

# Tribal Retail Propane Business

## Timeline for Execution and Operational Setup

The timeline to complete these steps for launching a tribal retail propane business will depend on various factors such as access to capital, equipment lead times, and the complexity of setting up infrastructure. Below is a general estimate of the time it might take to complete each phase:

### 1. Formalize the Business Structure (2–3 months)

- **Incorporation and Legal Setup:** 1–2 months (including registration, preparing legal documents, and meeting tribal requirements).
- **Permits and Licenses:** 1–2 months depending on regulatory approval processes.
- **Draft Agreements:** Concurrently with legal setup (1–2 months).

### 2. Secure Financing and Capital (2–4 months)

- **Finalize Funding Sources:** 2–4 months, depending on whether the capital comes from tribal funds, government grants, or private investors. Loan approvals may add extra time.
- **Cash Flow Planning and Budgeting:** 1–2 months (this can be done alongside finalizing funding).

### 3. Procurement of Equipment and Infrastructure (3–6 months)

- **Purchase Propane Tanks and Trucks:** 2–4 months (depending on availability and delivery schedules for equipment).
- **Site Selection and Build-out:** 3–6 months for site selection, permitting, and construction or setup of facilities.
- **Technology Setup:** 1–2 months (can be done simultaneously with site build-out).

### 4. Secure Propane Supply (1–2 months)

- **Negotiate with Suppliers:** 1–2 months to finalize supply contracts.
- **Determine Inventory Levels:** 1 month (this will occur as part of the operational planning).

### 5. Build the Team (2–4 months)

- **Hire Key Personnel:** 1–3 months for recruiting, interviewing, and onboarding staff.
- **Safety Training:** 1 month (this can begin as soon as key personnel are in place).
- **Establish Management Structure:** 1–2 months (can occur concurrently with hiring).

### 6. Develop Sales & Marketing Strategy (2–3 months)

- **Create Online Presence:** 1–2 months for set up and content creation.
- **Launch Marketing Campaign:** 1–2 months for planning and design, then launching concurrent with operations.
- **Create Sales Materials:** 1–2 months (can be done during the procurement phase).
- **Establish Sales Channels:** Ongoing, but initial outreach can begin in 2 months.

## 7. Regulatory Compliance and Safety Procedures (1–3 months)

- **Safety Compliance:** Ongoing, but initial compliance checks and setup should take 1–3 months.
- **Insurance Coverage:** 1–2 months to secure policies.
- **Environmental Compliance:** 1–3 months depending on regulatory requirements.

## 8. Set Up Operations (2–3 months)

- **Route Planning and Logistics:** 1–2 months.
- **Customer Service Setup:** 1–2 months.
- **Inventory Management:** 1 month, but ongoing.

## 9. Pilot Launch (2–3 months)

- **Test Operations:** 1–2 months for a soft launch in a limited area.
- **Gather Customer Feedback:** Ongoing, but allow at least 1–2 months for meaningful feedback before scaling up.

## 10. Full-Scale Launch (1–2 months after Pilot)

- **Official Launch:** After 1–2 months of pilot operations, adjust for feedback and begin full-scale operations.

## 11. Ongoing Operations and Scaling (6–12 months post-launch)

- **Monitor and Scale:** Continuous, but initial monitoring and small-scale expansion can happen within 6–12 months.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Ongoing, with regular reviews.
- **Expansion Planning:** Can begin 6–12 months after launch, depending on success.

### Estimated Total Timeline:

Each phase could overlap, allowing for some efficiency gains, but a 12–24 month timeline is a reasonable expectation to move from the planning phase to a fully operational propane business.