



# Quarterly **IP** Newsletter

May – June, 2026

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8<sup>th</sup> July,  
2026

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# REGULATORY UPDATES

# A. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment

01

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## **Inter-Ministerial IP Steering Committee Advances Nigeria's National IP Framework Implementation**

The Inter-Ministerial Intellectual Property (IP) Steering Committee, a key body established to oversee the implementation of Nigeria's first comprehensive National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS), convened on 23 April 2026 to review the first-quarter progress of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (ICG). Discussions centred on strengthening Nigeria's intellectual property ecosystem by positioning IP as a strategic economic asset through legislative reform, enhanced inter-agency coordination, and sustained stakeholder engagement. The meeting reinforced the Federal Government's whole-of-government approach toward developing a robust, competitive, innovation-driven, and enterprise-focused IP framework.

The continued implementation of the framework is significant for Nigeria's innovation and business environment, as it is expected to improve IP protection and enforcement, encourage local innovation and creativity, enhance investor confidence, and support technology transfer and commercialisation, while aligning Nigeria's IP regime with international best practices.

## 02

## Engagement with the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL)

The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, MFR, received the leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), led by our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, in his capacity as Chairman of the Intellectual Property Committee of the NBA-SBL. Discussions centred on forging actionable collaborations with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to resolve systemic investor challenges, drive sub-national investment opportunities, and further strengthen Nigeria's overarching trade and investment landscape.

The engagement emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration between government and key stakeholders in fostering a more competitive and investor-friendly economy, with the Ministry reaffirming its commitment to working closely with industry stakeholders to unlock investment opportunities, strengthen investor confidence, and advance Nigeria's industrial and trade development objectives.

For the IP community, the engagement is a welcome signal of continued public-private dialogue on the legislative and regulatory reforms needed to modernise Nigeria's intellectual property framework, an area in which the NBA-SBL and its Intellectual Property Committee remain active advocates.

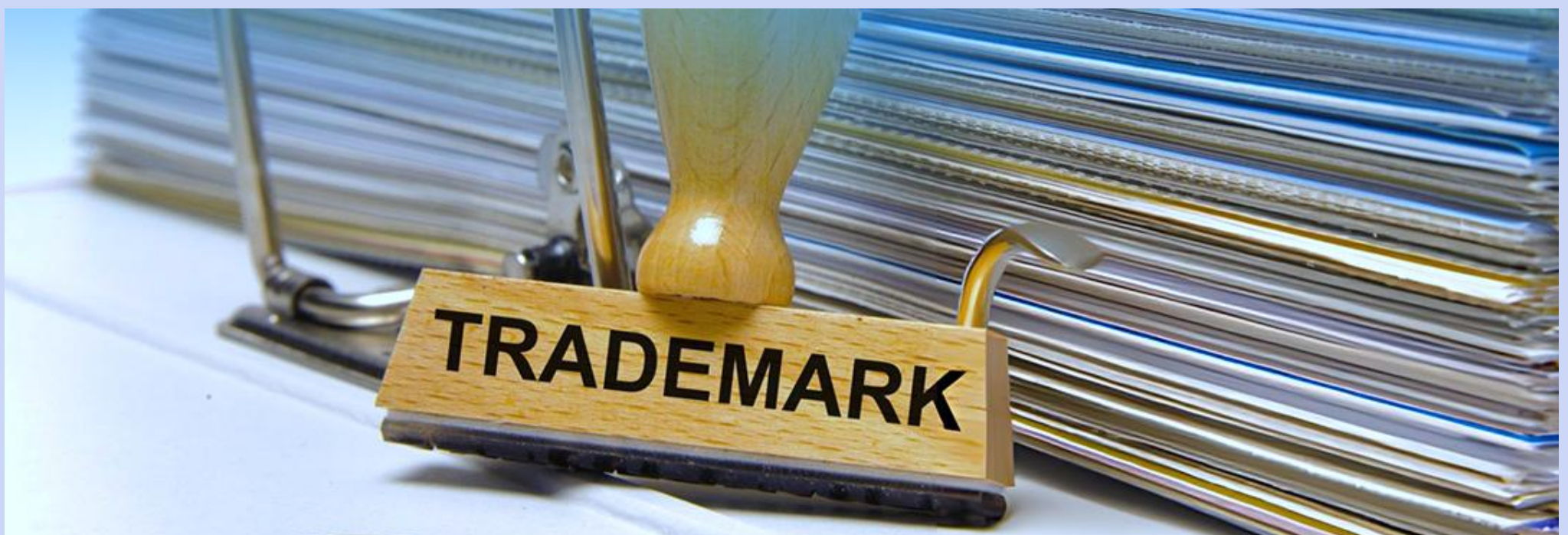


## 03

**Trademarks Registry Publishes Trademarks Journals Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2 of June 2026**

The Trademarks Registry of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, by Notices dated 29 June 2026 and 30 June 2026, announced the publication of Trademarks Journal Vol. 1, No. 1 (Online) of 29 June 2026 and Trademarks Journal Vol. 1, No. 2 (Online and PRE-IPAS) of 30 June 2026.

The publication of the Journals is significant for brand owners, as it commences the statutory two-month opposition period within which any person may oppose the registration of marks advertised therein. Brand owners and their representatives are therefore advised to promptly review the Journals to identify any applications that may conflict with their existing marks or commercial interests and, where necessary, to file notices of opposition within the prescribed window. The back-to-back publications also signal the Registry's continued efforts to clear the backlog of accepted applications and improve transparency in the registration process.



# B. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



## 01

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### **WIPO Director General Visits Nigeria, Inaugurates WIPO Nigeria Office and Launches IP Benchbook for the Judiciary**

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Mr. Daren Tang, undertook his first official visit to Nigeria, marked by the official inauguration of the WIPO Nigeria Office in Abuja, the Organization's first external office in Sub-Saharan Africa and one of only seven worldwide. During the visit, the Director General met with the Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, to discuss the implementation of the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS) and the role of intellectual property in advancing Nigeria's development priorities, and held bilateral engagements with key ministers, including the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, and the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy.

A key highlight of the visit was the unveiling of the Intellectual Property Benchbook for the Nigerian Judiciary at the National Judicial Institute. Developed jointly by WIPO and the Institute, the Benchbook serves as a practical resource for judges handling intellectual property matters, supporting consistency, efficiency, and informed decision-making in IP-related cases. The Director General also engaged with stakeholders in Nigeria's creative sector on strengthening rights management systems, supporting collective management organisations, and developing mechanisms that enable creators to unlock the economic value of their intellectual assets.

The visit is significant for Nigeria's IP ecosystem on several fronts. The permanent WIPO presence in Abuja positions Nigeria as a regional hub for IP capacity building and technical cooperation, while the judicial Benchbook is expected to

enhance the quality and consistency of IP adjudication before Nigerian courts, a development of direct practical benefit to litigants and brand owners enforcing their rights in Nigeria.



## 02

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### **WIPO Nigeria Hosts High-Level Seminar on IP and the Business of Sport**

As part of activities marking the 2026 World Intellectual Property Day, themed “IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate,” the WIPO Nigeria Office convened a high-level seminar on Intellectual Property and the Business of Sport in Nigeria at the United Nations House, Abuja, on 27 April 2026. The seminar brought together policymakers, athletes, and industry stakeholders to examine the intersection of sports, innovation, and economic development.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Mallam Shehu Dikko, observed that modern sports encompass media rights, branding, sponsorship, data, and technology, all of which are anchored on intellectual property protection, and identified IP as central to the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Initiative for Nigeria's Sports Economy (RHINSE). The seminar highlights the growing recognition of intellectual property as the foundation for commercialising Nigeria's sports assets through structured media rights, sponsorship arrangements, and brand protection.

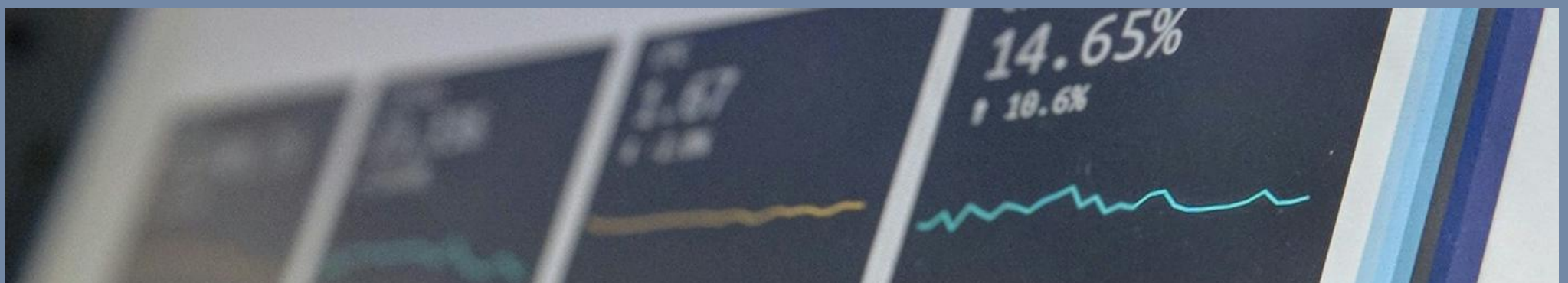
## 03

## New WIPO Lex Collection Brings Trade Secrets Case Law into Focus

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched the WIPO Lex Trade Secrets Case Law Collection, a new online resource designed to improve access to judicial decisions relating to trade secret protection across jurisdictions. The Collection provides a structured and accessible repository of significant judicial decisions, offering insights into how trade secret issues are addressed across different legal systems.

In its initial pilot phase, the Collection features cases from Brazil, China, Germany, India, Italy, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States. Additional jurisdictions will be added in subsequent stages as the Collection continues to expand.

By consolidating leading judicial decisions from multiple jurisdictions, the WIPO Lex Trade Secrets Case Law Collection enhances transparency and facilitates comparative legal analysis around the world. Through this initiative, WIPO aims to support informed judicial decision-making and promote a deeper understanding of the legal frameworks that protect confidential business innovations and information worldwide.





## 04

**WIPO Alternative  
Dispute Resolution  
Fees Now Payable  
Through WIPO Pay**

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has expanded WIPO Pay, its secure online payment platform, to include payments for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) proceedings.

The platform, which already supported fee payments for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), eHague, eLisbon, domain name dispute, and International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) online services, now also covers ADR proceedings. WIPO Pay enables users to process multiple transactions simultaneously, complete payments securely through encrypted systems, and receive instant payment confirmations by email.



# C. International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

01

## **UPOV Advances PRISMA Plus Pilot Project to Streamline Plant Variety Protection at 7th Electronic Applications Meeting**

At the seventh Electronic Applications Meeting (EAM/7), held virtually on 16 March 2026, UPOV members reviewed progress across the organisation's digital plant variety protection tools and advanced the UPOV PRISMA Plus Pilot Project, an initiative aimed at harmonising and simplifying the application process for plant breeders filing across multiple jurisdictions. The Secretariat reported that 40 authorities are now using or committed to using the platform, following the addition of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Japan, and Nigeria in 2025.

The system processed 1,864 application transfers in 2025 across 26 authorities, with active users rising to 958. The current release, version 2.12, is being rolled out in two parts, adding new crops for Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, and Serbia, and introducing national listing functionality for Turkiye. Building on this foundation, version 3.0, scheduled for release by the end of June 2026, will deliver a major platform update, migrating the system to the cloud and introducing redesigned user interfaces. The update will also improve user management and enhance bulk upload functionality for improved accessibility.

## 02

## UPOV Opens Access to International Certification on Plant Variety Protection for Private Sector Experts

Private sector professionals working in plant variety protection can now earn internationally recognised credentials following UPOV's decision to open access to the UPOV PVP Certificate to private sector experts. The Certificate, first introduced in April 2024, provides formal recognition of expertise in the UPOV system, helping professionals validate their knowledge, stay current with international standards and best practices, and strengthen their competitiveness for specialised roles within the seed and plant breeding value chains.

The certification responds to growing demand for a credible benchmark that reflects mastery of international plant variety protection standards and best practices. Certificate holders will demonstrate a level of expertise that strengthens their professional standing, supports career advancement, and contributes to the quality and consistency of plant variety protection practice worldwide. The UPOV PVP Certificate sets a new international benchmark for professional expertise in the field, giving plant breeders, lawyers, and agents the recognition they deserve and the tools to remain at the forefront of a rapidly evolving sector.





# D. Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC)

01

## **Nigerian Copyright Commission Intensifies Crackdown on Digital Piracy and Illegal Streaming**

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has announced plans to strengthen enforcement against digital piracy, illegal streaming, cable piracy, and unauthorised public exhibitions through the deployment of modern enforcement mechanisms and enhanced inter-agency collaboration. The announcement coincided with the annual commemoration of World Intellectual Property Day 2026, observed on 26 April to highlight the role of creativity, innovation, and intellectual property in driving global economic growth and cultural development.

The Director-General of the NCC, Dr. John Asein, reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to strengthening intellectual property rights enforcement and supporting Nigeria's creative and sports industries. The enforcement initiative also forms part of the broader implementation of Nigeria's National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS). The Policy is expected to strengthen the creation, protection, enforcement, and commercialisation of intellectual property rights across critical sectors of the economy, including the creative and sports industries.

# E. Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)



## 01

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### **Nigeria and Malaysia Customs Cooperate to Boost Trade and Border Security**

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has advanced its strategic engagement with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) as part of its commitment to strengthening international customs cooperation and enhancing trade facilitation. The engagement comes against the backdrop of expanding bilateral trade, with Nigeria's imports from Malaysia increasing from NGN 159.9 billion in 2020 to NGN 716.0 billion in 2024, and cumulative trade value reaching approximately NGN 1.82 trillion over a five-year period.

The Comptroller-General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, MFR, emphasised that the scale and trajectory of Nigeria-Malaysia trade relations necessitate a more structured and formalised customs-to-customs partnership.

He noted that Malaysia remains a significant trading partner to Nigeria, with key imports including crude palm oil, jet fuel, food preparations, machinery, and other industrial inputs. He further underscored the critical role of customs administrations in facilitating legitimate trade while safeguarding national economic and security interests. This initiative is expected to provide a structured basis for cooperation, enhance mutual trust, and support reciprocal trade facilitation measures. For brand owners, strengthened customs-to-customs cooperation of this kind is also significant for intellectual property enforcement, as structured information sharing and border cooperation are important tools for intercepting counterfeit and infringing goods at the borders.

# CASE LAW UPDATES

# Promasidor IP Holdings Limited & Anor v. Leonessa Food and Agro Allied Industries Limited & Anor (Suit No. FHC/KN/CS/243/2023)



The Federal High Court, sitting in the Kano Judicial Division (per Hon. Justice S. A. Amobeda), entered a consent judgment resolving a trademark infringement dispute between Promasidor IP Holdings Limited and Promasidor Nigeria Limited (the Plaintiffs) and Leonessa Food and Agro Allied Industries Limited (the 1st Defendant), with the Registrar of Trademarks joined as the 2nd Defendant.

The 1st Plaintiff, the intellectual property holding company of the Promasidor Group, is the registered proprietor of the well-known KREMELA trademarks in Nigeria, comprising word marks in Classes 29 and 30 registered as far back as 2007. The 2nd Plaintiff, the Group's Nigerian subsidiary, commercialises KREMELA-branded non-dairy creamer in Nigeria under licence.

The dispute arose when the 1st Defendant, which manufactures and sells non-dairy creamer under the KREMINO mark, filed three trademark applications at the Trade Marks Registry: two applications for KREMINO & DEVICE in Class 29 and one for KREMINO NON-DAIRY CREAMER (device) in Class 16. Acting through Stren & Blan Partners, the Plaintiffs commenced the action by a Writ of Summons, seeking, among other reliefs, a declaration that the use, reproduction, commercialisation, sale, distribution, and advertising of KREMINO products infringed the 1st Plaintiff's exclusive rights in the KREMELA trade mark, an order of perpetual injunction, and general damages against the 1st Defendant.

The claim was founded on the exclusive rights conferred on a registered proprietor under the Trade Marks Act, Cap T13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, in particular Section 5, which vests in the proprietor the exclusive right to the use of the mark and renders unauthorised use of an identical or confusingly similar mark an infringement, read together with Section 13, which prohibits the registration of a mark that is identical with, or so nearly resembles, a mark already on the register as to be likely to deceive or cause confusion.

The Plaintiffs contended that KREMINO bore a deceptive resemblance to KREMELA, both being seven-letter marks sharing the distinctive prefix "KREM", and that its adoption was calculated to mislead consumers and create a false impression of an association, connection, or common trade origin between the parties' products. A point of particular strategic significance was the joinder of the Registrar of Trademarks as the 2nd Defendant. Because the offending KREMINO applications had already been accepted by the Registry, relief confined to the 1st Defendant alone could not have undone the acceptances; by bringing the Registrar before the Court, the Plaintiffs ensured that any resolution of the dispute would bind the Registry itself and reach the applications at source, without awaiting the slower course of opposition proceedings.

Following the filing of the 1st Defendant's Statement of Defence and Counterclaim, the parties informed the Court of their desire to explore an amicable resolution of the dispute. Guiding the parties through structured negotiations, Stren & Blan Partners translated the agreed outcomes into comprehensive Terms of Settlement, which were filed and adopted by the Court as its consent judgment.

Under the Terms, the parties agreed that the 1st Plaintiff is the exclusive owner and proprietor of the KREMELA trade mark in Nigeria; that the 1st Defendant would rebrand its product from KREMINO to PREMINO and desist from using the slogan "RICH AND CREAMY" or any slogan similar to the KREMELA slogan "RICH, CREAMY, TASTE AND FLAVOUR"; and that the Acceptance Letters issued by the Registrar of Trade Marks in respect of the KREMINO applications were null and void, with the 1st Defendant undertaking to withdraw all three applications within one month of the execution of the Terms of Settlement.



The 1st Defendant further undertook to cease holding itself out as the owner or proprietor of the KREMINO mark; to exhaust its remaining stock of 10,000 cartons within 150 days of execution and withdraw all KREMINO-branded products from the market thereafter; to acquire no fresh stock of packaged products or packaging materials bearing the KREMINO mark; and never to use, file, or register any mark identical or confusingly similar to KREMELA. Notably, the protection secured extended beyond the registered word marks to the wider brand identity, covering slogans, packaging, and trade dress, with the parties agreeing the 1st Defendant's distinct go-forward get-up for the PREMINO product and the Plaintiffs undertaking not to object to the use or registration of the PREMINO mark. The 1st Defendant was discharged from any further payment or liability arising from the suit.

The outcome reinforces the exclusivity of rights conferred by trademark registration and the ability of proprietors to act swiftly against confusingly similar marks, even at the application stage, securing not only cessation of use but also the unwinding of accepted applications before the Registry. Significantly, the resolution of the dispute also highlights the value of skilled facilitation of settlement as a means of resolving intellectual property disputes: by deploying negotiation strategically and embedding the agreed outcomes in a consent judgment,

Stren & Blan Partners secured for the Plaintiffs full brand protection, defined market withdrawal timelines, and binding non-challenge undertakings, all without the delay, expense, and uncertainty of a contested trial, while preserving a workable commercial relationship between the parties. For brand owners, the case illustrates the importance of conducting comprehensive clearance searches before commercialising a mark, investing in genuinely distinctive branding from the outset, and engaging counsel capable of deploying settlement strategically as an enforcement tool.



A vintage globe on a wooden stand is the central focus, set against a dark background. The globe is surrounded by a thick, coiled rope, a brass compass, and a rolled-up document, suggesting a theme of global navigation and legal jurisdiction.

# UPDATES FROM OTHER JURISDICTION

# A. African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

## **African Nations Discuss Artificial Intelligence and the Future of IP Systems**

At the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization, held in Maseru from 18 to 19 May 2026, discussions centred on the growing role of artificial intelligence in intellectual property administration and value creation across Africa. Key themes included the adoption of AI tools in IP systems, cybersecurity and risk management in IP services, developments in the global IP landscape, and strategic approaches to international IP negotiations.

The conference provided an important platform for African countries to engage with regional stakeholders on emerging intellectual property issues, particularly those relating to artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and the modernisation of IP administration. The forum also sought to strengthen collaboration among African IP offices and foster coordinated regional positions on IP policy matters at both continental and international levels.

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## **ARIPO Hosts High-Level South Sudan Delegation as Accession Talks Advance**

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) hosted a high-level delegation from South Sudan at its headquarters in Harare from 13 to 14 April 2026 to advance discussions on South Sudan's potential accession to ARIPO. Led by Undersecretary Mary James Ajith, the delegation engaged with ARIPO on the role of intellectual property in national development and strengthening the country's legal and institutional IP framework.

ARIPO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting South Sudan through policy development, IP administration, and capacity-building initiatives.

The development is particularly significant for brand owners and innovators, as South Sudan currently lacks a functional trademark registration system. Accession to ARIPO would provide a long-awaited regional mechanism for obtaining enforceable intellectual property protection in the country.

# B. Organisation Africaine De La Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)

## **OAPI-UNFPA: Renewal of the Strategic Partnership for Women's Empowerment and the Promotion of Female Innovation**

At a meeting between the Director General of OAPI, Denis Bohoussou, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Resident Representative in Cameroon, Dr. Justin Koffi, held on 15 May 2026 at the Organisation's headquarters in Yaounde, discussions centred on consolidating the achievements of the Economic Empowerment of Women through Innovation and Access to Intellectual Property (AFPI) project, which began in Cameroon in October 2025, and on considering its expansion through the integration of a new programme entitled "Ingenious Women of Tomorrow." The aim is to accelerate the economic empowerment of women and girls through technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and access to intellectual property.

The programme combines academic excellence, professional internships, development of behavioural skills, strategic mentoring, employability, and entrepreneurship. The two institutions reaffirmed their commitment to involving the private sector more closely and to providing more opportunities for beneficiaries through internships, mentoring, employment, financing, and support for startups led by young women.

## Regional Competition for Industrial Property Consultants

The 2026 edition of the competition for the title of Industrial Property Consultant, organised by the Organisation Africaine de la Propriete Intellectuelle, brought together 95 candidates from its 17 member states. Participants included 77 French-speaking candidates and 16 English-speaking candidates, all of whom undertook a series of written and oral examinations conducted at the National School of Administration (ENA) of the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin.

The event featured remarks emphasising the need to strengthen industrial property expertise across

the OAPI region and reinforce professional capacity in the field of intellectual property. Ahead of the examinations, OAPI organised two intensive preparatory training sessions for candidates, held from 4 to 9 May and from 11 to 12 May 2026, to better equip participants for the demands of the assessment process. The regional examination remains a significant initiative aimed at developing qualified professionals capable of assisting economic operators and institutions in the protection, management, and commercialisation of industrial property assets.

## OAPI and INPI France Hold 20th Joint Commission, Sign 2026-2027 Cooperation Programme

The 20th Joint Commission between the Organisation Africaine de la Propriete Intellectuelle (OAPI) and the French National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI France) was held on 1 April 2026 in Lomé, Togo, reaffirming their longstanding partnership to strengthen intellectual property protection across Francophone Africa. The parties reviewed the successful implementation of the 2024 to 2025 work plan, adopted a new cooperation programme for 2026 to 2027, and discussed key priorities including IP enforcement,

anti-counterfeiting measures, operational efficiency at OAPI, and preparations for the tenth anniversary of the Bangui Agreement Acts of Bamako.

On the sidelines of the meeting, OAPI engaged with Togolese business leaders on the role of intellectual property in improving business competitiveness, attracting investment, and supporting SMEs and startups. For rights holders across OAPI's 17 member states, the renewed programme signals continued investment in enforcement capacity and the efficiency of the regional IP system.



## **i. Libya Relaunches Online Trademark Publication System**

The Commercial Registry Department in Libya has resumed the electronic publication of trademarks through its official online portal after a period of suspension. A batch of newly published trademarks, bearing publication numbers 55261 to 57597, has now been made available online.

Under the applicable local regulations, all newly published trademarks are subject to a 30-day opposition period commencing from the exact date of publication. Brand owners with interests in Libya are therefore advised to review the publications promptly and take timely action where conflicting marks are identified.



## D. Egypt

### **i. Egypt Updates Official IP Fees and Introduces New Service Fees**

The Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority has issued Decisions No. 64 and 65 of 2026, introducing revisions to official fees and establishing additional charges for certain services.

According to the official notice, an additional fee of 500 EGP will now apply to all services rendered by the Central Administration for Trade Marks, including matters relating to trademarks, trade names, geographical indications, and industrial designs, in addition to the standard prescribed fees. The measures also establish charges for searches and for obtaining official copies of reports, minutes, case records, and complaints.



## **i. Algeria Implements Strict Deadline for Amendments to Patent Applications**

The Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) has introduced a significant change to its practice on amendments to Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications entering the national phase. Under the new approach, all substantive amendments must be filed within one month of entry into the Algerian national phase. Amendments submitted after this deadline will be rejected and excluded from substantive examination, with only clerical or material error corrections permitted, subject to supporting evidence and payment of the prescribed fees.

This marks a departure from INAPI's previous practice, under which amendments were sometimes accepted during substantive examination, and the new requirements also apply to pending applications. Applicants should therefore ensure that all intended amendments are finalised before, or at the time of, national phase entry.

## **ii. Algeria Launches its National Intellectual Property Policy Model**

Algeria has introduced a national intellectual property policy framework for higher education institutions with the support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI), and the National Copyright and Related Rights Office (ONDA). The initiative is intended to strengthen the role of universities and research institutions in driving innovation, technology transfer, and economic development by promoting the protection and commercialisation of intellectual property generated within academia.

The framework also encourages greater collaboration among universities, researchers, government agencies, and industry, while WIPO will continue to support participating institutions through access to patent databases, scientific resources, and technical tools aimed at enhancing research, innovation, and knowledge exchange.



## **i. Zambia Publishes Long-Awaited Patent Regulations**

Zambia has issued new Patent Regulations under the Patents Act, 2016 (Act No. 40 of 2016), introducing updated procedural and administrative measures to strengthen and modernise the country's patent regime. Prior to their publication, the 2016 Act was implemented alongside regulations made under the repealed legislation, creating practical uncertainty regarding procedural requirements and compliance.

The new Regulations provide comprehensive guidance on filing procedures, prescribed timelines, documentation requirements, fees, and other administrative formalities governing patent applications and prosecution. The reforms are expected to improve administrative efficiency, enhance legal certainty for applicants and practitioners, and further align Zambia's patent system with international standards and best practices in intellectual property protection.



## **i. Uganda Passes Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Amendment Bill**

Uganda's Parliament has passed the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025, marking a significant step toward modernising Uganda's copyright regime in response to evolving digital technologies and the changing creative landscape. The Bill, which was approved in March 2026, seeks to update the existing 2006 legislation in line with contemporary international standards and best practices.

The amendments introduce stronger enforcement mechanisms aimed at combating copyright infringement and piracy, including increased penalties for violations. The Bill also expands protection for copyrighted works in the digital environment and introduces measures intended to improve the management, collection, and distribution of royalties for creators and neighbouring rights holders.

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau is expected to play a key role in the implementation and administration of the amended framework once the legislation comes into effect, particularly in supporting rights holders and strengthening copyright enforcement in Uganda.



# H. Kenya

## **i. Kenya Introduces New Copyright Bill**

Kenya has published the Copyright and Related Rights Bill, 2026, representing the most significant reform of the country's copyright framework since the enactment of the Copyright Act of 2001. The Bill, released by the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) for public consultation in March 2026, seeks to establish a modern, digitally oriented copyright regime that aligns with constitutional principles and international treaty obligations.

The Bill introduces stronger online enforcement mechanisms through notice-and-takedown procedures, intermediary safe harbour protections, and enhanced remedies against digital piracy and infringement.

The proposed legislation further introduces institutional and regulatory reforms, including expanded powers for KECOBO, the establishment of a specialised copyright tribunal, and stricter oversight of collective management organisations. In addition, the Bill proposes new remuneration rights, such as private copying levies and resale royalty rights, while strengthening protections available to performers and neighbouring rights holders.

## **ii. Kenya's Proposed Geographical Indications Bill to Boost Protection of Kenyan Products**

Kenya is set to introduce a Geographical Indications Bill aimed at protecting locally produced goods and improving their competitiveness in global markets. The proposed legislation seeks to establish a legal framework for the protection of products linked to specific geographical origins, while preventing unauthorised imitation and enhancing the commercial value of Kenyan products internationally.

The proposed Bill is expected to strengthen legal protection against foreign imitation of Kenyan-origin products, while also supporting local producers in achieving compliance with international quality and market standards.



# I. Liberia

## **i. Liberia Waives IP Fees for the Sports Sector**

The Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) has announced a one-month waiver of administrative fees, with immediate effect, for intellectual property registrations filed by stakeholders within the sports industry. The initiative is intended to reduce financial obstacles associated with IP protection and encourage the registration and commercial exploitation of sports-related IP assets.

The Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) has announced a one-month waiver of administrative fees, with immediate effect, for intellectual property registrations filed by stakeholders within the sports industry. The initiative is intended to reduce financial obstacles associated with IP protection and encourage the registration and commercial exploitation of sports-related IP assets.

The announcement was made during World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in Liberia, where LIPO emphasised the importance of intellectual property in protecting sporting talent, team and event branding, creative content, and other commercial aspects of the sports industry. The Office also highlighted the role of IP rights in supporting revenue-generating activities such as licensing, merchandising, sponsorship, and broadcasting.

The temporary fee waiver forms part of wider efforts by LIPO to improve public awareness of intellectual property rights, address low levels of IP registration, and support the formalisation and economic growth of Liberia's sports sector.



### **i. High Court of South Africa Revokes Registered Designs for Lack of Novelty in Landmark Case**

In *Zentia Trading (Pty) Ltd v Eva Last Distributors (Pty) Ltd*, the High Court of South Africa revoked 16 registered designs relating to arched deck boards after determining that the designs lacked novelty due to prior public disclosure.

The Court found the Defendant had disclosed the designs to the public before filing its design applications through unrestricted means, including the circulation of price lists and the installation of products without adequate confidentiality measures. The Court held that disclosure to even a single third party may be sufficient to destroy novelty where no obligation of confidentiality exists. In addition, certain procedural irregularities in the registration process further weakened the validity of the registered designs.

This decision emphasises the importance of securing design protection before any commercial or public disclosure. Failure to do so may destroy the novelty of a design and jeopardise the enforceability of design rights under South African law.



## J. South Africa

### **ii. Authorities Seize Counterfeit Goods Worth Over R5 Million in Bloemfontein**

South African authorities seized counterfeit goods valued at over R5 million (approximately USD 303,500) during a two-day enforcement operation conducted in April 2026 in Bloemfontein's central business district, confiscating more than 6,000 items including clothing, accessories, pharmaceuticals, and other consumables.

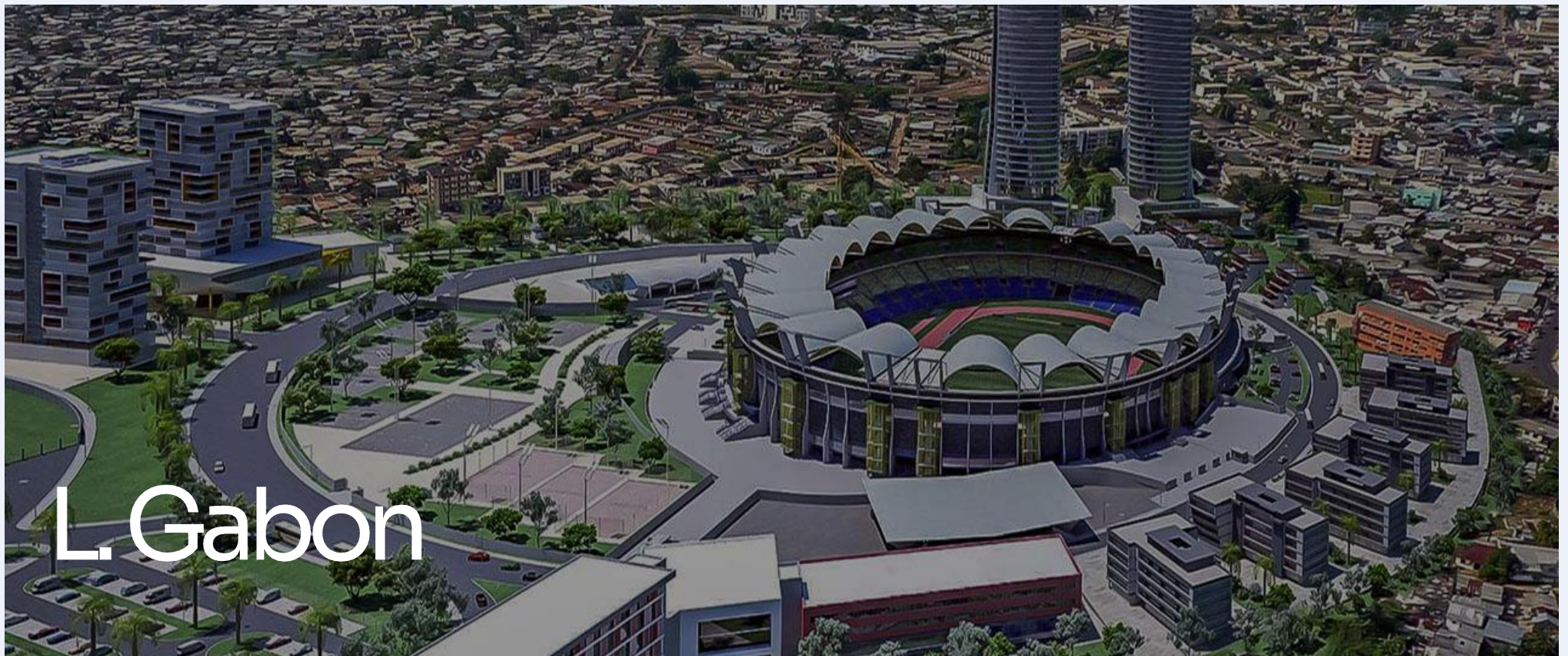
The operation reflects the continued intensification of anti-counterfeiting enforcement in South Africa and underscores the value of proactive brand protection measures, including customs records and coordinated enforcement actions, for brand owners whose goods circulate in Southern African markets. The seizure of counterfeit pharmaceuticals in particular highlights the consumer safety dimension of counterfeit trade and the importance of sustained collaboration between rights holders and enforcement authorities.



## Tunisia to Implement Digital IP Services by End of 2026

Tunisia's National Institute of Intellectual Property (INNORPI) has announced that it will transition to a fully digital platform for all trademark, patent, and industrial design services by the end of 2026. Once the new system becomes operational, all in-person services will be permanently discontinued. The platform, which has already been presented to intellectual property agents during a training session, is expected to facilitate a broad range of services, including new applications, renewals, assignments, and opposition proceedings.

As part of the digital transformation, INNORPI will also discontinue the issuance of physical registration and renewal certificates, replacing them with electronic certificates issued exclusively through the online system. The initiative marks a significant step in modernising Tunisia's intellectual property administration and is expected to improve the efficiency, accessibility, and overall delivery of IP services for rights holders and practitioners.



## **OGAPI Intensifies Trade Name Enforcement in the Nkok Special Investment Zone**

From 1 to 10 April 2026, the Gabonese Industrial Property Office (OGAPI) conducted a compliance and awareness mission within the Nkok Special Investment Zone, Gabon's premier industrial hub, screening 28 of the more than 140 businesses operating in the Zone. The exercise verified the conformity of trade names in use, identified legal risks, and sensitised operators to the importance of protecting their intangible assets, revealing vulnerabilities such as similarities between trade names, the absence of official registration, and unfamiliarity with protection procedures. Notably, the initiative was pedagogical rather than punitive, with operators guided towards existing protection mechanisms, including registration through OAPI, which confers protection across its 17 member states for a renewable ten-year term.

The exercise forms part of a broader effort to strengthen legal certainty for investors, curb unfair competition and counterfeiting, and enhance Gabon's attractiveness as an investment destination. Businesses operating in or exporting through Gabon are advised to audit their trade names and marks and to regularise any unregistered commercial identifiers without delay.

# NEWS ABOUT THE FIRM

## Stren & Blan Partners Hosts Anti-Counterfeiting Training for Key Regulatory Stakeholders

Stren & Blan Partners in collaboration with the Anticounterfeiting Committee of the International Trade Mark Association (INTA), held an anti-counterfeiting training themed “Equipping Stakeholders in The Fight Against Counterfeits.” The event, which held on 25 June 2026, brought together different regulators including the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and was aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and tools to combat the growing menace of counterfeiting in Nigeria.

## Recognised in the IAM Patent 1000

Stren & Blan Partners has been recognised in the IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals 2026 as a recommended firm. This recognition reflects the Firm's continued excellence in patent practice and its commitment to delivering client-focused services.

## Ranked in the IAM Patent 1000 2026

Our Partner, Christian Aniwu, and Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson, were recognised in the IAM Patent 1000, 2026 as recommended professionals. This recognition reflects their depth of expertise, technical competence, and consistent excellence in patent practice.

## Stren & Blan Partners Participates in the INTA 2026 Annual Meeting in London

Our Partner, Christian Aniwu, and Senior Associates, Omonefe Irabor-Benson and Chibudike Anene, attended the International Trademark Association (INTA) 2026 Annual Meeting held in London. The Firm's participation in the meeting underscores its commitment to remaining at the forefront of global intellectual property developments, fostering strategic international partnerships, and enhancing its capacity to deliver world-class intellectual property services to clients across jurisdictions.

## Stren & Blan Partners Hosts Intellectual Property and Sports Clinic to Mark World IP Day 2026

Stren & Blan Partners hosted an Intellectual Property and Sports Clinic with football academies in Lagos, Nigeria, in commemoration of the 2026 World Intellectual Property Day, themed “Intellectual Property and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate.” The initiative reflects the Firm's commitment to promoting intellectual property awareness within Nigeria's sports ecosystem and supporting young athletes and sports institutions in understanding, protecting, and commercialising their intellectual property rights.

## Ozioma Agu Receives the 2026 Lexology Client Choice Award

Our Partner, Ozioma Agu, proudly received the 2026 Lexology (formerly Who's Who Legal) Client Choice Award for Project Finance (Nigeria) in London. This recognition reflects the Firm's commitment to delivering exceptional client service and commercially driven legal solutions in complex finance and infrastructure transactions.

## Amala Umeike Attends INSOL London Conference 2026

Our Partner, Amala Umeike, attended the International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals (INSOL) London Conference 2026, joining global industry leaders in high-level discussions on cross-border restructuring strategies, complex financial distress scenarios, and business recovery frameworks across multiple jurisdictions. This participation reflects the Firm's continued engagement with leading international insolvency and restructuring discourse and its commitment to staying at the forefront of global best practices.

## Omonefe Irabor- Benson Ranked Among Women's IP World Top 10 Tech & Innovation Professionals 2026

Our Senior Associate, Omonefe Irabor-Benson, was ranked among the top 10 in the "Pioneering IP Work in Sector-Specific Tech & Innovation" category of the Women's IP World Ranking 2026. This recognition reflects her leadership in managing patent portfolios for global innovators in Nigeria.



# About Stren & Blan Partners

Stren & Blan Partners is an innovative and dynamic law firm that combines the expertise of seasoned practitioners with the energy of emerging talent. We are dedicated to delivering practical solutions to our clients' business challenges and creating measurable value for their commercial endeavours. This commitment forms the foundation of our ethos, guiding everything we do.

As a full-service commercial law firm, we provide exceptional legal services to a diverse range of local and multinational corporations. Our clear vision is to anticipate our clients' evolving business needs and consistently exceed their expectations. This vision is driven by our unwavering dedication to client service and legal excellence.

## Market Recognition

At Stren & Blan Partners, client satisfaction remains at the core of our practice, and we continuously tailor our services to meet the evolving commercial needs of our clients. The Firm was nominated for Firm of the Year at the Managing IP EMEA Awards 2026, a recognition that reflects our commitment to excellence, innovation, and delivering commercially driven legal solutions.

This nomination highlights the Firm's ability to adapt to emerging industry developments while consistently providing high-quality, client-focused legal services. We regard such recognition as both an affirmation of the confidence our clients place in us and an incentive to continue maintaining the highest standards in legal practice.



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