

THE GAMBIA IP OFFICE OVERVIEW AND WORKFLOW

INTRODUCTION OF THE IP OFFICE

The office is a unit under the purview of Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, situate at Marina Parade, Banjul. It is headed by a Registrar General and has twelve (12) staff. The staff roles are as follows:

- i- Three Substantive Examiners,
- ii- Two formality Examiners,
- iii- One Journal Publisher, and
- iv- Six data capture clerks.

LEGISLATIONS

The following legal provisions regulate the administration of Industrial Property rights in The Gambia:

TRADEMARKS ACT OF 1916

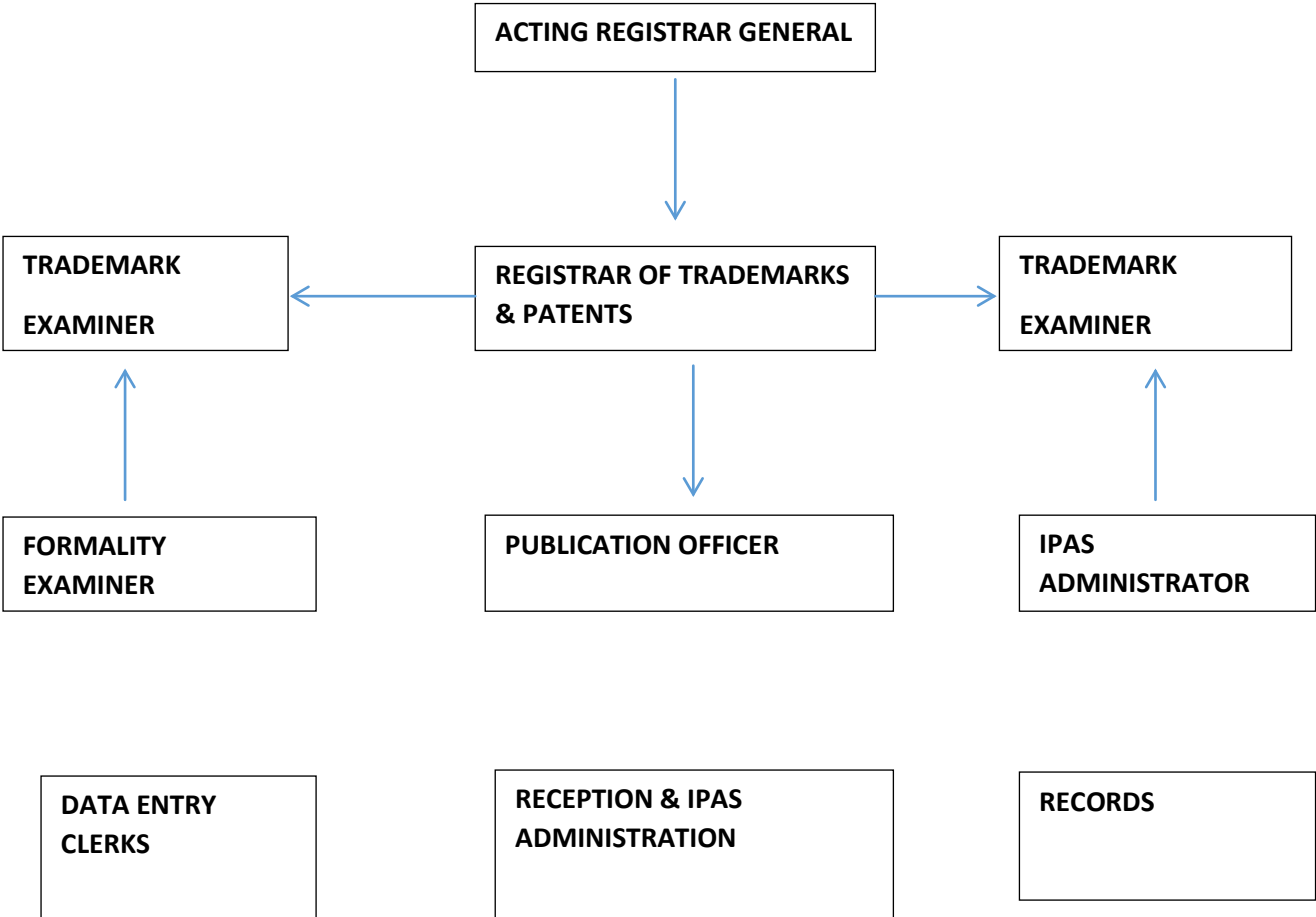
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ACT CAP: 95:01 OF 2007

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY REGULATION OF 2010

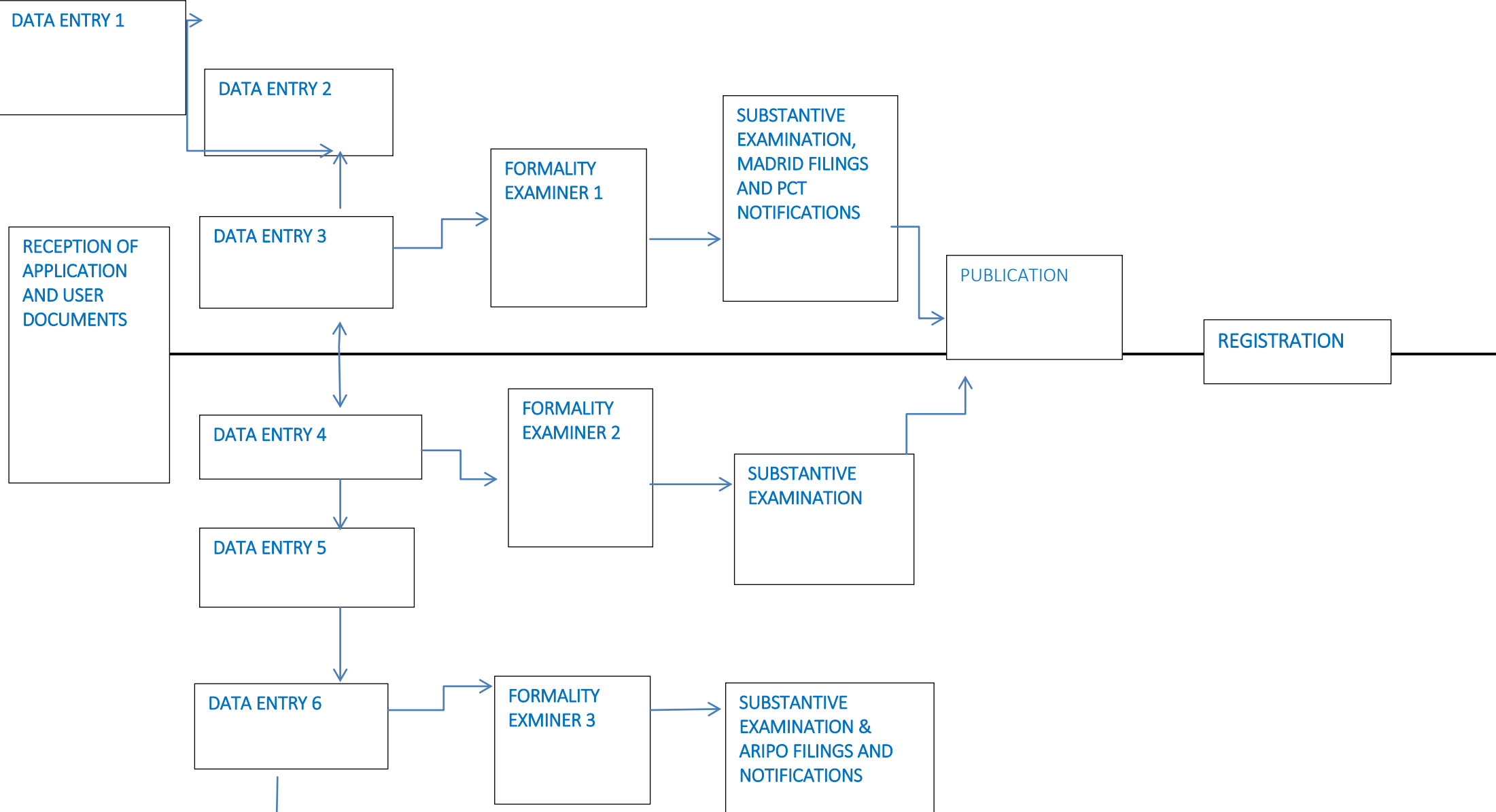
The IP rights protected by IP Office are:

- ❖ TRADEMARKS
- ❖ PATENTS
- ❖ UTILITY MODELS
- ❖ INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS
- ❖ COLLECTIVE MARKS

OFFICE ORGANISATIONAL CHART



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE WORKFLOW ORGANISATIONAL CHART



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPAS SYSTEM

IPAS was deployed in the IP Office in 2010. After some months, we started to automate our records starting from 1916 application files. Six data entry clerks were contracted to input the required information. They were tasked to capture data from and process those applications to their current statuses. This meaning assignment was successful thanks to the help and assistance of WIPO.

Journals generated from the IPAS system and edited manually and the publication is done by the government printers outside and does not meet WIPO standards.

The following is the status of rights:

- i- TRADEMARKS: 14890 registered
- ii- PATENTS: 5 registered
- iii- UTILITY MODELS: 0
- iv- PCT APPLICATION: NOT YET DOWNLOADED

ARIPO PATENTS: We receive notification of applications on CD. However, due to administrative constraints, the practice of printing out and capturing data is yet to be in place.

The Madrid Protocol on the registration of trademarks came into force on the 18th December, 2015. Due to internet challenge, the office cannot download designation in order to act accordingly. Efforts are on the way to upgrade the internet bandwidth to facilitate the downloading of marks.