



Welcome to the Q1 2026 edition of our IP Newsletter.

In this issue, we spotlight notable regulatory developments and key activities shaping the intellectual property landscape in Nigeria. From evolving administrative practices to enforcement trends. We also examine recent engagements and initiatives influencing IP protection and commercialization. We trust this edition offers valuable updates and practical guidance for navigating Nigeria's dynamic IP environment.



WIPO Nigeria Hosts Final Session of Plant Variety Protection and Intellectual Property Bootcamp 2026



On March 6, 2026, the World Intellectual Property Organization Nigeria Office hosted the final session of the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) and Intellectual Property Bootcamp 2026 at the United Nations House in Abuja.

The session, titled "Overview of Intellectual Property Administration in Nigeria," was organized by the WIPO Nigeria Office in collaboration with the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) through its National Plant Variety Protection Office (NPVPO), with support from Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The session was also held in collaboration with the various intellectual property offices in Nigeria.

The program was coordinated closely with colleagues from the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), who provided valuable learning resources including access to UPOV's distance learning platform, technical webinars, and digital services for participants. [Read more](#)

FG inaugurates IP policy implementation committees to boost innovation, trade

The Federal Government has inaugurated committees to implement Nigeria's National Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, to boost innovation and trade competitiveness for economic diversification.

Dr Jumoke Oduwole, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, inaugurated the Nigeria Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS) committee, including the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee and Inter-Agency Coordination group, on Friday in Abuja.

Oduwole said the policy implementation phase would deliver tangible benefits to innovators, businesses, farmers, researchers and creators across the country.

She said the policy was formally inaugurated in December 2025 after receiving Federal Executive Council (FEC) approval and strong endorsement from key stakeholders.

According to her, Nigeria undertook a five-year inclusive audit of its intellectual property ecosystem, involving government, academia, industry and the creative sector.

She stressed that the success of the policy now depends on effective institutional reforms and coordinated execution by public institutions.

The minister said the priority actions include legal and regulatory reforms covering patents, trademarks, designs, plant varieties and traditional knowledge protection. [Read More](#)



With new intellectual property policy, Nigerian government targets \$billions in investments



The Federal Government of Nigeria's new intellectual property policy officially known as the National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS) is a sweeping, coordinated effort to modernize the way Nigeria protects, manages, commercializes and enforces intellectual property (IP). The policy was approved by the Federal Executive Council in November 2025 and formally launched later that year, marking the first time Nigeria had adopted a unified national framework that treats IP as a strategic economic asset rather than a technical legal matter confined to lawyers and creators.

At its core, this policy recognizes that intellectual property which includes inventions, creative works, trademarks, designs, plant varieties, software and even emerging technologies -is a source of economic value that can drive innovation, exports, job creation and investment. Historically, Nigeria's IP system had been fragmented, with outdated laws, weak enforcement, limited institutional capacity and low public awareness. NIPPS seeks to turn that around by strengthening legal protections, modernizing institutions, promoting commercialization and technology transfer, and aligning Nigeria with global standards and trade agreements. [Read More](#)

Rising Enforcement Against Trademark Infringement & Counterfeiting



The Controller General (CG), of the Nigerian Customs Service, Bashir Adeniyi has labeled those infringing on others Intellectual property rights as criminals.

He made the assertion during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with Beiersdorf Nigeria, makers of NIVEA products held in Abuja over the weekend.

The CG who was represented by the Deputy Controller-General (DCG), Timi Bomodi highlighted the scale of the

challenge, stating:

“Counterfeiting is a huge market, especially for criminal elements who want to capitalise on popular products to make unearned gains. By infringing on intellectual property rights, they are not carrying out legitimate trade.

“Companies like Beiersdorf have a name to protect and are mindful of product composition, but counterfeiters don't care and may put people's health at risk.”

Bomodi noted that the partnership would strengthen enforcement capacity and support legitimate trade.

“We want to see them grow, as it has a corollary effect on the economy, for tax, employment, and more.” [Read more.](#)

NCC suspends multiple .ng domains over online piracy



The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has secured the suspension of several .ng domain names allegedly involved in large-scale online piracy of sound recordings and other creative works.

The action, carried out in collaboration with the Nigerian Internet Registration Association (NiRA), followed a formal request by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI).

The affected websites, val9ja.com.ng, tunesloaded.com.ng, voxnaija.com.ng, music.360media.com.ng, medianub.com.ng, naijalevels.com.ng and mp3juice.com.ng, were taken offline through their respective registrars after investigations confirmed they were engaged in the unauthorised distribution of copyrighted music and audiovisual materials.

According to the NCC's Special Taskforce against Online Piracy (STOP), the platforms were found to be in “blatant” violation of copyright laws, depriving rights holders of due revenue and undermining legitimate digital platforms. [Read more.](#)

Copyright Levy: MCSN Receives N1.2bn Boost For Nigerian Musicians



The Musical Copyright Society Nigeria Ltd/Gte (MCSN) has announced the receipt of the first tranche of the Copyright Levy Fund under Section 89 of the Copyright Act 2022, amounting to 1,205,956,580.20 for musical works and sound recordings.

In a statement issued in Abuja, the society expressed profound gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for providing the political will that enabled the long-awaited implementation of the levy. It also acknowledged the support of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Accountant-General of the Federation, and the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John Ohi Asein, whose collective efforts ensured the successful disbursement of the fund.

MCSN said the payment aligns with the Tinubu administration's Renewed Hope Agenda of positioning the creative industry as a major contributor to Nigeria's economy, stressing that the development is "not political but an economic reality" with far-reaching implications for creators. [Read more](#)

Nigeria Copyright Commission Commits to Expanding Access to Literary Works for Blind and Print Disabled

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) announced initiatives to enhance accessibility of literary works for the blind and print-disabled, supporting inclusive education and cultural participation.

[Read more](#)

NCC Launches Campaign to Educate Youth on Copyright Protection

The Ilorin office of NCC launched the "Catch Them Young" initiative, targeting young audiences to instill respect for copyright and promote creativity. [Read more](#)

NCC Partners with National Film and Video Censors Board to Strengthen IP Enforcement

The Kaduna office collaborated with NFVCB to enhance

enforcement of copyright laws in the film and video sector, curbing piracy and unauthorized distribution. [Read more](#)

NCC and NBA Hold Workshop on Copyright Matters

The NCC and Nigerian Bar Association conducted a capacity-building workshop in Kano to improve legal expertise on copyright enforcement and IP rights protection. [Read more](#)

NOTAP Intensifies IP Awareness Across Nigerian Institutions



The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) has ramped up efforts to promote intellectual property awareness in Nigeria's academic and research sectors. Director-General Obiageli Amadiobi revealed that the agency is collaborating with universities, research institutes, and technical colleges to educate innovators on the importance of protecting their IP and securing proper recognition. [Read more](#)

AI-Generated Music Sparks Debate on Ownership and Originality

A digital reinterpretation of "Papaoutai" by Belgian artist Stromae went viral in early 2026, reigniting debates around AI-generated music. The development raises critical legal questions about authorship, originality, and profit allocation in the evolving digital music landscape. [Read more](#)

Stakeholders Advocate for Specialized IP Court in Nigeria

Key industry stakeholders, including IPLAN, the Directors' Guild of Nigeria, the Nigerian Copyright Commission, and MultiChoice Nigeria, have called for the establishment of a specialized Intellectual Property Court. The proposal aims to curb piracy, strengthen enforcement, and boost job creation within Nigeria's creative industry. [Read more](#)



NetNaija CEO Arraigned for Alleged Copyright Infringement

Emmanuel Analike, CEO of NetNaija Media Enterprises, was arraigned before the Federal High Court in Abuja on charges of copyright infringement. The Nigerian Copyright Commission alleges he distributed pirated content via the NetNaija platform in violation of the Copyright Act, 2022. He pleaded not guilty and was remanded pending a bail ruling. [Read more](#)



NCC, MultiChoice Highlight Strategic Collaboration to Boost Creative Industry



The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) and MultiChoice Nigeria have emphasized the need for stronger strategic partnerships to

grow Nigeria's creative industry. The collaboration focuses on combating piracy, strengthening enforcement, and protecting investments in the sector, which stakeholders say is critical to sustaining jobs and long-term industry growth. [Read more](#)



Beautiful Nubia Accuses Gospel Artists of Copyright Infringement

Nigerian musician Beautiful Nubia has accused gospel artists Yinka Ayefele and BBO of copying melodies from his 1997 song "Seven Lives." The allegation adds to ongoing conversations about music copyright enforcement and creative ownership in Nigeria. [Read more](#)

Nigeria Advances IP Accessibility Through SPARK Translation Initiative

Nigeria is making progress in improving access to intellectual property systems through the SPARK partnership, which promotes the translation of IP materials into more accessible formats. The initiative is aimed at bridging knowledge gaps, enhancing inclusivity, and enabling broader participation in the IP ecosystem, particularly among innovators and creators. [Read more](#)