



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ENDORSES THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STRATEGY.

The National Intellectual Property Strategy (NIPS) is a strategic policy document that is intended to provide a roadmap to guide the integration of intellectual property into national development initiatives. Intellectual Property and Intellectual Property framework is a tool of public policy that is generally intended to promote economic, social and cultural progress by stimulating creative work and technological innovation.

When Papua New Guinea became a member to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1996, the nation had taken on the responsibility of improving its trade regime and trade relations thus its obligations under the various WTO Agreements including the Trade-related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This thus, saw PNG accept several principles and obligations related intellectual property (IP). This then gave rise to the establishment of an intellectual property framework with enactment of intellectual property legislations and a government agency that administers intellectual property in the country.

Over the years, the national government has realized the importance of establishing an adequate and balanced intellectual property and one that fuels innovation and creativity.

The Government is also committed to achieving its long term vision embedded in its long term strategy, the Vision 2050 and attaining the dream of nurturing a Smart, Wise, Fair, Healthy and Happy Society by 2050. Furthermore it is committed to also becoming a middle income country by 2030 through its Development Strategy Plan 2010 to 2030.

Such strategic aspirations are centred at moving away from an intense extractive sector base to an economy that encourages that development and growth of the manufacturing, services, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and eco-tourism sectors, thus allowing for a broader based economic growth trajectory.

This could be potentially be achieved through the establishment or redesigning of appropriate policy and legal frameworks that rebrands these sectors with new and improved ways of growth and development. Such can be driven by a culture of innovation and creativity particularly that transcends beyond exhausting non renewable natural resources or sustaining non renewable resources for the long term.

To support this strategic action, appropriate policies and regulations must be established to create a conducive environment for both research and research for economic development to flourish and to encourage innovation and creativity.

A well functioning intellectual property system can potentially provide the enabling environment

for innovation to occur, not only to create intellectual property assets, but also by providing a mechanism to manage those assets to create wealth. The operation of the intellectual property system depends on the creativity and engagement of individuals in the public and private sectors and academia.

Those who create new intellectual property and utilise the intellectual property system can attract investment and manage the dissemination of that intellectual property in a manner that derives benefits for all participants in the system.

Hence, the desire to develop a national strategy with the purpose of acknowledging the key issues in the use of the intellectual property system in Papua New Guinea and to setting out the appropriate and relevant initiatives that will build on existing activities and accelerate further improvements in the operation of the intellectual property system in a manner that increases activity and enhances outcomes for the people of Papua New Guinea.

The National Intellectual Property Strategy's primary objective is to create benefits for the people of Papua New Guinea by facilitating and encouraging greater use of the intellectual property system. These benefits will emerge from greater use of the IP system by citizens of Papua New Guinea to manage and exploit the intellectual property they create. This will ensure that those who create new intellectual property in Papua New Guinea are able to derive a fair reward from those who use that intellectual property. Achievement of this primary objective will also boost Papua New Guinea's intranational and international trade in both tangible and intangible assets encouraging increased activity, economic growth, and prosperity.

Its goal is to create an enabling environment for increased use of the intellectual property system to:

- i. Promote creative and innovative activities in all sectors;
 - ii. Increase the level and forms of protection of Intellectual Property assets generated in the public and private sectors and academia;
 - iii. Stimulate research and development activity, technology transfer and commercialisation in all productive sectors;
 - iv. Facilitate increased entrepreneurial activity nationally; and
 - v. Protect, enforce, preserve, conserve and use cultural heritage;
- to achieve sustainable and responsible economic development and national prosperity.

This can be guided by four (4) key strategic objectives:

1. To build an efficient and responsive intellectual property institutional and legislative framework to facilitate increased use of the national intellectual property system.
2. To create an enabling environment for increased innovative activities across all sectors to foster a culture based on research and development, new product development and critical design thinking to provide solutions to natural and global challenges.
3. To guide sustainable and responsible use of Papua New Guinea's national and cultural resources to spur innovative economic development to sustain current and future development needs.
4. To provide the knowledge base to inspire the creation and management of intellectual property assets for wealth creation.

The National Intellectual Property Strategy was developed using a participatory consultative approach soliciting input from key and relevant stakeholders at each stage of development. This was made possible with the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry through their Trade-Related Assistance Program (TRAP) via the development partners the European Union Aid.

The need to have an effective intellectual property legal framework is important now given the increase in innovation and creativity happening within the country and around the globe. It is important to have a framework that provides the necessary protection and enforcements of these intangible rights. While Papua New Guinea is heavily dependent on the non renewable resources, there is a need to embrace the power of innovation and creativity as tool for economic development and support the development of an effective intellectual property system.

The Strategy will be implemented by the Intellectual Property Office together with relevant stakeholders identified under the Strategy. The National Strategy is indeed a great achievement for this country.

Authorized for the release

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