1. **Conception and Development of the Invention**

The first step in the process is to conceive and develop an invention. This involves identifying a problem in the computing field and devising a solution that is new, inventive, and capable of industrial application.

2. Disclosure and Documentation

Once the product has been developed, it is important to disclose it to others and document it carefully. This will help to establish the date of invention and protect the inventor's rights. Disclosure can be made through publication, public presentations, or by filing a patent application with KIPI.

3. Preparation of the Patent Application

The next step is to prepare a patent application. The application must be filed with KIPI and must include the following:

* A request for a patent – FORM IP 3.
* A description of the invention – it discloses how it works, what it does, and at least one mode for carrying out the invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms to enable people having skills in that art to make use of the invention.
* Claims defining the scope of protection sought
* Drawings, if necessary
* An abstract – includes the title of the invention and a summary of the disclosure included in the description.
* The name and address of the applicant
* The applicant's signature or that of an authorized representative

4. Filing the Patent Application

The patent application must be filed with KIPI in either English or Swahili. The application fee must also be paid at the KIPI office. Once the application is accepted for filing, it is assigned a number and a filing date and is published 18 months after the filing date. The applicant must formally request for preliminary examination and search and attach the examination fees within 3 years of the filing date otherwise, the application is regarded as abandoned.

5. Examination of the Patent Application

Once the application is filed, KIPI will examine it to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Kenyan Industrial Property Act. The examiner will check that the invention is new, inventive, and capable of industrial application. If the examiner finds any deficiencies in the application, they will issue a notice to the applicant allowing them to make amendments.

6. Publication of the Patent Application

If the examiner is satisfied that the application meets the requirements of the law, they will publish it in the Kenya Gazette. This publication allows members of the public to object to the grant of the patent.

7. Opposition Proceedings

If anyone objects to the grant of the patent, KIPI will hold opposition proceedings to consider the objections. The applicant will have an opportunity to respond to the objections. If the opposition proceedings are successful, the patent will not be granted.

8. Grant of the Patent

If the applicant has fulfilled the requirements for patentability set out in sections 23-25 of the Act, a patent is granted, provided that maintenance, grant, and publication fees are paid. The granted patents are registered and published in the industrial property journal. A certificate of grant is issued accompanied by a copy of the patent documents as at the time of grant. The time taken to grant a patent under the act is at least 18 months. The patent will be valid for 20 years from the date of filing of the application.

**References**

Kiveu, M. (n.d.). *Discussion Paper Series THE KENYA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (KIPPRA) YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YPs) TRAINING PROGRAMME Patenting in Kenya: Status and Challenges*. http://www.kippra.org