

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to this month's eFile. Along with this month's news, we are proud to announce the introduction of *Legal Lite*, our new tailored legal service that allows you to get rapid, accessible legal counsel when you need it.

We also discuss the new amendments to the B-BBEE ICT Sector Code and IP Exchange Controls. You will also find insight on the latest POPIA announcement, as well as an exciting development for the .africa domain name.

While we have shared the salient points in this eFile, more detailed versions of each of these articles can be found on [our Web site](#).

INTRODUCING LEGAL LITE

We have created a simple, convenient way to get expert commercial legal advice. Every business needs professional legal counsel at various stages in its growth. These legal decisions prepare the path forward and have an ongoing impact. With *Legal Lite*, you can now access the Harty Rushmere team as a sounding board via telephone, e-mail or even instant messaging channels. Any available resource on our team will respond promptly and provide critical insight, helping you make an informed decision before committing to agreements or deals. There is no need to enter into complex instructions or consultations, although these can be arranged as a follow-up if required. It's the same as having an in-house legal advisor, at the fraction of the cost.

For more information on our range of pricing plans, or on Legal Lite itself, please [contact us](#).

NEW B-BBEE CODE: ICT INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS DIVERSITY

The Amended B-BBEE ICT Sector Code was recently launched by Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Siyabonga Cwele. The Code promises to address past inequality through championing the participation of the previously disadvantaged within the ICT sector.

Cwele also took the opportunity to launch the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment ICT Sector Council, which was established in 2015. No matter which sector a B-BBEE Code is being applied to, policy-makers face the challenge of creating a framework that authentically drives participation. For this reason, the amended code has weighted score in favour of enterprise and supplier development.

For assistance on complying with the new B-BBEE ICT Sector Code, [contact us](#).

TO COMPLY WITH POPIA, START NOW

While the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) may take up to two years to be fully implemented, responsible businesses should take steps now to ensure compliance. The act will shift how businesses process and regulate customer information on an integral level.

At its first public briefing on 13 February 2017, Pansy Tlakula, the Information Regulator, addressed the public on the various pressing matters pertaining to POPIA. This included the long-awaited commencement date. The Act can only be implemented once the affairs of the Chairperson's office are in order, which may take up to two years. However, she assured that, while this is a complex and

time-consuming process, they understand the urgency of getting POPIA off the ground and will try their best to accelerate this process. If their efforts are successful, POPIA could even launch by the end of 2017.

We are able to guide your business through the process of POPIA compliance. For more information, [contact us](#).

IP EXCHANGE CONTROLS RELAXED

South African residents who create intellectual property and invest offshore are in for some good news. In its 2017 Budget Review, the National Treasury has amended its exchange control policy to state that companies and individuals no longer need SARB's approval for standard intellectual property transactions. The reviewed policy also proposes that the 'loop structure' restriction for all intellectual property transactions be lifted on the condition that they are at arm's length and are a fair market price.

For assistance with all elements of IP Law, [contact us](#).

.AFRICA DOMAIN NAMES AVAILABLE FROM JULY

The introduction of the .africa global top-level domain name to the online community has been a long process, but it will finally be available to the general public from 4 July 2017.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) delegated .africa to Registry Africa, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ZA Central Registry (ZACR). This development comes after years of legal battles which stood in the way of ICANN from delegating .africa to Registry Africa.

The public can expect the domain to be launched in three phases: sunrise, landrush and general. The 'sunrise' phase prioritises trademark and brand names; 'landrush' applications open applications for premium and sought-after names, after which the general public can apply from 4 July onwards.

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