



**BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AUTHORITY**
Protecting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

P O Box 185
Windhoek, Namibia
Tel +264 61 2994400
E-mail: info@bipa.na
Website: www.bipa.na

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MEDIA RELEASE: BIPA AND NAMPOL TO ENSURE IP LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) hosted an Intellectual Property Enforcement Seminar and IP Enforcement Material Donation Ceremony on 20 September 2019 at the Nampower Convention Centre, Windhoek.

The seminar was held under the theme: ***Building an Effective and Balanced Intellectual Property Enforcement Legal System in Namibia***; and considered the effective enforcement of legal and copyright laws in Namibia. The objective of the seminar was to empower participants with an in-depth knowledge on copyright protection; and enable them to effectively engage, participate and contribute to the development of the copyright system in the country.

Furthermore, BIPA, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), printed training materials on Intellectual Property Law Enforcement which is intended to be used for the capacity building of enforcement agencies in Namibia. The Acting CEO of BIPA, Vivienne Katjiuongua, donated the training material to Deputy Commissioner M. !Naruseb for use at the Police Training Academy.

Deputy Commissioner !Naruseb noted their gratitude towards BIPA, who, together with the World Intellectual Property Authority (WIPO), created the platform to partner with the relevant law enforcement agencies. He noted that it is not enough that applicable laws exist, but that enforcement of these laws is vital.

According to Katjiuongua, Namibia is determined to position intellectual property as a tool that supports the country's development agenda. "It is our intention that the system must seek to protect, promote and reward creativity; while ensuring that we safeguard public interest. This is particularly applicable to fair access for educational purposes and for persons with visual impairments, through the use of appropriate copyright limitations and exceptions," she said.

BIPA is mandated to be the central focal point for the registration, administration and protection of businesses, commercial and industrial property rights in Namibia. The authority also serves as the legal depository of information, documents and data; which are lodged under the applicable legislations. Furthermore, BIPA is tasked with the provision of general advisory services and information dissemination on business registration and IPRs.

Ends.

More information is available from:

Ndapanda Toivo

Marketing and Communications Assistant

Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA)

061-299 4450

toivon@bipa.na

General

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) was established in terms of the Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act, 2016 (Act No. 8 of 2016) with the mandates to promote and enable services related to:

- Businesses registration to improve Namibia's competitiveness with the view of promoting commerce, trade and investment;
- Intellectual property rights administration and protection aimed at promoting socio-economic development, innovation and value-added industrialisation.

Our objectives are to:

- facilitate economic growth and development to raise income and promote investment and create employment;
- enhance the efficient protection of the business and IP in Namibia;
- facilitate and promote the efficient and effective registration of business and industrial property in Namibia;
- promote the conduct and use of business and intellectual property in Namibia;
- facilitate, streamline, simplify and harmonise the business and industrial property procedures, registrations, filings and searches to expedite economic growth and development; and
- enhance the efficient exchange and distribution of information.