

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release:

BIPA HOSTS NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION CONFERENCE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS DRAFT BILL

Windhoek – In line with its mandate to protect, promote and register intellectual property by creating a reputable intellectual property environment, the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) will host an engaging stakeholder conference on the Draft Copyright and related Rights bill on 18 November 2021.

The conference aims to validate stakeholder input that was sought earlier this year to the Draft Copyright and related Rights Bill. Given the bill's potential impact on various sectors in the country, this national conference aims to bring together civil societies, the creative industry, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), educational institutions, cultural and traditional authorities, manufacturing companies, business sectors and law enforcement agencies with the aim of collecting constructive feedback on the content of the Draft Copyright and Related Rights Bill. The outcome of this session will help to inform any necessary additions before the bill is tabled.

“The national conference is a necessary platform to give rationale behind repealing the current Copyright and Neighbouring Right Protection Act, 1994 (Act No. 6 of 1994), as well as sharing new changes in the Draft Bill that have been incorporated since during the various stakeholder engagement session”, Executive of Intellectual Property Service at BIPA, Ms. Ainna Kaundu said. Kaundu further noted that “the amendments made to the Bill was to ensure that the new law speaks to our current needs as a country and is aligned with international best practice frameworks on copyright and related rights. “

The conference is set to take place on 18 November 2021 from 08h30 to 16h00 and will be held in a hybrid form, accommodating both in-person and virtual attendees.

For physical participation, RSVP by sending an email before 12 November 2021, 17h00 to ip@bipa.na with your name, organisation name, email address and contact number.

Follow BIPA on Facebook to register on the Microsoft Teams link for virtual participation.

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