

MIPLG TANZANIA'S COURTESY VISIT REPORT

1.0 Introduction

As part of efforts to strengthen partnerships and promote intellectual property (IP) education and professional development across Africa, the Founder of My Intellectual Property Law Guide (MIPLG), **Dr. Victoria Onyeagbako**, undertook a series of courtesy visits to key intellectual property and legal institutions in Tanzania. The visits were graciously coordinated and hosted by **Mr. Juma Laurian Athanas**, the **MIPLG Country Coordinator for Tanzania**.

The courtesy visits were held with the **Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA)**, the **Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA)**, and **DarState Attorneys (A Law Firm in Tanzania)**. The engagements provided an opportunity to introduce MIPLG's mission, showcase its flagship initiatives, and explore potential areas of collaboration in advancing intellectual property awareness, education, innovation, and professional capacity building in Tanzania and Africa at large.

2.0 Objectives of the Courtesy Visits

The visits were aimed at:

- Introducing MIPLG and its vision of advancing intellectual property knowledge and leadership.
- Showcasing MIPLG's programmes and their impact across the intellectual property ecosystem.
- Strengthening relationships with key intellectual property stakeholders in Tanzania.
- Exploring opportunities for strategic partnerships in intellectual property education, mentorship, research, and professional development.

3.0 Institutional Engagements

3.1 The Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA)

During the meeting with COSOTA, Dr. Victoria shared MIPLG's commitment to promoting intellectual property awareness through education, mentorship, and stakeholder engagement. Discussions focused on the importance of enhancing public understanding of copyright and related rights, supporting creators, and empowering young people with knowledge of intellectual property. Both parties acknowledged the importance of collaborative initiatives that encourage creativity, innovation, and respect for intellectual property rights. MIPLG team was privileged to meet with Mr. Philemon A. Kilaka (the Director for Documentation and represented the COSOTA's Chief Executive Officer), Mr. Hashimu Lukwele (The Copyright Officer) and Mr. James Sagenge (Head of ICT Department).

3.2 The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA)

The courtesy visit to BRELA focused on the critical role of intellectual property in business growth, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Dr. Victoria highlighted MIPLG's efforts to equip students, innovators, entrepreneurs, and professionals with practical knowledge on intellectual property protection and commercialization. The discussions emphasized the value of increasing awareness of trademarks, patents, industrial designs, and other intellectual property rights as tools for economic development and competitiveness. At BRELA the MIPLG team met with Mr. Seka Kasera who was the acting Chief Executive Officer and Director for IP, and Ms. Yvonne Massele from the Trade and Service Marks Office.

3.3 DarState Attorneys

At DarState Attorneys, discussions centered on strengthening professional development within the intellectual property legal profession. Dr. Victoria emphasized the importance of mentorship, continuous learning, and building strong networks among intellectual property practitioners. The engagement also explored opportunities for collaboration in legal education, professional training, and knowledge-sharing initiatives that contribute to the advancement of intellectual property practice in Tanzania. Three legal practitioners and One administrative staff from DarState Attorneys participated in the meeting with the MIPLG team.

4.0 Presentation of MIPLG Flagship Initiatives

During each courtesy visit, Dr. Victoria presented MIPLG's flagship programmes, which are designed to nurture the next generation of intellectual property leaders and promote a vibrant innovation ecosystem. These initiatives include:

- **International Debate Competitions for tertiary institutions**– Competitive platforms that encourage students and young professionals to critically examine contemporary intellectual property issues while developing research, analytical, and advocacy skills.
- **Mentorship Scheme** – A structured programme that connects aspiring intellectual property professionals with experienced mentors for career guidance, skills development, and professional networking.
- **IP for Kids** – An initiative that introduces children to the fundamentals of intellectual property through engaging, interactive, and age-appropriate learning modalities that inspire creativity and innovation among children. Dr. Victoria shared the IP for Kids project on the book that was translated into Five (5) African Local Languages including Swahili language used in Tanzania.
- **IP Fellowship Programme** – A leadership and capacity-building programme that provides fellows with mentorship, practical exposure, research opportunities, and professional development in the field of intellectual property.
- **Professional Development Series** – A series of seminars, webinars, workshops, and expert discussions designed to provide continuous learning on emerging trends and practical issues in intellectual property and innovation.
- **IP Awards** – An initiative that recognizes and celebrates individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to intellectual property awareness, innovation, research, mentorship, leadership, and excellence within the IP ecosystem.

5.0 Key Outcomes

The courtesy visits strengthened MIPLG's engagement with key intellectual property institutions in Tanzania and fostered constructive dialogue on future collaboration. The engagements reaffirmed a shared commitment to:

- Promoting intellectual property awareness and education.
- Supporting capacity building for students, professionals, innovators, entrepreneurs, and creators.
- Encouraging mentorship and leadership development in the intellectual property sector.
- Building strategic partnerships that advance intellectual property policy, practice, and innovation.
- Creating opportunities for collaborative programmes that contribute to Tanzania's growing intellectual property ecosystem.

6.0 Conclusion

The courtesy visits marked an important milestone in strengthening MIPLG's presence and partnerships in Tanzania. Through meaningful engagement with COSOTA, BRELA, and DarState Attorneys, the visits reinforced the shared vision of promoting intellectual property awareness, nurturing future leaders, and fostering an environment that supports creativity, innovation, and

sustainable development. The COSOTA and BRELA requested for a comprehensive document containing the detailed information about MIPLG and its programmes for these institutions to resolve on the way forward in the collaboration.

MIPLG looks forward to building on these engagements through collaborative initiatives that will continue to advance intellectual property education and professional excellence in Tanzania and across the African continent.

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