



**BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AUTHORITY**

Protecting Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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MEDIA RELEASE: PROMOTING IP THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), is equipped with the mandate and resources to advise Government on matters related to Intellectual Property (IP) rights; and is entrusted with the promotion of IP as a strategic tool for development. Appropriate Intellectual Property Rights laws, and enforcement of those laws, give businesses the incentive and resources to develop new products, create production facilities, and expand the workforce. Protecting Intellectual Property Rights encourages innovative economies, enriches individuals and companies, preserves health, and saves lives.

In fulfilling its mandate to promote the value of Intellectual Property in Namibia, BIPA on 25 March 2019, signed agreements with leading institutions in Namibia to establish the Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Network. The agreement sets out the activities, composition and organisation of the TISC Networks, and the conditions governing its implementation and management.

The agreements were signed during an official ceremony at the BIPA headquarters in Windhoek between the Acting CEO of BIPA, Selma Ambunda; Prof. Kingo Mchombu, Acting Vice Chancellor of the International University of Management (IUM), Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM) and Enid Keramin, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Commission for Research Science and Technology (NCRST).

During the ceremony, Ambunda emphasised that BIPA, together with its strategic partners, through the establishment of the Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Networks, will now be in the position to make a contribution to the efforts of the Namibian Government.

“According to the Namibian Industrial Policy, the country strives to be an innovation-driven economy. However, it clearly states that in order for the country to become more innovative, we need to, amongst others, promote innovation and knowledge transfer. The policy recognises that we need to make full use of information and communication technologies to ensure that innovative ideas can be

Public Enterprise established under the BIPA Act, 2016 (Act No. 8 of 2016)

Directors: Riundja A Kaakunga (Othy) - **Chairperson**, Dr Martha Uumati - **Deputy Chairperson**, Fritz C Jacobs, Lovisa Indongo-Namandje, Seno Namwandi, Ignatius K Thudinyane, Chaze Nalisa,

Chief Executive Officer: Tileinge S. Andima, **Company Secretary:** Vivienne E Katjiuongua

turned into new products and services that create growth and quality jobs; and which addresses other societal challenges,” she said.

The national TISC Network is made up of the National Focal Point (BIPA) which is responsible for the coordination of the national network; and Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) located in national Host Institutions involved in supporting and developing innovation services.

BIPA is currently in the process of also signing a TISC-agreement with the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST).

More information is available from:

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