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Report on the Status of Automation and Future Plans with regard to Search and Examination

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Outline of Presentation

➢ Introduction
➢ Search and Examination
➢ Challenges
➢ Automation and Future Plans
➢ Statistics

Introduction

➢ In Zambia, Intellectual Property Rights are administered by the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA)

➢ The following are the IP Rights administered by PACRA:

        Patents

        Trademarks

        Industrial Designs

        Copyright

        Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources &

        Expressions of Foreklore (recent)

        Integrated Circuits (recent)

Search and Examination

➤ Search and Examination of Madrid Applications currently are only done for Classes 1 to 34 for goods, we do not search and Examine Service Marks until our Trademarks Bill is finalized.

➤ Examination of National marks is done through IPAS

➤ The Searches are mostly done manually.

➤ We use IPAS, manual registers and Romarin for searching

Challenges

➢ Uploading of the Madrid Applications onto our IPAS has been one of the major challenges.

➢ Most of the work is done manually, digitization has not taken place yet.

➢ Digitization has not taken place, so most process are still manual

➢ Non-domestication of the Madrid Protocol

Automation and Future Plans

➤ One of the key immediate future plans is Automation, and we are delighted that World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has since indicated that they may help with this important task.

➤ Recently, a Madrid Desk was created in order to handle both the current situation and also the future designations.

STATISTICS

National Marks Total	25,500
National Marks Validated	1,200
Madrid Marks total Designations	9,500
Processed Madrid Apps	539
Unprocessed Madrid Apps	8, 961

END