

IPO Maturity Assessment: The case of Zambia

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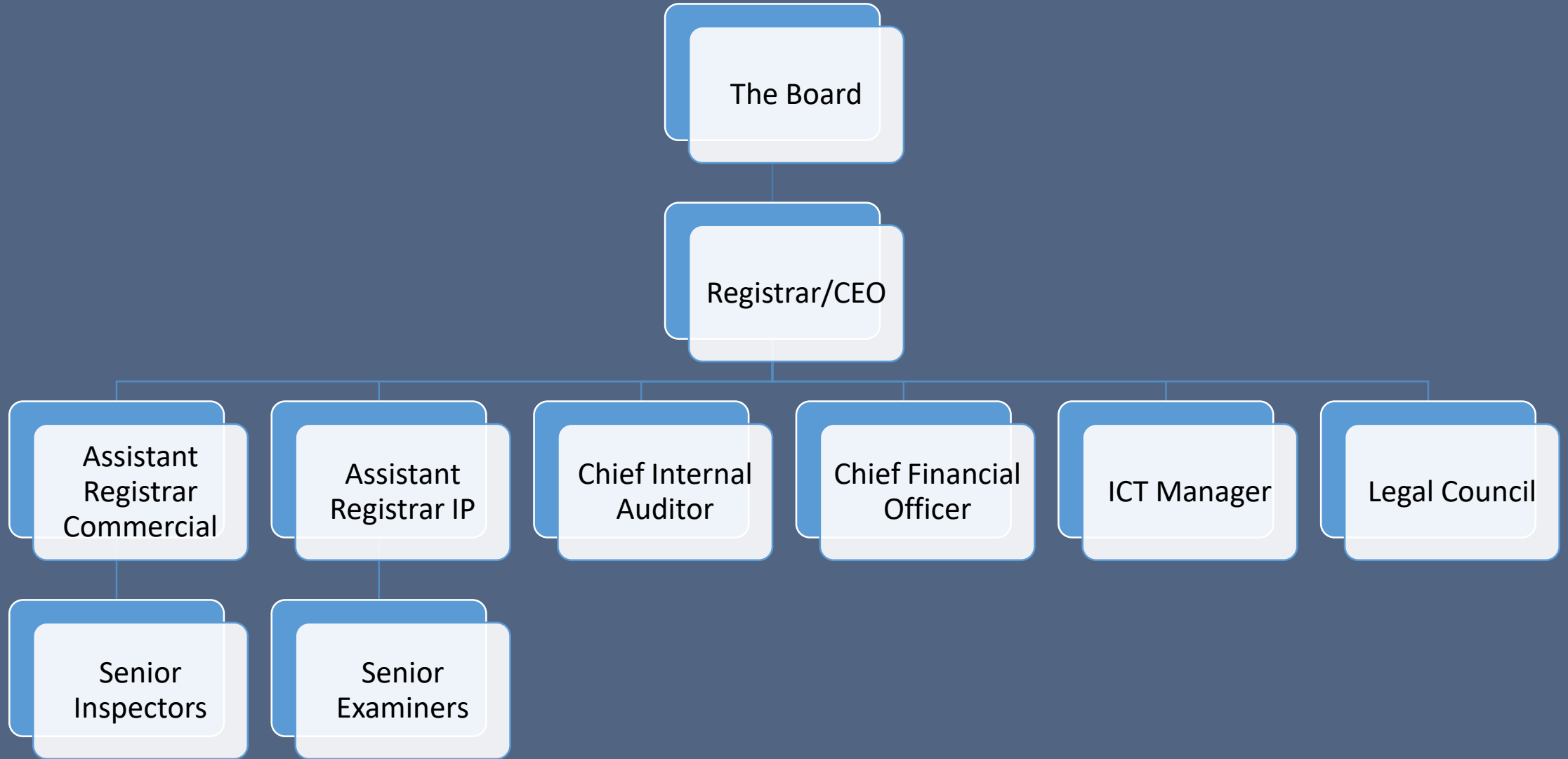
Outline

- ❑ A Little Background
- ❑ The Institutional Structure-PACRA Zambia
- ❑ IP Applications-Workload
- ❑ IP Administration system and level of Automation
- ❑ Electronic Registry-electronic support of business processes and automation of publications
- ❑ Document Management-Paper or/and electronic
- ❑ Online Services delivered by the IPO
- ❑ Conclusion

Background

- The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) is a semi-autonomous Executive Agency of the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI);
- PACRA is governed by a non-executive Board;
- It currently administers statutes, viz., Patents & Utility Models, Trade Marks, Industrial Designs, Copyrights, The Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore, The Layout-designs of Integrated Circuits, Companies, Business Names and Movable Property
- PACRA raises its own revenue by the registration of IP Rights (IPRs) and companies and business names and the maintenance of these rights and commercial services.

PACRA Board & Senior Management Hierarchy



IP Applications-Workload

- ❖ On average, annually,
 - ❖ 2,000 trademark applications
 - ❖ 20 patent applications
 - ❖ 30 design applications
 - ❖ 95, 439 Holograms affixed

IP Administration system and level of Automation

- IP Department uses IPAS especially with regard to trade mark business processes
- Currently Patents and Industrial designs business processes are being incorporated and data capture for these rights has already commenced
- There are plans underway to have the copyright workflow integrated into IPAS
- On the level of Automation we have rolled out the following systems
 - ✓ EDMS and WIPO Scan
 - ✓ ARIPO Member State Module
 - ✓ WIPO Publish

Electronic Registry-electronic support of business processes and automation of publications

- We embarked on an ongoing project to validate our data on the IPAS system to reflect the information on the physical files and registers.
- This is being done in order to clean up our data, facilitate for online filings and perform other business functions such as searches in IPAS.
- Overall, we are doing very well on this project and are utilizing IPAS as an Electronic Register with minimum reliance on the physical files and registers.
- Automation of Publications
 - ❖ Industrial Property Journal is now published and accessible online on the PACRA website effective June 2019

Document Management-Paper or/and electronic

- Currently the office utilizes the following;
 - IPAS
 - Physical files
 - Physical registers
- With the rolling out of EDMS and the ongoing data verification exercise, we should phase out the use of physical files and registers to the extent possible.

Online Services delivered by the IPO

- The Industrial Property Journal is published and accessed online on the PACRA website by users and the general public
- The WIPO publish software is currently available for use by the IPO and will soon be made available to the public.

Conclusion

- There is a drive to ensure that IP information on the physical records is transferred to electronic databases for easy, reliable accessibility, higher productivity, more secure storage and consistent performance.
- The intention, after the verification exercise and implementation of the EDMS, is to make the IP Services available to the public online
- PACRA intends to introduce online filing of applications in the near future
- The vision is to make use of both paper-based and online filing systems with the aim of achieving a seamless service convenient service for all our clientele.

Thank you 😊