



UGANDA REGISTRATION SERVICES BUREAU'S AUTOMATION STATUS

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Directorate of Intellectual Property
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Outline

- IP Office Overview
- Structure
- IP Administration Systems & level of Automation
- Electronic Registry.
- Document management
- Online services delivered by the IPO
- Challenges
- Future Plans

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). It's an autonomous statutory body established in 1998 by Chapter 210 of the Laws of Uganda.
- URSB is the National Intellectual property Office.
- Governed by a Board of Directors and a Chief Executive Officer, the Registrar General.

Ip Office Overview..cont

Core Directorates

- Directorate of Intellectual Property. (Trademarks, copyright, Patents, Utility models, industrial designs and Technovations).
- Directorate of Business Registration (Companies, Business names, Legal documents, chattels).
- Directorate of Civil Registration (Marriages and Adoption orders).
- Directorate of the official receiver.

Ip Office Overview..cont

Ip Legal Framework

- The Industrial Property Act of 2014 and Industrial Property Regulations 2017
- The Trademarks Act 2010 and Trademarks Regulations 2012
- The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act, 2006 and Copyright and Neighboring Rights Regulations, 2010
- The Geographical Indications Act 2013 and Regulations 2018
- The Trade Secrets Protection Act, 2009

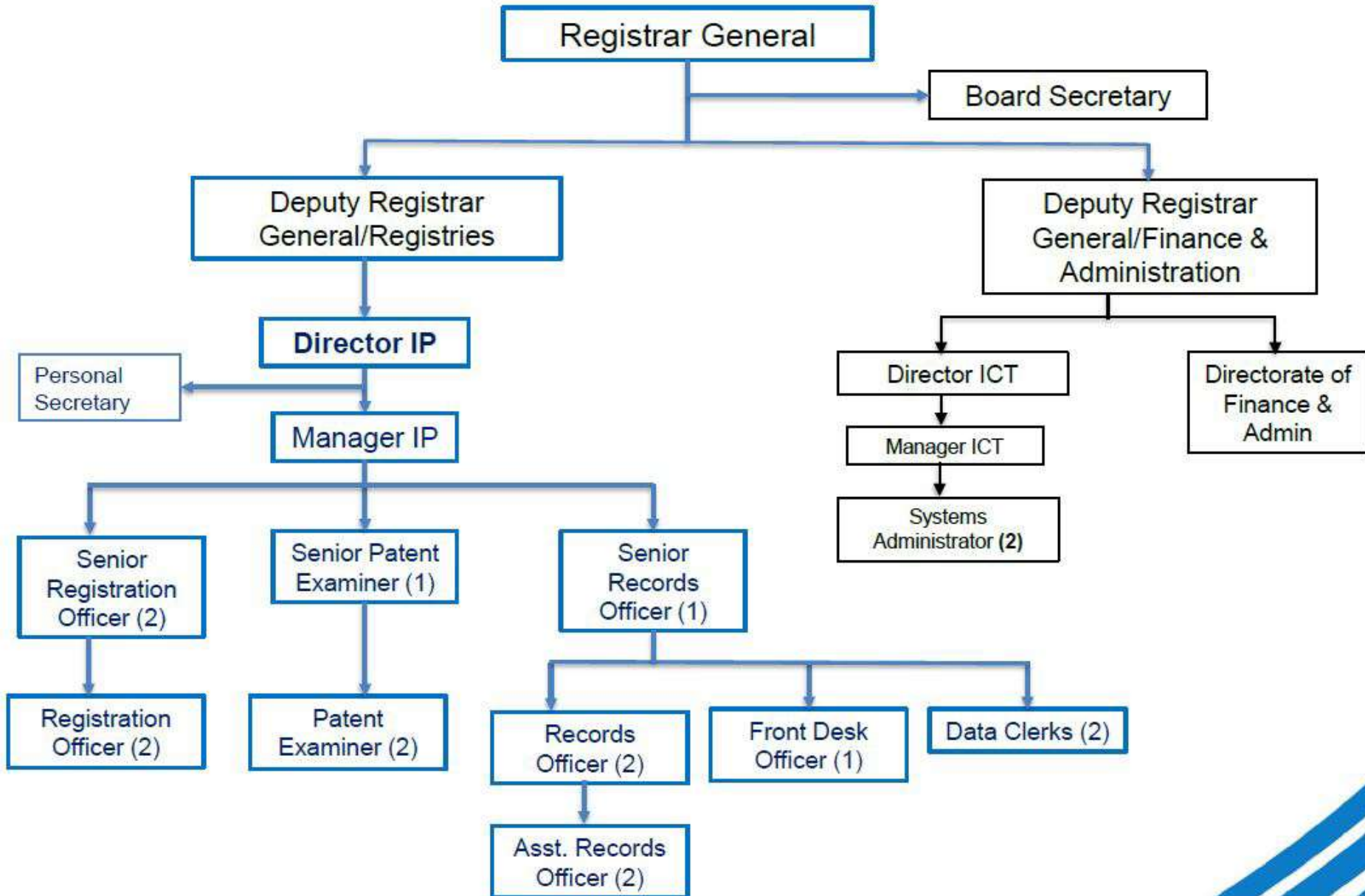
Ip Office Overview..cont

IP LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Uganda is also party to;

1. Banjul protocol on marks
2. Harare Protocol on Patents, Utility models and Industrial designs.
3. TRIPS Agreement

Structure of IP Directorate



IP Workflows



IP Administration Systems and level of automation

- Uganda is currently using the IPAS (Industrial Property Administration System) version 3.4.0a
- The ARIPO MS module is operational, allowing exchange of notifications in real time.
- In October 2016, several high power servers were created for IP registration, testing & training.

IP Administration Systems and level of automation..Cont

- Workflows & office documents have been improved to ensure accuracy & efficiency.
- A large number of files were scanned & digital files are available to the examiner.
- All new applications and post grant applications are scanned in real time.
- During the past WIPO missions, IP & ICT staff were trained on IPAS, EDMS, WIPO Publish & the ARIPO MS module. But continuous training is encouraged.

IP Administration Systems and level of automation..Cont

- Two file scanning/data conversion projects were successfully done.
- Several IP staff have benefited from the annual WIPO regional training workshops.
- Regional office staff have been trained on the system.
- Regular IPAS trainings for IP & rest of URSB staff have been achieved.

IP Administration Systems and level of automation...cont

OFFICE FUNCTION	IPAS
Reception	All IP applications are received using IPAS+. The numbers generated are printed on clients' hard copy application forms.
Formality Examination/check	This function is automated though not all options of are in the system. E.g copyright
Search/examination	Trademarks search is performed in Ipas except for Logos whereby Vienna classification is not implemented in the system. For the other IPs, the registrars have to consult other search engines and websites.
Decision (acceptance/refusal)	Done in the system
Registration	Done in the system

IP Administration Systems and level of automation...cont

OFFICE FUNCTION	IPAS
Journal publication	Installed but currently, office publication journal is not generated from the Ipas. The trademarks Regulations is currently being amended to provide for an IP Journal
Post grants	Implemented except for some like patent annuity which has no workflow

Electronic Registry

- The registry is operating both with paper and digital form of documents.
- We receive applications in paper form and then scan and index them into the Ipas system using the WIPOScan.
- Currently, the registry is in the process of transferring the physical files to an offsite storage location.
- Data validation & verification for all IP files – procurement processes are ongoing by WIPO.

Electronic Registry...cont

- Workflows are done in the system but publications are not done from the Ipat
- Publications are printed, signed and taken to a third party institution that does the publication.
- The trademarks Regulations is currently being amended to provide for an IP Journal

Document Management

- The Electronic Document System (EDMS) is in place whereby all applications are brought in by walk-in clients, received in Ipas and then the documents scanned, indexed and processed.
- The registry keeps both hard and digital copies of the documents as we are not yet doing online applications.

Online Services Delivered by the IPO

- Currently, the only online services delivered by the IP office are;
- ARIPO MS Module,
- IP Laws, forms and fees which are accessible on the URSB's website.

Challenges

- Some workflows are not optimized especially for copyright and patent post grants e.g assignment of a copyright, patent annuity.
- Office correspondences related to IP applications are not automated.

Future Plans

- Finalize the IP journal configuration, amendment of the law to provide for the IP journal & deploy WIPO publish online.
- Data validation & verification for all IP files – procurement processes are ongoing by WIPO.
- Creation of a new registry for Geographical Indications.
- Create a database for IP enforcement cases.
- Enable email & sms notifications for key workflow statuses.
- Configure authorizations for all different categories of users.
- Identify & liaise with WIPO for training opportunities.

Contact us

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- **THANK YOU**