



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission
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17 May 2022

CIPC hosts the SADC Companies Registries' and IP Enforcement agencies conference

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), responsible for company registrations and the protection of Intellectual Property hosts a Southern Africa's Development Community (SADC) Companies Registries' and Intellectual Property enforcement agencies' virtual Conference on Tuesday, the 17th of May 2022, under the theme: ***the agility of Companies and IP Registries within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.***

The theme was inspired by the need for registries and regulatory authorities to adapt and evolve in the face of the global pandemic, which has not only impacted on the health and lives of people around the world, but has also affected economies and disrupted the manner in which business is conducted. According to the Commissioner of the CIPC, Adv. Rory Voller, "the idea to host this virtual conference was triggered by an interest shown by several registries in the SADC sub-region. Our counterparts are keen on exchange of knowledge and best practice about conducting our respective regulatory function within the context of a devastating pandemic. The objective of the conference is to advocate for greater cross border synergies amongst African registries and for a closer working relationship in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement"

The CIPC, prior to and despite the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic, has continued to achieve innovative milestones as acknowledged by several of its key stakeholders. Earlier this year the organisation hosted representatives from companies' registries in neighboring countries who were intrigued by the innovative progress made by the South African regulator in the last few years.

The conference will bring together delegates from various parts of the SADC sub-region, including delegates from the Indian Ocean Islands of Seychelles and Mauritius. Speakers from Botswana, Namibia, Mauritius, Lesotho, Kenya and South Africa will share their respective organisations and countries' experience of adapting to new ways of conducting business as a consequence of the

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Covid-19 Pandemic. Topics of discussion will include the use of technology to improve compliance, progress towards the development of beneficial ownership repository and intellectual property enforcement in the digital environment. Delegates will also be afforded the opportunity to share best practices and innovation triggered by the eruption of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The conference takes place at an appropriate time when most companies and organisations contend with the idea of how best to navigate the period post the covid-19 outbreak. Some of the expected speakers are the CIPC commissioner, Adv. Rory Voller, Botswana CIPA Registrar of Companies and Business Names Ms. Hilda Mocuminyane, Namibia BIPA Executive: Marketing, Communications and Client Services, Namibia Revenue Agency Customs Officer: Mr/Ms Youngs Mapenzi, among others.

It is envisaged that the conference, planned to be hosted annually, will make a broader contribution to the economic development and growth in the participating countries.

ENDS

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