

IP Statistics at National and International Offices: The case of Zambia

Presentation made at

'Sub-Regional Workshop on the Development and Effective Use of IP Statistics for ARIPO Member States'

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PACRA, Zambia

14-16 September, 2016

Harare, Zimbabwe

Outline

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Background

- The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) is a semi-autonomous Executive Agency of the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI);
- PACRA is governed by a non-executive Board;
- It currently administers six statutes, viz., Patents, Trademarks, Designs, companies, business names and Movable Property
- It raises its own revenue by the registration of IP Rights (IPRs) and companies and business names.

PACRA Institutional Structure

- AS per circulated hardcopies

IP Applications-Workload

- ❖ On average, annually,
- ❖ 2,000 trademark applications
- ❖ 20 patent applications
- ❖ 30 design applications
- ❖ No easily available statistics for various miscellaneous post-registration applications

Data Storage of Information/ Statistics

- IP Department uses IPAS
- Currently only trademark data comprehensively on the database
- Patents and designs currently being worked
- From the foregoing therefore, only statistics on trademarks can be easily accessed

Usage of IP Statistics by other Ministries/Industry/Private Sector, etc

- Overall, not much use or requests being made of/for IP statistics

Challenges in Providing Reliable and Analytical Data for use Nationally and Internationally

- Other than for trademarks, the lack of available data electronically for the IPRs
- Even in the case of trademarks, due to lack of training or knowledge in how to extract required statistics
- Some information not updated regularly
- Institutional policy or guidelines on keeping or maintain statistics

Conclusion

- There is a need to ensure that IP information is transferred to electronic databases for easy, reliable accessibility; even storage
- There is a need thereafter to sensitize other stakeholders on the fact that we have this data/statistics available
- As an agency administering IP it is very crucial that we have these statistics which are reliable and accurate readily available