



BRRR Staff during the march past of the 2025 International Women's Day



CELEBRATING WOMEN FOR WHO THEY ARE

Every year on March 8th, women from all walks of life come together to commemorate International Women's Day, a global day dedicated to honouring the achievements, resilience, and diverse roles of women, no matter how big or small those contributions may seem.

While the day is often marked by vibrant marches, its meaning runs much deeper. It is a time to acknowledge the many hats that women wear mother, daughter, sister, friend, mentor, leader, creator and more. These roles come with unique challenges, yet women continue to rise to the occasion with grace, strength and a spirit of transformation.

To celebrate women is to honour their strength, uplift their voices, recognize their impact and appre-

ciate the quiet and visible efforts alike. Whether at the workplace or at home, in communities or classrooms, women are continually shaping a better, more equitable world. Their contributions, though often unseen and unspoken deserve recognition every day, but especially on this day.

This year's theme, *"For All Women*

**MARCH 2025 BRRR
NEWSLETTER**

IN THIS ISSUE

**AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
CONDUCTS MIDTERM REVIEW OF
LCTFP**

Page 3

**SURVIVING IN THE MIDST OF
CHALLENGES**

Page 4

**ENHANCING COMPLIANCE WITH
THE BUSINESS REGULATORY ACT**

Page 5



BRR Staff during the commemoration of the 2025 International Women's Day



2025 International Women's Day (from L – R) BRR Executive Director Mrs. Sharon C. K. Sichilongo, Personal Secretary Susan Phiri and Senior Public Relations Officer Masiye M. Mulenga.

and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment,” is a powerful reminder that no one should be left behind. It calls on us to champion inclusion, ensure equity, and support the empowerment of all women and girls, regardless of background or circumstance.

As is tradition, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRR) proudly participated in the 2025 commemorations, which featured a march-past from the University of Zambia to the Lusaka Showgrounds, the venue for the official celebration in Lusaka. The event was a vibrant reminder of the shared commitment to uplifting women and recognizing their crucial role in society.

This year's commemorations were



MCTI Permanent Secretary Trade and Commerce Mrs. Lillian S. Bwalya (second from right) being helped to cut the cake during the luncheon

extra special as there was a luncheon organized by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) graced by the Permanent

Secretary Trade and Commerce Mrs. Lillian S. Bwalya.



MCTI Permanent Secretary Trade and Commerce Mrs. Lillian S. Bwalya with Executive Directors from BRR (L) and ZCSA (R) and officials from MCTI

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CONDUCTS MIDTERM REVIEW OF LCTFP

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has conducted a comprehensive midterm review of the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project (LCTFP), being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI).

The review mission, which took place from 17th to 24th March 2025, aimed to assess the implementation of the project, highlight successes, identify bottlenecks and draw lessons that can inform the remaining phases of implementation.

A significant feature of the review was the direct engagement with project beneficiaries, particularly the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA). As part of this engagement, the AfDB delegation visited the Kitwe Regulatory Services Centre, located at Nchanga House in Kitwe, and the Solwezi Regulatory Services Centre, situated within the Solwezi Civic Centre.

During the site visits, Gerald Ajumbo, AfDB Task Manager and Head of Delegation, commended BRRA for the progress achieved under the project. He acknowledged the tangible improvements in service delivery at the two centres and announced the Bank's intention to provide additional support to enhance digitalisation efforts. Mr. Ajumbo also indicated that the AfDB plans to replicate the Regulatory Services Centre model in other areas to help streamline regulatory processes and improve access to business services.

Mr. David S. Banda, Director for Business Facilitation at BRRA, ex-



(L to R) LCTFP Project Coordinator Michael Nsunka, BRRA Director for Business Facilitation David S. Banda and Solwezi RSC PACRA Officer, Stanley Musemangeji.



The Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project review team after touring the Solwezi RSC

pressed gratitude to the AfDB for its continued support through the LCTFP. He highlighted that the project had enabled the refurbishment of the Kitwe and Solwezi Regulatory Services Centres and expanded the presence of regulatory agencies and public bodies providing services at these locations.

Mr. Banda further emphasized the importance of the anticipated digitalisation support, noting that enhanced service delivery would benefit the business community along the Lobito Corridor. He underscored the need for additional assistance to implement business process re-engineering, which would facilitate the establishment of both physical and virtual one-stop desks, ensuring inclusive dig-

ital transformation while leaving no one behind.

The AfDB review team comprised Task Manager Gerald Ajumbo, Transport Engineer Daniel Isooba, Finance Management Specialist Godfrey Kaijage, and Senior Procurement Specialist Hazel Mando Kashoki. The team was joined by officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, the Project Implementation Unit, BRRA and other key project beneficiaries.

The LCTFP is a strategic initiative aimed at boosting regional trade and economic integration through improved regulatory infrastructure and streamlined business processes along the Lobito Corridor, a key trade route in Southern Africa.

SURVIVING IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGES

Spotlight on Rosalina Mwanza, Founder of Baobab Swirls

In our March edition of the newsletter, we shine the spotlight on Rosalina Mwanza, the visionary founder of Baobab Swirls, a natural skincare brand making waves in Zambia and beyond.

Behind every business lies a story often rooted in personal struggles, a deep sense of purpose, or a desire to solve real-life problems. For Rosalina, it was no different. The journey to creating Baobab Swirls began with her own search for skincare products that were suitable for her skin. After many trials and frustrations, she decided to take matters into her own hands, setting out to create high-quality, all-natural soaps and skincare products. What started as a personal solution quickly blossomed into a thriving business based in Lusaka, offering carefully crafted, eco-conscious skincare solutions.

But has it all been smooth sailing? Not quite. Rosalina recalls the tedious process of registering her business in 2017. Back then, it required multiple visits to various regulatory agencies, each located in different parts of the city. The lack of integration made the process cumbersome and time-consuming. Fortunately, progress has been made in recent years with the streamlining of business registration processes and the integration of regulatory agencies, making it easier for entrepreneurs to formalize their businesses.



Founder of Baobab Swirls, Rosalina Mwanza

Reflecting on her journey, Rosalina encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to cast aside self-doubt, stay true to their vision, and persevere through challenges.

Despite these positive strides, Rosalina emphasizes that more needs to be done, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Many SMEs operate on thin margins and inconsistent cash flows

yet face heavy statutory obligations that are not always business friendly. She notes that regulatory fees must still be paid through multiple platforms, some of which are not user-friendly or consistent in their service delivery. Rosalina envisions a more centralized, single-payment portal that would significantly reduce the burden and improve compliance for entrepreneurs.



Some of the Baobab Swirls products

In addition to regulatory hurdles, load management and the rising cost of raw materials have impacted her production capacity. Yet, Rosalina remains undeterred. She believes that passion, resilience, and a strong commitment to sustainability are what keep her going, even when challenges seem insurmountable.

Rosalina's journey has also been shaped by valuable collaborations with institutions like the Zambia Development Agency and the Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business. Through their

support, she has accessed training, market opportunities and platforms to scale her business. One such opportunity was her participation in the 5th COMESA Federation of Women in Business Trade Fair and Business Conference, held in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2024.

Facilitated by the Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business and the United Nations Development Programme, Rosalina's participation in the conference gave her a chance to showcase Bab Swirls to an international au-

dience. The event brought together women entrepreneurs from all 21 COMESA Member States, fostering intra-regional trade, business linkages and the empowerment of women-led enterprises.

Reflecting on her journey, Rosalina encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to cast aside self-doubt, stay true to their vision, and persevere through challenges. "The road is never easy," she says, "but with courage, dedication, and the right support systems, success becomes not just possible, but inevitable."

ENHANCING COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUSINESS REGULATORY ACT

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) continues to play a critical role in strengthening regulatory governance by raising awareness about the importance of compliance with the Business Regulatory (BR) Act No. 3 of 2024, as amended by Act No. 14 of 2018.

Under the Business Regulatory (Amendment) Act, No. 14 of 2018, the Agency is mandated to approve regulatory frameworks in accordance with the Business Regulatory Act, 2014. It is also mandated to advise the Government on matters relating to business regulation and licensing, review a matter relating to business regulation or licensing on its own initiative or on a representation from a person or business.

To ensure that regulatory and pub-



BRRA Executive Director Mrs. Sharon Sichilongo



“She expressed gratitude to strategic partners and ‘gatekeepers’ such as the Ministry of Justice, who have been instrumental in reinforcing the legal framework by referring non-compliant agencies to BRRRA to ensure due process is followed prior to implementation of any laws or policies.”

lic bodies adhere to the provisions of the Act, BRRRA has undertaken extensive capacity-building initiatives either through its own programmes or in collaboration with the agencies concerned. These efforts are aimed at equipping institutions with the tools and knowledge required to conduct Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA), a key prerequisite before introducing or amending any laws, policies or regulations affecting the business environment.

BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo noted that there is growing compliance among regulatory agencies and public institutions. In the first quarter of the year, the BRRRA provided four technical support to Siavonga Town Council on



: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock being trained in Regulatory Impact Assessments

the Fish Levy, 2025, Health Professionals Council of Zambia for the Development of Regulations under the Health Professionals Act No. 17 of 2024, Ministry of Agriculture on the Revision of the Food Reserve Act, 2020, proposed Agriculture Marketing Bill and the revision of the Agriculture Credit Act, No. 35 of 2010 4 and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock on the Animal Health (Registration of Laboratories) Regulations, 2024.

Mrs. Sichilongo said training and

technical support ensure that regulatory frameworks conform to principles and interventions for licensing and categorization of licensing prescribed in the Business Regulatory Act, 2014. She expressed gratitude to strategic partners and ‘gatekeepers’ such as the Ministry of Justice, who have been instrumental in reinforcing the legal framework by referring non-compliant agencies to BRRRA to ensure due process is followed prior to implementation of any laws or policies.

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 eleventh function is to carry out, periodically, regulatory impact assessments on business regulation and licensing.

Writers

Masiye Mwanza Mulenga – Senior Public Relations Officer

Joel Mumba - Manager – Regulatory Services and Licensing Systems

**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.brra.org.zm/>**