



## BRRRA CONCERNED OVER DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTING REFORMS



BRRRA – Board Chairperson (middle) Dominic Kapalu, Board Member (second from left) Francis Chilunga, Executive Director (second from left) Sharon Sichilongo, Director - Regulatory Affairs (far left) David F. Banda and Director – Business Facilitation (far right) David S. Banda

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) has expressed concern about delays in implementing key reforms aimed at enhancing the business regulatory environment in the country.**

Speaking to the media in Lusaka recently, BRRRA Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu noted that progress in certain sectors had been slower than expected. Mr. Kapalu cited the ongoing efforts to eliminate the duplication of contractor registration between the National Council for Construction (NCC) and the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) and the extension of the NCC contractor registration certificate validity from one to three years as some of the reforms that had protracted. These initiatives have been underway for seven and two years, respectively, yet remain unresolved.

He also pointed to delays in revising the Forest (Amendment) (Forest Produce) Fees Regulations No. 52 of

2013, a move essential to promote productivity in the honey sector. Honey processors have argued that they were burdened by high fees, which hinder their ability to transport beeswax and honey from the North-Western Province to storage facilities in Lusaka and for export.

Mr. Kapalu said the Agency would continue engaging relevant stakeholders in fostering business friendly reforms. He further reassured the private sector of the Agency's commitment to expediting reforms to support a more efficient business regulatory environment.

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# REGULATORS EMBRACE RBR TO STREAMLINE BUSINESS OPERATIONS

**Zambian regulators are now incorporating Risk-Based Regulation (RBR) guidelines into their operations, resulting in significant time and cost savings for businesses. This progress was highlighted at a recent workshop organized by the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) and the World Bank Group (WBG) to assess the impact of RBR implementation.**

**T**he BRRA, in collaboration with the WBG, has been driving the adoption of RBR to help regulators allocate resources more efficiently, focusing on higher-risk activities and fostering a fairer business environment. This approach is intended to optimize resource use, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and streamline business processes.

To ensure the effective rollout of RBR, regulators emphasized the importance of change management, the adoption of digital solutions, and capacity-building initiatives centred on RBR principles.

Held at the World Bank Office in Lusaka, the workshop saw participation from key regulatory bodies, including Patents and Companies Registration Agency, the Energy Regulation Board, the Zambia Revenue Authority, the Zambia



BRRA staff, World Bank representatives and regulators during the workshop

Compulsory Standards Agency, the Zambia Bureau of Standards, the Bank of Zambia, the Health Professions Council of Zambia, the Zambia Metrology Agency, the Zambia Tourism Agency, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, Chongwe Municipal Council and the Business Regulatory Review

Agency.

In 2023, the Zambian government, in partnership with the World Bank Group, officially launched the Risk-Based Regulation Guidelines for Public Bodies to support sustainable economic growth through smarter regulation.



Regulators during the workshop



# BARRA ENVISAGES A MORE BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT



Some stakeholders during the Zambia Investment Forum

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BARRA) is actively working on reforms aimed at fostering a more business-friendly regulatory environment in Zambia.**

**B**ARRA Executive Director, Sharon Sichilongo, highlighted key initiatives such as the digitalization of compliance processes and increased stakeholder involvement to promote transparent regulatory reviews as key to attainment of a conducive business environment.

**“Collaboration between regulatory bodies and the private sector is key to enhancing Zambia’s investment climate and boosting global competitiveness,” emphasized BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo.**

Mrs. Sichilongo emphasized the importance of collaboration be-



BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo

tween regulatory bodies and the private sector to enhance Zambia’s investment climate and boost global competitiveness.

Mrs Sichilongo was one of the speakers during the Zambia Investment Forum which was held recently, organized by the Zambia

Development Agency in partnership with the World Bank.

The Forum which was held in Lusaka, brought together different stakeholders and focused on reforms undertaken over the past three years and upcoming initiatives to further improve the business landscape.

# MCTI CELEBRATES ZAMBIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE WITH TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

In celebration of Zambia's 60 years of independence, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), alongside its statutory bodies, has launched a tree-planting initiative at Mumana Primary School in Lusaka.

**M**ore than fifty trees were planted to honour Zambia's diamond jubilee and support environmental sustainability.

MCTI Acting Permanent Secretary Nalituba Mwale emphasized the importance of tree planting as a proactive step toward addressing the country's climate challenges. She noted that commemorating the diamond jubilee provided an opportunity for government to collaborate with various partners to commit to a greener future. To this end, MCTI partnered with the Lusaka City Council to select an ideal site and suitable tree species for the exercise.



MCTI Acting Permanent Secretary Nalituba Mwale

**Tree planting is a proactive step toward addressing Zambia's climate challenges and committing to a greener future**

Mumana Primary School Head Teacher Patricia Mubanga expressed gratitude to MCTI and said the initiative would help students recognize the importance of trees and empower them to educate their communities on the dangers of deforestation.

Lusaka City Council Director of Planning Biggie Chanda added that the education system served as an effective platform for instilling en-

vironmental awareness in young learners and fostering a culture of sustainable resource management.

Statutory bodies involved in the event included the Business Regulatory Review Agency, Zambia Bureau of Standards, Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency, Zambia Metrology Agency, and Zambia Development Agency.

The 60 years independence anniversary was commemorated under the theme "60 Years Strong: Honouring Our Heritage, Embracing Our Future."



BRR staff with MCTI Acting Permanent Secretary Nalituba Mwale (second from left) Registry Clerk Melay Chibwe (third from right), Senior Public Relations Officer Masiye Mulenga (fourth from right), Senior Systems Analyst Abel Chilungu (on the left) and Intern Abel Simutami (on the right)



# BRRA CELEBRATES ZAMBIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE IN STYLE



In October, leading up to Zambia's 60th Independence anniversary, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) introduced "Traditional Wear Day," celebrated every Friday.

On these Fridays, BRRA staff dressed in traditional attire to showcase and honour Zambia's rich cultural diversity.

The celebration culminated on October 25th, when BRRA staff proudly wore traditional clothing in Zambia's national colours, creating a vibrant display of unity and patriotism in commemoration of Independence Day.





# 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 sixth function is to promote more accessible and systematic public consultation strategies and develop a website portal for public interventions on issues of business regulation**

### **Contributors**

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