

# IP AFRICA NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2025

- Uganda Ratifies WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge
- Libya Temporarily Suspends New Trademark Registrations Following Administrative Transition
- Ghana IPO Issues Notice on Powers of Attorney for Trademark Applications

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Welcome to Vol. 3/Q3/Issue 8 of JEE IP Africa News. This edition reflects a pivotal period for intellectual property across Africa, marked by significant legal and institutional developments. From Uganda's ratification of a landmark global treaty on genetic resources and traditional knowledge to Libya's administrative reorganisation of its trademark registration system, the continent's IP framework is undergoing transformative change.

### Highlights include:

- Uganda Ratifies WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge
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- Ghana IPO Issues Notice on Powers of Attorney for Trademark Applications



Uganda has deposited its instrument of ratification of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (GRATK), adopted in Geneva on 24 May 2024. The treaty requires patent applicants to disclose the country of origin of genetic resources and/or the indigenous peoples or local communities providing associated traditional knowledge when inventions are based on such resources.

Uganda is the second country to ratify the treaty, following Malawi. Entry into force will occur once 15 ratifications or accessions are secured. To date, 45 countries—including several African states such as Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, and Tanzania—have signed the treaty, marking strong continental engagement with this milestone in global IP governance.



## LIBYA

### **LIBYA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS NEW TRADEMARK REGISTRATIONS FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSITION**

The Libyan Council of Ministers, through Decision No. 366 of 2025, reassigned the administration of the Trademark Office (TMO) to the Commercial Registration Authority. While oversight has shifted, the TMO will continue to operate under the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

As a result of this transition, the TMO has temporarily halted the acceptance of new trademark applications. Transactions with deadlines becoming due during the suspension period shall not be considered expired or forfeited. Instead, such matters will be preserved and duly processed once the TMO resumes operations.



## GHANA

### **GHANA IPO ISSUES NOTICE ON POWERS OF ATTORNEY FOR TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS**

The Ghana Industrial Property Office (GIPO) has issued a notice reminding applicants to strictly comply with the Power of Attorney's Act, 1998 (Act 549) and Regulation 1 of the Trademarks (Amendment) Regulation, 1972 (L.I.792) when filing trademark applications.

Under the Notice, Powers of Attorney (POAs) should:

- Clearly state the personal name, designation, and signature of the authorised signatory/proprietor on the company's letterhead or stamp and seal where available; and
- Include the personal name and signature of a witness.

The Office has urged applicants to comply in order to enable swift processing of trademark applications.



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