



Centre for Excellence  
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# CEFI Nius



## NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION POLICY LAUNCHED

Launched on the 24th of January in Port Moresby, the Financial Sector Development Strategy and the Financial Inclusion Policy are documents that will aid in the development of PNG's financial sector.

The second National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2016-2020 and the National Financial Inclusion Policy will strengthen collaboration and coordination among the public and private sector stakeholders and provide an organizing framework for financial inclusion policies and regulations.

With the ongoing implementation of the second financial inclusion strategy, the National Financial Inclusion Policy provides a direction for the development of a fully inclusive financial sector.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Treasury, Charles Abel said while the Government is committed to reaching all Papua New Guineans that remain on the fringes of the monetary economy, there has to be tangible outcomes from the policies launched.

"We want our people to be able to make informed decisions and have more choices to help them manage their money, to have access to secure facilities to set aside savings for the future, to have access to responsible and affordable credit and be able to safely send money, pay bills and make other payments in a cost effective and reliable manner," he said.

The Financial Inclusion Policy is one of outputs of the Financial Sector Development Strategy. It was officially handed over to the Bank of PNG who will be the implementing agency for both policies.

The NFIP can be downloaded from the CEFI website: <https://www.thecefi.org/index.php/policies-strategies/>



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ⇒ Working Group Highlight—Inclusive Insurance.....2
- ⇒ MiBank launches New Debit card for women...2
- ⇒ Micro & small business to acquire business training.....2
- ⇒ 2018 Review: Milestones achieved.....3
- ⇒ Partners Corner: Women's Micro Bank.....4
- ⇒ Namatani moving to digital payments for local farmers. ....5
- ⇒ 8 Graduate as Business Development Skills Trainers in Mt Hagen. .....5
- ⇒ In The News, links & resources..6

### GREETINGS!

- Happy New Year 2019 from CEFI Board, Management and Staff
- To publish your stories send us an email: [info@thecefi.org](mailto:info@thecefi.org)

## WORKING GROUP HIGHLIGHT

### WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Ian Balfour—(Chairman) Inspac PNG Ltd  
 Jagdeep Dahiya—PFIP/UNCDF  
 Raka Taviri—NTIL/LIC  
 Augustine Zirau— Tower Insurance  
 Evangelia Kini—Office of Workers Compensation  
 Chris Kolias—Office of Workers Compensation  
 Angelo Polimeno—BIMA  
 Joesph Nukints—BPNG  
 Boniface Aipi—BPNG  
 Elizabeth Gima—BPNG  
 Christopher Giddings - Trans Pacific Assurance Ltd  
 Ludwig Repo—Office of Insurance Comm  
 James Sea—Office of Insurance Comm  
 David Lee—Pacific Insurer

### MIBANK LAUNCHES NEW DEBIT CARD FOR WOMEN



In empowering the women of Papua New Guinea and providing a safe and reliable service for them, MiBank launched their new Hibiscus Debit Card in October, 2018.

Specifically developed for PNG Women, this service has a higher earning interest rate of 1.50 % on savings over K1000, no monthly account keeping fee and dedicated support.

Other key advantages include financial independence, savings tips to reach the clients goals, women's customer service support via WhatsApp and receive balance alerts on your phone.



**THE HIBISCUS CARD**  
**EMPOWERING THE WOMEN OF PNG**

## WORKING GROUP: INCLUSIVE INSURANCE

The Industry group serves as a coordinating body to promote and advocate for the development of Inclusive Insurance policies and regulatory regime that will enable the growth of the insurance market for the general population including low-income individuals. It will facilitate partnerships between government and private sector for educating and offering products to the poor, including the use of alternate channels for distribution.

*facilitated discussions between the Insurance Council and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to produce an annual industry wide report for PNG. The report when completed will provide the basic data on the level of insurance penetration in the country, and also determine areas where support is needed to advance uptake of micro-insurance, especially in the rural areas.*

### Progress Update: The Working Group

*"Over 500,000 existing micro and small business and potential entrepreneurs in Papua New Guinea will acquire Business Development skills (BDS) training over the next couple of*

## MICRO & SMALL BUSINESS TO ACQUIRE BUSINESS TRAINING



Over 500,000 existing micro and small business and potential entrepreneurs in Papua New Guinea will acquire Business Development skills (BDS) training over the next couple of years.

This was made known by Microfinance Expansion Project Manager, Jacob Gop, during a recent BDS graduation in the Western Highlands Province.

The BDS training has a target to reach 15,000 people and so far over 13,000 people have been reached throughout the country.

There are over 132 trainers, 59 of which are women and these women alone have trained 4,600 women.

The Business development skills training was created to support Micro and small enterprises across PNG to help entrepreneurs grow and develop their businesses.

The training is one of the outputs in the Microfinance Expansion Project and has six modules which were developed to train participants on the skills and attitudes of an entrepreneur, quick marketing inputs, project cost, costing of a product/service, stock management and cash flow.

MEP partners with training organizations, Faith based organizations, Women Groups and individual consultants and has so far 15 partners who continue Business Development Skills training in their respective communities.



## 2018 IN REVIEW: MILESTONES ACHIEVED

**Financial Inclusion Policy** In September 2018, PNG's Cabinet, the National Executive Committee (NEC) approved the National Financial Inclusion Policy firmly placing financial inclusion as a key policy priority and recognizing financial inclusion as a key driver for PNG's economic and social development.



**PNG's Commitment to Maya Declaration** As a member of AFI, BPNG signed the Maya Declaration in 2013, and renewed its commitment in Russia in September, 2018 pledging to reach an additional 2.0 million unbanked low income people in PNG, 50% of whom will be women.

**Financial Inclusion Data Mapping** - As geography is a particular challenge in PNG for the delivery of services, CEFI is working on mapping spatial dimension of financial access points across the country. With the aim of turning raw data into insight the BI tool provides policy makers, regulators, financial service providers and users an interactive interface for effective data analysis, to track results and inform policies. Several workshops and training sessions were conducted by CEFI & BPNG staff for financial institutions that were going to be part of the pilot phase for this exercise.

**Financial Inclusion Data** - CEFI continues to collect, verify and consolidate financial inclusion data from all the regulated financial institutions every quarter which is then published on the AFI & CEFI websites.

**APEC Finance Ministers Process** – Throughout the year CEFI in collaboration with the Department of Treasury and Bank of PNG, CEFI provided its technical input and assistance to the APEC Finance Ministers Process and coordinated the APEC Financial Inclusion Seminar in Madang in June, followed by a Capacity Building workshop on Digital Financial Literacy in Port Moresby in July.

**Strategic Alliance** – CEFI's partnership with Mix Market (International microfinance information exchange)

continues to disseminate information on Microfinance institutions in PNG and publishes annual benchmark reports. Nine microfinance institutions provided data to Mix Market and latest reports are released and published on Mix market & CGAP websites.

**Special Projects** - There were a number of projects implemented in the second half of 2018. In particular; the Namatanai mobile phone feasibility study; Provincial Government Financial Inclusion Engagement, Financial Sector Development Strategy, CEFI organisation structure development work and corporate plan development.

**Financial Inclusion Engagement in Provinces** - A Pilot Project has been established to roll out Financial Inclusion activities in four selected provinces in PNG in 2018. These provinces have been selected based on the interest shown during the NFIP consultations that were conducted in these provinces. It is expected that a memorandum of agreement will be signed between CEFI and each provincial government.

**Financial Inclusion Strategy** – CEFI is currently rolling out the second national strategy, which has a longer 4 year roll-out period and is meant to build on the experiences of the first national strategy and its focus is on 'usage', while noting that 'access' and 'quality' are prerequisites for effective usage. The strategy also notes that 'financial literacy' and 'consumer awareness' must be strengthened to drive usage. The second strategy has a gender specific numerical target of 2 million additional

**Check out our Revamped New Look Website :**  
[www.thecefi.org](http://www.thecefi.org)

## PARTNERS' COLUMN

### Women's Micro Bank

Women's Micro Bank Limited (WMBL) is a licensed Micro-Bank regulated by the Bank of PNG.

Formerly known as PNG Women in Business Microfinance Institute Limited established in 2010. The Bank received its banking business license from Bank of PNG in May 2014.

Their services include:

- ◆ Savings
- ◆ Loans
- ◆ Micro Insurance
- ◆ BDS Training
- ◆ Financial Literacy Training

This week we feature  
Women's Micro Bank



## WMBIL ROLLS OUT MAMA BANK ACCESS POINTS

Since the official signing of an agreement between Women's Micro Bank (WMB) and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) in March 2018 to implement a new innovative solution, WMBL has successfully moved to the next phase of implementing this new innovative technology.

WMBL and PFIP developed a biometric enabled system that makes access to financial services easier for women in rural communities making opening accounts and transactions easier.

The Mama Bank Access Points (MAPs) are kiosk type structures that will be established in safe locations in market places manned by WMBL staff who are equipped with tablet based biometric technology that allows customers to make transactions using their finger prints.

Customers will have to complete the necessary identification requirements set by the Bank of PNG and will have their fingerprint impression taken, once this is done, the customer will be able to perform basic transactions like checking their balance, and making deposits and withdrawals.

"After the pilot we intend to rapidly replicate the MAPs in other parts of the country, helping to bring easy to use financial services closer to rural people in PNG, and particularly women," Gunanidhi Das, Manager WMBL said.

The aim is to bring financial services to women right at their door step he added.

Six access points will be established in

the coming months and will be set up in Port Moresby, Kerema, Madang, Maprik and Goroka.

PFIP Programme Manager Bram Peters said "Biometric solutions hold significant promise and are likely to play a very important role in the future of identity verification and authentication in banking services. What is more important to us, is that the customer experience of solutions such as the one used by WMBL is far more superior than what any of the Pacific banks are currently offering."

He continued on to say that using biometrics removes the need for customers to carry passbooks or ATM cards that come with the hassle of remembering PNG numbers and if proven successful in PNG, PFIP hopes to rollout similar projects across the Pacific.

WMBL has set a target of reaching



*WMBL IT Officer and a customer doing a demonstration on how, women can open an account using the Mama Bank Access Point*

20,000 women in the country using the

"The Women's Micro Bank is the 5th women only focused deposit taking licensed micro bank in the world and the first women's micro bank in PNG and the Pacific Region"





## NAMATANAI MOVING TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS FOR LOCAL FARMERS

MiBank has over the years proved to be one of the countries leading financial institutions in providing digital financial services.

This statement continues to be true as they recently established a “Super Agent” in Namatani District New Ireland Province.

MiBank in partnership with the Namatani District Development Authority recently established the Super Agent to make digital payments easier for local farmers.

The establishment of the agent is part of the “Fresh Produce Project” under Namatanai Advancement Limited, the

business arm of the Namatani District Development Authority.

The fresh produce project provides a marketing avenue for local farmers who will be selling their produce to Nationwide Catering Services (NCS) and Newcrest Mining Ltd (NML).

The agent will be the buying point for farmers and all payment are expected to be done electronically.

In addition to Mibank also managed to open over 500 bank accounts in six different locations in the district.

In addition to establishing and opening the super agent MiBank conducted financial literacy trainings in the dis-



Pictures courtesy of MiBank Facebook page

### 8 GRADUATE AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SKILLS TRAINERS IN MT HAGEN.

Pishon Havilah limited, one of Microfinance expansion project's (MEP) partners recently held a graduation for 8 of its staff who graduated as Trainers for Business Development Skills (BDS) training.

The week long training conducted by BDS Training Specialist Sebastian Mugup was held at the Abba Village outside Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province recently.

Pishon Havilah Limited Program Manager, Francis Kepon, in congratulating the 8 graduands highlight the importance of the training and urged the trainers to begin work in their communities.

The organization's task now is to train 1,800 people in their community making sure that 40% of these target number are women.

Looking forward to 2019, the Business Development skills training program will target the National Capital District, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Simbu, Enga, Eastern Highlands, New Ireland, Morobe and Madang Provinces.



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## LATEST FINANCIAL INCLUSION REPORTS

- ◆ **Policy to drive financial inclusion**  
<http://www.looppng.com/.../policy-drive-financial-inclusion-7...>
- ◆ **Financial institutions urged to use innovative technology**  
<https://postcourier.com.pg/financial-institutions-urged-use-innovative-technology/>
- ◆ **We need to do more in banking, says Abel**  
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/we-need-to-do-more-in-banking-says-abel/>
- ◆ **Government Involvement in Financial inclusion drive challenging.** <http://www.looppng.com/.../government-involvement-financial-i...>
- ◆ **Government keen to develop capital market**  
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/government-keen-to-develop-capital-market/>
- ◆ **Women in Morata flock to open bank account**  
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/women-in-morata-flock-to-open-bank-account/>
- ◆ **Still a lot more work to be done by CEFI** <https://postcourier.com.pg/still-lot-work-done-cefi/>
- ◆ **Credit Guarantee facility for for SMEs** <https://postcourier.com.pg/credit-guarantee-facility-smes-.../>
- ◆ **Literacy a must for aspiring business women.**  
<https://postcourier.com.pg/literacy-must-aspiring-business.../>
- ◆ **Banking at your fingertips**  
<http://www.looppng.com/business/banking-at-your-fingertips-82158>

