

# The Patent System and Innovation in Burundi

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# Organisation

- ❑ The department of Industrial Property is organized into three services:
  - Service for trademarks and geographical indications
  - Service for patents, innovation and traditional knowledge
  - Service for information and publication

# National legislation

The regime of Industrial Property is governed by the Law N°. 1/13 of 28 July 2009, to replace an old 1964 law

In Article 462, the new law creates a Registration Service of industrial property within the Ministry responsible for trade and industry

# Application Procedure

- Patent application is filed to The Minister of Trade and Industry with a copy to the Director of Industrial Property;
- The application includes:
  - a request,
  - a description,
  - claims, one or more drawings where necessary;

# Application Procedure (continued)

- The application includes a petition for the grant of a patent, the name and other prescribed data concerning the applicant, the inventor and the title of the invention;
- If the applicant is not the inventor, the application shall be accompanied by a statement justifying the applicant's right to the patent;
- The filing is subject to payment of the prescribed fee.

# Patent

- It is issued to: name and address
- A patent bearing le N° ...../BI for a security  
« ..... »
- The filing was received at Bujumbura on (date)
- The granting of this patent is made without prior examination, at the risk of the applicant, without warranty either the reality or the novelty or merit of the invention or the accuracy of the description without prejudice to the rights of third parties

# Identified areas of invention

- auto mechanics
- general mechanical
- Construction
- Agriculture



# Some statistics 2004-2011

	Origin	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Patent	Foreign	5	8	7	11	14	8	5	5
	Local	2	1	1	7	1	8	0	0
	Total	7	9	8	18	15	16	5	5

# Taxes collected

<b>Patent</b>	<b>Burundi</b>	<b>BIF 70 000 (USD 38)</b>
	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>USD 250</b>

# Weaknesses

- Very low rate of applications
- Almost total lack of awareness
- Low budget allocated to research

# Forces and opportunities

- Willingness to promote inventive research
- Extensive field of research with the presence of patents in the public domain

# Conclusion

- Inventions are essential to any nation. We have to learn from the past in order to create the future by following good examples.
- ✓ The Swedish woman ***Katarina Ollikainen*** achieved in 2000 a rigid pyramidal parachute from drawings made by Leonardo da Vinci in 1485

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

