

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT TOURISM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

 **Zero-Draft Tourism Authority Bill 2026**
 **Provincial, Local-Level Government, & Industry Views**



LEGAL | TPA & OSS



“Speaking Notes – Provincial Engagement – Tourism Review”

1. Opening / Context

“This section focuses on our provincial engagement process undertaken as part of the tourism review.”

“We consulted widely across provinces to ensure the reform reflects on-the-ground realities and local priorities.”

2. Purpose of Engagement

“The objective was to gather views from provincial governments, industry players, and local communities.”

“We aimed to identify key challenges, gaps in the current system, and opportunities for improvement.”

3. Key Themes Emerging

“Several consistent themes emerged across provinces:”

- Limited awareness of tourism policies and regulatory requirements

- Weak coordination between national, provincial, and local levels
- Capacity gaps in licensing, compliance, and enforcement
- Need for stronger support for local operators and SMEs

4. Provincial Perspectives

“Provinces emphasized the need for greater decentralisation of functions.”

“There is a strong call for clearer roles and better communication between government levels.”

“Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of preserving culture while promoting tourism.”

5. Opportunities Identified

“Strengthening provincial institutional arrangements”

“Improving information flow and awareness”

“Enhancing partnerships between government and industry”

“Supporting local tourism products and standards development”

6. Link to Reform / Next Steps

“These insights directly inform the proposed reforms under the tourism framework.”

“The intention is to create a more inclusive, coordinated, and responsive system.”

“Moving forward, provincial engagement will remain central to implementation.”

7. Closing Transition

“I’ll now move to the next section, which outlines the proposed policy or legislative responses to these findings.”

“But, before, I do that, let’s go through the **Legislative Drafting Process** which TPA/OSS has undertaken to conduct the Tourism Legislative Review.”

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING PROCESS

1. Policy Development: National Tourism Policy⁽²⁰²⁵⁻²⁰⁴⁵⁾
2. Legislative Review & Gap Analysis: TPA Act 1993
3. Zero-Draft Bill: PNG Tourism Authority Bill 2026
4. Consultations: Provincial Govts / LLGs / Industry
5. Validation & Finalization
6. NEC Approval & Enactment



Speaking Notes – Legislative Drafting Process

Opening

“This slide outlines the structured process we are following to develop the Tourism Authority Bill 2026.”

1. Policy Developmenta

“We began with policy development—setting the overall direction for tourism reform.”

“This stage focused on identifying national priorities, challenges, and desired outcomes for the sector, including calls for law reform.”

2. Legislative Review & Gap Analysis

“Next, we reviewed existing tourism laws and frameworks.”

“We identified key gaps, inconsistencies, and areas where the current system is no longer effective.”

3. Zero-Draft Bill

“Based on this analysis, we developed the Zero-Draft of the PNG Tourism Authority Bill 2026.”

“This serves as the working document to guide consultations and gather stakeholder input.”

4. Consultations (Highlighted)

“We are currently at this critical stage—consultations.”

“We are engaging provincial governments, Local-Level Governments, and industry stakeholders.”

“The aim is to ensure the Bill reflects practical realities and incorporates views from all levels.”

5. Validation & Finalization

“Following consultations, we will refine the draft.”

“This stage ensures all feedback is considered and the Bill is technically sound and aligned with policy intent.”

6. NEC Approval & Enactment

“Finally, the Bill will be submitted for National Executive Council approval.”

“Once approved, it will proceed through the legislative process for enactment into law.”

Closing Transition

“As highlighted, consultations are central to this process, and your input today directly informs the final outcome of the Bill.”

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW IN BRIEF (GAPS):

Current Act is:

- Outdated Law: 32 years
- Focus on Policy Development & Marketing / Promotion
- Industry-coordinative

But Lacks:

- Regulatory Power / Framework
- Enforcement Mechanism
- Clear Provincial Engagement
- Modern Tourism Governance Framework



Speaking Notes – Legislative Review in Brief – Identified Gaps

- The current legislation is **32 years old**, making it outdated and no longer fit for today's tourism environment.
- It was primarily designed with a focus on **policy development, marketing, and promotion**, rather than regulation.
- The framework is largely **industry-coordinative**, meaning it supports and connects stakeholders but lacks authority.

Key Gaps Identified:

- There is **no strong regulatory power or framework** to guide and standardize the industry.
- The Act lacks an effective **compliance, enforcement, and monitoring mechanism**.
- There is **no clear structure for provincial engagement**, leading to coordination challenges across different levels of government.

- Overall, it does not reflect a **modern tourism governance framework**, limiting the sector’s ability to grow sustainably and competitively.

 **Key Message to Emphasize:**

In short, the current Act supports tourism—but does not effectively regulate or modernize it.

PNG TOURISM AUTHORITY BILL 2026

- Enhance Promotion and Development Role;
- Introduce a Regulatory Framework with TPA as the Regulator;
- Establish a Corresponding Compliance & Enforcement Structure;
- Establish Clear National-Provincial Collaborative Roles (through authorized functions & institutional arrangements); and
- Support Tourism Investment Coordination.



Speaking Notes – PNG Tourism Authority Bill 2026

“This slide outlines the key functions and improvements proposed under the PNG Tourism Authority Bill 2026.”

“Introduction of the New Legal & Regulatory Tourism Framework 2026.”

Enhance Promotion and Development Role

“The Bill strengthens TPA’s role in promoting Papua New Guinea as a destination and supporting sustainable tourism development.”

“This includes better coordination of marketing and product development initiatives.”

Introduce a Regulatory Framework (TPA as Regulator)

“A key reform is the introduction of a formal regulatory framework, with TPA designated as the sector regulator.”

“This brings structure, consistency, and accountability across the industry.”

Compliance & Enforcement Structure

“The Bill establishes clear compliance and enforcement mechanisms.”

“This ensures standards are upheld and creates a fair operating environment for all tourism businesses.”

National–Provincial Collaborative Roles

“It clearly defines roles between national, provincial, and local-level governments.”

“Through institutional arrangements, this improves coordination and reduces duplication.”

Tourism Investment Coordination

“Finally, the Bill supports better coordination of tourism investment.”

“This helps attract and guide investment into priority areas and ensures alignment with national goals.”

Close

“Overall, the Bill aims to create a more structured, coordinated, and investment-ready tourism sector in Papua New Guinea.”

“I’ll now hand over the presentation on the outline of the Zero Draft Tourism Bill to our OSS colleague”.



PNG TOURISM AUTHORITY BILL – OUTLINE

- ❑ (8) Parts I-VIII
 - Part I. – Preliminary.
 - Part II. – Administration.
 - Part III. – Finances.
 - Part IV. – Regulatory Control.
 - Part V. – Promotion & Development.
 - Part VI. – Compliance & Enforcement.
 - Part VII. – Miscellaneous.
 - Part VIII. – Final Provisions.
- ❑ (4) Key Parts: Regulatory Statutory Authority Framework
- ❑ 3x Schedules

Schedule 1. – Fees & Charges.
 Schedule 2. – Tourism Services Requiring License.
 Schedule 3. – Tourism Products Requiring License.



Speaking Notes - Outline of the Zero Draft Tourism Authority Bill 2026

The Bill is organized into **eight main parts**, supported by **three schedules**, providing a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the tourism sector.

Importantly, **four of these parts are dedicated to establishing a strong regulatory statutory authority framework**, signalling a shift from coordination to regulation.

Overview of the Eight Parts:

- **Part I – Preliminary:** Sets out the **foundational provisions**, including definitions, objectives, and the scope of the Act.
- **Part II – Administration:** Establishes the **institutional structure**, roles, and governance arrangements of the Tourism Authority.
- **Part III – Finances:** Provides for **financial management**, funding sources, and accountability mechanisms.

- **Part IV – Regulatory Control** (*Key Regulatory Component*): Introduces the **core regulatory framework**, including licensing and standards.
- **Part V – Promotion & Development**: Continues the Authority’s role in **marketing, investment facilitation, and sector development**.
- **Part VI – Compliance & Enforcement** (*Key Regulatory Component*): Establishes **monitoring, inspection, and enforcement powers** to ensure compliance.
- **Part VII – Miscellaneous**: Covers **supporting provisions** that enable the effective operation of the Act.
- **Part VIII – Final Provisions**: Deals with **transitional arrangements, repeal of the old law, and implementation matters**.

Schedules (Supporting the Framework):

- **Schedule 1 – Fees & Charges**: Defines the **cost structure** for licensing and regulatory services.
- **Schedule 2 – Tourism Services Requiring License**: Identifies **which services must be licensed** under the new framework.
- **Schedule 3 – Tourism Products Requiring License**: Specifies **regulated tourism products** to ensure quality and standards.

Key Message to Emphasize:

This structure reflects a modern, balanced approach—maintaining promotion and development functions while introducing a clear, enforceable regulatory regime.

DRAFT PNGT **A** BILL



PART I: PRELIMINARY

- ✓ Constitutional Compliance
- ✓ Interpretation
- ✓ Act Binds State
- ✓ Application of Related Acts
- ✓ Guiding Principles



PART II: ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ PNG Tourism Authority
- ✓ The Board
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer
- ✓ PNGTA Staff
- ✓ Tourism Advisory Council



PART III: FINANCES

- ✓ Application of PFMA/NPA/NTRA
- ✓ Finances | Expenditure | Fees & Charges | Bank Accounts | Investment & Borrowing | Budgetary Appropriations | Account Records | Audits | Financial Reports



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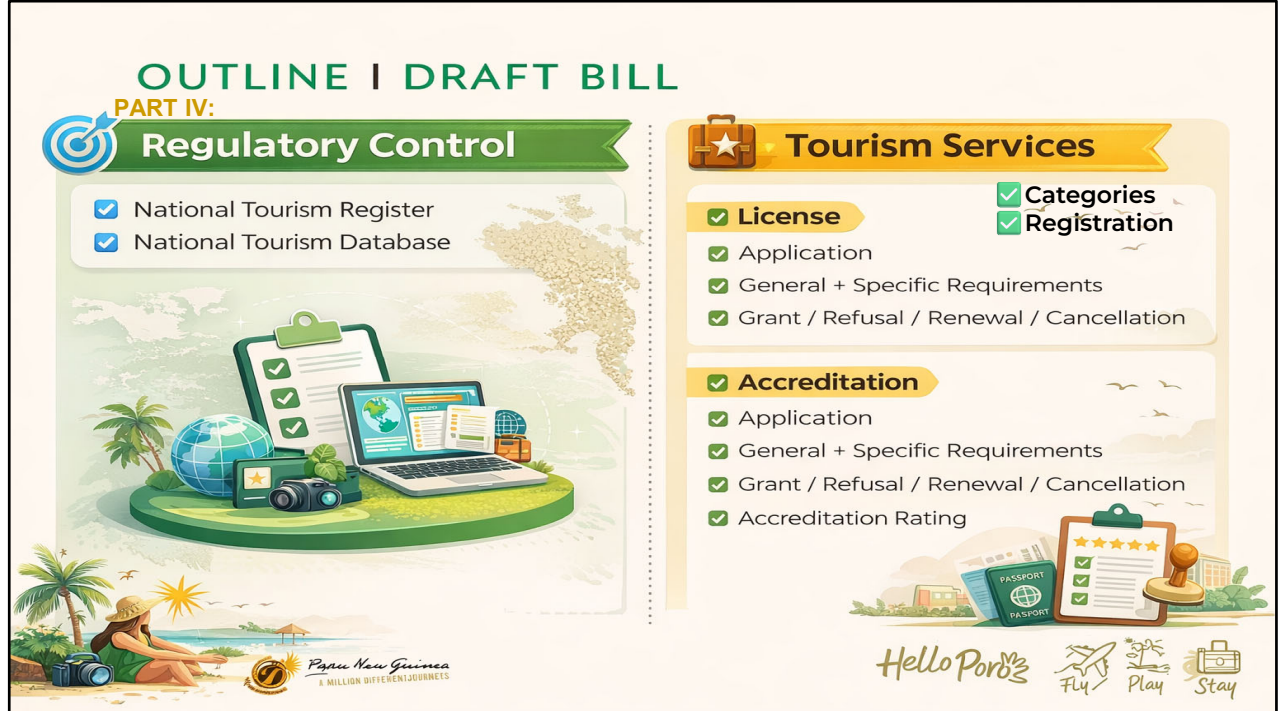
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Part IV – Regulatory Control

- This part is a **core pillar of the Bill**, introducing a **formal regulatory framework** for the tourism sector—something that has been missing in the current legislation.
- It establishes key national systems, including:
 - A **National Tourism Register** – to formally record all licensed operators
 - A **National Tourism Database** – to support data-driven planning, monitoring, and decision-making

Tourism Services Categories & Registration

- The Bill defines **categories of tourism services**, ensuring clarity on who is regulated.
- It introduces a **mandatory registration system**, creating a baseline for all operators entering the industry.

Licensing Framework

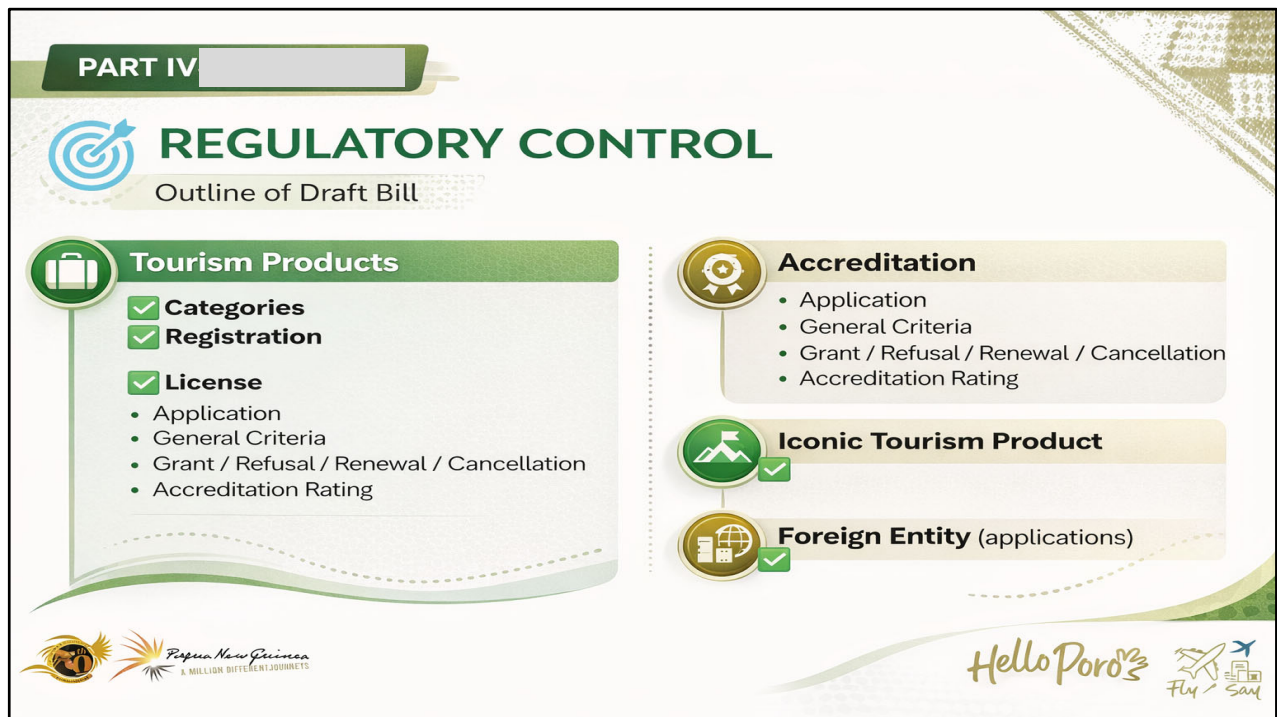
- A comprehensive **licensing regime** is established, including:
 - **Licence application processes**
 - **General and specific requirements** depending on the service category
 - Clear provisions for **granting, refusing, renewing, or cancelling licences**
- This ensures that only **qualified and compliant operators** are allowed to operate.

Accreditation System

- In addition to licensing, the Bill introduces an **accreditation framework** to promote quality and standards.
- This includes:
 - **Accreditation application processes**
 - Defined **general and specific criteria**
 - Processes for **grant, refusal, renewal, and cancellation**
- Importantly, it introduces an **accreditation rating system**, allowing operators to be assessed and recognized based on quality and performance.

Key Message to Emphasize:

Part IV moves the sector from an informal and unregulated space to a structured, transparent, and standards-based system—ensuring quality, credibility, and investor confidence.



Part IV – Regulatory Control (Tourism Products & Special Provisions)

- This section further strengthens the **regulatory framework** by extending it beyond services to include **tourism products**.
- It ensures that both **services and products** are captured under a **consistent and enforceable system**.

Tourism Product Categories & Registration

- The Bill defines **categories of tourism products**, providing clarity on what is regulated.
- It introduces a **mandatory registration process**, ensuring all tourism products are formally recognized and recorded.

Licensing Framework for Tourism Products

- A structured **licensing regime** is applied, including:
 - **Licence application processes**
 - Clearly defined **general criteria and requirements**

- Provisions for **granting, refusal, renewal, and cancellation of licences**
- This ensures **quality control and standardisation** across tourism offerings.

Accreditation & Quality Assurance

- The Bill introduces an **accreditation system** for tourism products, similar to services.
- This includes:
 - **Application processes**
 - **General and specific requirements**
 - **Procedures for grant, refusal, renewal, and cancellation**
- An **accreditation rating system** is also established to:
 - Recognise **high-quality and premium products**
 - Encourage **continuous improvement across the sector**

Iconic Tourism Products

- The Bill makes provision for the recognition of **iconic tourism products**.
- These are products of **national significance**, with strong potential for branding and international promotion.
- This supports **destination positioning and national identity** in tourism.

Foreign Entity Applications

- The framework also addresses **foreign participation in the sector**.
- It provides clear processes for **foreign entities applying for registration, licensing, and accreditation** for both services and products.
- This ensures that **international operators meet national standards** while supporting **investment and growth**.

Key Message to Emphasize:

This part ensures that all tourism offerings—both services and products—are properly regulated, quality-assured, and aligned with national interests, while also enabling strategic investment and global competitiveness.

OUTLINE | DRAFT BILL



PART V.- PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT



PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Tourism Promotion + Sector Development
- ✓ Tourism Hubs & Spokes
- ✓ Investment in the Tourism Industry
- ✓ Incorporation of SPVs + Status
- ✓ Restrictions + Trustee Shareholder + Directors + SPV Constitution
- ✓ Investment Partnerships



PART VI. – COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT



Compliance & Enforcement

- Duty to Retain Records + Accounts
- Request for Information
- Inspection
- Notices + Directions
- Authorized Officers



Offences & Penalties

- ✓ Offences
 - Investigation + Prosecution
 - Misconduct



Part V – Promotion & Development

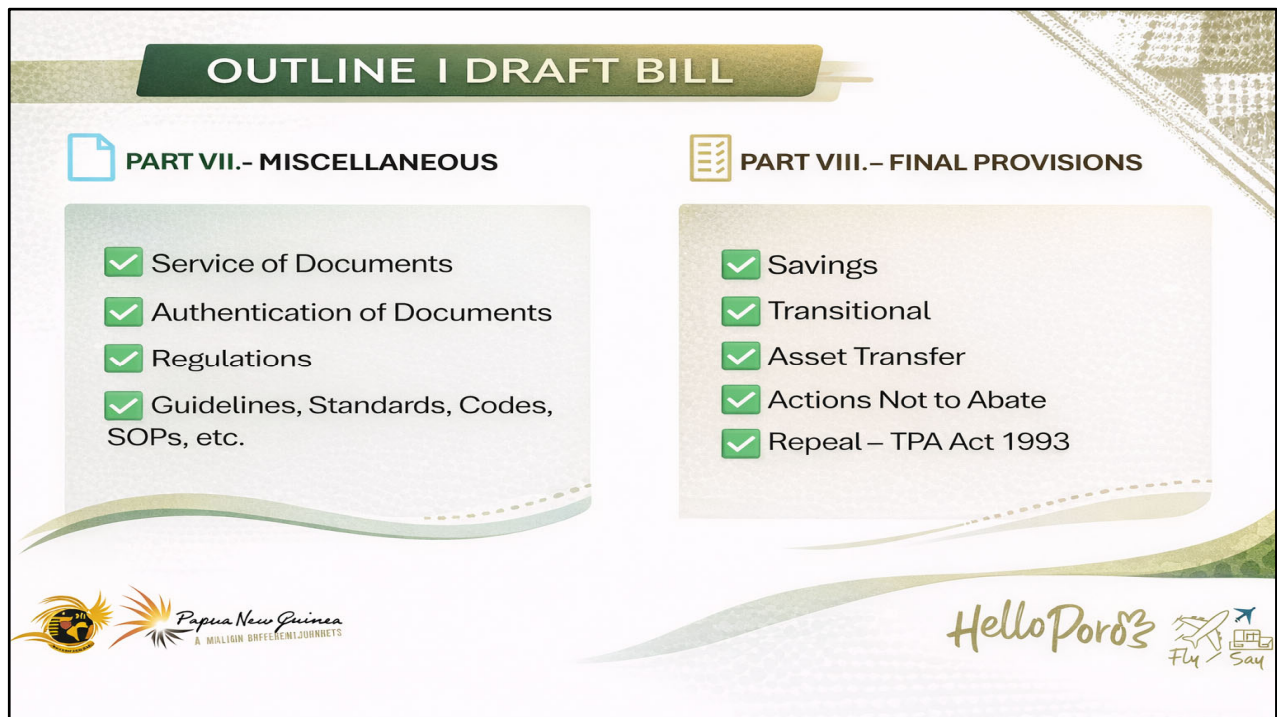
- This part focuses on **growing and strengthening the tourism sector**.
- It covers **tourism promotion** and **sector development**, ensuring PNG is positioned as a competitive and attractive destination.
- Introduces the **Hubs and Spokes model**, which identifies **strategic tourism centers (hubs)** and links them with **satellite attractions (spokes)** to maximize accessibility and regional growth.
- Encourages **investment in the tourism industry**, including provisions for:
 - **Incorporation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** for projects
 - **SPV legal status, restrictions, trustees, shareholders, directors, and constitutions**
 - **Investment partnerships** to promote collaboration and shared growth
- Overall, Part V **balances promotion with structured investment**, ensuring sustainable sector development.

Part VI – Compliance & Enforcement

- This part provides the **mechanisms to ensure that tourism operators comply with the law.**
- Key provisions include:
 - **Duty to retain records and accounts**, supporting transparency and accountability
 - Authority to **request information** from operators for monitoring purposes
 - **Inspection powers**, enabling verification of compliance
 - Issuance of **notices and directions** to correct non-compliance
 - Role of **authorized officers**, who are empowered to enforce the law on the ground
- **Offences and penalties** are clearly defined, covering:
 - General **offences and misconduct**
 - Powers for **investigation and prosecution**, ensuring operators adhere to licensing, accreditation, and operational standards

Key Message to Emphasize:

*Parts V and VI together ensure a **balanced approach**—while Part V focuses on **promotion, investment, and growth**, Part VI guarantees that the sector operates **legally, safely, and to high standards**, protecting both tourists and the integrity of PNG’s tourism industry.*



Part VII – Miscellaneous

- This part covers **supporting provisions** that enable smooth implementation of the Act.
- Key areas include:
 - **Service and authentication of documents**, ensuring legal validity in communications and records
 - Development and use of **regulations, guidelines, standards, codes, and SOPs**, which provide detailed operational instructions for tourism operators and the Authority
- Essentially, Part VII **provides the tools and mechanisms** to implement and operationalize the Act effectively.

Part VIII – Final Provisions

- This part ensures a **smooth legal transition** from the old framework to the new Act.

- It includes:
 - **Savings provisions** – protecting existing rights and obligations under the old law
 - **Transitional arrangements** – guiding the shift to the new regulatory framework
 - **Asset transfer provisions** – moving Authority assets from the old law to the new structure
 - Clauses ensuring **ongoing actions are not affected** (“*actions not to abate*”)
 - **Repeal of the Tourism Promotion Authority Act of 1993**, formally retiring the outdated legislation

 **Key Message to Emphasize:**

*Parts VII and VIII provide the **operational, legal, and transitional backbone** of the Bill—ensuring clarity, continuity, and enforceability as PNG moves to a modernized tourism regulatory framework.*



SCHEDULE 1 | FEES & CHARGES

	FEE TYPE	AMOUNT (K)
Section 50	Application Fee – Tourism Service Registration	A fee not exceeding K1,000.00
Section 52	Application Fee – Tourism Service License	A fee not exceeding K10,000.00
Section 58	Application Fee - Tourism Service Accreditation.	A fee not exceeding K10,000.00.
Section 67	Application Fee- Tourism Product Registration	A fee not exceeding K1,000.00
Section 68	Application Fee – Tourism Product License	A fee not exceeding K10,000.00
Section 74	Application Fee – Tourism Product Accreditation	A fee not exceeding K10,000.00
Section 52	Renewal Fee - Tourism Product Accreditation.	A fee not exceeding K10,000.00



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SCHEDULE 2 | TOURISM SERVICES THAT
REQUIRE A LICENSE

SCHEDULE 3 | TOURISM PRODUCTS THAT
REQUIRE A LICENSE



I END



- **In summary** – the Bill establishes a modern, comprehensive framework for tourism governance.
- It intends to strengthen regulation, promote investment, and enhance accountability.
- We welcome your feedback during this consultation process