



# INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE

## Republic of Mauritius

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# Location of MAURITIUS in world map



Map not to Scale

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Mauritius is an island of 2,040 sq.km. It lies 2,036 km off the south-east coast of Africa. The population is approximately 1.2 million. Generally we are trilingual, speaking English, French and the local dialect “Creole.”

Mauritius is already a member state of Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (since 24 September 1976); Berne Convention for the Protection of Artistic and Literary Works (since 10 May 1989) and; also signatory of the Trade Related aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

We are considering to join a number of Treaties administered by WIPO, namely, the accession to the Madrid Protocol, PCT and Hague.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In Mauritius, intellectual property is administered by different institutions:

- Copyright and Related Rights are administered by the Rights Management Society (RMS), a collective management society established under the Copyright Act 2014 and which operates under the purview of the Ministry of Arts and Culture.
- Industrial Property matters are handled by the Industrial Property Office which falls under the aegis of the Min. of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

# ROLE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE

- Grant of Patents
- Registration of Industrial Designs
- Registration of Trademarks

# VISION & MISSION

- The vision of the IPO is to have a modern and well-enforced industrial property system to be recognized as an important commercial asset and driving force as well as a crucial factor for national socio-economic and technological development.
- Our mission is to ascertain that effective protection of industrial property rights creates a conducive environment for innovative and inventive activity as well as for an orderly exchange of goods and services in the market place.

# CHALLENGES

- Accessibility of IPAS to customers.
- Trademark searches done using IPAS are not always accurate. For example, if a search for the mark 'Bliss' is effected, IPAS does not provide us with all the marks incorporating the word 'Bliss'. Even the phonetic search is not accurate.
- Capturing of Industrial Designs data for the current year cannot be done as IPAS does not allow same. It can be done when the particular year has lapsed. (e.g. capture for year 2016 couldn't be done in 2016 but can be input on IPAS in 2017. Same applies for the current year i.e. 2017). Furthermore, the Locarno classification cannot be input on IPAS.
- Implementation of EDMS.

# AUTOMATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE

- Automation of the Industrial Property Office started in 2012.
- The World Intellectual Property Organization provided the Industrial Property Automated System (IPAS); software and hardware.
- The Project started with the capturing of all trademarks into the database since 2012.
- Industrial Designs partly captured.
- Patents not yet operational.



# STATISTICS

	Captured Data	Uncaptured files	Backlog	Validation
Trademark	Over 40,000	Nil	EDMS	Process started
Industrial Designs	Approx. 180	Mid 2016 to date	Mid 2016 to date	In Process
Patents	Nil	Nil	-	Nil

# FUTURE PLANS FOR AUTOMATION (OPPORTUNITIES)

- ❖ Upgrading of the current version of IPAS (i.e. version 2.7 to the latest).
- ❖ Online-filing and online payment of applications.
- ❖ Use of electronic signatures.
- ❖ Implementation of WIPOScan and embarking on EDMS Project.
- ❖ Access to the IPAS Public Interface by users.
- ❖ Addition of new features in line with our proposed accession to the Madrid Protocol.
- ❖ Quality control of information into IPAS.
- ❖ Giving IT a strategic importance for Service delivery.

*Thank you*

*Mrs Malini RAMDHARRYSING*

*IPO, Mauritius*