



BUSINESS FOCUS

"PROMOTING A CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT"

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(Left to right) BRRRA Board Members Mrs. Charity K. Banda, Mrs. Sylvia K. Masabo, BRRRA Board Chairperson Mr. Dominic Kapalu, BRRRA Executive Director Mrs. Sharon Sichilongo and Director Business Facilitation Mr. David S. Banda.



BRRRA EXPECTANT ABOUT KEY BUSINESS REFORMS AS PROGRESS ACCELERATES

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) has expressed optimism about the successful conclusion and implementation of several key reforms aimed at streamlining regulatory processes, eliminating redundancies, reducing duplications and ultimately lowering the cost of doing business in the country.

BRRRA Board Chairperson, Dominic Kapalu, attributed the significant progress on these reforms to the commitment and collaboration of various stakeholders, including government ministries, the private sector, regulatory agencies and public bodies. He emphasized that the Agency's engagements with these entities had been instrumental in advancing

critical policy changes.

Providing an update to the media during a press briefing in Lusaka, Mr. Kapalu highlighted the work of the technical working group appointed by the Ministry of In-

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frastructure, Housing and Urban Development to assess the dual registration requirements for contractors under the National Council for Construction (NCC) and the Engineering Institute of Zambia (EIZ). He confirmed that the technical working group had submitted its report for consideration, marking a crucial step towards addressing inefficiencies in contractor registration. The BRRRA remains engaged in discussions to ensure a balanced approach that supports both industry growth and fiscal sustainability.

Progress on key reforms is a result of the commitment and collaboration of various stakeholders, including government ministries, the private sector, regulatory agencies, and public bodies.”
– Dominic Kapalu, BRRRA Board Chairperson

Furthermore, Mr. Kapalu expressed satisfaction that Cabinet had approved, in principle, the introduction of a bill in Parliament to amend the Rating Act of 2018. The proposed amendments are expected to address long-standing

concerns from the private sector regarding property rates, which have been deemed unsupportive of business growth.

Over the past year, high property rates have been a major topic of discussion in BRRRA’s engagements with the private sector. In response, the agency has actively collaborated with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to explore solutions. Mr. Kapalu said BRRRA would continue engagements with various stakeholders until the amendment process was finalised.

REVIEW OF SIAVONGA FISH LEVY ONGOING

Stakeholder consultations are a crucial aspect of the Business Regulatory Review Agency’s (BRRRA) mandate, ensuring that policy and regulatory changes are inclusive, transparent and well-informed.

The process of engaging stakeholders is an essential component of policy and law formation, as mandated by the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014, which requires public bodies and regulatory agencies to consult relevant stakeholders before implementing regulatory changes.

In line with this requirement, the Siavonga Town Council is currently undertaking consultations regarding the proposed revision of the fish levy from ZMW 0.40 to ZMW 0.50 per kilogramme of fish. This review process is being conducted in collaboration with the Business Regulatory Review Agency, given that the proposed fee adjustment could impact the cost of doing business.

During a stakeholder engagement session with the Siavonga Town Council and key players in the aquaculture sub-sector, BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo

Consultations not only ensured the legitimacy of regulations but also provided an opportunity for affected parties to actively participate in the decision-making process before regulations are enforced.”
– Sharon Sichilongo, BRRRA Executive Director

go emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagements. She stated that consultations not only ensured the legitimacy of regulations but also provided an opportunity for affected parties to actively participate in the decision-making process before regulations are enforced.

Mrs Sichilongo reiterated that stakeholders play a pivotal role in regulatory compliance, as their cooperation is essential for the successful implementation of any policy changes.

During the consultations, several stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the proposed levy increase. Many argued that the adjustment would significantly raise the cost of doing business, especially considering the economic challenges exacerbated by the drought-induced load management.

Stakeholders noted that power outages had forced them to rely on alternative energy sources, which are both costly to acquire and maintain. Additionally, the increased cost of feed driven by higher production expenses among suppliers was already straining their operations.

The consultation process remains ongoing, with the Siavonga Town Council continuing to receive written submissions from stakeholders. The feedback collected will be thoroughly reviewed before any final decision is made on the revision of the fish levy.

TOURISM SINGLE LICENSING SYSTEM TO BE UPSCALED

In a bid to enhance efficiency and ease of doing business, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) is set to upscale the implementation of the Single Licensing System (SLS) within the tourism sector.

This initiative aligns with BRRRA's mandate to streamline licensing procedures by consolidating multiple regulatory requirements under a single framework for each sector or sub-sector of the economy.

The pilot phase of the SLS in the Tourism sector with a focus on the accommodation subsector commenced in 2022, following the government's recognition of the burdensome nature of multiple licensing requirements. The tourism industry, a key contributor to Zambia's economy, has long been characterized by complex and costly compliance processes.

Stakeholders have expressed concerns over the high costs associated with navigating multiple regulatory bodies, which has posed challenges for businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

According to BRRRA Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu, the success of the Energy Single Licensing System, implemented by the Energy Regulation Board under the Ministry of Energy, has provided a strong motivation to scale up the initiative in the tourism sector. He said the BRRRA was instrumental in the implementation of the energy sector's SLS and is now leveraging those lessons to develop an advanced electronic platform tailored for the tourism industry.

"The Single Licensing System is designed to simplify compliance by integrating multiple regulatory requirements under a single regulatory touchpoint," Kapalu explained. "While it does not necessarily eliminate the need for multiple licenses, it streamlines the



BRRRA Board Chairperson Mr. Dominic Kapalu

process by providing a unified regulatory interface, reducing redundancies and improving efficiency."

The upscaling of the SLS represents a strategic move to enhance regulatory coordination and minimize bureaucratic delays. The centralized system is expected to significantly reduce processing times for licenses and permits, enabling investors and businesses to enter the market with greater ease.

Furthermore, the implementation of an advanced electronic platform for licensing is anticipated to cut operational costs, encourage higher compliance rates and

stimulate growth in the tourism sector. These improvements will ultimately contribute to Zambia's broader economic development goals by fostering an attractive investment climate.

Looking ahead, the BRRRA has outlined plans to extend the Single Licensing System to other key sectors, including mining, agriculture, construction and manufacturing. By addressing inefficiencies in the licensing process across multiple industries, this initiative is poised to create a more predictable and transparent regulatory environment.

DID YOU KNOW? CORNER

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The Business Regulatory Review Agency has eleven functions as outlined in Section 14 of the Business Regulatory (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2018. The ninth function is to determine requests for licensing of business activities by a regulatory agency.

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