

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 98

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**OAPI - China cooperation: Discussions to adopt common strategies in intellectual property matters**

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## News

### 1. Important topics

#### **ARIPO: 12<sup>th</sup> session: Working Group for Improvement of ARIPO Protocols<sup>1,2</sup>**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group focused on enhancing the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Protocols related to Industrial Property commenced on 26 September 2024. It brings together IP lawyers, representatives from Member States, and legal experts from the ARIPO Secretariat to discuss improvements while aligning with international standards. Key topics for discussion include streamlining application processes, improving enforcement mechanisms, and fostering collaboration among member states. By aligning with international standards, ARIPO seeks to create a more effective framework that supports innovation and creativity across the region.

#### **Cape Verde: Cape Verde joins TMclass and the Harmonized Database<sup>3,4</sup>**

On 26 August 2024, Cape Verde's Instituto de Gestão da Qualidade e da Propriedade Intelectual (IGQPI) joined the EUIPO TMclass search tool and implemented the Harmonized Database (HDB) for trademark classification. TMclass and HDB enable users to search and translate classification terms in 41 languages, with TMclass supporting a graphical interface in 37 languages. This integration is a significant outcome of the EUIPO's cooperation efforts in Africa through the AfrIPI project. With Cape Verde's participation, the IGQPI becomes part of a group of 10 leading African countries and 2 regional IP offices, increasing the total number of non-EU intellectual property offices using TMclass to 34 and the overall total to 94.

#### **Egypt: Egyptian Trademarks and Industrial Designs Office adopts the trademark and design examination guidelines<sup>5</sup>**

The Egyptian Trademarks and Industrial Designs Office (TIDO) has adopted new guidelines for trademark and design examination. These guidelines, developed by TIDO in collaboration with experts from the AfrIPI project, draw on the successful methodology of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Set to be implemented in 2025, the guidelines<sup>6</sup> aim to streamline examination processes, enhance quality, and standardize decision-making.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aripo.org/public/news/12th+Session+-+Working+Group+for+Improvement+of+ARIPO+Protocols+Commences-1727362324>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_the-12th-session-of-the-working-group-for-activity-7245349584577675264-zQvg/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_the-12th-session-of-the-working-group-for-activity-7245349584577675264-zQvg/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>3</sup> <https://afripi.org/en/news/cabo-verde-joins-tmclass-and-harmonised-database>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=534105409138023&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=chKNoHqscrJFXWwT](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=534105409138023&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=chKNoHqscrJFXWwT)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_afripi-afripi-afripi-activity-7243959949536489472-w7B0/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_afripi-afripi-afripi-activity-7243959949536489472-w7B0/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>6</sup> <https://afripi.org/en/news/euipo-and-egypts-tido-launch-trade-mark-and-design-examination-guidelines>

**Ethiopia: Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority and China National Intellectual Property Administration signed bilateral cooperation action plan agreement<sup>7</sup>**

During the week of 16 September 2024, the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) signed a bilateral cooperation action plan to enhance collaboration in various intellectual property fields over the next two years. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between Ethiopia and China in areas such as economy, trade, and science and technology.

**Kenya: Implementation of Phase IV of The ACA IPR Compliance Program for Imported Goods under the Recordation of Intellectual Property Rights<sup>8</sup>**

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) of Kenya is expanding its pre-import permit program, effective November 1, 2024, to include additional Harmonized System Codes (HS Codes) and enhance regulations of previous chapters. To submit Intellectual Property Right (IPR) details for imported goods, users must log onto the Kenya TradeNet portal, select appropriate document types, declare IPR, attach necessary documents, and pay the appropriate fee. For exempted goods, a separate exemption permit application is required. Additionally, applications for recording IPR can be submitted via the ACA's online platform. This program aims to combat counterfeit imports, protecting consumer health and fostering a fair investment and trade environment in Kenya.

**Namibia: Namibia Ratifies the Kampala Protocol<sup>9,10,11</sup>**

On 30 August 2024, Namibia became the first ARIPO Member State to ratify the Kampala Protocol on the Voluntary Registration of Copyright and Related Rights. The Kampala Protocol establishes a framework for the international registration of creative works, granting creators and businesses enhanced protection and opportunities for leveraging their creations through voluntary copyright registration. Along with the ratification of the Kampala Protocol, the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) is actively updating Namibia's Copyright Laws, as the existing Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Act of 1994 is outdated. Since 2019, BIPA and the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade have been reviewing the legislation to address contemporary challenges and align it with international standards, ensuring it better supports the creative sector. The revised law has been thoroughly examined by the Attorney-General and has now been submitted to Cabinet for the lawmaking process.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/100064216956705/posts/910726454411245/?rdid=iVChKLrx3AweI59>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/522-implementation-of-phase-iv-of-the-aca-ipr-compliance-program-for-imported-goods-under-the-recordation-of-intellectual-property-rights>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_business-and-intellectual-property-activity-7236387009697595392-pQQc/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_business-and-intellectual-property-activity-7236387009697595392-pQQc/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/business-express-namibia\\_protocol-namibia-kampala-activity-7236701319590248448-CFik/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/business-express-namibia_protocol-namibia-kampala-activity-7236701319590248448-CFik/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>11</sup> <https://nambusinessexpress.com/?p=7074>

## **Tunisia: Signature of the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property Objectives Agreement<sup>12</sup>**

The Objectives Contract of the National Institute of Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI) was recently signed by the Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy and the Institute's Director General to enhance its efficiency and governance. Developed by INNORPI, this contract aims to establish a comprehensive information system for certification that connects various stakeholders, thereby improving the intellectual property information system. Additionally, it seeks to transform the Institute from a non-administrative public enterprise into a public institution and upgrade its IT systems related to standardization. The contract aligns with national and sectoral priorities as outlined in the national strategy for industry and innovation through 2035 and the development plan for 2023-2025<sup>13</sup>.

## **South Africa: Copyright Amendment Bill deadline lapses<sup>14,15</sup>**

The South African president failed to sign the Copyright Amendment Bill by the deadline of 21 September 2024 given by the Constitutional Court. This failure angered the non-profit organization Blind SA in that the amendment bill would introduce changes to the Act such as allowing people with disabilities to convert published work into accessible formats without requiring the permission of the copyright holder. However, many believe that there were sections of the current bill that remained problematic, and that any hasty action by the president without re-looking at these problem areas would be detrimental to the creative industry.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Africa:**

IPR enforcement officials and regulatory authorities in North Africa meet in Cairo

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_ip4africa-afripi-activity-7244346104597692416-MKRG/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_ip4africa-afripi-activity-7244346104597692416-MKRG/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (25.09.2024)

EU-funded IP cooperation project #AfrIPI and the #AfricaIPSMEHelpdesk, implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office - EUIPO at Energizing Africa

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=544260364789194&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=rJCOHUw7VMDIKxzV](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=544260364789194&id=100076157045831&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=rJCOHUw7VMDIKxzV) (26.09.2024)

Upcoming workshop: Exploring Renewable Energy Opportunities in French African Regions

[https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/news-events/upcoming-events/energising-africa-exploring-renewable-energy-opportunities-french-african-regions-2024-09-26\\_en](https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/news-events/upcoming-events/energising-africa-exploring-renewable-energy-opportunities-french-african-regions-2024-09-26_en);

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.innorpi.tn/fr/actualites/signature-du-contrat-objectifs-de-linnorpi>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.tunisieindustrie.gov.tn/si2035/Livrables\\_L6\\_Strategie\\_de\\_Communication/Livable\\_6\\_Strategie\\_Marketing.pdf](http://www.tunisieindustrie.gov.tn/si2035/Livrables_L6_Strategie_de_Communication/Livable_6_Strategie_Marketing.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.iol.co.za/pretoria-news/news/copyright-amendment-bill-deadline-lapses-bf3bcfd4-6ac8-49a1-be0e-673cd764c810>

<sup>15</sup> <https://mg.co.za/news/2024-09-24-ramaphosas-delay-on-copyright-amendment-bill-signing-angers-blind-sa/>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_afripi-africaipsmehelpdesk-ip4africa-activity-7245011800830730241-yB07/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_afripi-africaipsmehelpdesk-ip4africa-activity-7245011800830730241-yB07/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

**Algeria:**

First joint African advertisement on artificial intelligence and the responsible use of intellectual classifications

<https://www.facebook.com/100064871767413/posts/948889713950079/?rdid=dbEEU9UrhkeHD38P>  
(23.09.2024)

**ARIPO:**

Upcoming activities: Technical training on trademarks for examiners, and engagements with IP agents of ARIPO Member State

<https://afripi.org/en/activities/technical-training-trade-marks-examiners-and-engagements-ip-agents-aripo-member-states>

3-day workshop on trademark examination organized by the European Union Intellectual Property Office - EUIPO cooperation project #AfrIPI and ARIPO

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/EB9G4QdJMz9hKw9B/?mibextid=qi2Omg>;  
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_afripi-activity-7236716316760375296-pH5g/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_afripi-activity-7236716316760375296-pH5g/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (03.09.2024)

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3rd ARIPO Regional Seminar on Copyright & Related Rights in the Audiovisual Sector

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The 2024 Africa Copyright & Collective Management Day in Lusaka

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Keynote at the 3rd Belt and Road High-Level Conference on Intellectual Property in Beijing

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#ARIPO Academy hosted Chinhoyi University of Technology Zimbabwe at the Secretariat

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_aripo-intellectualproperty-ip-activity-7242475873801560066-Rw5i?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_aripo-intellectualproperty-ip-activity-7242475873801560066-Rw5i?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (18.09.2024)

**Cameroon:**

EUIPO and the Slovenia Cameroon Business Club in hybrid event to explore the dynamic potential of renewable energy and how #IntellectualProperty can support sustainable growth and development

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**Cape Verde:**

Exchange of anti-counterfeiting best practices for Portuguese speaking African Countries

<https://afripi.org/en/news/cabo-verde-hosts-exchange-anticounterfeiting-best-practices-lusophone-african-countries>; <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/J4ARryCWD6xtjHdd/?mibextid=qi2Omg> (18.09.2024)

**Egypt:**

Egypt's FM receives head of intellectual property protection authority

<https://sis.gov.eg/Story/194575/Egypt%27s-FM-receives-head-of-intellectual-property-protection-authority?lang> (02.09.2024)

**Kenya:**

ISIPPE 2: Uniting Global Forces Against Counterfeiting for a Safer Future

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/518-isippe-2-uniting-global-forces-against-counterfeiting-for-a-safer-future> (04.09.24)

Meeting with Cement Manufacturing Sub-Sector Leaders to Tackle Cement Adulteration and Counterfeiting Concerns

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/519-meeting-with-cement-manufacturing-sub-sector-leaders-to-tackle-cement-adulteration-and-counterfeiting-concerns> (10.09.2024)

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority - Kenya announces the implementation of Phase IV of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Compliance Program, effective 1 October 2024



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(27.09.2024)

KeNIAxWIPO IP Training: Unleashing African Innovation through IP - Basics of IP

<https://www.innovationagency.go.ke/blog/keniaxwipo-ip-training-unleashing-african-innovation-through-ip-basics-of-ip> (27.09.2024)

The Future of Financing: IP as Collateral in Kenya's Economic Landscape

<https://www.kictanet.or.ke/the-future-of-financing-ip-as-collateral-in-kenyas-economic-landscape/>  
(30.09.2024)

**Liberia:**

Liberia Intellectual Property Office kicks off Nationwide Awareness Campaign

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=816744327302961&id=100069022038427&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=fkh5iCJOM1NKc5xf](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=816744327302961&id=100069022038427&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=fkh5iCJOM1NKc5xf) (02.09.2024)

Technical Training on Trademark for Examiners and IP Agents

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=817517310558996&id=100069022038427&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=gywNG0NzDdsFsNCP](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=817517310558996&id=100069022038427&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=gywNG0NzDdsFsNCP) (03.09.2024)

Liberia Intellectual Property Office and ARIPO Hold 3-Day IP Asset Management Workshop for SMEs

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lipo-aripo-hold-3-day-ip-asset-management-workshop-for-smes/>; (04.09.2024)

<https://www.aripo.org/public/news/ARIPO+Empowers+Liberian+SMEs+Through+IP+Asset+Management+Training-1725458511>; <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lipo-aripo-conclude-intellectual-property-assets-management-workshop-for-smes-2/> (19.09.2024)

Liberia Intellectual Property Office Engages Public on Intellectual Property Rights

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202409060331.html> (06.09.2024)

Strengthening Liberia's IP Ecosystem

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**Nigeria:**

NCC seizes pirated books worth N5.7m in Enugu

<https://dailynigerian.com/ncc-seizes-pirated-books-worth/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFiTJJleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHehUil3k1sYqZiNy0eKo->

[yRavg8keloa4aGQIEe9hH6RK0VfW9rCyhj7yg\\_aem\\_CY0USLNVY3TW3FJ\\_cj\\_8Qg#google\\_vignette](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=554429307032513&rdid=qV70O0RUCIPxP4Hk)

(20.09.2024)

War against Piracy: Copyright Commission shuts down defaulting Bookshops in Ogun State  
War against Piracy

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=554429307032513&rdid=qV70O0RUCIPxP4Hk> (21.09.2024)

Warning Against Book Piracy

<https://copyright.gov.ng/warning-against-book-piracy-2/> (22.09.2024)

A Legacy of Protection: 35 Years of Copyright Administration, Promotion, and Enforcement in Nigeria

<https://copyright.gov.ng/a-legacy-of-protection-35-years-of-copyright-administration-promotion-and-enforcement-in-nigeria/> (22.09.2024)

ICPC Inaugurates NCC Ant-Corruption and Transparency Unit Officials

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NCC Commits to Enhancing Performers' Rights for Adequate Recompense

<https://copyright.gov.ng/ncc-commits-to-enhancing-performers-rights-for-adequate-recompense/>

(22.09.2024)

NCC Inspires Youths to Harness Creative Potentials

<https://copyright.gov.ng/ncc-inspires-youths-to-harness-creative-potentials/> (22.09.2024)

Invest More in the Nigerian Film Industry, NCC DG Urges NETFLIX

<https://copyright.gov.ng/invest-more-in-the-nigerian-film-industry-ncc-dg-urges-netflix/> (22.09.2024)

Procure Your Books from Legitimate Channels – DG, NCC Warns

<https://copyright.gov.ng/procure-your-books-from-legitimate-channels-dg-ncc-warns/> (22.09.2024)

NCC Port Harcourt State Office Embarks on Familiarization Visits

<https://copyright.gov.ng/ncc-port-harcourt-state-office-embarks-on-familiarisation-visits/> (22.09.2024)

Copyright Matters Issue no. 25 July-August 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/100069118423774/posts/834702332177040/?rdid=DYIbRwvkDg80v8wy>

(25.09.2024)

#### **North Africa:**

Consultative roundtable on IPR Enforcement/Anti-Counterfeiting for North African Countries

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/e81fwgMHARuZSryP/?mibextid=qi2Omg> (26.09.2024)

**OAPI:**

OAPI celebrates a new batch of experts in Collective Management of Copyright

<http://oapi.int/index.php/en/component/k2/item/894-communiqu%C3%A9-de-presse-l-oapi-c%C3%A9l%C3%A8bre-une-nouvelle-cuv%C3%A9e-d-experts-en-gestion-collective-des-droits-d-auteur>  
(05.09.2024)

CAGEC 2024: 10 new winners made available to States to ensure the proper management of copyright

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/895-cagec-2024-10-nouveaux-laur%C3%A9ats-mis-%C3%A0-la-disposition-des-etats-pour-assurer-la-bonne-gestion-du-droit-d%E2%80%99auteur>  
(06.09.2024)

OAPI celebrates the 25th African Technology and Intellectual Property Day on 13 September 2024

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/897-l-afrique-c%C3%A9l%C3%A8bre-la-technologie-et-la-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle-ce-vendredi> (10.09.2024)

OAPI: OAPI – China cooperation: Discussions to adopt common strategies in intellectual property matters

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/898-coop%C3%A9ration-oapi-%E2%80%93-chine-des-%C3%A9changes-pour-adopter-des-strat%C3%A9gies-communes-en-mati%C3%A8re-de-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle> (11.09.2024)

OAPI is implementing a new tool to simplify the task for users and boost productivity

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-digitalisation-transformationnumaerie-activity-7239234839734816768-c-7W/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-digitalisation-transformationnumaerie-activity-7239234839734816768-c-7W/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (12.09.2024)

Celebrating African Technology and Intellectual Property Day

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/W3ZBz4mY7sUV93Vh/?mibextid=qi2Omg>;  
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-propriaetztaezintellectuelle-invention-activity-7240312516243828736-8XXF/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-propriaetztaezintellectuelle-invention-activity-7240312516243828736-8XXF/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (13.09.2024)

OAPI contributes to the consolidation of Africa/Asia/Europe cooperation

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-cnipa-ompi-activity-7239723738693267457-Z3w2/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-cnipa-ompi-activity-7239723738693267457-Z3w2/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

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OAPI-EAPO Webinar

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-oeab-protection-activity-7241379912379428864-hRCN?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop;](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-oeab-protection-activity-7241379912379428864-hRCN?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop;)

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OAPI organizes a seminar on copyright management in the digital age

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/901-l-oapi-organise-un-s%C3%A9minaire-sur-la-gestion-des-droits-d-auteur-%C3%A0-l-%C3%A8re-num%C3%A9rique;>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-senegal-ifrro-activity-7242517868599291904-PCdx/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-senegal-ifrro-activity-7242517868599291904-PCdx/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (19.09.2024)

**South Africa:**

Ramaphosa given ultimatum to sign Copyright Amendment Bill into law

<https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/news/ramaphosa-given-ultimatum-to-sign-copyright-amendment-bill-into-law-486aa635-2944-433f-b1fb-0d90cf4f29ee> (21.09.2024)

Snackdown! Takis Fuego products may no longer be sold in SA after trademark battle

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-09-25-takis-fuego-products-may-no-longer-be-sold-in-sa-after-trademark-battle/> (25.09.2024)

**Tanzania:**

A trade mark judgment dealing with well-known marks

<https://spoor.com/tanzania-a-trade-mark-judgment-dealing-with-well-known-marks/> (19.09.2024)

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