



JAPAN PATENT OFFICE



INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSTITUTE



# COUNTRY REPORT- UGANDA


Presented by

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# **IP OFFICE OVERVIEW**

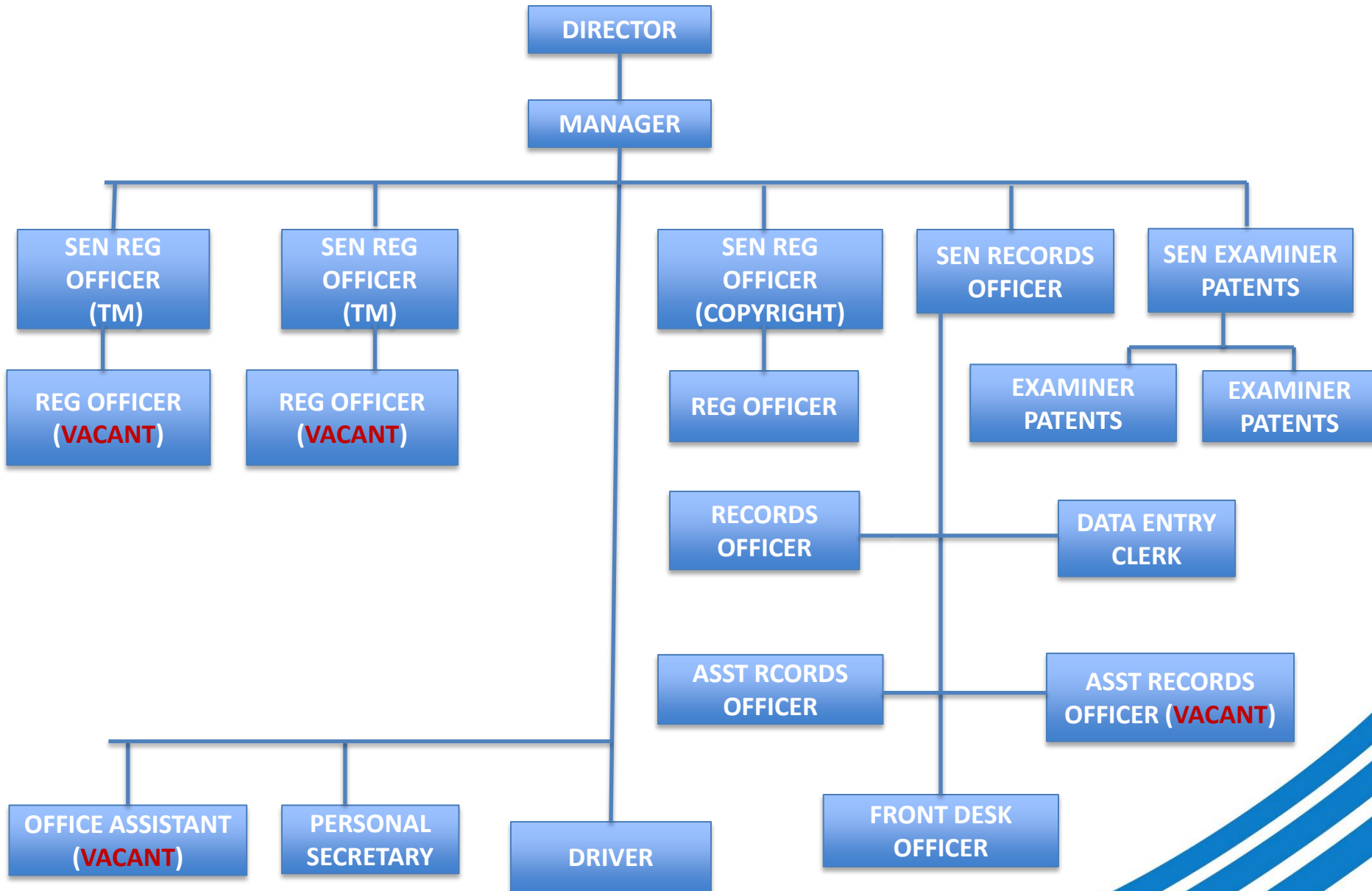
The Intellectual Property Office in Uganda is one of the Directorates in Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). The Bureau is an autonomous statutory body (under the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs) established under an act of parliament in 1998.

The act came into force on the 16th of August, 2004 and the self-accounting status was granted in July, 2010. The bureau is governed by the Board of Directors and the chief executive officer is the Registrar General.



# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## Organizational Chart



# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## Total budget

- The IP directorate's budget for the financial year 2015/2016 was approximately USD 303,030. and 11.5% is allocated for ICT.



# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## STAFF

- URSB has about 215 members of staff of which seventeen are IP staff.

POSITION	NUMBER OF STAFF
DIRECTOR	1
MANAGER	1
SENIOR REGISTRATION OFFICER	3
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER	1
REGISTRATION OFFICER	1
PATENT EXAMINER	2
SENIOR RECORDS OFFICER	1
RECORDS OFFICER	1
ASSISTANT RECORDS OFFICER	1
PERSONAL SECRETARY	1
DATA ENTRY CLERKS	2
FRONT DESK OFFICER	1
DRIVER	1

# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## STAFF

The Bureau has an ICT department consisting of eight staff.

POSITION	NUMBER OF STAFF
DIRECTOR	1
MANAGER	1
ICT SPECIALIST	1
DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	2
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	1
SYSTEMS ANALYST	2

# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't


## Level of familiarization of ICT among the IP technical staff

The level of familiarization of ICT among the IP technical staff is fairly good and everyday is a learning process.

LEGISLATION	IP	STATUS
The Industrial Property Act of 2013	Patents, Utility Models and Industrial Designs	In force and under reviewed
Industrial Property Regulations 2015	Patents, Utility Models and Industrial Designs	In force and under reviewed
The Trademarks Act 2010	Trademarks	In force
The Trademarks Regulations 2012	Trademarks	In force
The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act, 2006	Copyright	In force
The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Regulations S.I No.1, 2010	Copyright	In force
The Trade Secrets Protection Act, 2009	Trade Secrets	In force
The Geographical Indications Act 2012	Geographical Indications	Not yet implemented

# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## IP Functions

- Trademark examination, registration and renewal.
  - Copyright examination and registration.
  - Patent and utility model examination and grant.
  - Review IP regulations
  - Sensitization activities to the public about IP.
  - Adjudication of opposition hearings.
  - National focal point for (Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs)).
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# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## IP Volumes since the creation of the IP Office

Since the creation of the IP office (directorate), the following are the volumes;

IP	APPROXIMATE VOLUMES
Trademarks	56262
Patents	93
Copyrights	386

# IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't

## IP Volumes since 2010

- From 2010 to date, the IP office (directorate) has the following are the volumes;

IP	REGISTERED/GRANTED	IN PROCESS
Trademarks	8478	9287
Patents	2	24
Copyrights	198	188

# **IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't**

## **IP Applications Backlog**

- There is basically no application backlog currently as all the received applications are captured into IPAS immediately.



# **IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't**

## **Number of Verified and Validated Records**

- Currently 75% of the physical files have bibliographic data captured in IPAS.
- However data validation done is still minimal arising from file migration inconsistencies when IPAS java replaced IPAS Centura.



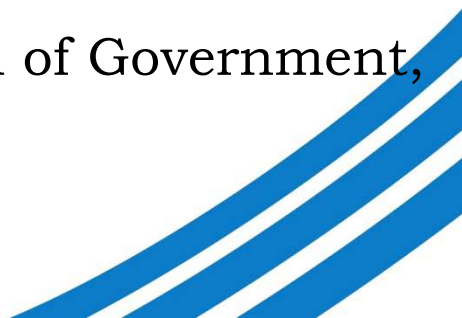
# **IP OFFICE OVERVIEW Con't**

## **IP Digitized records**

- There are no digitized files.
- Preparations are underway for a WIPO mission that will implement the activity.




# CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS

- Reception of new applications / user documents;
    - Received in IPAS once they meet the formality requirements.
  - Data capture processes and procedures;
    - All data from the application forms are captured into IPAS.
    - Logos scanned and also saved in the system.
  - Digitization of paper document if happening;
    - Preparations are underway to digitize all IP documents.
  - Data Validation and verification functions / procedures / processes if exist
    - Data is not validated for the running version of IPAS 2.7
  - Journal production processes (manual, semi-manual, all on the system);
    - Management of the journal is by another institution of Government, The Uganda Gazette.
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# CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS

## cont'd

- We generate Gazette notices that are published by the Uganda Gazette.
  - No online journal
  - Journal publication – Free-of-charge (or for a fee);
    - Fees are applicable and determined by the Uganda Gazette.
  - Data exchange programs with cooperating partners e.g. WIPO, EPO etc;
    - Data exchange programs exist with WIPO Lex for the publication of legal document.
  - Type of online services offered to the public if any (e.g. searches, e-filing, digital library, etc.).
    - No IP services available online.
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# CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS

## cont'd

- Implementation challenges & difficulties you are facing (i.e. application processing backlog);
    - No application backlog.
    - There are however challenge with IPAS notably:
      - ✓ Failure to automatically update the file status even after performing an especially post grant actions.
      - ✓ IP staff cannot perform searches through the company/business name registration database. IPAS is not configured to fetch these records.
      - ✓ Inability of the system to notify users of important statuses e.g. due dates for renewals etc.
      - ✓ Claims such like Associations, Colour claims and disclaimers do not automatically appear on the output documents.
      - ✓ IPAS is not configured to capture copyright information.
      - ✓ The examiner's report lacks detail to obtain a standard report. E.g. Association, translation, disclaimer, changes in wordings etc.
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# CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS cont'd

- Implementation challenges & difficulties you are facing (i.e., application processing backlog)....Cont'd
  - ✓ Oppositions user document cannot be received in IPAS. I.e. it returns an error message “IP\_FILE\_SELECTIONS. NOT FOUND”.
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# CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS


## cont'd

- ICT-related policy (if relevant)
    - No ICT policy in place but preparations are underway to have one.
  - Any experiences & best practices that may be useful to other offices.
    - Carrying out IP awareness campaigns.
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# **BENEFIT FROM PREVIOUS WIPO REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

- In 2015, URSB was represented at the WIPO regional training workshop on IP data validation, verification and exchange in Zimbabwe.

From the training report:

- URSB is in advanced stages of implementing the EDMS
  - Upgrade of IPAS 2.7 to 3.1 is in the pipeline
  - Better understanding of data and the cleanup processes
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# **FUTURE AUTOMATION PLANS**

- As we roll out the EDMS, it is hoped that we shall achieve 100% data digitization and move to a fully electronic registry not limited to the bibliographic data.
- Automation of Copyright registration.



THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING TO ME

