



Companies and Intellectual  
Property Commission

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## ARTICLE

### **CIPC hosts BIPA for a mutually beneficial benchmarking session**

The Companies and Intellectual Property (CIPC) host the Namibian Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) for a two-day benchmarking session, aligned best practices with regional and international standards on 16 to 17 March 2026 in Pretoria.

Inspired by global and national shifts, CIPC is evolving through strategies such as complete digitisation via BizPortal, automation of company deregistration for non-compliance, and promotion of intellectual property (IP) innovation. Vision 2030 presents a blueprint for transforming the Commission into a modern regulator through automation, data analytics, and compliance.

BizPortal is a platform developed by the CIPC to make starting a business in South Africa easier by offering company registration and related services in a simple, paperless, digital way.

As part of BIPA's efforts to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen service delivery and align practices, it engaged CIPC to develop and refine its key operational models. Shared best practices include organisational frameworks, operational models, and innovations that support digitisation, decentralisation, regulatory alignment, improved customer experience and beneficial ownership (BO), among others.

According to Acting Commissioner Bathabile Kapumha, the CIPC has evolved into a world-class regulator, empowering innovators to protect their ideas and unlock economic value. CIPC serves as the primary custodian of company, cooperative, and IP records, and this vast amount of reliable data is key to stimulating economic activities, she says.

The data programme to transform CIPC into a data-driven organisation, focusing on data governance and quality, led to real-time data exchange with stakeholders, such as the South African Revenue Service (SARS), for operational and performance reporting. With CIPC automation, Home Affairs verification was integrated to verify natural persons. Owners and directors remain legally responsible for submitted data, and CIPC can impose sanctions for inaccuracies.

Ms Kapumha says the commission is responsible for enabling the protection and commercialisation of innovation, fostering a dynamic environment for business growth and technological advancement.

The impact of a well-regulated business and IP landscape is attracting investment, fostering innovation and driving inclusive economic growth, entrepreneurship as well as job creation. BIPA Executive Corporate Services for People and Culture, Frieda Mokotjomela, says they value the opportunity to engage with an institution that has built a strong reputation for innovation, operational excellence, and service transformation.

She says BIPA is automating business registration services to ensure all services are accessible online, and the visits to CIPC empowers BIPA to continuously improve in its transformation journey.

CIPC's leadership in areas such as digital transformation, governance frameworks, registry modernisation, and customer-centric service delivery provides an important learning opportunity for BIPA, says Ms Mokotjomela.

BIPA was pleased to have observed, exchanged ideas, and reflected on its own processes, and the visits were helpful for the authority to identify areas where it could adopt, adapt, and implement improvements that align with its strategic objectives, she added.

As part of the CIPC's strategies, there has been a concerted effort to develop business intelligence capabilities and ensure the digitalisation journey improves cloud capabilities, data management, and analytics, while laying the foundations for long-term initiatives centred on artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain technologies.