



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON. TJEKERO TWEYA, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT

AT THE

**TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON IP TOOLS, ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN
UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY NETWORK (EUIPN) IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
AUTHORITY (BIPA)**

HILTON HOTEL, WINDHOEK

16 JULY 2018

Your Excellency Jana Hybaskova, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Namibia;

Director General of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), Mr. Fernando dos Santos;

Acting CEO of Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), Ms. Selma Ambunda;

Director for International Consortium for Law and Development (CLAD) at the European Union Intellectual Property Network, Mr. Joao Negrao;

Distinguished Captains of various Intellectual Property (IP) Offices within Africa;

Participants;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good morning to you all!

I begin by expressing my deep sense of honour to officiate at today's event – opening the Technical workshop for tools on intellectual property, organized by the European Union's Intellectual Property Network in collaboration with our local Intellectual Property (IP) Office, the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA).

Allow me to acknowledge that, dialogue on intellectual property in Africa, and Namibia in particular, is gaining momentum. This is yet another manifestation of the importance of aligning intellectual property to national development plans. Several countries in Africa, are formulating and adopting intellectual property policies attributing to reviewing and revising legal intellectual property and institutional frameworks. Such

developments strengthen intellectual property as catalyst for prosperity of our nations.

Director of Ceremony,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia is not an exception to intellectual property (IP) expansions. The Namibian Government, through the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development's "Growth at Home" initiative, remains committed in pursuit to support industrial, trade, investment and business activities in the country. This is an effort to create an enabling environment for creativity, competitiveness, protection, utilization and commercialization of intellectual property.

In giving impetus to intellectual property, allow me Director of Ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen, to reflect on some developments on intellectual property landscape in our country. Namibia, with the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organization, developed the draft Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy of which Policy was approved by Cabinet in June this year;

- The policy envisage establishing the framework conducive for innovation and competitiveness through IP education, protection and commercialization;**
- It visualises the parameters regarding the use of IP as a strategic catalyst to accelerate transformational growth at home;**
- It sets Namibia's vision for IP, identifies objectives and key strategies and establishes an institutional framework to serve as the coordinating body in IP related policy and strategic matters;**
- Namibia has established a strengthened and specialized institution, which is the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA). It is expected of BIPA, to put mechanisms in place to ensure effective and**

efficient IP administration. I must mention that efficient administration of intellectual property in Namibia is not simply an aspiration, but is legally provided for through an Act of Parliament namely the Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act, (Act No.8 of 2016). To this end, BIPA invests efforts and resources to be a central point for the registration, administration and protection of businesses, industrial and intellectual property.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the EU for supporting this technical platforms; to exchange experiences, views, best practices and new technologies. It is indeed the foundation of mutual beneficial cooperation between the union and Namibia. I further wish to acknowledge the great work that ARIPO continues to do for us - advocating the advancement of utilizing IP for economic growth.

As I conclude, let me refer to a well known old African proverb that says “If you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far, go together.” In other words, wisdom directs that, progress done collectively is more sustainable in contrast to individual effort. With the Cabinet having approved the “Industrial Property Act, Act 1 of 2012 and its Regulations”, I am confident to say – FAR INDEED WE SHALL GO!!!!.

To all the participants here today, representing various institutions devoted to IP matters in your respective countries, I want to ask that you commit to implementing tangible tasks for “local and cross-promotion” of IP amongst our member states.

With these words, allow me to welcome you to Windhoek, one of the most beautiful cities befitting the workshop! I wish you all success in your deliberations.

It is now my singular honour to declare the Workshop officially open.

I THANK YOU!