IP Statistics situation in Uganda

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Effective Use of Intellectual Property Statistics for ARIPO Member States
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Presentation Overview

- About URSB
- Directorate of Intellectual Property
- IP statistics
- Data storage of information/statistics
- Use of IP statistics
- Challenges

About URSB

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) is a semi-autonomous statutory body established in 1998 by Chapter 210 of the Laws of Uganda. URSB was created to take over the functions of the Registrar General's office under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
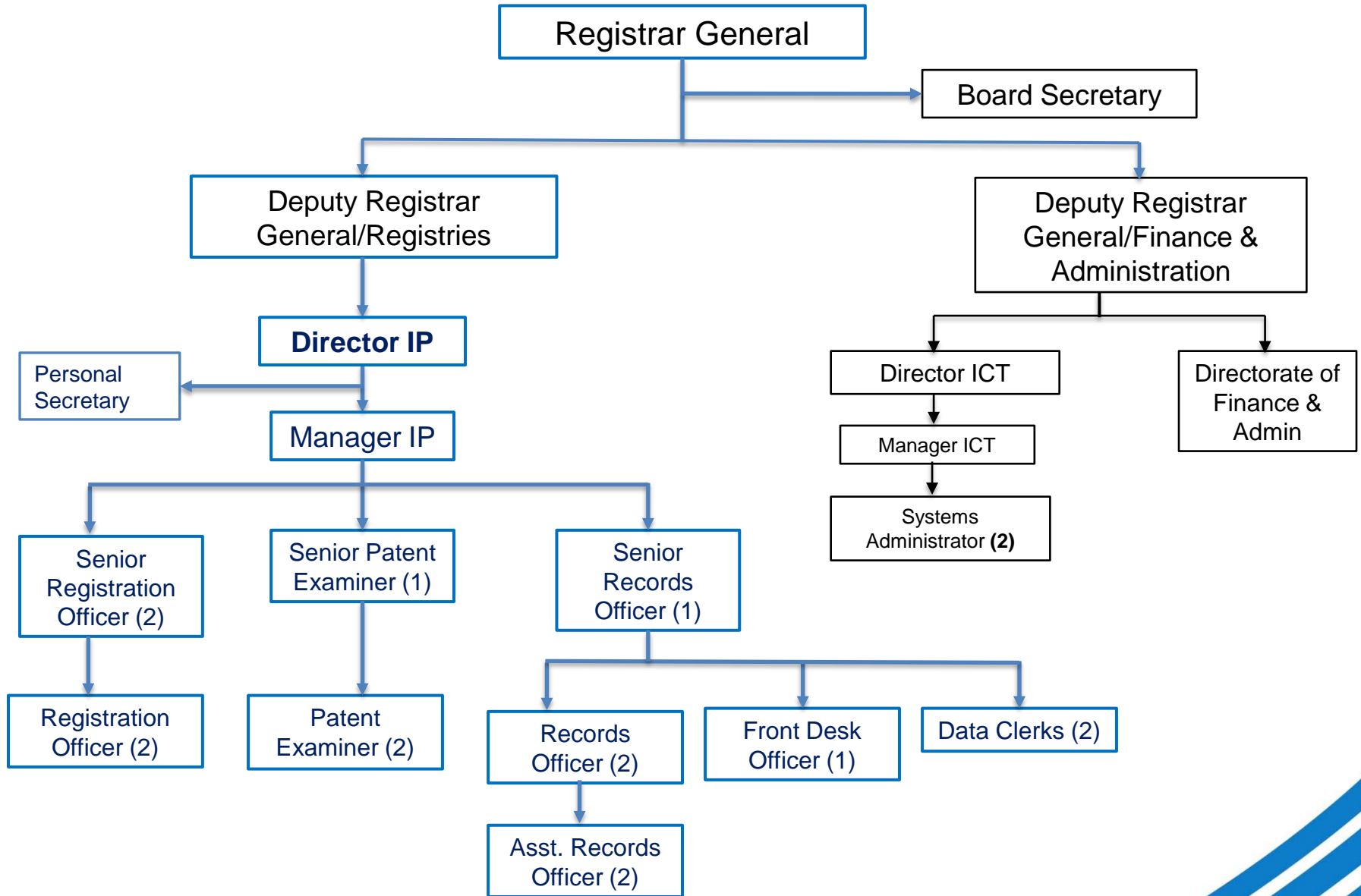
URSB is the National IP Office.

URSB is governed by a Board of Directors and a Chief Executive Officer, the Registrar General.

URSB is responsible for:

- Registration of Intellectual Property rights, namely patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright.
- Registration of companies and business names, partnerships, documents, secured transactions such as debentures, mortgages and chattel transfers.
- Registration of marriages and licensing places of worship
- Handling all insolvency matters.

Structure of IP Directorate

Registrar General

Board Secretary

Deputy Registrar General/Registries

Deputy Registrar General/Finance & Administration

Director IP

Personal Secretary

Director ICT

Directorate of Finance & Admin

Manager IP

Manager ICT

Systems Administrator **(2)**

Senior Registration Officer (2)

Senior Patent Examiner (1)

Senior Records Officer (1)

Registration Officer (2)

Patent Examiner (2)

Records Officer (2)

Front Desk Officer (1)

Data Clerks (2)

Asst. Records Officer (2)

Number of Staff under IP Directorate is 18

Work load & targets

The IP Directorate handles registration of Copyright, Trademarks, Patents and Utility Models.

The Industrial Property Act, 2014 provides for registration of Industrial Designs in Uganda. However this will be operational once we have the Industrial Property Regulations published. This will increase the workload of the IP Office.

Planned Output Indicator FY 2016/17	Monthly target	Weekly target
Local applications received	240	60
Foreign applications received		
Trademark files processed (Gazettes, Registrations, Post grants)	1120	280
Copyright applications processed	28	7
Patents	4	1

70% of Trademark applications received are foreign and therefore emphasis is being put on increasing local trademark applications through conducting several awareness activities.

IP Staff is also involved in organizing and participating in IP awareness activities.
There is an awareness activity atleast every month.
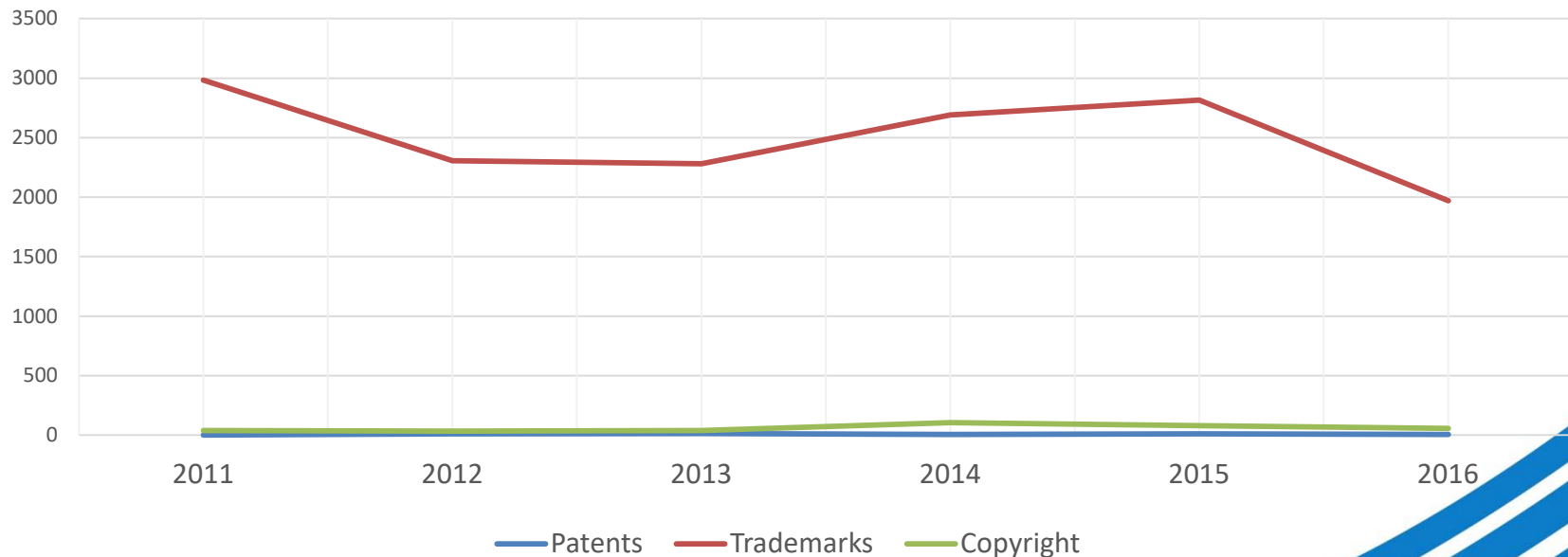
Annual IP Statistics

IP applications (2011-2016)

Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total no. of applications
Patents applications	1	12	14	5	11	5	47
Trademarks applications	2,984	2,306	2,281	2,690	2,816	1,971	15,048
Copyright applications	38	33	40	105	79	58	353

Note: ARIPO patent applications not inclusive
Industrial Property Act, 2014 favors Utility Model protection, emphasis will be put on promoting Utility Model filings once the Law is operational.

IP Applications

Data storage of information/statistics

Industrial Property Automated System (IPAS) – Is an IP administration system that automates processing of trademarks, patents and industrial designs. Currently URSB is using IPAS JAVA Version 2.7.

IPAS is used to generate IP statistics with exception of Copyright. The generated statistics depend on the information requested. These are then stored in a shared drive so that other officials can refer to them as and when desired.

Manual registers are maintained as requirement of the law for applications and registrations of Copyright, Trademarks and Patents. Manual registers are also used in providing information/statistics.

Statistics are compiled on weekly, quarterly and annual basis and shared with the Registrar General, Planning section and all IP staff.

Usage of IP statistics by other Ministries/ Industries / Private Sector etc.

Ministry of Trade, Industry & Cooperatives - SMEs and businesses use trademark protection to protect their brands, having more Trademark applications is an indicator of increased business activity.

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development uses IP statistics to justify budget allocation to URSB.

National Planning Authority: to determine the level of development from the creativity and innovation levels in the different industries.

Uganda Revenue Authority: in determining non tax revenue.

Uganda Bureau Of Statistics: in generating National Statistical Information

Uganda National Council of Science & Technology: to determine which fields are vibrant in creativity and innovation.

Funding agencies like PSFU, JLOS use IP statistics when deciding on funding allocation for IP Directorate.

Milestones of the IP office in Records and Statistical management

All Records officers have received specialized training in use of Electronic Document Management System.

Upgrade of IPAS JAVA to Version 2.7 which will also be upgraded to Version 3.1 before end of this year.

Challenges in providing IP statistics

- Inconsistent results due to different methods used to collect data and continuous updating and cleaning of the data. For example some applications were not migrated to the IPAS Java and as such are normally captured afresh as and when they received for processing.

- ARIPO applications and registrations not captured while providing national statistics. This challenge will be solved soon by linking the National database to the ARIPO databases to have real-time record of the applications and registrations.

- Low staffing in records team affects continuous update of manual register especially for Trademarks where Logos need to be attached to the register.

- With the current Version of IPAS, some parameters that may need to be analyzed and statistics reported about them are not available. For example, "list of trademarks registered in a particular period and are renewed", etc.

- Processing of files outside IPAS due to some missing templates for post grant processes. This has been handled with training ICT staff in managing the IPAS system.

Planned activities to improve data storage of information/statistics

- Automating Copyright registration

- Updating IPAS JAVA from Version 2.7 to 3.1 and integrate it with EDMS system. Planned for October 2016.

- Rolling out IPAS in regional offices.

- Data cleaning and records reconciliation

- Setting up Industrial Designs records management infrastructure.

- Continuous training of staff in records management.

Thank You

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URSBHQ