



## BRRRA CALLS FOR STRENGTHENED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Stakeholders during the engagement in Petauke

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) has urged regulatory agencies, public bodies, and the business community to actively engage with the Agency whenever they face regulatory challenges requiring clarity or resolution.**

**B**RRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo emphasized that timely collaboration with the Agency can effectively address misunderstandings among regulatory agencies, public bodies, and businesses regarding the

Agency's mandate and operations..

Speaking during an engagement meeting in Petauke District, hosted at the invitation of the Petauke Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Sichilongo highlighted the Agency's pivotal role in ensuring that public bodies and regulatory agencies comply with the provisions of the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014 when introducing or reviewing laws and policies.

The meeting followed concerns raised by the Petauke Chamber regarding high fees imposed by the Petauke District Council. Accord-

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(L-R) BRRRA Director, Regulatory Affairs David F. Banda, BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, Petauke Chamber President Wilson Phiri and his Vice Donald Sakala

**Timely collaboration with the Business Regulatory Review Agency can effectively address misunderstandings among regulatory agencies, public bodies, and businesses regarding the Agency's mandate and operations."**  
**– Sharon Sichilongo, BRRRA Executive Director**

ing to the Chamber, the fees were not only the highest in Eastern

Province but also exceeded those of some urban-based local authorities. This disparity had reportedly led to some businesses relocating from the district.

In response, the Petauke District Council acknowledged the issue, admitting that their fees were relatively high. However, they assured stakeholders that some fees may be adjusted downwards following the implementation of the Fees

and Fines (Fee and Penalty Unit Value) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 as directed by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to all public bodies and regulatory agencies.

The local authority also expressed its openness to continued engagement with the Chamber and the business community to foster compliance and address regulatory concerns collaboratively.



Stakeholders during the engagement

# PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING OR INTRODUCING REGULATIONS



**One of the functions of the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRR), a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, is to approve regulatory frameworks submitted under the Business Regulatory (BR) Act No. 3 of 2014.**

In accordance with Section 6 of the Business Regulatory Act, 2014, a public body may submit a policy or proposed law regulating business activities to Cabinet for approval only if it has received prior approval from the Business Regulatory Review Agency.

The BRR aims to create a favourable business environment by reviewing regulations and guiding Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). RIAs involve a meticulous evaluation of proposed regulations, to enhance regulatory quality and streamline regulatory requirements in line with principles of good regulatory practices enshrined in the Business Regulatory Act.

Regulatory agencies and public bodies must conduct RIAs on new regulatory proposals or when reviewing existing ones to ensure high-quality policies and laws that serve a legitimate and essential regulatory purpose.

A critical element of the RIA process is stakeholder consultation. This step requires affected inter-

est groups to participate actively in shaping regulations, promoting legitimacy and encouraging voluntary compliance. Consultations must last a minimum of 30 days, giving stakeholders adequate time to provide input on the proposed or revised regulations.

After this process, the regulatory agency or public body is required to submit a report to the BRR for approval. Once the approval letter has been issued, the regulatory agency or public body is required to submit the approval letter to their respective Ministry for further approval. Following approval from the respective Ministry, the approval letter is then submitted to the Ministry of Justice for legal drafting.

In an event that the BRR has not approved the proposal, the regulatory agency or public body has the right to appeal to the Minister in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in accordance with Part V, Section 31 (1) and (2) of the BR (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2018.

**“Stakeholder consultation is a critical element of the Regulatory Impact Assessment process, ensuring affected groups actively shape regulations, promoting legitimacy and encouraging voluntary compliance.”**  
– Business Regulatory Review Agency

This structured procedure ensures full compliance with the BR Act principles and guidelines and facilitates removal of duplications and bottlenecks that could hinder the regulatory process. BRR encourages all regulatory agencies and public bodies to strictly adhere to this process to maintain transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in introducing new regulations or reviewing existing ones.

By following these steps, public bodies and regulatory agencies can contribute to creating a regulatory environment that supports business growth and economic development.

# BRRA STAFF ENHANCE SKILLS THROUGH POLICY ANALYSIS TRAINING

**Staff at the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) have successfully completed training in policy analysis, aimed at sharpening their skills and enhancing their effectiveness in regulatory duties.**

**B**RRRA Director for Regulatory Affairs, David Frank Banda, highlighted the importance of the training, emphasizing that it would equip staff with the ability to make evidence-based decisions when approving regulations that impact businesses, the economy and society.

“The training will enable our team to evaluate whether approved regulations are achieving their intended objectives, identify overlaps and eliminate unnecessary burdens on

businesses,” Mr. Banda said. He also commended the University of Zambia’s Graduate School of Business for delivering a practical and hands-on training programme tailored to the Agency’s needs.

Speaking at the conclusion of the training, Director of the Graduate School of Business, Dr. Lubinda Haabazoka, expressed satisfaction with the collaboration, noting that it created a valuable interaction between academia and industry.

“Both institutions have gained insights through this engagement. Such collaborations have the potential to influence economic policy and drive national development,” Dr. Haabazoka stated. He further affirmed the Graduate School of Business’s commitment to future capacity building initiatives that foster sustainable development.

The training underscores BRRA’s commitment to enhancing its



BRRA Director, Regulatory Affairs David Frank Banda

staff’s capacity to ensure efficient and effective regulatory practices that support business growth and economic progress.



Some of the BRRA staff and trainers

# BUSINESSWOMEN ENCOURAGED TO FORMALISE BUSINESSES

**It is always an honour for Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) to engage in transformative events like the recently held Businesswomen's Insaka, where the BRRRA Executive Director, Mrs. Sharon Sichilongo, was among the distinguished speakers.**

**M**rs. Sichilongo utilized the platform to articulate the BRRRA's mandate and its pivotal role in fostering a conducive regulatory environment for businesses in Zambia. She emphasized the significance of the Business Regulatory (BR) Act No. 3 of 2014 in supporting enterprise growth.

Recognizing the multifaceted roles women often juggle, Mrs. Sichilongo encouraged attendees to leverage the Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs) established by the BRRRA to formalize their businesses. These RSCs, functioning as one-stop shops, streamline access to key regulatory bodies, significantly reducing the cost and complexity of starting a business.

She stressed that formalizing a business is not just a compliance measure but a strategic step that unlocks numerous opportunities, including but not limited to eligibility to bid for projects, secure contracts and access to financial services and business support systems.

Mrs. Sichilongo further elaborated on the provisions of the BR Act, 2014, designed to nurture micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The Act mandates minimal regulatory requirements for MSMEs to foster growth and facilitate their transition to larger business scales. These provisions are particularly advantageous for women entrepreneurs, providing them with a foundation to thrive in the business landscape.

During the Insaka, held in Lusaka, Mrs. Sichilongo also shed light on the legal and regulatory reforms



(L-R) Director, Gender Division Henry Nkhoma, ZRA Director Taxpayer Services Mirriam Sabi, BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, Entrepreneur Sarah Ngwenya, Director of Programmes, Graca Machel Women Creating Wealth Shiphrah Chisha and ZFAWIB CEO Maureen Sumbwe.



Participants at the Businesswomen's Insaka

being advanced by the BRRRA in collaboration with various stakeholders. These reforms aim to introduce regulations that impose the least burden on businesses. She highlighted innovative digital tools such as the electronic registry (e-Registry) and the Notice and Comment portal, which are contributing to enhancing business operations and accessibility nationwide.

The Businesswomen's Insaka, themed "Zambia at 60: Advancing an Enabling Environment for In-

clusive Empowerment and Leadership," was organized by the Gender Division at Cabinet Office in partnership with the Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business with support from the USAID Business Enabling Project.

By inspiring women to formalize their enterprises, events like the Insaka contribute to inclusive economic growth and the empowerment of women as leaders and innovators in Zambia's business sector.

# 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 seventh function is to advise regulatory agencies on the efficient and cost-effective regulation and licensing of business activities.**

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