

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### AfrIPI Hands Over a State-of-the-Art Smart Board to Africa University

*The journey to better learning continues*

**Mutare, 16 June 2022:** - The Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Project in Africa (AfrIPI), in partnership with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), handed over a state-of-the-art smartboard to Africa University in Mutare today.

Under the AfrIPI project, the European Union (EU) has offered support with hardware, providing an 86-inch LED interactive screen, commonly known as a smart board, to facilitate the delivery of online lectures. Africa University in Zimbabwe is the first recipient of the smart board, and similar sponsorship in other countries will follow.

The significance of sponsoring the smart board to Africa University is that it delivers an Intellectual Property Master's Programme in collaboration with ARIPO and the World Intellectual Property Organization. In fact, over 500 students from 27 African countries have benefited from full scholarships awarded to study in this program. AfrIPI is among the partners who support this initiative by providing experts from the European Union Intellectual Property Office to deliver lectures at the university on EU best practices, the most recent EU case-law and the latest developments in the field.

“By this donation, AfrIPI acknowledges the important role that technology plays in the teaching and dissemination of intellectual property issues, particularly in this fourth industrial revolution that we are in, which places a premium on technology and knowledge-based goods and services,” said Nancy Samuriwo, the AfrIPI Intellectual Property Expert.

“As such, this smart board will support modern, competency-based online collaborations, as well as a blended learning approach to make learning fun, free and effective. It makes intensive use of e-learning content and technologies in tandem with Education 5.0 and the ever-changing technology landscape”, added Dr Outule Rapuleng, the Representative of The Director General of ARIPO.

## Background

### 1. About ARIPO

ARIPO is an intergovernmental organisation that facilitates cooperation among its Member States in intellectual property matters. The purpose of ARIPO is to pool resources for the promotion, development and harmonisation of the IP laws and policies of ARIPO Member States. The objective of ARIPO, amongst others, is to establish common services and organs for IP coordination, development and harmonisation. You can read more about ARIPO on [www.aripo.org](http://www.aripo.org)

### 2. About AfrIPI

AfrIPI is a pan-African project that aims to support the European Union in creating, administering, utilising, protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights across Africa. It aligns with



international and European best practices and supports the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The overall objective of the AfrIPI project is to facilitate intra-African trade and African and European investment. You can read more about AfrIPI on [www.afripi.org](http://www.afripi.org)

**For more information, please contact:**

Mitchell Tikiwa

Communications Officer, AfrIPI

+263 771 264 264

[mitchell.tikiwa@afripi.org](mailto:mitchell.tikiwa@afripi.org)

or

Susan Mwiti

Communications Officer, ARIPO

[smwiti@aripo.org](mailto:smwiti@aripo.org)

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