



IP AFRICA NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA CIPC IP OFFICE RELEASES LATEST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY E-JOURNALS

On October 25, 2023, the South African Companies, and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) IP Office published two intellectual property e-journals. These journals showcase recently accepted trademark applications in South Africa to notify the public about the intent to register the accepted trademarks. Trademark proprietors or any interested person with similar marks can initiate an opposition proceeding within three months of the publication of the accepted marks.

SUDAN

SUDAN'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OPERATIONS ON HOLD: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The Sudanese IP Office has suspended operations and will enter a state of inactivity due to the civil war and political conflict in the country. Nonetheless, it is advisable that payment of fees for matters due for expiration or time-bound matters, be made to avoid unwanted consequences. New filings may be suspended in the interim until the resumption of normal operations.

AFRICA

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW GI RULES - BENEFITS FOR AFRICA



On October 9, 2023, the European Council adopted new European Union (EU) regulations protecting geographical indications (GIs) for craft and industrial products, with the goal of increasing consumer awareness and allowing small businesses to protect and promote the names of well-known non-agricultural items both globally and within the EU. The Regulation is set to take effect in November 2023.

The impact of the Regulation extends beyond the borders of the European Union (EU). It not only provides protection for European product names but also extends coverage to non-European product names for countries with qualifying international agreements with the EU. Non-EU applicants, meeting the necessary criteria, will have the opportunity to apply for protection. The EU will also be able to completely fulfill its international responsibilities under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications with the implementation of the craft and industrial GIs legislation.

This development is particularly advantageous for African countries that have endorsed the Lisbon Agreement. The surplus of Geographical Indications on craftworks in Africa, which currently remains underutilized, stands to benefit from this international registration system, offering a more efficient and accessible framework for protection and recognition.

KEY CONTACTS

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