

IP AFRICA NEWS

MAY, 2025

- Nigeria Trademarks Registry Publishes New Online Journals
- Zimbabwe Introduces Revised IP Fee Structure Effective 1 April 2025
- Zimbabwe Introduces Reduced IP Fees to Promote Inclusion and Innovation



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NIGERIA

NIGERIA TRADEMARKS REGISTRY PUBLISHES NEW ONLINE JOURNALS

The Nigerian Trademarks Registry has issued two publications:

- Trademarks Journal Vol. 1, No. 1 Online Edition of 19th May 2025
- Trademarks Journal Vol. 1, No. 2 Online/Pre-IPAS Edition of 26th May 2025

These publications initiate the standard two-month statutory opposition period for all advertised marks.



ZIMBABWE

ZIMBABWE INTRODUCES REVISED IP FEE STRUCTURE EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2025

The Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office has implemented an updated fee schedule for patent-related procedures, including filings, publications, amendments, and renewals. Key modifications include the introduction of tiered renewal fees and additional charges for late payments and reinstatements. These adjustments represent part of Zimbabwe's ongoing initiative to modernize its intellectual property system and ensure alignment with current economic conditions.



ZIMBABWE

ZIMBABWE INTRODUCES REDUCED IP FEES TO PROMOTE INCLUSION AND INNOVATION

In a move to foster greater participation in intellectual property protection, the Zimbabwean announced a revised fee structure on the nation's independence day, 18 April 2025. The new regulations introduce reduced fees for women, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), students, universities, research institutions, and individuals applying for trademarks, patents, copyrights, industrial designs, and geographical indications.

This initiative specifically targets groups historically underrepresented in Zimbabwe's IP system. While fees for foreign applicants remain unchanged, eligible local applicants can now access lower rates for IP registration. The fee reductions aim to encourage broader engagement with the IP framework, supporting innovation across diverse sectors of society.

Key features of the new system include:

- Fees denominated in US dollars, with Zimbabwean residents permitted to pay the equivalent in local currency
- Foreign applicants continue to be classified as corporate bodies and must pay fees in US dollars
- Varied fee structures based on applicant category
- SME eligibility determined by workforce size and asset value
- Additional documentation requirements for institutions seeking reduced fees, including a completed "Declaration of Entity" form

This progressive policy shift reflects Zimbabwe's commitment to making intellectual property protection more accessible while maintaining the integrity of its IP registration system. The changes are expected to stimulate creativity and business development among previously disadvantaged groups, contributing to the nation's economic growth.

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