

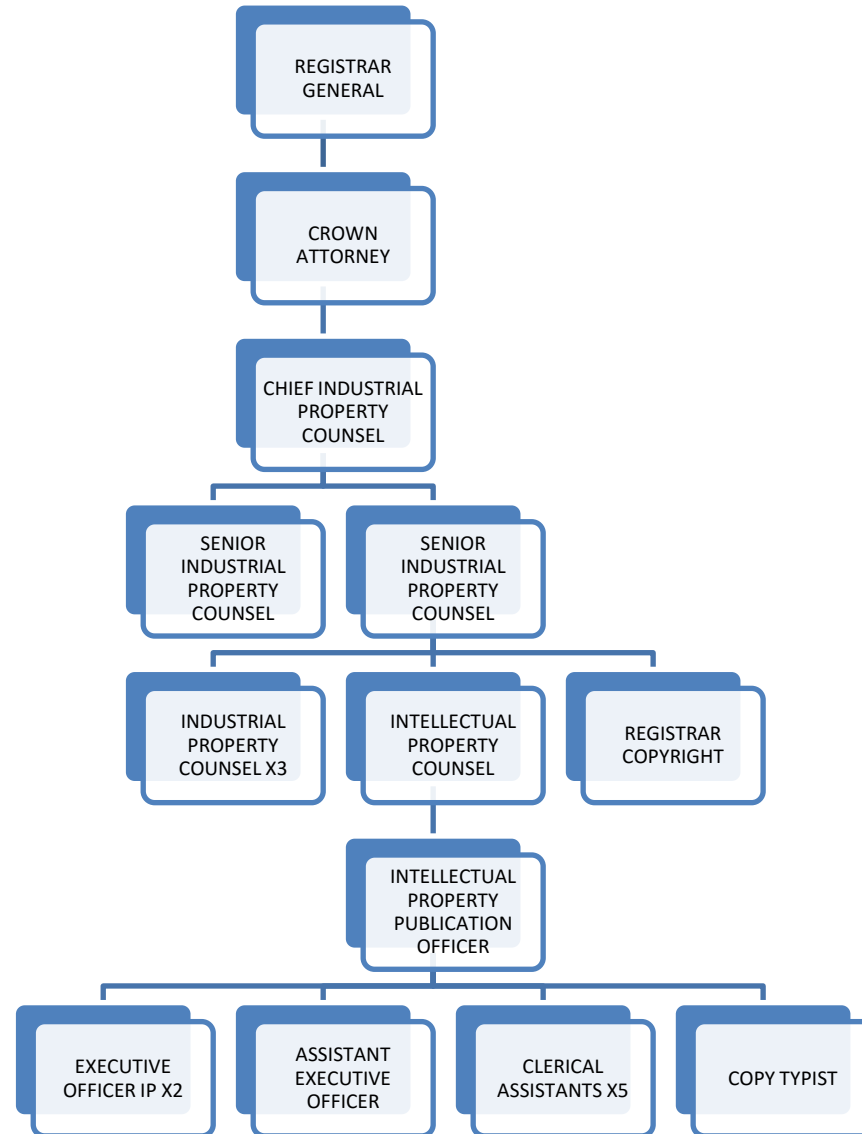
# Country Report- Lesotho

## IP office overview

The Lesotho IP Office is under the Ministry of Law, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs.

It is housed under the office of the Registrar General.

# IP OFFICE STRUCTURE



# **2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

- TOTAL BUDGET: M883,356 (\$58,890)
- M32,000 (\$2133) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR MINOR WORKS
- M62,000 (\$4133) IS ALLOCATED FOR MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ASSETS WHICH ARE THE FUNDS USED TO REPAIR AND SERVICE ICT EQUIPMENT
- NO FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR PURCHASING NEW EQUIPMENT OR TRAINING OF STAFF

# IP OFFICE STAFF

- THE TOTAL NUMBER OF IP STAFF IS 20
- TOTAL NUMBER OF ICT STAFF IS 2 PERSONS  
THOUGH THEY SERVE THE WHOLE MINISTRY
- ICT STAFF HAS RELEVANT ICT QUALIFICATION

# **NATIONAL IP LEGISLATION**

- INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORDER OF 1989
  
- COPYRIGHT ORDER OF 1989

# THE OFFICE DEALS WITH:

- TRADEMARKS,
- PATENTS,
- INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS,
- UTILITY MODELS
- COPYRIGHT

# IP VOLUMES SINCE CREATION OF OFFICE

TRADEMARKS : 22931

PATENTS : 248

DESIGNS : 151

UTILITY MODELS: 2

# IP VOLUMES SINCE 2010

## TRADEMARKS

APPLICATIONS	: 2787
REGISTERED	: 1531
IN PROCESS	: 1255

## PATENTS

APPLICATIONS	: 14
GRANTED	: 0

## INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

APPLICATIONS	: 22
GRANTED	: 0

## UTILITY MODELS

GRANTED	: 1
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# BACKLOG FILES

- ABOUT 15000 TRADEMARK FILES NEED TO BE CAPTURED INTO THE SYSTEM
- DIGITIZED FILES : 7475 TRADEMAKS  
: 4 PATENTS

# **CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS**

- ALL NEW APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED INTO THE SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATION OF AN APPLICATION NUMBER
- ALL USER DOCUMENT ARE ALSO RECEIVED INTO THE SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATION OF USER DOCUMENT NUMBER
- THE SYSTEM IS USED TO RECORD DATA ABOUT IP APPLICATIONS AND TO PERFORM SOME OTHER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS PRINTING OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATES
- THE JOURNAL IS PRODUCED ON A MONTHL BASIS AND ITS PRODUCTION IS DONE ENTIRELY ON THE SYSTEM
- IT IS PUBLISHED ON A PAPER FORMAT. A CERTAIN FEE IS CHARGED FOR PUBLICATION
- THE OFFICE RECEIVES THROUGH THE SYSTEM, MADRID APPLICATIONS FROM WIPO
- THE OFFICE DOES NOT OFFER ANY ONLINE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC
- SINCE THE DEPLOYMENT OF IPAS, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BEING PROCESSED AND TRADEMARKS BEING REGISTERED

## **CHALLENGES**

- THERE IS A CHALLENGE OF PROCESSING APPLICATIONS IN TIME DUE TO ICT RELATED ISSUES WHICH SOMETIMES TAKES A LONG TIME TO RESOLVE.
- CULTURAL CHANGE IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN AUTOMATION PROJECTS ESPECIALLY WHEN PREVIOUSLY THE CULTURE WAS PAPER BASED.

# BENEFITS FROM PREVIOUS WIPO REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- THE OFFICE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE WIPO REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON IP DATA VALIDATION, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE HELD IN VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE WHERE PARTICIPANTS WERE EQUIPPED WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF IPAS CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR DATA VALIDATION, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE AS WELL AS ADVANTAGES OF USING IPAS IN DATA VALIDATION, VERIFICATION AND EXCHANGE.

# FUTURE AUTOMATION PLANS

- IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DATA IN THE LESOTHO IP OFFICE, THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE SUPERVISION , VALIDATION, VERIFICATION AND AUDIT/CONTROL OF FILES IN THE SYSTEM.

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