

SIGNIFICANCE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY FOR COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT

AGABA GILBERT

Ag. DIRECTOR, INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY DIRECTORATE

WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL PROPL...

- Industrial Property comprises of Trademarks, Geographical Indications, Patents and Utility Models.
- Trademarks and Geographical Indications are signs and marks used to identify the **origin** of a product.
- Patents and Utility Models protect **inventions**.

CHARACTER OF IP

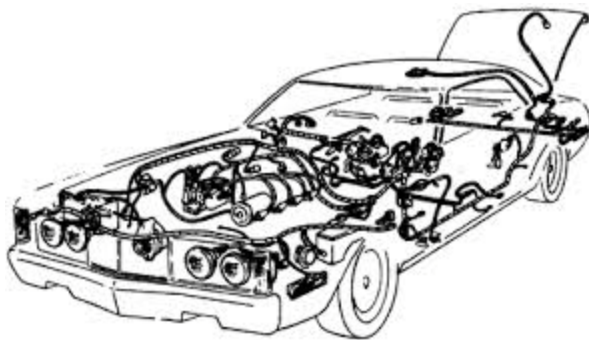


- ❑ IP captures and adds **value** to products. IP therefore, is an asset

CHARACTER OF IP

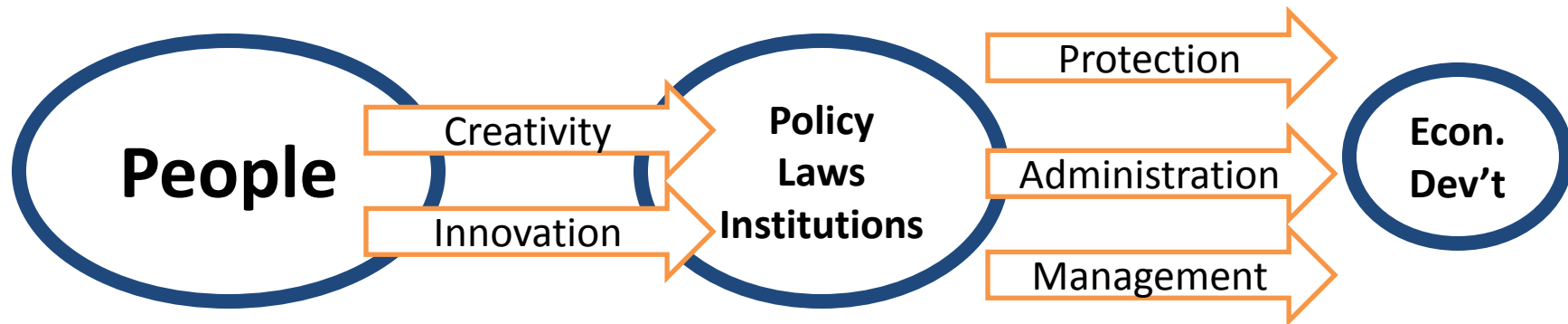


- Creativity and innovation is a **natural** human endeavour.



CHARACTER OF IP

- ❑ IP is a tool. Having a trademark or utility model certificate is not enough.



Development Priorities

❑ Competitiveness of industry

We are in a globalised economy; we belong to various regional groupings EAC, SADC, ECOWAS and internationally WTO. Competition is no longer local but global IP. IP helps enterprises to compete in the local and global market.

Development Priorities

□ Trade

African countries mainly trade in commodities especially high-value agricultural products and mineral resources. ARIPO countries have a comparative advantage and or absolute advantage when trading in these products; are we exploiting that value?

Development Priorities

❑ Sustainable development

Challenges of climate change, food security, poverty and disease, unemployment, illiteracy, etc.

The solution lies with us (Africans) through accumulation of knowledge and transforming that knowledge into solutions to meet our national needs.

Development Priorities

□ Industrialisation

Transfer of technology, adaptation of existing technologies is facilitated through industrial property. Patent docs contained the state of the art in every technical field; improvements donot require us reinventing the wheel. Successful adoption of technologies leads to industrialisation.

Development Priorities

❑ Public health and safety

According to WHO, 30% of drugs in Africa are counterfeit accounting for over 100,000 deaths. Both branded and generic drugs are counterfeited. TMs and esp. certification marks can help consumers distinguish genuine medicines from counterfeits. In most countries regulatory authorities require purveyors of medicines to register brands.

Development Plans

□ Country Visions

- Transformation into knowledge based economy. Development in the coming years will derive from harnessing ideas, knowledge and information with less dependence on traditional forms of production. It is a function of IP to transform ideas into products that improve our livelihoods.

CONCLUSION

- Develop an IP policy intergrating all relevant sectors of the economy.
- Pursue balanced IP protection through appropriate legislation
- Promote IP use and management. Eg COMESA has innovation awards
- Ensure support to IP institutions
- Support respect for IP through effective enforcement.

Thank you

gilbert.agaba@ursb.go.ug