



GHANA'S BUSINESS REGULATORY REFORMS BENCHMARKS WITH BRRA



Ghanaian delegation, Ghanaian High Commissioner to Zambia and BRRA Staff pose with Permanent Secretary Lilian Bwalya, in charge of Commerce and Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry.

An eleven-member delegation from Ghana recently conducted a benchmarking exercise in Zambia, specifically at the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA). The purpose of their visit was to study and learn from Zambia's successful design, coordination, and management of a sustainable business environment reforms framework.

During their visit, the BRRA team, led by Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, provided insights into the agency's mandate, activities, and programmes.

The Agency also highlighted the collabor-

ative efforts with other stakeholders to promote a conducive business regulatory environment in Zambia. Mrs. Sichilongo expressed satisfaction with the high-level delegation's interest in benchmarking BRRA's operational and structural effectiveness.

Ghanaian High Commissioner to Zambia, Her Excellency Ms. Khadija Iddrisu, emphasized the importance of such visits in strengthening bilateral relations and implementing reforms aimed at reducing the cost of doing business.

Mr. Kofi Addo, Director of the One

District – One Factory initiative in Ghana's Ministry of Trade and Industry, conveyed gratitude to BRRA for hosting the delegation. He noted that the visit would help their team avoid the common risks associated with implementing new reforms and coordination efforts.

In addition to BRRA, the Ghanaian delegation also held meetings with Ms. Lilian Bwalya, Permanent Secretary in charge of Commerce and Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry.

The Ghana delegation also visited other key institutions such as the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), and the Public-Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) to gain first-hand experience on BRRA's coordination with regulatory agencies and stakeholders.

The delegation comprised officers from various Ghanaian ministries including Trade and Industry, Finance, and the Office of the Attorney General as well as representatives from the Private Enterprise Federation.



Ghana delegation engaging with Benson Mpalo PACRA Registrar and CEO, on the right is Sharon Sichilongo BRRA Executive Director and on the left is Her Excellency Khadija Iddrisu, Ghanaian High Commissioner to Zambia.



BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo and PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo signing the MoU, being witnessed by PACRA Legal Counsel Dennis Kamfwa (standing) and BRRRA Director Business Facilitation and Engagement David S. Banda.

BRRRA AND PACRA PARTNER ON RSCs

In a bid to enhance collaboration between the two institutions, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) and the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) have entered into a five-year agreement to establish and coordinate Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs).

The RSCs will serve as one-stop shops for various business regulatory services, aiming to enhance delivery and accessibility while reducing the costs of doing business.

The agreement was signed by BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo and PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson

Mpalo in Lusaka.

Under the MoU, BRRRA will ensure the operationalization of premises identified by PACRA as RSCs, including procurement, installation, and maintenance of furniture and equipment. BRRRA will also manage the day-to-day operations of the RSCs and handle associated financial matters.

Besides identifying office space for use as Regulatory Services Centres in provincial capitals, PACRA will ensure the availability of its members of staff to provide PACRA services in Regulatory Services Centres.

The establishment of RSCs is

part of a broader strategy to improve the business environment in Zambia by simplifying procedures, reducing registration times, and increasing accessibility to regulatory services.

Under the MoU, BRRRA will ensure the operationalization of premises identified by PACRA as RSCs, including procurement, installation, and maintenance of furniture and equipment. BRRRA will also manage the day-to-day operations of the RSCs and handle associated financial matters.



BRRAs team engaging with local entrepreneurs in Mpongwe District.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATION OF REGULATIONS

The private sector in Zambia has been encouraged to take an active role in informing the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRAs) about any challenges hindering business growth and to participate in the formulation of regulations.

BRRAs Executive Director, Sharon Sichilongo, emphasized that effective regulation should not only focus on enforcement but also on creating an environment conducive to business prosperity.

She highlighted the importance of private sector involvement in regulation formulation and positioned BRRAs as an ally to the private sector, promoting their participation in economic activities through transparent and meaningful dialogue.

Dr. Nelson Musonda, President of the Chililabombwe Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged the importance of engagement with BRRAs, stating that it had helped them understand the Agency's role in fostering a conducive business regulatory environment.

He pledged to collaborate with other business associations to provide feedback to BRRAs on issues affecting businesses.

BRRAs recently conducted regulatory environment monitoring visits to Chililabombwe, Mpongwe, Masaiti, and Lufwayama.

During these visits, the Agency engaged with local entrepreneurs, business enterprises, Chililabombwe Chamber of Commerce and Local Authorities to address various regulatory issues impacting businesses in those areas.



**President of the Chililabombwe Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Nelson Musonda**

BRRA AND PPDF COLLABORATE

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) and the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) have inked a five-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the aim of nurturing a favourable business and investment climate in Zambia.

The agreement outlines plans to establish a shared platform for exchanging ideas and information on matters pertaining to the business and investment landscape.

This collaboration is envisioned to bolster reforms aimed at streamlining the business licensing system, fostering efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility.

Additionally, the parties intend to conduct joint monitoring and evaluation activities to gain insights into



Sharon Sichilongo BRRA Executive Director and Andrew Chipwende PPDF Director General signing the MoU. Witnessed by Elita Mwenda, PPDF Analyst/Researcher and Joel Mumba, BRRA Manager RSCs and Licensing Systems.

The MoU serves as a framework for enhanced cooperation between BRRA and PPDF, facilitating the sharing of information on regulatory challenges and interventions affecting businesses at district and national levels.

pertinent business, investment, and economic issues.

The MoU serves as a framework for enhanced cooperation between BRRA and PPDF, facilitating the sharing of information on regulatory challenges and interventions affecting businesses at district and national levels.

Furthermore, both parties have committed to conducting

joint training and capacity-building initiatives focused on advancing the business reform agenda and enhancing regulatory delivery.

BRRA Executive Director, Mrs. Sharon Sichilongo, and PPDF Director General Mr. Andrew Chipwende signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations in Lusaka.

2024 WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATIONS

The Agency took part in the annual celebration of the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2024 which was held under the theme "Invest in Women and Girls, Accelerate Progress".

During the commemorations, the Agency matched with other Statutory Bodies under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry. Below is the commemoration in pictures.



BRRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo and Staff commemorating International Women's Day



DID YOU KNOW CORNER

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) is mandated to coordinate the establishment, operationalisation and roll out of Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs) in Zambia in order to improve delivery and accessibility of business regulatory services and ultimately reduce the cost of doing business.

Contributors

*Masiye Mwanza Mulenga
– Public Relations Officer*



*Business Regulatory Review Agency, Plot No. 2251
Corner of Fairley and Jacaranda Roads
Ridgeway - Lusaka*

Telephone: +260 211 259 165 Email: info@brra.org.zm

<http://www.brра.org.zm/>