



**BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AUTHORITY**

Protecting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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MEDIA RELEASE

THE 42ND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 October 2018

Windhoek, Namibia –Nineteen Members States of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) will meet in Windhoek, Namibia for the 42nd Session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO (hereinafter referred to as the Administrative Council) from 19 to 23 November 2018.

ARIPO, an inter-governmental organization facilitates cooperation amongst member states in intellectual property matters, with the objective of pooling financial and human resources, and seeking technological advancement for economic, social, technological, scientific and industrial development. The ARIPO Administrative Council is composed of heads of offices responsible for industrial property and copyright in Member States. The Administrative Council has subsidiary Committees in place to administer the affairs of ARIPO. These are; Finance, Audit, Human Capital and Technical Committees.

Namibia through BIPA, which is the national agency for intellectual property rights, will host the 42nd Administrative Council of ARIPO, set to deliberate and discuss the administrative aspects of the Organization including the proposed budget and programme of activities for the calendar year. It also looks at any recommendations from the subsidiary committees and amends the ARIPO treaties to continually keep them in line with international trends. The council meeting is held annually, while every second year, they combine it with the Council of Ministers meeting.

“Discourse around intellectual property rights within Africa is gaining momentum, therefore, hosting a meeting of this magnitude in Namibia, especially amidst times of economic hardships, will allow us to rethink and realize how we should maximize on research, development and innovation to drive economic activities through the use of intellectual property rights”, stated Ainna Kaundu, Executive for IP Services at BIPA.

Currently there are 19 participating member states of ARIPO which include Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition to the 19 member states, a number observer states will also attend this session including the United States of America. ARIPO cooperative partners which includes the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) are also expected to participate at the administrative council meeting.

Public Enterprise established under the BIPA Act, 2016 (Act No. 8 of 2016)

Directors: Riundja A Kaakunga (Othy) - **Chairperson**, Dr Martha Uumati - **Deputy Chairperson**, Fritz C Jacobs, Lovisa Indongo-Namandje, Seno Namwandi, Ignatius K Thudinyane, Chaze Nalisa,
Chief Executive Officer: Tileinge S. Andima, **Company Secretary:** Vivienne E Katjiuongua



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During the Administrative Council, some of ARIPO's partners will take advantage of the gatherings to hold concurrent bi-lateral meetings. This year the meeting will have the Japan Patent's Office (JPO) and International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). The JPO will celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the Japan Funds in Trust for Africa. UPOV will have a seminar where they will talk to participants about the UPOV system. ARIPO together with WIPO will have a validation workshop to share findings from a research done between 2017 and 2018 on the need of IP policies at Universities.

The media is invited to cover the opening and closing sessions of the Administrative Council to be hosted at the Safari Hotel and Conference Centre. ARIPO will provide a US\$20 transport allowance per day for attending journalists. For more information, please contact the undersigned.

Issues by:

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About BIPA: (<http://www.bipa.na/business-categories/strategic-thrust/>)

In an effort to improve service delivery and ensure the effective administration of business and intellectual property rights (IPRs), the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) has been established as the focal point for the registration of business and industrial property. BIPA is responsible for the administration and protection of business and intellectual property. BIPA is established as a juristic person in terms of section 3 of the BIPA Act, 2016 (Act No.8 of 2016) and is a Public Enterprise as defined in the Public Enterprises Governance Act, 2006 (Act No. 8 of 2015).

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