Customary Land Tenure System Reforms and Opportunities for Accountants in Papua New Guinea

Associate Professor Eugene Ezebilo, Program Leader, of Property Development Program

Name of presenter
On behalf of the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNG NRI), I wish to thank the Certified Practising Accountants Papua New Guinea for inviting me to the 2016 CPA Annual Conference.
Some Highlights

- PNG NRI has been on the forefront in advocating for land reforms in PNG so that land sector could realise it full potentials in contributing to the country’s economy.

- A well-developed land reform will facilitate the development of an effective and efficient land market in PNG. This has the potential for developing a broad-based economic growth in PNG, which includes creation of jobs, incomes and wealth in general.
Some Highlights

- The accounting profession is one of the professions that will benefit most from development of Voluntary Customary Land Registration (VCLR) system, especially in terms of jobs and businesses.

- Customary land is still not accessible because its land tenure is not secure.

- To move PNG forward, it is important for accountants to contribute in facilitating the VCLR system.
My speech will revolve around two main areas. First, is PNG NRI activities associated with land reforms in PNG. Second is the opportunities for accountants in VCLR system.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- Customarily owned land accounts for 97% land in PNG and only 3% is state land.

- PNG NRI activities focus on possible ways of unlocking customary land for economic development.

- PNG NRI activities on land reforms started in 2005 with the Land Summit in Lae.

- National Land Development Taskforce (NLDT): PNG NRI was involved in the NLDT from 2006 to 2007.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- The NLDT implemented recommendations of the Land Submit and focused primarily on policies and strategies following land reforms.

- National Land Development Program (NLDP). The PNG NRI contributed immensely to the establishment of NLDP in 2007 and has been guiding it till now.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- The primary task of NLDP was to implement NLDTT recommendations.

- The NLDP has successfully developed legal and administrative framework for land reforms in PNG.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- Customary Land Division was established at the Department of Lands and Physical Planning (DLPP) in 2010.

- Director of Customary Lands was appointed in 2010.

- Director of ILG appointed in 2010.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- Customary Land Development Office (CLDO) was established by the National Executive Council (NEC) in February 2016. See National Gazette No. G392 of 21st June 2016.

- It is expected that the CLDO will transform into Customary Land Development Authority in 2018.
PNG NRI activities in relation to land reforms in PNG

- Review of Land Act 1996. The PNG NRI was involved in the review of the Land Act in May 2016 however it is not happy with the review process. PNG NRI advocates for a proper review process.
What are the opportunities for Accountants in the VCLR system?

Accountants have a lot of jobs and business opportunities in the VCLR system. For example:

- Companies owned by ILGs are required to submit documents on returns to Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) annually. Accountants are needed for the job.

- ILG owned businesses are required to provide information on tax returns to Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) annually. Accountants are needed for the job.
What are the opportunities for Accountants in the VCLR system?

- ILGs need to prepare documents on returns to be submitted to the Registrar of ILG. Accountants are needed for the job.

- Accountants are needed for management support services to ILGs.
Accountants should facilitate the VCLR system

- As accountants have a lot to benefit from the VCLR system, it is important that they contribute to the process through facilitation of the system.

- Accountants have important role to play in the VCLR system and they have a lot of job and business opportunities in the system.
For Accountants to get as much benefit as possible from the VCLR system it is important for them to focus on facilitating the system and not to frustrate it.
PNG NRI website and social media

For more information on PNG NRI activities, see PNG NRI website and social media sites:

www.nri.org.pg

https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-research-institute-of-papua-new-guinea-nri/

https://twitter.com/pngnri

https://www.facebook.com/pngnri

https://plus.google.com/u/0/+PapuaNewGuineaNationalResearchInstitute
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Associate Professor Eugene Ezebilo,

E-mail: eezebilo@nri.org.pg