's ICT landscape, with a particular focus on enhancing cyber security infrastructure.

During the visit, Mr. Goldman held productive discussions with PNG's key stakeholders, including the Managing Director of IPA, Mr. Clarence Hoot and his team. He also met with heads of the University of PNG's ICT Division, senior officials from PNG DataCo, Telikom PNG Ltd, National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), PNG ICT Cluster, Datec PNG Limited, Digicel PNG Limited, Vodafone PNG Limited, BSP Bank's Head of ICT, and the Department of National Planning and Monitoring.

A series of one-on-one business-to-business (B2B) and government-to-government (B2G) meetings were also conducted successfully over the course of the visit with many organizations expressing strong interest in partnering with Amboya Investments to develop robust cyber security systems, citing the high cyber security risks faced by PNG as a critical concern.

Mr. Goldman expressed his satisfaction with the outcomes of the meetings, thanking the IPA team for their support and effective facilitation. He highlighted

PNG's potential as a prime investment destination and emphasized the importance of modern hybrid technologies in strengthening the country's ICT infrastructure.

"PNG has immense untapped potential across various sectors. We are excited about the prospects of working together to improve cyber security and digital services here," Mr. Goldman stated.

IPA's Managing Director, Mr. Clarence Hoot welcomed the Israeli investor's visit, encouraging more Israeli businesses to explore investment opportunities in PNG. He reiterated that PNG remains open to foreign investment and is eager to collaborate with international partners to unlock the country's economic potential.

"The visit by Amboya Investments underscores PNG's attractiveness as an investment destination. We look forward to building on these promising engagements and fostering more partnerships that will benefit our technological and economic development," Mr. Hoot concluded.

The successful visit marks a significant step forward in PNG's efforts to attract specialized ICT investments and enhance its cybersecurity landscape, fostering a more secure and digitally empowered future for the nation.



Clarification on the administration of entity records in the Online Registry System (ORS)

Due to continuous complaints and public misconception on the administration of records in the IPA's Online Registry System (ORS), the Office of the Registrar of Companies would like to remind business owners, ORS users and the general public that changes to entity records are undertaken by the authorized persons as approved by the entity.

The online registry system as administered by the Office of the Registrar of Companies (ROC) allows only the authorized person (s) or agents to update the entity records. The ROC's Office does not undertake any changes to the records of registered entities and any claims that the Registrar or any IPA officers changing entity records are misleading and not true.

However, there are certain business services or applications that require vetting and approval by the ROC's Office, in particular the requests for authority, to ensure that data entered in the system are compliant with our laws, regulations and registry requirements.

Any disputes or grievances by shareholders, directors, owners, executives and committee members must be resolved internally amongst themselves and the authorized person updating the entity records.

Under the relevant legislations, the Registrar is responsible for the registration and maintenance of registered entities' records. This responsibility is limited

to administering statutory registers and records. Disputes concerning share ownership or control, the validity of meetings minutes, or resolutions, or competing claims between directors, shareholders, and committee members fall outside the Registrar's administrative role and must be resolved internally or by the Court.

Key points to note;

1. Appointment of Authorised User

Every registered entity must appoint an authorised user to manage its records on the online system.

The authorised user can maintain, update, and file information, including changes to directors, shareholders, constitutions, and other statutory requirements on the ORS.

2. Dispute Regarding Entity Records

Where disputes arise between directors, shareholders, committee members, or authorised users concerning the administration or accuracy of entity records, parties must resolve the matter internally in the first instance.

Companies are reminded that under the Companies Act, every company must keep and maintain minutes of meetings,

resolutions, and records of decisions at their registered office. These records must be consulted first to confirm the validity of any changes on the ORS before making a request to the Registrar.

The Registrar of Companies will not intervene in disputes between directors, shareholders, committee members or authorised users regarding the keeping of entity records.

3. Role of the National Court

If parties are unable to resolve disputes, they may consider bringing these issues to the National Court for further directions.

Only upon receipt of a valid court order, the Registrar will take steps to intervene in the administration of entity records on the online system.

4. Inclusion of reliable email addresses

To enable company shareholders and executives to be informed on any changes being made to the entity records, it is strongly advisable that reliable email addresses must be included in the ORS. The system sends automated alerts and reminders on any filings being made in the system by the authorised user and deadlines on filing requirements.

New Caledonia business delegation concludes visit to PNG on strengthening regional ties

A business delegation from New Caledonia, led by the President of the Government of New Caledonia, Mr. Alcide Ponga, had just concluded their visit to PNG on the 31st of October, 2025.

The delegation was made up of a total of nine (9) New Caledonian entrepreneurs who were in the country from the 27th to the 31st of October, 2025. The Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) was among other relevant organizations and businesses that met with the delegation.

The participating companies from New Caledonia are active in key sectors such as training and industry, and met with local partners to explore opportunities for cooperation and contribute to addressing Papua New Guinea's needs.

The mission was not only aimed at developing new business partnerships but also to strengthen the trade and investment ties between Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

The IPA made a presentation to the delegation and outlined the IPA's promotion and facilitation roles and the opportunities in

PNG and also outlined the IPA online business registration process. The IPA also pointed out its successful facilitation role in getting some New Caledonian businesses established in PNG. This, along with the delegation's meetings with other government agencies and local businesses, also signaled a strong commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and attracting foreign investment and trade between the two countries.

This visit also underscores New Caledonia's commitment to attracting foreign investment and enhancing partnerships in the region. Managing Director of the Investment Promotion Authority, Mr Clarence Hoot, welcomed the business delegation's intentions and was pleased with the discussions held during the visit.

"I will be working with my organisation after this visit to ensure that there is continued dialogue to maintain trade and investment arrangements between PNG and New Caledonia," said Mr Hoot.

If you have an existing business entity and you want to renew, file your annual return or update the details of your entity, here is a simple summary of how to get authority over your business entity:

1. Go to the Business Entities home page.
2. Login to your Online account.
3. Search for the business by name or registration number.
4. Select the business and click "Request Entity Authority."
5. Indicate the reason as to why you are seeking authority, upload the relevant authority consent form and the owner's / director's ID, and submit your request.

The request goes directly to the Registrar for review.

Note that when a new business is created, the person who files the application automatically gets authority and can then give authority to others, like directors.

Below is an Authority Consent Form for Business Names.

Business Names Act 2014
AUTHORITY CONSENT FORM
APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF AN AUTHORISED AGENT

TO:
The Registrar of Companies
PO Box 1281
Port Moresby
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Entity Name (& Number):
By virtue of this document constituting a notice of special resolution, the business owner(s) hereby appoint(s) an Agent for the purposes of Registrar of Companies. This appointment shall effectively supersede/revoke/nullify any previous appointment(s) and shall be referred to as the ultimate source document pertaining to any or all Authorised Agency matters. The duly appointed *Authorised Agent* shall effectively assume duties as entrusted and be accountable to the business owner(s) until further notice by the same owner(s). The authorised agent's acceptance by way of countersigning this authority instrument is proof of the agent's willingness and consent to abide by rules, responsibilities and be liable for any failures under the laws administered by the *Office of the Registrar of Companies* and any other related laws including *Criminal Code*. Any falsifications will be criminally dealt with.

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

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

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

d) List of legitimate and eligible voting owners and their signatures

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

Note: An asterisk may be made in relation to Item D where necessary in which case the asterisk must be specifically marked. A director or part owner or an eligible member may be appointed to hold an Executive authority holds apart from other unconnected persons. An Authorised Agent must be a natural person having formal identification or a registered entity either in PNG or in other jurisdictions whose proof of existence must be provided. Nicknames or unregistered names will not be accepted for this purpose.

IPA participates in Sepik Bilum - Basket Festival

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) was among several Government organisations that were invited to participate in the recently held Sepik Bilum Basket Festival, a prominent cultural event which took place on the 13th and 14th of October, 2025, at the Sir Michael Somare Stadium in Wewak, East Sepik Province.

IPA officials who participated in the festival raised awareness on the ORS, the promotional function of the IPA and on the Intellectual Property Rights, especially on how to protect bilum designs and innovations.

The Sepik Bilum Basket Festival is a celebrated and nationally registered cultural event overseen by the National Cultural Commission (NCC). The event not only serves as an event aimed at showcasing traditional craftsmanship and artisans but also as a vital community intervention program aimed at advancing women's activities through economic empowerment in East Sepik Province.



Participants from all over East Sepik Province showcasing different bilum dresses.



This event underscores the importance of income-generating activities, particularly within the informal sector, as a means for women and communities to achieve sustainable development. By participating, the IPA had the opportunity to raise awareness about the significance of registering a business, which is essential for formalizing businesses, accessing government support, and promoting economic growth.

Moreover, the event provided an ideal platform for the IPA to promote its range of services and products to the citizens of Wewak and East Sepik Province. Chairlady of the event, Mrs Rachel Anawe Maru said IPA's engagement with the local vendors and community members can foster greater understanding of the benefits of business registration and the support mechanisms available through the IPA.

The invitation also emphasizes the IPA's role in empowering local entrepreneurs and encouraging the formalization of their businesses, ultimately contributing to the broader development goals of the Province and the country.

IPA Managing Director encourages Bougainville farmers to work together

The Papua New Guinea Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) Managing Director Mr. Clarence Hoot has called on small businesses and farmers in the agriculture sector in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) to collaborate in order to boost their production capacities to supply relevant markets.



Mr. Hoot spoke at the IPA business awareness session in Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) where other regulators, private sector and banks were invited to make presentations on their products and requirements to more than 100 farmers, chocolate and ice cream producers from all over AROB.

Mr. Hoot said it was encouraging to see that farmers in Bougainville were processing their own cocoa, coconut and spices and developing finished products for sale as well as consumption. He congratulated them for their resilience saying that it was them that were the actual players in the development of the Bougainville economy because of the businesses they

conduct and the farms and resources they own.

The IPA awareness session was held as a lead up to the Bougainville chocolate festival to allow farmers in the cocoa and other industries to be educated on IPA services and programs that can assist their ventures. During the session the IPA team met a variety of small-scale producers of ice cream, chocolates, virgin coconut oils and spices and engaged with them on further programs targeted for their products.

Mr. Hoot also advised farmers that given the capacity issues triggered by challenges in infrastructure and logistics in the Region, it is better for farmers to support each other and focus on developing

specialised products in the value chain. He gave assurance on the IPA's commitment to assist formalise and develop their products to export stages.

"As the government organisation responsible for promoting investment in the country, we are ready to work with you so that you can all participate confidently in the economic development of AROB," he said.

The key function of the IPA is to promote and facilitate investment in the country. Businesses are therefore encouraged to contact the IPA on programs available which they can participate in to help grow and diversify their businesses.

Bougainville cocoa industry thriving

The Investment Promotion Authority in its recent participation at the 2025 Bougainville Chocolate Festival interacted with farmers and show goers to understand their plans and challenges in the industry.

It was encouraging to note that farmers are passionate about down-stream processing and have taken that path. While the industry is seeing small scale downstream processing SMEs, these SMEs are doing it tough and need assistance with product development to ensure their products are retail-ready and compliant for potential export markets.



A variety of cocoa products on display at the Bougainville chocolate festival.



From Prime Beans to Queen Bars: Revitalising Papua New Guinea's Leading Chocolatier

Queen Emma Chocolate is Papua New Guinea's leading domestic cocoa processor and chocolate maker. For years, the company faced real constraints, including low production capacity, inconsistent cocoa bean supply from across the country, persistent smoke-tainted bean contamination at the factory, and limited overseas business ties. These issues did not only hold back the company; they also held back farmers and Papua New Guinea's cocoa sector.

That started to change when the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as part of the EU-STREIT PNG Programme, and Queen Emma aligned around a practical goal. They aimed to lift production quantity and quality, secure reliable supply from the Sepik, and open more doors in international markets. The partnership focused on the basics. This included supporting farmers to produce better, fine-fermented beans, supporting the company modernise its machinery and workflow, and assisting both sides to meet the standards that overseas buyers expect. As Queen Emma's General Manager, Ms. Karina Makori, explains, "The biggest impact has come from the work done in the cocoa value chain by the EU-STREIT PNG Programme to teach, train and equip farmers with tools, better dryers, knowledge, improved road and transport access; all these interventions have contributed to improving and lifting up the quality standards of cocoa in the Sepik and supply to the Queen Emma factory."



Queen Emma General Manager and a leading Sepik Cocoa Producer attending a cocoa show in New Zealand with FAO support under the EU-STREIT PNG Programme. ©FAO-STREIT/Rabi G. Rasaily

LEGAL UP-DATE

PNG's Progress in AML/CFT Compliance

PNG successfully addressed a number of key issues identified in previous evaluations on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Funding (AML/CTF) matters, which included essential legal reforms, strengthening financial regulations, and enhancing interagency cooperation.

These efforts were aimed at countering unfavourable assessment ratings and demonstrating substantial progress to avoid being placed on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List.

The IPA is part of the national coordinating committee (NCC) on AML/CTF matters in PNG. A total of twenty-three (23) agencies are members of the Committee.

Each committee members have a certain number of action items under the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) to address the deficiencies found in the PNG Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) 2024. Seventy-three (73) action items need to be addressed during the observation period, which commenced from October 2024 and ends in October 2025.

Despite the positive recognition of its advancements, PNG was placed on an expedited reporting process due to remaining deficiencies that require further improvement.

Moving forward, PNG will collaborate closely with AUSTRAC and other stakeholders to implement a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) designed to address the identified weaknesses and recommended action items from the MER. This collaboration is deemed crucial for strengthening PNG's AML/CFT framework and mitigating the risk of grey-listing. The APG Plenaries that have been held over time also provided member countries, including PNG, with opportunities to engage with donor agencies for technical assistance in addressing AML/CFT matters.

Following the adoption of its MER, PNG will enhance its reporting process to deliver more frequent and detailed updates on its progress in addressing the identified deficiencies.

KOKODA ORGANIC GINGER PROJECT: FARMING, HARVESTING, AND SUPPLY FOR LOCAL MARKETS



The project involves mainly farming, harvesting, and supplying fresh and organic ginger to the local markets in Port Moresby. There are more than 1,000 committed smallholder ginger farmers who supply their produce to Kokoda Organic Ginger Company. Ginger is very organic and highly demanded by a lot of major shops in the capital city, as well as informal market vendors in the open markets in Port Moresby. The project is managed and owned by a local who is an agriculturalist himself, mobilizing every member of the community to go into farming. The company has a huge potential to export in tones, however, the government of PNG is in talks with its neighboring countries like Australia and New Zealand in regards to compliance and meeting trade regulatory requirements for ease of international market access. Once the compliance issues are addressed and rectified, Kokoda Organic Ginger company envisages cultivating another 100 hectares of land to meet the demand both in quantity and quality. The objective of the project is to farm more than 200 hectares of land and export the produce to the overseas market. Through investor collaboration, the company will rely heavily on foreign investors in terms of investment decision-making, management, and other necessary investment undertakings.

Kokoda Organic Ginger has 100 hectares of land already in use for farming ginger producing more than 10 tones of ginger every year. The people are always willing to work on the land since this project is bringing them so many benefits and are willing to even free up more land for cultivating and farming ginger. The project has already secured markets with major shopping centers, catering companies, local open markets, and even individual clients who come and buy ginger from the farm site in bulk to go and sell it again at retail price. - Growing Demand for Organic Products: Increasing consumer preference for organic and health-conscious products supports the market potential for fresh, organic ginger. - Sustainable and Eco-friendly Farming Practices: Organic farming practices promote environmental sustainability, which can attract eco-conscious consumers and align with growing environmental regulations.

- Health Benefits of Ginger: Ginger is widely recognized for its medicinal properties, such as aiding digestion and reducing inflammation, positioning it as a high-demand product in both food and wellness markets.

Project Sector

Growing of fruit, nuts, beverage and spice crops

Projected Annual Sales

183.8K EUR

Products or services resulting from project

Spices; ginger, neither crushed nor ground

Opportunity Type

Establishing a Joint Venture

Country



Papua New Guinea

Opportunity Type

SOGERI SALVATION ARMY CHURCH c/- PO BOX 116, BOROKO, NCD, Other, Central Province, Papua New Guinea

Projected Employment

1,071

Total Investment (Funding Gap)

735.0K EUR (685.0K EUR)

Trademark Registration

Who may register a Trade Mark?

Anyone who claims to be the proprietor of a trade mark can apply. Thus, an ordinary person (a "natural" person) or a company (a "legal" person) can apply. Joint owners of a trademark can.

How can I apply for registration?

Applicants are required to make up at least eight (8) representations of the trade mark, each measuring 80 mm x 60 mm. One to be affixed to the application from and the other seven are to accompany the application. If the representations are larger than 80 mm x 60 mm, an additional fee of K25 is required. However, where larger-sized representations are printed on a plastic material, such as labels, they may be accepted at the discretion of the Registrar.

For each application, a non-refundable fee of K250 is charged. However, upon registration of a trade mark a fee of K350 is payable.

How long does it take to register a trademark?

This varies from application to application. If the applicant has met all requirements in the application form including good quality representations, and the trademark appears to a reasonable specification of goods and services, it may take about three months to process under the provisions of the

Act, which require publication, and a period for the receipt of any possible objections.

A period of not more than three months is allowed to lodge notice of opposition, unless otherwise extended if requested by the opponent.

If a mark exists in the Register for the same goods or services or that the mark has a similar nature or composition and with similar uses, the process may take longer than usual. In this case, the Registrar will have to set time limits from six to nine months to allow for the settling of objections.

An opposition may delay or even prevent registration. However, if no opposition is lodged, the application may proceed to registration, subject to payment of the registration fee.



NOTICE BOARD

Invest PNG newsletter

RESERVED ACTIVITIES LIST CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Under the Investment Promotion Act 1992 (IP Act), the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) is required to review the list of economic activities reserved for citizen investment. This list is known as the Reserved Activities List (RAL). Reviews of the RAL must be undertaken at least every three years in accordance with the IP Act. The IP Act provides criteria that the IPA must consider in the review.

Please note that the RAL is different from the Reserved Occupations List (ROL) which limits the issuance of work permits for non-citizen workers. The ROL comes under the purview of the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations.

On 6 June 2025, IPA released a consultation paper with the proposed RAL. The paper outlines IPA's rationale for the inclusion of new activities, retention and consolidation of existing activities, and the removal of other activities. The consultation paper is available on the IPA website at www.ipa.gov.pg

IPA welcomes public comments on the proposed revisions to the list. Please note that suggested additional activities under the current review may be considered in future reviews, in accordance with the IP Act criteria.

Please provide your written comments to RALreview@ipa.gov.pg by Friday, 21 November 2025.

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 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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Invest PNG newsletter



Sydney Investment week

7th – 11th December, Sydney, Australia

YOU SAID IT...
EMU HEREVA

PNG-Japan Investment Conference.

“ The PNG - Japan Investment Conference in Tokyo was well organized by your IPA team. **”**

Stakeholder



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](mailto:beverly@ipa.gov.pg)

beverly@ipa.gov.pg

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

PUBLICATION

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

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

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