



Quarterly IP Newsletter

October - December 2025

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2026

Quarterly IP Newsletter

Regulatory Updates

Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment

i. Stren & Blan Partners and INTA Host Anti-Counterfeiting Training for Regulators

On 23 October 2025, Stren & Blan Partners in collaboration with the Anticounterfeiting Committee of the International Trade Mark Association (INTA), held an anti-counterfeiting training themed Building Capacity for Enforcement Officers. Representatives from several regulatory agencies were in attendance, including the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), the Nigerian

Copyright Commission (NCC), and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS). The session was designed to deepen enforcement officers' understanding of current trends in counterfeiting, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and support the effective enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. Participants also contributed to robust discussions on innovative, technology-driven strategies that can be adopted by stakeholders to enhance IP enforcement.

ii. Nigeria Federal Executive Council Approves National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy

On Thursday, November 6, 2025, Nigeria's Federal Executive Council approved the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS). Developed with support from the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the NIPPS is Nigeria's first unified framework to protect and commercialise intellectual property rights. The NIPPS is a joint effort by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, the Ministry of Arts,

Culture and the Creative Economy and the Ministry of Justice. The development of the Policy began in 2020 with support from WIPO and received inputs from over 200 stakeholders from the government, private sector, academia and the development sector. In September 2022, the draft policy was validated in a National Multi-Stakeholder Workshop organised by the Federal Government of Nigeria and WIPO.



200+

stakeholders from
the government

iii. Nigeria Launches Inaugural AfCFTA Public–Private–Press Summit

The event was organised by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI) with support from Afreximbank and focused on bringing together government institutions, private sector stakeholders, and the media. The Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, on Monday reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to strengthening its role as a continental leader in trade-led economic integration, declaring that the African Continental Free Trade Area remains central to the nation's

industrial and economic ambitions. She delivered the message in Abuja at the inaugural AfCFTA Public–Private–Press Summit, designed to deepen understanding of the AfCFTA framework and rally national stakeholders toward achieving Item 7 of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda. In her keynote address, Oduwole said the summit was convened to align national efforts behind a coordinated vision for economic transformation.

iv. FEC Approves Reforms for Intellectual Property, Digital Trade, Service Exports

In a major push toward diversifying Nigeria's economy, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved four key policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the country's intellectual property, digital trade, and service export sectors. The policies, presented by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, were approved during Thursday's FEC meeting, marking what the ministry described as a "turning point" in Nigeria's innovation and

investment landscape. According to Oduwole, the initiatives approved under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda form part of a broader strategy to modernise Nigeria's industrial framework, attract investment, and position the country as a leading hub for digital and knowledge-driven economic growth.

The four approved policies include:

1 National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS)

2 Ratification of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade

3 Establishment of a National Coordination Mechanism for Services Exports led by NATEP

4 Implementation of the Product Authentication and Tracking System (PATS)

v. Nigeria Unveils New Trade Intelligence Tools to Bolster AfCFTA Implementation

The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment has launched two major trade intelligence tools, the Nigeria Trade Intelligence Report 2025 and Trade Insights Nigeria, as part of a renewed national drive to position the country as Africa's leading trade hub. The ministry also unveiled the National Action Framework, designed to accelerate Nigeria's implementation of the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Dr Jumoke Oduwole, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, while addressing the AfCFTA Public, Private and Press (P3) Summit in Abuja, highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration among government, the private sector, the media, and development partners to ensure that AfCFTA reforms translate into real economic gains for Nigerians.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

i. A New Version of the eMadrid System Has Been Launched to Simplify the Process for Global Trade Mark Applications.

A new version of the eMadrid system has been launched, offering a more streamlined and efficient platform for international trade mark registration. The upgrade is aimed at simplifying how businesses and brand owners protect and manage their trade marks across multiple jurisdictions. The Madrid System allows applicants to file a single international trade mark application and pay one set of fees to seek protection in up to 131 countries. It also enables trade

mark owners to renew registrations, record changes, and expand protection to new markets through a centralised system. Access to the Madrid System is open to individuals and businesses that are nationals of, domiciled in, or have an established business presence in any of the 131 countries covered by its 115 members. The enhanced eMadrid platform is expected to improve user experience and reinforce the system's position as a cost-effective solution for global trade mark protection.

131
Countries

115
Members

ii. WIPO, WTO and WHO Co-Hosted Technical Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance

The World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) successfully held the 12th Trilateral Cooperation Technical Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance on 11 December 2025. The symposium focused on addressing key challenges in the global response to antimicrobial resistance, including innovation

gaps, access inequities, and supply chain constraints. Drawing on the complementary expertise of the three organisations, discussions centred on practical and coordinated solutions aimed at preserving the effectiveness of antimicrobials for future generations and strengthening global health systems.

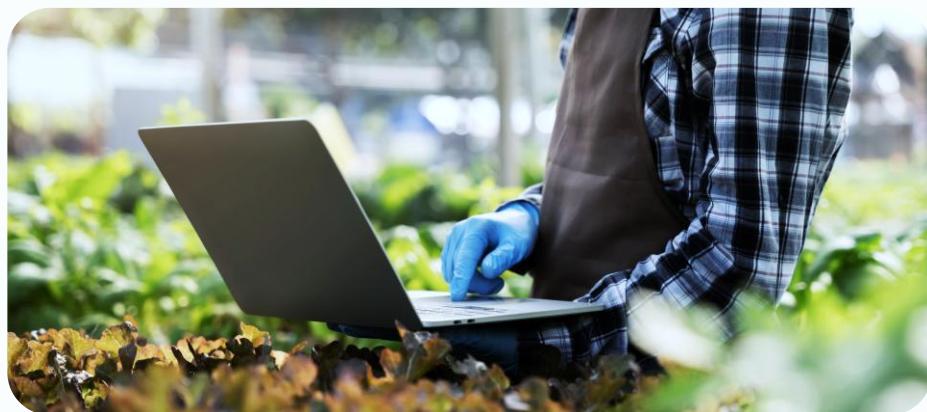
iii. Nigeria Joins UPOV PRISMA Platform for Digital Plant Variety Protection

Nigeria has officially joined the UPOV PRISMA online filing platform, covering all crops and species. UPOV PRISMA is a digital

system designed to facilitate the filing of plant variety protection and national listing applications worldwide.

With this development, breeders in Nigeria can now submit plant variety protection applications online. The platform provides a standardised, accessible, and fully digital procedure

for filing, helping to streamline the application process and ensuring compliance with international filing standards under the UPOV framework.



Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC)

i. Nigeria Boosts Copyright Enforcement with Game-Changing Asset Recovery Powers

In October 2025, the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) was designated a “relevant organisation” under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2022, significantly expanding its enforcement powers. The NCC can now trace, freeze, seize, manage, and confiscate assets linked to copyright offences through both conviction-based and non-conviction-based recovery, allowing it to pursue proceeds of infringement through civil proceedings where necessary. It was also empowered to collaborate with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the

Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), and the Nigerian Police to manage seized businesses and pursue asset recovery abroad, strengthening efforts to curb piracy by targeting its financial gains. To mark African Copyright and Collective Management Day, the NCC held a colloquium in Abuja on public performance licensing, where Director General Dr John Asien highlighted the economic harm piracy causes to creators, government revenue, and the wider creative industry.

ii. NCC Commences Compliance Inspections and Sensitisation Exercises

As part of efforts to combat the rising incidence of piracy, the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has commenced compliance inspection and sensitisation exercises targeting printers and printing presses, particularly in Akwa Ibom State.

The exercise, led by the NCC State Coordinator in charge of the Uyo

Office, Mrs Cornelia Ibanga, is aimed at monitoring compliance with the provisions of the NCC Act while educating printers and other stakeholders on their obligations under the law. The initiative underscores the Commission’s renewed focus on enforcement and stakeholder awareness within the printing sector.



iii. NCC Suspends Pirate (.ng) Domains

The NCC has suspended several (.ng) domains suspected of piracy. Earlier this year, the Commission shut down MovieBox.ng, a platform streaming pirated films, music, and live sports. These actions reaffirm the NCC's commitment to protecting copyright-protected works in Nigeria.

Under the Copyright Act 2022, the NCC is authorised to investigate and halt copyright infringement across streaming services and digital distribution channels. In coordination with the Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NIRA), which manages (.ng) domains, the Commission suspended seven websites found

distributing unlicensed music and audiovisual works belonging to Nigerian and foreign rights holders. The NCC's Special Taskforce against Online Piracy (STOP) confirmed that the suspended sites engaged in blatant infringement, causing financial losses for investors and producers while undermining legitimate online platforms.

The swift action is a welcome step in reinforcing the Commission's authority to suspend any (.ng) domain found unlawfully distributing copyright-protected works and to prevent further economic loss.



National Agency For Food Drug Administration And Control (NAFDAC)

i. NAFDAC Sensitises Officials on Drug Traceability and Paediatric Regulations

NAFDAC has intensified efforts to eliminate substandard and falsified medicines through enhanced digital traceability tools and strengthened regulatory frameworks. This was highlighted at a two-day awareness workshop in Abuja on the NAFDAC Greenbook, Pharmaceutical Products Traceability Regulations 2024, and Paediatric Regulation 2024.

Speaking at the event, the Director General of NAFDAC, Professor Mojisolade Adeyeye, described substandard and counterfeit medicines as one of the gravest threats to public health and safety in Nigeria, stressing the need for robust regulation and stakeholder collaboration.

ii. NAFDAC Publishes List of 101 Withdrawn, Suspended, and Cancelled Products

NAFDAC has released a list of 101 products whose certificates of registration have been withdrawn, suspended, or cancelled. Announced on 19 September, the Agency stated that the affected products are no longer permitted for manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale, or use in

Nigeria. According to NAFDAC, withdrawals occur at the request of the Market Authorisation Holder, suspensions arise where licensing conditions are no longer met pending review, and cancellations follow the revocation of a product's registration licence.



Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

i. SON Warns Manufacturers Against Fake, Substandard Products in Rivers

The Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has warned manufacturers and retailers in Rivers State and the South South Region at large to desist from circulating fake and substandard products. The SON gave the warning at the weekend, during a joint stakeholders awareness walk in Port Harcourt, Rivers State capital, on the impact of

substandard products on Nigerians. Speaking after the awareness walk, the SON Director in charge of the South South Region, Mrs Esther Okon, explained that the walk was in commemoration of the World Standard Day, marked every October 14.

ii. SON Enforces a Mandatory Check on Intellectual Property for Locally Manufactured Products.

As part of its standard operating procedures, SON enforces a mandatory check on intellectual property for locally manufactured products. Under the Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme (MANCAP) for locally manufactured goods, manufacturers are required to upload their Trade Mark Certificate (if they are a manufacturer or an importer with a brand name) as

part of the e-Product registration process. This requirement explicitly links product quality certification to brand ownership, establishing that a product meeting Nigerian standards must also belong to the legally registered intellectual property (trade mark) owner. This scheme is designed to protect genuine manufacturers against faking and counterfeiting.



Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN)

i. MCSN and BON Strengthen Copyright Protection in the Nigerian Broadcasting Industry

In October, the Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN) and the Broadcast Organisation of Nigeria (BON) signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is aimed at strengthening the recognition and protection of copyright in the nation's broadcasting industry. With piracy being a significant problem in Nigeria, affecting not just the compensation due to

copyright owners, but also significantly impacting the supply chain, the MOU establishes not only a mutual understanding but also seeks to balance broadcasters' rights and responsibilities under the Copyright Act 2022, while also establishing a framework for dealing with licensing and fair and equitable royalty payments for copyright owners.

Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON)

i. Federal High Court Declares Sections of ARCON Act 2022 Unconstitutional

On Friday, 7 November 2025, the Federal High Court declared several sections of the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) Act 2022 unconstitutional in the case of *Massilia Motors Ltd v. ARCON*. The court ruled that the regulation of outdoor advertising falls exclusively within the jurisdiction of Local Government Councils, and ARCON's attempts to regulate that space were unlawful.

The judgment also invalidated the requirement for prior approval from the Advertising Standards Panel, voided ARCON's Notice of Violation to Massilia Motors, and declared the Advertising Offences Tribunal's criminal summons unlawful. Stakeholders noted that the ruling clarifies the limits of ARCON's regulatory powers and reinforces constitutional supremacy. With additional cases pending, there is an expectation that further provisions may be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Constitution.

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Case Law Updates

Sanofi v. Denk Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Opposition No.F/TM/O/2019/165456

The dispute arose when Denk Pharma GmbH & Co. KG (the Applicant) applied to register DENK GLIMEPIRIDE TABLET for pharmaceutical products in Class 5. On behalf of Sanofi (the Opponent), Stren & Blan Partners filed a Notice of Opposition, asserting that the mark predominantly contained a generic name or International Non-proprietary Name (INN), specifically GLIMEPIRIDE. Relying on Sections 9 and 11 of the Trade Marks Act and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, the Opponent contended that registration of the mark would be contrary to public health, safety, and morality. In its Written Address, the Applicant advanced several arguments, which were countered by the Opponent in a Reply Brief. Firstly, the Applicant argued that the prefix “DENK” provided distinctiveness under Section 9 and that including the generic name GLIMEPIRIDE was necessary for identification, consistent with NAFDAC labelling regulations requiring both brand and generic names. In response, the Opponent emphasised that GLIMEPIRIDE is a globally recognised generic term in the pharmaceutical industry and public property. They invoked WHO guidelines, which stipulate that trade marks should neither be derived from nor contain INNs to prevent patient confusion. The Opponent also noted that Sanofi’s own glimepiride product, AMARYL, complies with these safety standards.

The Tribunal, in its determination, focused on whether the mark was distinctive and registrable in Class 5. After reviewing the evidence, the

Tribunal found that GLIMEPIRIDE is a common scientific name that is used worldwide to treat type 2 diabetes. As a generic term, it cannot be monopolised by a single entity and must remain available for use by all traders. In line with the principle established in Smithkline Beecham plc v. Farmex Ltd, generic terms such as “Milk of Magnesia” are not eligible for registration. Allowing the registration of such a term would violate Section 11 of the Trade Marks Act and could compromise patient safety.

Consequently, the Tribunal delivered a reasoned ruling in favour of Sanofi, holding that DENK GLIMEPIRIDE TABLET was fundamentally generic and that its registration could jeopardise patient safety. The Tribunal ordered the withdrawal and cancellation of the acceptance letter previously issued for the application. This decision reinforces critical principles of Nigerian Trade Mark law, confirming that marks containing INNs cannot be registered. It underscores the Tribunal’s commitment to public health and international best practices, prioritising safety over claims of brand distinctiveness when generic elements are involved. The ruling serves as an important precedent for trade mark owners in the pharmaceutical sector, highlighting the rigorous protection afforded to public health considerations in trade mark registrations.

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Updates From Other Jurisdictions

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

i. ARIPO Declares Tanzania Ineligible for Designation under the Banjul Protocol

In September 2025, the Court of Appeal of Tanzania ruled that trade marks registered through the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) under its Banjul Protocol are not enforceable in Tanzania, following the absence of ratification and domestication of the aforementioned treaty. Following this judgment, ARIPO issued a

notice on 23 October 2025, declaring that until further notice, Tanzania can no longer be designated in ARIPO's regional trade mark system. The effect of this notice is that Tanzania is suspended from the Banjul protocol system until the ratification and domestication of the said treaty.

ii. ARIPO Participates in the Intra-African State Fair, Held in Algeria.

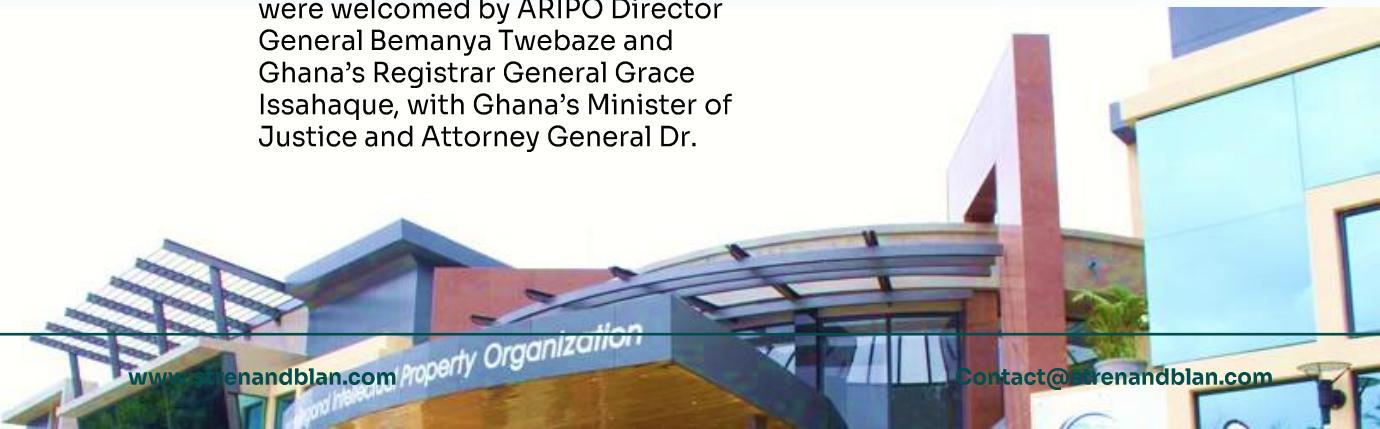
From September 4 2025, to September 10, 2025, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) participated in the Intra-African State Fair, which was held in Algiers, Algeria.

ARIPO spoke on intellectual property rights, asserting that these rights are central to driving trade within Africa and supporting long-term economic growth.

iii. 49th Session of the Administrative Council of the ARIPO held in Accra, Ghana

The 49th Session of the ARIPO Administrative Council was held in Accra, Ghana, from 17–20 November 2025. Representatives from all 22 member states, as well as observers from Burundi and Angola, attended alongside partner organisations including UPOV, EUIPO, and OAPI. Delegates were welcomed by ARIPO Director General Bemanya Twebaze and Ghana's Registrar General Grace Issahaque, with Ghana's Minister of Justice and Attorney General Dr.

Dominic A. Ayine as the Guest of Honour. The event offered a valuable platform to engage with IP officials and strengthen regional IP collaboration.



iv. Ghana Hosts 20th ARIPO Council of Ministers Session

Ghana hosted the 20th session of the ARIPO Council of Ministers from 21–22 November 2025. The session was opened by Ghana's Solicitor-General, Mrs. Helen Akpene Awo Ziwu, speaking on behalf of President John Dramani Mahama, who emphasised the growing role of intellectual property in driving innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth in Africa. Member states were urged to strengthen legal and administrative frameworks to ensure local innovators fully benefit from the IP system.

ARIPO Director-General Mr. Bemanya Twebaze reported increased patent and trade mark filings, expanded training initiatives, and strengthened partnerships with institutions including WIPO, the European Patent Office, and the Japan Patent Office. The Council also elected officers for the 2026–2027 term, with Ghana as Chairperson, Namibia as First Vice-Chairperson, and Eswatini as Second Vice-Chairperson.

Organisation Africaine De La Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)

i. OAPI Launches the First Edition of the Intellectual Property Initiation Certificate

On 2 October 2025, the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI) issued a press release announcing the launch of the first edition of the Intellectual Property Initiation Certificate. The objective

of the certification training exercise is to provide a foundational knowledge of intellectual property. Moreover, applications for the first edition are currently being accepted.

ii. OAPI Grants 'Mialisogo' Certification, Strengthening Malian Meat Exports

In October 2025, OAPI officially certified the 'Mialisogo' label for all meat exported from Mali, ensuring its origin, quality, and traceability. The certification strengthens the competitiveness of Malian meat in global markets, builds consumer trust, and supports over 30% of

Mali's rural population involved in livestock. Industry experts predict that the label will boost pricing, open new market opportunities, encourage investment, and serve as a model for using IP tools to add value to agricultural exports.

iii. OAPI Strengthens Human Capital: 20 Years of APIDE and GI Auditor Training

In October 2025, OAPI celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Denis Ekani Intellectual Property Academy (APIDE) with an international symposium in Yaoundé, alongside the 26th African Technology and Intellectual Property Day. APIDE has become a continental hub for advanced IP training, having trained 611 professionals from OAPI's 17 member states, including 68 Geographical Indication (GI)

auditors who help protect local products like Cameroon's Penja pepper, whose price soared nearly tenfold after GI certification. The symposium highlighted the strategic role of IP capacity-building in supporting Africa's industrial, scientific, and cultural ambitions, emphasising the need for continued investment in training, public policy, and national development strategies.

Ghana

i. Ghana's Kente Receives Geographical Indication Recognition

In October 2025, Ghana's iconic Kente fabric received official recognition from the World Intellectual Property Organisation as the country's first Geographical Indication (GI) product. The certification ceremony, hosted by the Registrar-General's Department in partnership with WIPO, brought together key stakeholders from the creative sector. This milestone affirms Kente as an exclusively Ghanaian

product, safeguarding its authenticity in global markets and creating new economic opportunities for local weavers and communities. It also builds on recent cultural achievements, following the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts' successful effort to have Kente inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage last December.

ii. WIPO Director General Visits Ghana and Underlines How IP-Backed Innovation Can Support Ghana's Economic Transformation

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Daren Tang, met with key leaders of the Ghanaian nation. Mr Tang pledged continuing support for strengthening Ghana's IP

ecosystem. In a meeting with President John Mahama, Mr. Tang highlighted the critical role of IP in the development of Ghana's cultural, creative and innovative industries.

iii. Ghana Steps Up IP Modernisation in a Bid to Drive Economic Growth

Ghana has taken decisive steps to make IP systems simpler, more reliable and highly beneficial for innovators and entrepreneurs. Speaking at the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) in Accra on Friday, November 21, 2025, Registrar General Grace Issahaque, who also chairs the ARIPO Administrative Council, noted that the ongoing reforms are designed

to strengthen protection and promote efficiency. The Solicitor General, Mrs Helen Akpene Awo Ziwu, further highlighted key national interventions such as the 24-hour economic strategy and the One Million Coders initiative, intended to boost productivity, enhance digital capacity and empower youths to compete in the rapidly evolving global market.

Burkina Faso

i. APIDE Unveils New Ambassadors for Collective Copyright Management

The Denis Ekani Intellectual Property Academy (APIDE) unveiled 11 new professionals from diverse backgrounds, offering them their Certificate of Aptitude in Collective Copyright Management, on 14 November

2025. This follows a three-month intensive training exercise, aimed at consolidating the skills of the participants and strengthening them as pillars for the development of literary and artistic property in Nigeria.

Liberia

i. LIPO Collaborates with the University of Liberia to Establish Technology and Innovation Support Centre

The Liberian Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) has signed an Institutional agreement with the University of Liberia to establish a Technology Innovation Support Centre. The centre aims to provide researchers, faculty and students

with access to patent databases, scientific literature, and specialised training on intellectual property. The signing was done on September 30, 2025, at the University's Main Campus.

ii. Liberia To Ratify ARIPO Arusha and Kampala Protocols

Liberia's President, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, at the ARIPO delegation's visit, which happened between 13 to 15 October 2025, pledged the government's commitment to ratifying the Arusha Protocol, which seeks to protect new plant varieties, and the Kampala Protocol, which allows for the voluntary registration of copyright.

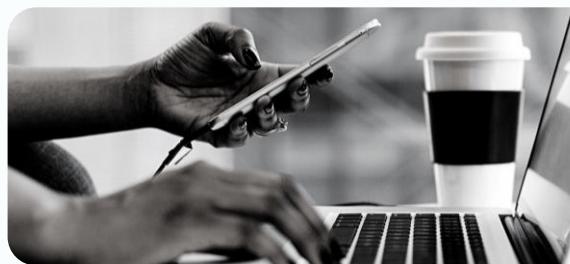
This commitment forms part of the current administration's focus on developing a robust national intellectual property policy, and in support of its focus on inclusive economic development.

South Africa

i. South Africa Advances Intellectual Property Law Reforms

South Africa is preparing significant reforms to its intellectual property laws with the introduction of a new Patent Bill and Design Amendment Bill expected in early 2026. The Patents Bill will introduce phased substantive examination, allow publication of applications for third-party observations, provide a novelty grace period, and establish post-grant opposition procedures and utility model protection. Differential fees will apply for small and large entities, and disclosure of the origin of genetic resources and traditional knowledge will be maintained. The Design Amendment Bill will remove functional designs, introduce an

opposition period for design applications, and require disclosure of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. The reforms also prepare South Africa for accession to the Hague Agreement and align with the Riyadh Design Law Treaty. The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission has expanded its examination staff, partnered with international offices for training, and is developing a full electronic filing system. These reforms aim to modernise the IP framework, improve access for local innovators and businesses, and strengthen South Africa's position as a regional leader in innovation.



ii. Latest Developments Relating to the Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill

On 29 October 2025, a meeting of the Committee of Health was held in consultation with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and concerns were raised with regard to the Bill's introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products. Both SARS and SAPS have raised concerns over plain packaging and the (unintended) consequence that

plain packaging could have on the illicit trade. To avoid this unintended consequence, SARS suggested that the health imperative could be served by requiring large, visible health warnings on packaging, which would, in their view, allow for easier identification of legally regulated products.

iii. South Africa Launches National Action Plan Against Fake Medicines

In October 2025, South Africa introduced Africa's first comprehensive National Action Plan (NAP) to combat substandard and falsified medical products, developed in partnership with South Africa's medical regulatory authority (SAHPRA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Announced by Health Minister Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi, the plan strengthens vigilance at ports of entry, enhances post-market surveillance, and promotes better reporting of suspicious medicines. It also focuses on training and collaboration across the supply chain.

The NAP aims to protect public health, safeguard intellectual property rights, and encourage pharmaceutical investment by reinforcing regulatory oversight. By strengthening regulatory oversight and enforcement, the NAP supports the protection of patented and branded medicines and encourages investment in the South African market. Set to be presented as a model at a WHO forum in Geneva, the initiative is expected to guide similar efforts across the continent and improve the reliability of Africa's healthcare systems.

iv. South Africa introduces the South African Plant Improvement Act No. 11 of 2018

The South African Plant Improvement Act No. 11 of 2018 (the "Act") came into operation on 1 December 2025, repealing the Plant Improvement Act No. 53 of 1976 and modernising the country's regulatory framework for plant production and propagation. The Act introduces a comprehensive regime governing the exploitation, registration, and commercialisation of prescribed plants and propagating material, alongside a national system for the listing and evaluation of plant

varieties. It establishes mandatory registration of businesses and premises engaged in activities involving prescribed plants, while enabling the evaluation of plant varieties where there is doubt as to their value for cultivation and use. Beyond its technical provisions, the Act is expected to support long-term food security, sustainability, and investment in the agricultural sector by reinforcing quality control, traceability, and accountability.

Uganda

i. URSB Joins WIPO to Celebrate IP Examiner's Day and Launches New Guidelines

On 11 November 2025, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau(URSB) joined the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to commemorate World Intellectual Property Examiner's Day. The theme of the event was 'Celebrating and Empowering IP Examiners', and it was held at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre in Kololo. The URSB further

marked the celebration by launching the new Examination Guidelines and Examiner Profiles, which are designed to provide a standardised approach for trade mark examiners to conduct substantive examinations under the Ugandan Trade Marks Act.

Tanzania

i. Tanzania Introduces Mandatory Trade Marks Recordals for Imports

On 1 September 2025, Tanzania's Fair Competition Commission (FCC) proceeded to launch a Trade Marks Recordal Programme for all goods imported into Mainland Tanzania. This requirement is necessary for trade mark owners to be able to file customs complaints, and is in compliance with the

Finance Act 2025, which introduced Section 11A to the Merchandise Marks Act. Moreover, unregistered trade marks will be excluded from the benefits and protection of the Finance Act, but may seek other legal remedies within the borders of Tanzania.

ii. Tanzania Court of Appeal Rules Unenforceability of ARIPO Registered Trade Marks

The Court of Appeal of Tanzania recently ruled in *Lakairo Industries Group Co. Limited v. Kenafrica Industries Limited* (Civil Appeal No. 593 of 2022) that trade marks registered under the Banjul Protocol under the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) are unenforceable in Tanzania. The rationale behind this decision is that although Tanzania has acceded to the Banjul Protocol

on the international level, the protocol is not part of Tanzania's domestic legal framework. As Tanzania operates a dualist system, ARIPO registrations have no legal effect in the country. Hence, for trade marks protection and enforcement, proprietors must file national applications directly with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

Zambia

i. PACRA Issues Call for Written Submissions on Drafts Trade Marks Regulations 2025

The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) of Zambia issued a call for written submissions from stakeholders and members of the public on the draft regulations to be made under the Trade Marks Act 2023.

The purpose of these regulations is to operationalise the Trade Marks Act, implement the Madrid Protocol for international registration of trade marks, and revolutionise the Trade Mark administration of Zambia.

Egypt

i. Trade Marks Office Sets to Relocate Its Premises

The Egyptian Trade Marks Office has begun the preparations to relocate to the premises of the Egyptian General Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA). The transfer of physical documents and office materials has begun, with the Treasury Department set to be moved soon.

To this end, there are temporary system outages in order to facilitate the migration of data and servers. Moreover, the new address of the Trade Mark Office is 101 Kasr Ek Aini Street, Cairo, Egypt.

ii. Egypt Updates Official Fees for Patents, Copyrights, and Plant Varieties

In October 2025, the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority (EGIPA) issued a series of ministerial decisions updating official fees for the prosecution, registration, and maintenance of patents, plant varieties, and copyright. Decision No. 138 introduces general increases and new fees for specific patent procedures. Decision No. 140 sets a

new schedule of fees for the application and registration of plant varieties, while Decision No. 141 implements general increases for copyright registration and maintenance. These updated fees took effect from 15 October 2025 and apply to all relevant filings and services submitted from that date onward.

Libya

i. Libyan Trade Mark Office Reintroduces Local Attestation Requirement

The Libyan Trade Marks Office recently announced the reinstatement of the requirement for local attestation of legalised documents by the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Therefore, all

applicants must henceforth ensure their documents are locally attested when preparing for filing or other Trade Marks actions at the Libyan Trade Mark Office.

Somalia

i. Somalia Revises IP Official Fees Amid Ongoing Legislative Reform

Somalia has revised its official IP fees, effective 1 October 2025. Trade mark filing fees have been reduced, while fees for oppositions, patents, industrial designs, and recordal matters, such as transfers or assignments, have been introduced. Additionally, compulsory printing fee will now apply to all certificates. These changes come as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with World Bank support, develops a comprehensive IP legislation. The draft is under expert review ahead of stakeholder consultation and will eventually go to Parliament for approval.

Meanwhile, a procedural decree is being finalised to formalise filing processes and provide legal certainty during the transition. The Ministry also confirmed that transitional provisions will preserve the validity of trade marks filed and registered from 2019 onwards, ensuring continuity under the new framework.



Gabon

i. Gabon's Mbigou Stone Set to Become First African Handicraft with Geographical Indication

The Gabonese Office of Industrial Property (Ogapi) welcomed the National Committee for Geographical Indications (CNIG) decision to validate the official recognition of Mbigou stone as a product with a geographical indication (GI). This marks the final phase before its official registration. Once completed, Mbigou stone will be the first African handicraft product to receive such recognition.

Mbigou stone, sourced from the Ngounié province, has been traditionally used for sculpture for decades. Ogapi Director-General Ms. Mbazoghe noted that there are now precise product specifications which will guarantee traceability and quality of the product, with CNIG closely monitoring compliance. Recognition as a GI will protect Gabonese ancestral know-how and is expected to provide economic benefits to the Mbigou communities.



Quarterly IP Newsletter

News About The Firm

- A. Stren & Blan Partners was honoured with the Corporate/Commercial Firm of the Year (Project Finance & Infrastructure) award at the BusinessDay Legal Dinner & Awards Gala.
- B. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, was inducted into the Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) Nigeria. His induction reflects years of deliberate leadership, sound judgment, and strong governance.
- C. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu, was recognised in the IAM Strategy 300: Global Leaders 2026 for excellence in IP management, consultancy, legal, licensing and technology transfer.
- D. Our Partner, Ozioma Agu, was ranked a Rising Star Partner in the IFLR1000 2025 Rankings for her extensive advisory work in banking & finance, energy, oil and gas, and infrastructure projects.
- E. Stren & Blan Partners was ranked as a Recommended Firm in the Banking practice area of the IFLR1000 2025 Rankings. This recognition affirms the precision our Team brings to transactional, corporate, and financial matters, and the trust clients place in us on complex assignments.
- F. Our Partner, Ozioma Agu, emerged as the sole winner of the 2026 Lexology (formerly Who's Who Legal) Client Choice Award for Project Finance in Nigeria — a recognition based entirely on feedback from clients and corporate counsel.
- G. Stren & Blan Partners hosted its maiden Energy & Infrastructure Finance Roundtable on Friday, 28th November 2025, at Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos. The session was led by our Partner, Ozioma Agu, with our Senior Associate, Oreoluwa Nehizena, moderating the discussions. The roundtable brought together industry experts for a focused working session, where contributors drew on their experience to clarify current challenges, share sector realities, and offer clear viewpoints on financing energy and infrastructure projects across the continent.
- H. Our Partner, Amala Umeike, spoke at the 2025 Africa Round Table organised by INSOL International in collaboration with The World Bank Group on 20th – 21st November 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, addressing how insolvency systems across African jurisdictions can create better conditions for business continuity, employment preservation, and broader economic stability.



- I. Our Managing Partner, Christian Aniukwu and Associate, Oghenemega Igbru, attended the Breakfast Meeting with the German Film Delegation held in Lagos, where representatives from the German film industry met with Nigerian practitioners to better understand the local film creation and production. The conversation was centred on what foreign film teams should know before operating in Nigeria, including production processes and regulatory requirements, and the realities of filming, advertising, and content distribution.
- J. Our Associate, Emmanuel Ughanze, attended the 6th All Africa Intellectual Property (IP) Summit 2025, which took place from 12th to 14th November at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar, Senegal. The summit, themed “Building an Inclusive IP Ecosystem for Africa’s Future,” was focused on reimagining how intellectual property systems can drive Africa’s economic, cultural, and technological development under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- K. Stren & Blan Partners has been accredited as an Accredited Training Organisation (ATO) by the Institute of Information Management (IIM), Africa, the only body in Nigeria authorised to issue internationally recognised certifications for Data Protection Officers (CDPO). This accreditation empowers us to conduct certified training for individuals and organisations seeking to build or strengthen their data protection compliance capacity under Nigeria’s data protection framework.
- L. Our Team Lead, Francisca Igboanugo, attended the AFSIC - Investing in Africa Conference and Expo 2025 event held in London, one of the continent’s foremost platforms for connecting investors and growth markets. Discussions explored emerging trends across securitisation, capital markets, fintech, and sustainable investment models redefining how capital moves within and beyond the continent.



- M. Stren & Blan Partners, in collaboration with the International Trade Mark Association (INTA), organised an Anticounterfeiting Training: Building Capacity for Enforcement Officers on Thursday, 23rd October 2025. The session was designed to deepen the understanding of enforcement officers on current trends in counterfeiting, strengthen coordination among agencies, and support effective enforcement of intellectual property rights.
- N. Stren & Blan Partners has been recognised in the ITR (International Tax Review) World Tax 2026 Rankings for its work in General Corporate Tax, Transactional Tax, and Tax Controversy. Also, two of our practitioners received individual distinctions in this year's rankings. MARVIS ODUOGU was recognised as Highly Regarded in the area of Tax Controversy, while Ifeanyi C. Ezechukwu was named a Rising Star in the same category.
- O. On Thursday, 9th October, Stren & Blan Partners hosted Horizon 2.0 Continental Investment Drift Summit, which took place in London, sparking insightful conversations on the current realities of investing in Africa. The summit fostered dialogue on regulation, infrastructure, finance, and the evolving dynamics shaping how foreign investors engage with African markets.
- P. Our Partner, Amala Umeike, was inducted as a Fellow of the Business Recovery & Insolvency Practitioners Association of Nigeria (BRIPAN), in recognition of his contributions to the field of insolvency and business recovery. Our Associates, Chidera Nwokeke and Babatunde Oyewole, were also inducted as Associates of BRIPAN at the Association's Annual International Insolvency Conference 2025, which was held on 25th–26th September 2025.



About the Firm

Stren & Blan Partners is an innovative and dynamic law firm with a compelling blend of experienced lawyers and energetic talent. We focus on providing solutions to our clients' business problems and adding value to their businesses and commercial endeavours. This underpins our ethos as everything we do flows from these underlying principles.

As a full-service commercial law firm, providing excellent legal services to diverse local and multinational corporations. We have developed a clear vision for anticipating our clients' business needs and surpassing their expectations, driven by our unwavering commitment to client service and legal excellence.

Market Recognition

Our confidence and pride lie in our clients' satisfaction, and we continually align our objectives with their evolving business needs. In 2025, Stren & Blan Partners was honoured with a nomination in the "Innovation in ESG" category at the African Legal Technology & Innovation Awards. This

recognition highlights our commitment to advancing Environmental, Social, and Governance standards through innovative legal solutions, particularly in sustainability-linked transactions within the energy and finance sectors.

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