

FOCUS ON CIPA

ISSUE 1 OF 2024

CIPA COMPANIES
AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AUTHORITY
PROTECTING BUSINESS INTERESTS



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



It is always a delight to share the CIPA newsletter with our stakeholders and keep them abreast with what has been going on with the Authority.

We have settled into 2024 well and are looking forward to a busy year. 2023 was quite an eventful year for CIPA, with the highlight being the hosting of the Governing Bodies of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization in November 2023 as well as the Levy on Technical Devices Fund activities which culminated with an open call for funding aimed at developing and promoting the creative industries.

As per our Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026 (CIPA 2.0), the focus of the majority of our initiatives is on intellectual property activities. With the

Botswana Intellectual Property Policy going into its second year of implementation, as well as the imminent launch of the online system for the registration of IP rights, the Authority is putting in place the building blocks to ensure that by 2036 Botswana will be “an IP driven economy.”

We hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter and please do give us feedback on info@cipa.co.bw.

Marietta Magashula

Awareness & Communications Manager



INTRODUCING MR JOEL DUKE RAMAPHOI:

CIPA Caretaker Registrar General

*Please join us to warmly
welcome Mr Ramaphoi
to the CIPA family.*

Mr Joel Duke Ramaphoi was appointed as the Caretaker Registrar General of CIPA with effect from 8th September 2023. Mr Ramaphoi was the inaugural Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, where he laid the foundation for an entrepreneurial ecosystem that fuels innovation and creativity, prioritizes the development of high growth start-ups, and nurtures innovative Small and Medium Enterprises. He has previously worked at the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) as Executive Director – Investor Attraction. Mr Ramaphoi is also a seasoned banker with over 18 years experience in the banking and finance sector, having worked at the Bank of Botswana and Standard Chartered Bank Group. Mr Ramaphoi's vision for CIPA is the attainment of a country ecosystem where innovation and creativity thrive – underpinned by a strong intellectual property system.



FEATURE STORY

Botswana Hosts The Governing Bodies Of The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization.

Gaborone was a hive of activities from 20th -25th November 2023 as Botswana hosted the 2023 sessions of the governing bodies of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). The 19th Session of the ARIPO Council of Ministers was held from 24th – 25th November 2023. This meeting comprised ministers responsible for Intellectual Property in the 22 member states of ARIPO and was officially opened by His Excellency the President, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi. In his remarks, His Excellency stated that there is innovation happening all over the African continent, and challenged member states to introspect and resolve the challenges

that are hindering our innovations from impacting the global market. Dr Masi also advised ARIPO member states to ensure that traditional knowledge systems become the foundation for African innovation in Agriculture, Health, Creative Industries and for environmental sustainability. Sharing on Botswana's flagship intellectual property policy, His Excellency stated that one of the key deliverables is to build Botswana's pharmaceutical industry by leveraging the wealth of indigenous knowledge that is abundant all over the country. The Council of Ministers was preceded by the Administrative Council, comprising heads of intellectual property offices from 20th to 23rd November 2023.

His Excellency the President Addresses CIPA Staff on Intellectual Property Development:

VIDEO

<https://fb.watch/pEByHWPMad/>



CLICK TO WATCH



About ARIPO

ARIPO is an intergovernmental organization established in 1976 whose mandate is to facilitate cooperation among its Member States in intellectual property matters. The purpose of ARIPO is to pool resources for the promotion, development, and harmonisation of the IP laws and policies of ARIPO Member States. The objective of ARIPO, amongst others, is to establish common services and organs for IP coordination, development and harmonisation. The Member States of ARIPO comprise Botswana, The Kingdom of Eswatini, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, The Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. On account of its mandate, the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) is Botswana's focal point for ARIPO. Read more about ARIPO at www.aripo.org

Botswana Takes Over the Chairmanship of the ARIPO Governing Bodies

During the sessions of the ARIPO Governing Bodies held in Botswana in November 2023, Botswana ascended to the Chairmanship of the Organization. Minister of Trade and Industry Honourable Mmusi Kgafela chairs the Council of Ministers and CIPA Caretaker Registrar General Mr Joel Duke Ramaphoi is Chair of the Administrative Council.





● Director General of WIPO Visits Botswana

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Mr Daren Tang visited Botswana on the sidelines of the 19th Session of the ARIPO Council of Ministers. This was the first ever visit to Botswana by a sitting WIPO Director General. Mr Tang paid a courtesy call to His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi and held meetings with the Ministers of Trade and Industry, Entrepreneurship, Communications, Knowledge and Technology and Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture.

Director Tang also visited the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub where he interacted with Heads of Research and Academic Institutions as well as some of the innovators incubated at the Science and Technology Park. CIPA also hosted Mr Tang and his delegation to a culture night

where he had meaningful conversations with members of the creative industry on making their intellectual property work to improve their livelihoods. Mr Tang's last official engagement in Botswana was delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the 19th Session of the Council of Ministers. The engagements served to foster a greater working relationship with Botswana and WIPO and served to cement WIPO's commitment to ensuring that patents, trademarks, traditional knowledge, copyright and other IP rights work to improve the livelihoods of Botswana. CIPA, with the assistance of WIPO, is currently working on the IP Model Office Project, which seeks to establish an online system for the registration of IP rights, and throughout the engagements both WIPO and CIPA committed to seeing the project go live during 2024.



Quotable quotes by the Director General of WIPO Mr Daren Tang

- ▶ “Africa is a land of immense heritage, culture and creative resources. And African creators are taking these traditional resources and traditional cultural expressions and transforming them into a new African cultural renaissance.”
- ▶ “Innovation, creativity, technology and entrepreneurship are increasingly driving African dreams, ambitions, hopes and desires and we must transform the global IP ecosystem to turn these dreams into reality.”
- ▶ “Intellectual Property is a powerful catalyst for jobs, entrepreneurship, investments, growth and sustainable economic and social development.”
- ▶ “Intellectual Property continues to shift from the periphery to the centre of ARIPO economies.”
- ▶ “Africa has the highest awareness of trademarks in the world.”
- ▶ “IP offices in the region are listening to the ground and are themselves transforming from IP regulators and registries to innovation catalysts and agencies.”



LEVY ON TECHNICAL DEVICES FUND OPEN CALL ANNOUNCED

The Levy on Technical Devices Fund Open Call has been announced by the LTDF Committee and CIPA is currently accepting project proposals for funding. This follows an intensive countrywide roadshow whose aim was to sensitize members of the creative industry on how to access funding from the LTDF. Applicants can receive funding from P10,000 to P1million. The deadline for submissions is 16th February 2024 at 17:00hrs.

*Levy on Technical Devices Fund
Success Stories:*

VIDEO

<https://fb.watch/pEBTngoJl8/>



CLICK TO WATCH



LEVY ON TECHNICAL DEVICES FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

1. What type of projects can be funded from the LTDF?



Answer:

Projects proposed for funding under the LTDF, should impact at least one of the copyright-industries and should be in line with objectives of the Fund which are to:

- a) Promote creation and production of literary and artistic works.
- b) Support enforcement of copyright and neighbouring rights.
- c) Support information dissemination on any matter that promotes creative industries.
- d) Support initiatives that enhance skills of rights holders.
- e) Promote production of quality literary and artistic works.
- f) Promote effectiveness of rights-holders' organisations.
- g) Promote collaborations within the creative industries; and
- h) Support any other projects and programmes that promote the development and growth of the creative industries.

2. What are examples of Copyright- Based Industries?



Answer:

These are industries that generate copyright protected works. These include music, films, drama, photography, poetry, visual and graphic art, architecture, books and literature, softwares and apps and other artistic and literary works.

3. Who can apply for funding from the LTDF?



Answer:

- a) Citizens of Botswana with a minimum age of 18 years (applicants below the age of 21 should submit a guardian's consent);
- b) Businesses registered under the Business Names Registration Act that are 100% owned by Botswana citizens.
- c) Companies registered under the Companies Act with 100% citizen ownership.
- d) Voluntary and self-governing organisations (e.g., foundations, association, charities, societies, trusts)

4. How do I submit my application?



Answer:

- a) Application forms can be accessed as follows:
- i. Collected from CIPA offices in Gaborone, Francistown, Maun and Serowe.
 - ii. Downloaded from the CIPA website at
<https://www.cipa.co.bw/levy-on-technical-devices-fund>.
 - iii. Downloaded from the CIPA Facebook page: Companies and Intellectual Property Authority - Botswana.
- b) CIPA will accept both handwritten and word-processed application forms.
- c) Each application should adopt one language: either Setswana or English.
- d) The application form must be completed in triplicate (3 copies must be submitted) and submitted in a single sealed envelope.

5. Where should I send my application?



The application should be addressed as follows:

The Levy on Technical Devices Fund Management Committee
Companies and Intellectual Property Authority

- i) Applications should be submitted to the following addresses:

GABORONE	Plot 54358, Block A Prime Plaza, CBD Tel: 3673726
FRANCISTOWN	Plot No: 903, Unit18/19/20, Tati River Mall Tel: 241 6808
SEROWE	Plot No: 16148 Main Mall CAS Centre building Tel: 463 0322
MAUN	Lot 28049 Chobe Ward, Old DAMSAC Building Tel: 680 0912

- ii) Submissions can either be hand delivered, sent by post, or couriered.

6. Where can I get more information on the fund?



Answer: More information can be found at

<https://www.cipa.co.bw/levy-on-technical-devices-fund>.

For enquiries please email **ltdf@cipa.co.bw** or call **3673726**.

IP POLICY QUICK FACTS



- Following its adoption by Parliament, the Botswana Intellectual Property Policy was launched by His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi in November 2022.
- **Vision:** Botswana will be an IP-driven Economy By 2036.
- **Mission:** To provide a conducive environment for IP generation, protection and commercialisation.
- **Policy Key Focus Sectors:** Creative Industries, Health Care Industries, Agribusiness, Tourism and ICT Industries.

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