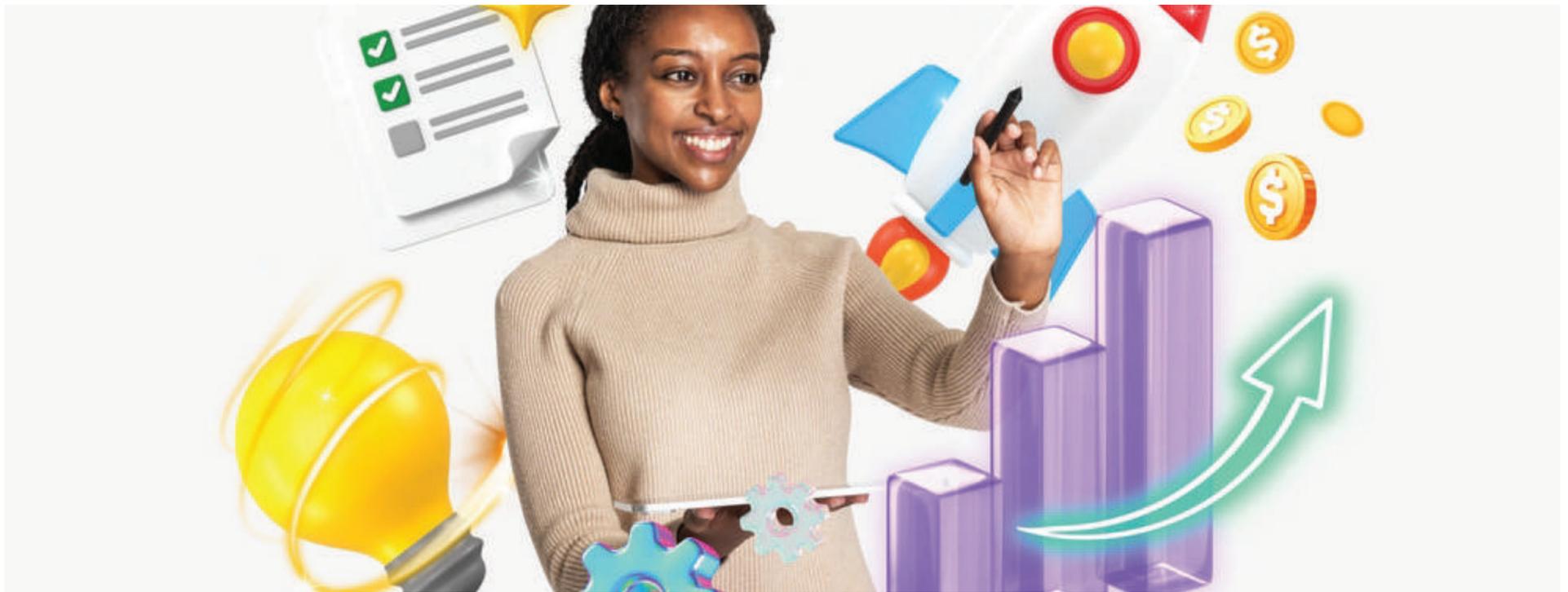


The National Intellectual Property Policy & Strategy (NIPPS)



What Necessitated a National IP Framework?

Nigeria's creative and innovation economy is expanding rapidly; driven by film, music, fashion, research institutions, tech startups, and inventors across the country. Despite this momentum, intellectual assets have long been undermined by weak enforcement, scattered regulations, and low public awareness. To close these gaps, on Thursday, November 6, 2025 the Federal Executive Council approved the National Intellectual Property Policy & Strategy (NIPPS), a unified national roadmap to adequately utilize Intellectual Property for sustainable national prosperity, strengthen IP governance and unlock the value of Nigeria's ideas and innovations.

The National Intellectual Property Policy & Strategy (NIPPS) represents a comprehensive framework aimed at transforming Nigeria into a knowledge-based economy where innovation thrives and intellectual property rights are respected and enforced.



What are the core objectives of the NIPPS

The Vision and Mission of NIPPS will be pursued through seven strategic objectives:

- To strengthen the legal framework for protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in Nigeria.
- To strengthen institutional framework for the administration and management of intellectual property rights in Nigeria.
- To enhance generation and protection of intellectual property rights.
- To promote and facilitate commercial exploitation of IP assets and technology transfer.
- To develop the required human resources for the administration, protection, commercialization, and enforcement of IP rights.
- To promote IP training, education, and awareness.

To achieve the above-mentioned policy objective, the following strategies will be pursued:

- Review and amend existing IP legislations to meet Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) requirements and take advantage of emerging trends and best practices.
- Develop and enact legislations to cover existing and emerging IP areas.
- Domesticating international treaties and agreements taking into consideration the best interests of Nigeria and the relevant stakeholders.



The institutional authority & strategic functions

Nigeria's IP institutions are mandated to perform the following strategic functions:

- Streamline IP registration, recordation, and administrative procedures.
- Develop and maintain national standards for copyright, trademarks, patents, and related rights.
- Lead national enforcement initiatives in partnership with security agencies, customs authorities, and digital platforms.
- Execute comprehensive anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting strategies.
- Support IP commercialization and technology transfer for universities and industries.
- Conduct nationwide awareness campaigns, compliance monitoring, and public education programs.
- Strengthen Nigeria's engagement with global IP organizations and international IP systems.



The compliance framework for stakeholders

All entities operating within Nigeria's innovation and creative sectors must:

- Properly document and register all intellectual property developed or utilized
- Establish clear internal policies governing ownership, licensing, and usage rights
- Conduct regular internal IP audits to prevent inadvertent infringement
- Implement thorough due diligence processes when using creative works, designs, innovations, or technologies
- Adhere to applicable national and international IP regulations governing their sector



- Cooperate with regulators during enforcement actions, audits, and compliance reviews
- Maintain transparency in licensing agreements, royalty payments, and commercial contracts

The NIPPS governance structure

The implementation of the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy will require collaboration among multiple partners, making it necessary to establish a structure for effective coordination, execution, and monitoring. The proposed institutional framework by the NIPPS are the **Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, an Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and implementation teams within the respective agencies.**

Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee

- Industry, Trade, and Investment
- Justice
- Science and Technology
- Education
- Agriculture
- Finance
- ICT and Digital Economy
- Information, Culture and National Orientation

Inter-Agency Collaboration Group

- Patent and Design Registry
- Trademark Registry
- Nigerian Copyright Commission
- NOTAP
- Plant Protection Office
- Universities
- TETetFund
- Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education
- Research Institute
- Private sector
- Government Support Agencies
- Development Partners



■ Implementing Agencies

- a. Agencies Boards and Staff, responsible for implementation
- b. Integration of the relevant activities in the individual work plan and budgets of each agencies

The expected benefits & outcomes

The successful implementation of the NIPPS framework is projected to deliver:

- Increased investor confidence in Nigeria's creative and technology sectors
- Higher revenue generation for creators, innovators, and government through IP-driven economic activity
- Enhanced commercialization of research outputs from universities and laboratories
- Job creation across film, music, digital technology, pharmaceuticals, design, and manufacturing sectors
- Reduction in intellectual property theft and unfair commercial practices
- Improved global competitiveness in knowledge-intensive industries
- Greater regulatory clarity for local and international investors seeking IP stability

The potential implementation challenges

Despite its transformative potential, the NIPPS framework may encounter several obstacles:

- Potential jurisdictional conflicts and overlap among existing IP agencies
- Insufficient enforcement capacity and infrastructure across the country
- Skill gaps among regulators, judiciary, and law enforcement personnel
- Organizational challenges during system modernization
- Limited awareness and understanding of IP rights, particularly among SMEs and creative communities
- Cost barriers that may limit access for small creators and startups
- Underutilization of IP frameworks within academic and research institutions



The critical success factors

Realizing the full potential of the National IP Policy & Strategy requires:

- Development of detailed implementation roadmaps with clear milestones
- Robust inter-agency cooperation and coordination
- Investment in digital registries, enforcement infrastructure, and capacity-building programs
- Continuous dialogue with creators, innovators, businesses, and rights holders
- Comprehensive public education initiatives to enhance nationwide IP awareness
- Transparent evaluation mechanisms to track progress and measure outcomes
- Regular policy reviews to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness

Conclusion

The approval of the National Intellectual Property Policy & Strategy marks a pivotal moment in Nigeria's economic evolution. When effectively implemented, this framework has the potential to position Nigeria as a continental leader in innovation, creating an ecosystem where ideas are safeguarded, creativity is financially rewarded, and intellectual property serves as a cornerstone for sustainable economic development and prosperity.



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