

# Built around you

## Private Newsletter

Issue 14 - March 2026

Welcome to our fourteenth edition of the Private newsletter! The purpose of these newsletters is to keep you informed of current developments impacting private and family businesses operating in PNG. **Are you keeping up to date with the changes impacting businesses in Papua New Guinea?**



### General update

#### What are we seeing?

It has been a while since our last Newsletter, and a lot has happened. Here are a few highlights that we should take note going forward:

- Effective 1 January 2026, the Income Tax Act 2025 (the Act) came into force, marking a significant milestone in PNG's tax reform agenda. The IRC has reiterated its commitment to a smooth transition to the new legislation. A transitional period from January to March 2026 has been announced, during which time employers are encouraged to review payroll systems and processes in line with forthcoming guidance notes and stakeholder engagement initiatives. While the supporting Regulations and the Tax Administration Act are expected to complement the Act, final versions have yet to be released or gazette. Taxpayers should proactively assess the potential impact of these changes on their operations and prepare for compliance as further details become available.

- The 2026 compliance season is now underway, and our focus will be on compiling financial statements, and preparing or reviewing income tax returns for companies, partnerships, trusts, estates, and individuals. As the lodgements for 31 December 2025 (and substituted accounting periods) are to be completed in accordance with the Income Tax Act 1959 we expect minimal impacts for these returns with the implementation of the Act.
- The IRC has released its draft Public Ruling on determining the taxable value of motor vehicle benefits, in line with the increased prescribed value effective from 1 January under the Act. A window for comments on the draft was open in early January and closed on 12 January. The draft ruling broadly confirms the principles behind the calculation of the benefit and application of the three permitted reductions, namely for employee contributions, non-availability for private use, and business use. It is proposed that the usage reductions are to be determined based on a logbook, maintained by the employee for an initial representative period and then applied thereafter, possibly for the balance of the income. Employers should begin updating their payroll systems and possibly review employment agreements or policies to prepare for these changes.



- There's a lot happening at the IRC recently. From the resignation and appointment of the new Commissioner General to the announcement of several vacant positions aimed at addressing staff shortages, the organisation is undergoing significant changes. Additionally, updates to the IRC's systems are underway, which could have an impact on private businesses and family enterprises across PNG. Staying informed about these developments is essential to help you prepare effectively for the upcoming FY26.
- The provisional tax 1<sup>st</sup> instalment payments for 2026 are due on 31 March with payment due by 30 April 2026. Most provisional tax notices will be raised using the notice of assessment to income tax from 2024 and not 2025 (unless the assessment for 2024 has not been completed). The provisional tax instalments are expected to change once the income tax returns for 2025 have been lodged and a notice of assessment to income tax for 2025 is used by the IRC.
- The compliance season also includes the company secretarial related matters, such as making sure all the annual returns and annual status reports for all our clients are up to date with the Registrar of Companies and the Investment Promotion Authority in a timely manner to avoid penalties being imposed. The required details relating to business activities, operating locations, shareholders and directors change, the records with the Registrar of Companies and Investment Promotion Authority needs to be updated accordingly in a timely manner.
- The availability of foreign currency seems to be better now which is a welcome relief for many PNG family businesses. At the same time, the PNG Kina continues to experience a planned depreciation, which has had a significant impact for importers especially as we have now seen the Australian Dollar strengthen significantly against the United States Dollar. It is important that budgets and prices are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to limit the impact ongoing depreciation in the PNG Kina.

### Insight Series – 12<sup>th</sup> Family Business Survey

A new collection of articles, based on interviews with family business leaders from around the world, offers deep dives and practical insights into the key areas explored in the 12<sup>th</sup> Global Family Business Survey. Conducted as the survey was being prepared these articles offer deep dives and practical, real-world insights into the key areas explored in the latest survey – exploring how they leverage agility, patient capital, and a commitment to purpose.

### PwC Global NowGen Academy event

This event was held on the 27 – 31 October 2025 in Tokyo, Japan bringing together 28 NextGen participants representing 14 different nationalities. Throughout the Academy, participants explored the intersection of legacy, innovation and leadership in a uniquely Japanese context. Highlights included experiencing a traditional tea ceremony and reflecting on its symbolism for patience, respect and continuity across generations, as well as hearing directly from the 5th-generation member of the founding family of Nintendo about his personal journey and establishing the family office.


### IRC in action





It has been a busy time for the IRC. Here a few highlights relating to the Internal Revenue Commission:


The IRC has appointed Sam Loi as the Acting Commissioner General, effective from 17 December 2025. All the statutory powers and responsibilities of the Commissioner General now rest with the Acting Commissioner. The IRC assures taxpayers, agents, and other stakeholders that there will be no interruptions to compliance requirements or service delivery during this transition.





 The IRC continues to provide clear channels for the public to report businesses that may not be applying GST zero-rating on essential household goods. Since the temporary regime first introduced in June 2025 has been extended to 31 December 2026, businesses are encouraged to regularly review their pricing and GST compliance for these items to avoid any reputational or financial risks. At the same time, consumers are encouraged to stay vigilant and help ensure compliance.


 Showing a commitment to improving engagement with Taxpayers, the IRC has launched an online survey through its communication channels. Currently, the survey link can be accessed exclusively via IRC's social media platforms.

 Over the past month, various district authorities have continued to recognise the importance of complying with Section 65A. These efforts to increase GST compliance across government departments are part of an ongoing commitment to ensure all relevant GST revenue is properly captured.

 The 2026 budget introduced amendments to the legislation establishing the IRC to create an oversight board that will include representatives from Treasury, Finance, Bank of PNG and a member that will represent the business sector as well as an expert on tax administration.

 For monthly GST returns, the IRC is encouraging the taxpayers to lodge the returns using the new updated version dated 1 January 2024 (G1\_2023 V1.2) at the right end corner going forward. All other versions of the G1 Form will no longer be accepted for lodgement.

 For quarterly GST returns, the IRC has uploaded the updated version in both excel and pdf dated 1 January 2025 available on the IRC website. The taxpayers that are lodging the quarterly GST returns are encouraged to use the updated version, other than that will not be accepted for lodgement with the IRC. When completing the Form, the Taxpayer may select the tax quarter box with the appropriate year including the suppliers' listings when lodging. The format of the mandatory supplier listing can be found on the IRC website as well.

 The IRC has strongly advised that all future Salary and Wages Tax (SWT) remittances must include the payment remittance; remittances submitted without payment will not be accepted. Nil SWT remittances will continue to be accepted as no payment is required.

## Upcoming IRC deadlines

The IRC is yet to publish the tax agent bulletin for 2026. The tax agent bulletin outlines the deadlines and dues dates for PNG tax compliances for both monthly and annual compliance. In the absence of the tax agent bulletin for 2026 we have set out our expectations based on the tax agent bulletin for 2025.

## Income tax return lodgements (tax agent program for a December balance date)

taxable entities – 31 July 2026

non-taxable entities - 31 August 2026

For substituted accounting period entities, the tax return lodgement date is four months after balance date for taxable entities.

## Provisional tax for 2026

Provisional taxes for companies, individuals, estates and trusts are now payable in three instalments:

first provisional tax notice – last day of the third month from your financial year end with payment due the end of the following month

second provisional tax notice – last day of the sixth month from your financial year end with payment due the end of the following month

third provisional tax notice – last day of the ninth month from your financial year end with payment due the end of the following month

For companies with carried forward losses there is the potential for provisional tax being applied based on 2% of turnover.

## Monthly tax compliance

<b>SWT</b> month	Form S2 – 7 <sup>th</sup> of the following
<b>GST</b> month	Form G1 – 21 <sup>st</sup> of the following
<b>DWT</b> month	Form D1 – 21 <sup>st</sup> of the following
<b>IWT</b> month	Form I1 – 21 <sup>st</sup> of the following
<b>BIPT</b> month	Form P5 – 21 <sup>st</sup> of the following

Non-resident tax forms have yet to be released by the IRC, but in the absence of the new forms a Form M1 (for technical fees), Form D1 (for dividends), Form I1 (for interest) and Form R1 (for royalties) can be used where withholding tax is due for payment on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the following month.

## Annual reconciliations for 2025

<b>SWT</b>	Form S6 and S1 - 14 Feb 2026
<b>DWT</b>	Form D2 - 28 Feb 2026
<b>FCWT</b>	Form F2 - 28 Feb 2026
<b>MFWT</b>	Form M2 - 28 Feb 2026
<b>IWT</b>	Form I2 - 28 Feb 2026
<b>RWT</b>	Form R2 - 28 Feb 2026
<b>BIPT</b>	Form P8 - 15 Mar 2026

## IPA compliance and insights

The Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) is responsible for registering and regulating companies, including handling deregistration. It oversees the Company Registrar and ensures companies comply with the Companies Act.

The compliance season has started for 2026 (31 December 2025 year ends and related substituted accounting periods), and IPA advised that all companies must comply with the legal requirements when its due. If a company fails to meet legal requirements, such as not filing annual returns, the IPA has the authority to remove it from the register. It's important for companies to be aware of the updates to avoid from the companies to remove from the register and penalties may be impose.

The companies that are in process to deregister and are not carrying business activities in the country are required to lodge the annual return when its dues till the company is fully deregistered and removed from IPA.

The IPA wishes to encourage the companies and its stakeholders to use the IPA online portal to file or lodge any forms. The online portal helps to reduces time and cost for family businesses to register business/company names,

The Investment Promotion Authority attended the PNG Investment Week, hosted by the PNG Chamber of Resources and Energy (PNGCORE) in Sydney, Australia from December 7th to 11th, 2025. The event provided a great opportunity to showcase investment opportunities and trends in the country.

The IPA actively participated in the Japan–Pacific Islands Business Partnership Seminar, hosted by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, to strengthen economic ties between Japan and the Pacific region. Alongside other Pacific Island nations like Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, the focus was on discussing investment opportunities and potential in the region.

Additionally, this year saw the launch of the PNG-Indonesia Business Council, further enhancing economic relations between the two neighbouring countries. We share these updates to keep every private and family business community to be aware of the business environment within and the neighbouring countries.

The IPA also released a list of non-compliant companies. It is recommended that all Directors and Shareholders (as well as the nominated authorised persons) review this list to ensure that their companies are not stated on this non-compliant companies list.





### Upcoming Private Events

We are excited to share with you the event that is coming up in FY26:

Business Family Survey Report for 2025 – we expect the survey results to be released before June 2026.

### ICCC Updates

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, a special price control measure was introduced, giving the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) authority to monitor prices and prevent price gouging. While most pandemic-related regulations have since been phased out, the ICCC's role in price control was maintained through this measure. Recently, an update to the Price Regulation Act clarified that the ICCC can only address potential price gouging during a declared emergency. As a result, the ICCC has now shifted back to its primary focus on competition-related pricing oversight, while still maintaining certain powers over key basic goods and services like PMV and taxi operations, fuel, and water services. Overall, the ICCC continues to have a broad mandate with significant authority to review and control pricing where necessary.

### Digital initiatives for PNG government.

The Digital Transformation Summit 2025 (DTS25), held in Port Moresby, was the largest gathering focused on digital policy and innovation ever hosted in PNG. It brought together a diverse group of participants from government, industry, academia, development partners, and young innovators.

A major highlight of the summit was the launch of the **SevisPNG Digital Public Infrastructure Ecosystem, which features:**

**SevisPass** - PNG's Digital ID system

**SevisDEx** - The National Secure Data Exchange Platform

**SevisWallet**- PNG's new Digital Wallet for identity credentials and future payments

Backed by supportive government policies and legal frameworks, these platforms signal the start of a new era in secure digital identification, easier access to public services, and greater economic participation. The summit also paved the way for strategic partnerships to boost digital governance and financial inclusion, including collaborations with regional authorities and the integration of electronic know-your-customer (e-KYC) capabilities with financial institutions.



## We would like to hear from you

At PwC, we get that your decisions aren't always about business. We are here to support you in achieving growth today, whilst helping you shape your legacy for the future. Our Private teams in Port Moresby are wholly focused on providing advisory, accounting and tax services to private and family businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, queries, or comments on our events or any changes that have an impact on your business.

## Contacts

### Jonathan Seeto

Territory Senior Partner  
[jonathan.seeto@pwc.com](mailto:jonathan.seeto@pwc.com)

### Michael Collins

Partner  
[michael.j.collins@pwc.com](mailto:michael.j.collins@pwc.com)

[www.pwc.com/pg](http://www.pwc.com/pg)

© 2026 PricewaterhouseCoopers. All rights reserved. PwC refers to the Papua New Guinea member firm, and may sometimes refer to the PwC network. Each member firm is a separate legal entity. Please see [www.pwc.com/structure](http://www.pwc.com/structure) for further details.