



BUSINESS FOCUS

"PROMOTING A CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT"

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His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema touring the exhibition stands at IZIC



BRRA PARTICIPATES IN INAUGURAL IZIC

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) participated and exhibited at the inaugural Invest-Zambia International Conference (IZIC) that attracted over 2,000 delegates both local and foreign, with over 30 countries represented.

The conference which was organised by the Zambia Development Agency was held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre from Wednesday, 16th July to Friday, 18th July 2025. Held under the theme "Driving Generational Transformative Investments through Joint Ventures and Partnerships," the conference aimed to position Zambia as a key destination for sustainable investment and strategic partnerships.

During the official opening, His Excellency, President Hakainde Hichilema, underscored the Govern-

ment's commitment to fostering a stable and business-friendly environment. The President further extended a warm invitation to both local and international investors to explore the vast opportunities Zambia has to offer.

He emphasized the importance of leveraging platforms such as this conference to build lasting partnerships that deliver generational impact and shared prosperity.

**JULY 2025 BRRA
NEWSLETTER**

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During the closing ceremony, Zambia Development Agency Director General Albert Halwampa said IZIC resulted in a total of USD2.9 billion in deals and transactions.

Mr. Halwampa said the conference successfully held six main

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sessions and over nine side events and master classes, which brought so much value and knowledge to all delegates.

IZIC provided a platform for the BRRA to interact with different stakeholders who wanted to understand its mandate and the different reforms being spearheaded in order to promote a conducive business regulatory environment in the country.



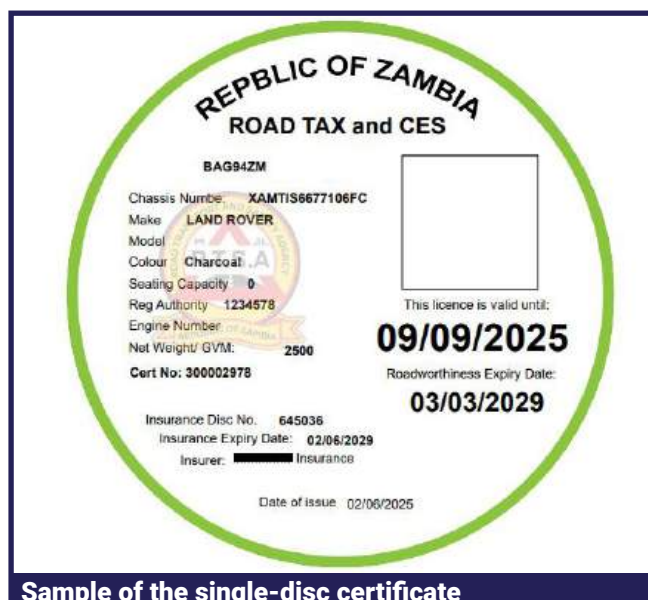
BRR Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu with BRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo during IZIC



Left BRR Director, Business Facilitation David S. Banda and Director, Legal and Board Secretary Dennis Kamfwa during IZIC

BRRA COMMENDS RTSA ON TRANSPORT REFORMS

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) has commended the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) for undertaking transport reforms which include the anniversary licensing system and the recently introduced single-disc road certificate.



Sample of the single-disc certificate

BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo said the innovations demonstrate RTSA's commitment to streamlining access to services, enhancing efficiency and lowering the cost of compliance for motorists and businesses.

Mrs Sichilongo noted that the anniversary licensing system, in

particular, has resulted in reduced congestion and administrative bottlenecks by spreading licensing renewals across the year in line with each vehicle's registration or anniversary date.

Furthermore, the introduction of the single-disc road certificate represents a landmark innovation in Zambia's regulatory environment. "By amalgamating road tax, vehicle fitness, and insurance into a single secure disc, RTSA has simplified compliance requirements, improved transparency and enhanced enforcement efficiency," she said.

Mrs. Sichilongo observed that the initiatives align directly with the BRRA's mandate of ensuring an

efficient, cost-effective and accessible business licensing system, as well as its mission and vision of promoting a conducive business regulatory environment.

This is achieved among other things by reducing the cost of doing business and eliminating bureaucratic redundancies through simplified, predictable and transparent processes.

While the anniversary licensing system is being implemented, the single-disc road certificate will come into effect on 1st September 2025.

The alignment between RTSA's reforms and BRRA's objectives demonstrates the impact of coordinated regulatory improvements in service delivery and fostering an enabling business climate. Mrs Sichilongo has commended RTSA for advancing transformative reforms in the transport sector that bring tangible benefits to citizens while advancing Zambia's broader economic objectives.

ZITF PROVIDES STRATEGIC PLATFORM FOR NETWORKING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Participation in the Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) offers a valuable platform for networking, collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

For the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA), the event presents a unique opportunity to connect with both local and international stakeholders, enabling the BRRA to gather critical feedback aimed at enhancing the implementation of its programmes.

During the 59th ZITF, held from 2nd to 8th July 2025 at the International Trade Fair Grounds in Ndola, the BRRA was also actively involved in various business-to-business (B2B) engagements. These interactive sessions fostered learning, knowledge exchange and strategic partnerships across sectors, further

contributing to the BRRA's mission of promoting a conducive business environment.

Speaking during the Fair, BRRA Executive Director, Sharon Sichilongo, highlighted that this year's theme, "Enhancing Business Resilience Through Innova-



Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga MP, interacting with BRRRA Executive Director, Sharon Sichilongo.



(L-R) BRRRA - Director Regulatory Affairs David F. Banda, Board Member Francis Chilunga, Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu, Senior Public Relations Officer, Masiye Mulenga and Manager - Licensing Systems and Regulatory Services, Joel Mumba.



(L-R) BRRRA - Manager - Licensing Systems and Regulatory Services, Joel Mumba, Senior Public Relations Officer, Masiye Mulenga, Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, Director Regulatory Affairs David F. Banda and Driver, James Manda.

tion and Trade,” aligns well with the Agency’s core mandate. Mrs. Sichilongo emphasized the BRRRA’s commitment to ensuring predictable, transparent and efficient regulatory and licensing systems, which are essential for fostering business growth, encouraging innovation and facilitating trade.

In line with the innovation-focused theme, Mrs. Sichilongo pointed to the management of the electronic Registry (e-Registry) a digital platform designed to streamline access to business

The portal offers comprehensive information, including the names and contact details of regulatory agencies, the required procedure for obtaining licenses, certificates, permits and authorizations, as well as the applicable fees.

licenses across various sectors in Zambia. “The portal offers comprehensive information, including the names and contact details of regulatory agencies, the required procedure for obtaining licenses, certificates, permits and

authorizations, as well as the applicable fees,” she explained.

Additionally, the e-Registry features a Notice and Comment portal, which serves as a tool for facilitating reform processes. Regulatory agencies and public bodies use this feature to gather stakeholder input, helping to design practical and inclusive regulatory solutions. The platform is also open to the public, ensuring transparency and encouraging wider participation in policy and regulatory development.

BREAKING DOWN THE BRRA MANDATE

Section 14 (1) of the Business Regulatory (Amendment) Act, 2018 mandates the Business Regulatory Review Agency to provide an efficient, cost-effective and accessible business licensing system.

The mandate enables the BRRA to focus on key regulatory practices aimed at creating a regulatory environment that minimises burdens on businesses. Therefore, in promoting business resilience through its mandate, the BRRA focuses on three key areas:

Efficiency means simplifying business registration and licensing procedures. The initial stage of achieving efficiency is identifying overlaps, redundancies and unnecessary licenses that can be streamlined or eliminated.

To achieve this, the BRRA is currently spearheading key reforms in the Construction sector, Tourism sector, Apiculture sector and working with the Ministry of Local government and Rural Development in order to streamline processes and procedures.

When it comes to Cost-Effectiveness, the Business Regulatory Act mandates the BRRA to coordinate the development and implementation of a Single Licensing System. This is an integrated licensing system that allows businesses to have one interface for multiple licenses and in the process reduces paperwork and the cost of doing business.

Currently, the BRRA is navigating the possibility of having an Omnibus License to reduce the number of separate licenses needed in specific sectors. Omnibus licensing allows for a single license to cover multiple activities or even jurisdictions or regulatory mandates. It entails streamlining of the licensing procedures by consolidating licenses, permits or authorizations under one license (a single document) rather than requiring separate ones for various specific activities.



The BRRA facilitates the development and implementation of regulatory reforms with the aim of increasing accessibility and delivery of regulatory services. This is achieved through the establishment of Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs), “one-stop-shop” approach for business licensing and regulatory services. Currently, seven RSCs have been established in the following locations: Chinsali, Chipata, Kabwe, Kitwe, Living-

stone, Lusaka and Solwezi.

In summary, the above provides a concise overview of the BRRA's core mandate. However, it is equally important to recognize the broader range of programmes and initiatives undertaken by the BRRA, all of which contribute significantly to fostering a more conducive and enabling business regulatory environment.



DID YOU KNOW? CORNER

DID YOU KNOW THAT

According to the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014, Section 4 (3) (a) micro, small and medium business enterprises shall be regulated in a manner that encourages growth and graduation from a lower business size to a higher one.

Writer

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