



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

LAND COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Level 3, WNB Haus, Independence Drive
Telephone: (675) 3012803 Ext: 5766 or 5767
Facsimile: (675) 323 3661
Email: landcommission@justice.gov.pg

P. O. Box 444
BOROKO
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

LAND COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA LAND COMMISSION ACT 2022 NOTICE OF CALL-OVER AND PRELIMINARY DIRECTIONS HEARING KAINANTU GOLD MINE PROJECT CUSTOMARY LAND OWNERSHIP PROCEEDINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Land Commission of Papua New Guinea will conduct a Call-Over and Preliminary Directions Hearing in relation to the pending customary land ownership proceedings concerning the Kainantu Gold Mine Project situated within Eastern Highlands Province.

These proceedings originate from a matter previously commenced before the former Land Titles Commission and now fall within the jurisdiction of the Land Commission pursuant to the transitional and saving provisions contained in the Land Commission Act 2022 relating to pending proceedings transferred from the former Land Titles Commission.

Hearing Details

Venue: Agarabi LLG Chambers, Kainantu, Eastern Highlands Province
Dates: 19 October 2026 to 30 October 2026
Time: 9:30am Daily

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to:

1. Confirm and verify the parties and respective representatives participating in the proceedings;
2. Consider the status of previous proceedings conducted under the former Land Titles Commission;
3. Consider the preservation and continued use of evidence previously received during the earlier proceedings;
4. Consider the admission into evidence of the transcribed records and handwritten notes of former Special Commissioner Toliken;
5. Clarify the geographical and legal scope of the proceedings with particular reference to the four declared mining tenements that comprise the area of dispute;
6. Consider updated GIS mapping, spatial analysis and boundary verification information prepared by the Commission;

7. Consider the status and evidentiary value of maps previously submitted by parties during earlier proceedings;
8. Consider issues relating to party identification, representation and consolidation of claims;
9. Consider issues relating to any purported title, grant, lease or other interest affecting the disputed area;
10. Consider directions relating to the filing of further evidence and written submissions;
11. Establish a timetable for future substantive hearings and related interlocutory procedures; and
12. Address any other procedural matter considered necessary for the fair and efficient determination of the proceedings.

Important Notice

This hearing is a preliminary and procedural hearing only.

The Commission will not determine customary ownership claims during this hearing. The hearing will focus on procedural, evidentiary, mapping, representation and case management matters necessary to facilitate future substantive ownership hearings.

Attendance

All clans, landowner groups, claimants, community representatives, local-level government representatives, provincial authorities, State agencies, project stakeholders and any other person claiming an interest in the disputed area are encouraged to attend.

Persons wishing to participate in the proceedings should ensure that their details have been updated with the Registrar of the Land Commission.

Further Information

Enquiries may be directed to:

The Registrar

Land Commission of Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby, National Capital District

DATED this 15th day of September 2026.



MR MOLEAN KILEPAK, LL.M
Chief Commissioner



COMMISSION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE CALL-OVER AND PRELIMINARY DIRECTIONS HEARING KAINANTU GOLD MINE PROJECT

Background

The Land Commission has undertaken a comprehensive review of records relating to the Kainantu Gold Mine customary land ownership proceedings previously conducted under the former Land Titles Commission.

The review indicates that extensive hearings were conducted and evidence received from numerous parties over the years.

The Commission has also identified original handwritten hearing notes prepared during those proceedings which have since been transcribed and preserved as part of the historical record.

The Commission further notes that while certain declaratory orders appear to have been made, the available records do not presently disclose a completed written determination setting out the findings, reasons and basis upon which those orders were made.

In these circumstances, the Commission considers it necessary and appropriate to convene a Call-Over and Preliminary Directions Hearing to establish the proper procedural framework for the completion of the proceedings.

Preservation of Existing Evidence

The Commission's preliminary view is that evidence previously received during the earlier proceedings should be preserved and remain available for use in the continuation of the matter.

This approach seeks to avoid unnecessary duplication, minimise costs to parties, preserve the historical evidentiary record and promote the expeditious completion of the proceedings.

The Commission intends to hear submissions from parties regarding:

- The preservation of earlier evidence;
- The use of former hearing records;
- The admission of transcribed hearing notes;
- Any objections or concerns regarding the existing record.

Scope of Proceedings

Preliminary analysis undertaken by the Commission indicates that evidence was obtained over a wider geographical area than the area formally declared as being in dispute.

The Commission's present intention is to focus the continuing proceedings upon the four declared mining tenements that constitute the formal area of dispute.

Evidence previously obtained from the wider project area may nevertheless remain relevant to the extent that it assists the Commission in determining ownership issues affecting the declared tenements. The declared tenements are ML 150, LMP 78, ME 80 and ME 81.

GIS Boundary Verification

The Commission has also undertaken a systematic GIS mapping and verification exercise.

Initial reviews indicate that many maps previously submitted by parties identified areas of interest and customary boundaries by reference to traditional landmarks but did not contain surveyed coordinates.

The Commission is therefore using GIS data, topographical information and customary landmark references contained in earlier submissions to assist in verifying and spatially interpreting those claims.

The Commission intends to present aspects of this work during the hearing and receive submissions from parties before final GIS products are relied upon in future ownership proceedings.

Consolidation of Parties

Given the number of parties previously appearing in these proceedings, the Commission will also consider options for:

- consolidation of overlapping claims;
- representative appearances;
- clarification of clan representation; and
- reduction of duplication in future proceedings.

Development Grants and Benefits

The Commission is also aware that certain development initiatives and grants may have been delayed due to unresolved ownership issues.

The hearing will provide an opportunity for parties and stakeholders to address the distinction between:

- benefits directly dependent upon ownership determination; and
- development initiatives not requiring a final ownership decision before implementation.

Future Directions

Following the Call-Over Hearing, the Commission presently anticipates issuing directions for:

- filing of written submissions;
- responses to GIS verification material;
- clarification of party representation;
- objections to preserved evidence; and
- identification of issues requiring determination.

Subject to those directions, substantive hearings will thereafter be scheduled.