



The Minister of Green Economy and Environment Hon. Mike Mposha who was accompanied by Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Permanent Secretary - Commerce and Trade Lilian Bwalya took time to pose for a photograph with staff from the One Stop Shop..

## BRRA TO PROMOTE CLIMATE RESILIENT REGULATION

**The 97th edition of the Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show, held at the Lusaka Show Grounds from 30th July to 4th August 2025, took place under the theme "Adapting to Climate Change."**

**T**his theme aligned closely with the focus of the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA), which is committed to fostering a regulatory environment that supports sustainable development and climate resilience.

Speaking during the Show, BRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo emphasized that the BRRA was actively embedding climate resilience issues into its practices. Mrs. Sichilongo highlighted that BRRA was working to promote a green economy by reviewing and approving policies that support climate-resilient businesses and environmen-

tally sustainable practices.

Mrs. Sichilongo said the Agency was in support of reviewing and streamlining licensing for renewable energy and simplifying regulatory procedures for green businesses.

"As part of our mandate, we are promoting online systems for business regulation as a way of mainstreaming environmental issues into business regulatory practices.

E-platforms not only increase efficiency but also facilitate climate smart practices," she said.

During the Agricultural Show, BRRA showcased its initiatives

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**AUGUST 2025 BRRA NEWSLETTER**



BRRR Left to Right – Thelma Musonda - Senior Regulatory Impact Assessments Analyst, David S. Banda – Director Business Facilitation, Sharon Sichilongo – Executive Director, Charity Banda – Board Member, Masiye Mulenga – Senior Public Relations Officer and Douglas Phiri – Manager, Regulatory Impact Assessments.

aimed at adapting to climate change through regulatory streamlining. These efforts include encouraging green investments and supporting climate-smart innovations. The Agency's approach ensures that the regulatory landscape in Zambia is conducive to businesses that prioritize environmental sustainability.

BRRR's participation in the Agricultural Show provided a platform to engage stakeholders, raise awareness about ongoing regulatory reforms and underscore the importance of aligning business regulation with environmental and climate objectives.



BRRR staff Thelma Musonda - Senior Regulatory Impact Assessments Analyst interacting with judges during the Agricultural Show.

# A CALL TO BUSINESSES: REPORT REGULATORY CHALLENGES

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRR) regularly monitors the regulatory environment to ensure it remains conducive to business growth across the country.**

**D**uring a recent monitoring visit in Lusaka, a stakeholder raised a concern regarding the classification of student accommodation. Specifically, they questioned why boarding houses are charged the same rates as hotels and lodges by local authorities, despite operating under very different conditions. They noted that the licensing and certification requirements for such establishments are

disproportionately high and suggested aligning these rates with those for residential properties.

Another small business owner who runs a school complained about rates for her premises in Lusaka being hiked from K3,097 for the period July to December 2024 to K11,264 for January to June 2025.

BRRR recognizes that business-

es across all sectors face various challenges, including unclear regulatory procedures, redundant compliance requirements, delays in licensing and approvals.

The Agency is keenly following stakeholder consultations currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in preparation for the review of the Rating Act.



# BRRA URGES SUPPORTIVE REGULATION TO BOOST GROWTH OF MSMEs



Credit: Caritas Czech Republic in Zambia: An SME from western Province

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting a regulatory environment that supports the growth and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in line with the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014.**

**A**ccording to Section 4(3) (a) of the Act, MSMEs shall be “regulated in a manner that encourages growth and graduation from a lower business size to a higher one.” This legal provision underscores the critical role that supportive and streamlined regulations play in enabling smaller businesses to scale up and contribute more meaningfully to Zambia’s economy.

Speaking on the importance of this mandate, BRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo said the Agency remains focused on ensuring that regulatory frameworks are not only clear and predictable but also proportionate to the size and capacity of enterprises.

“MSMEs are the backbone of Zambia’s economy, providing employment, driving innovation and contributing to local development. As such, our regulatory systems must empower them to grow rather than stifle their potential,” Mrs. Sichilongo stated.

She added that BRRA is actively identifying areas where unnecessary complexity or costs may be impeding MSME growth. The aim, she said, is to create a business environment where entrepreneurs are not burdened by disproportionate compliance obligations.

Mrs. Sichilongo emphasised that the BRRA was working closely with other stakeholders, including government ministries, regulatory

agencies, local authorities and business associations, to ensure that the legal and regulatory landscape in Zambia evolves in a way that supports business development and economic transformation.

She stressed that fostering MSME graduation from micro to small and from small to medium and large enterprises requires not only access to finance and markets but also a conducive regulatory framework that incentivizes compliance and growth.

As Zambia continues to pursue economic diversification and private sector-led development, the role of BRRA in aligning regulatory policies with the needs of MSMEs remains more crucial than ever.

# DID YOU KNOW? CORNER

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

**A public body shall only submit to Cabinet for approval a policy or proposed law to regulate business activity if the policy or proposed law has the prior approval of the Business Regulatory Review Agency.**

**Writer**

**Masiye Mwanza Mulenga – Senior Public Relations Officer**

**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](mailto:info@brra.org.zm)  
<http://www.brra.org.zm/>**