



His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema took time to pose for photos at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) One Stop Shop during the Muchinga Expo.

BRRA SHOWCASES REGULATORY SERVICES AT THE MUCHINGA INVESTMENT FORUM AND EXPO

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) was among the key exhibitors at the inaugural Muchinga Investment Forum and Expo, which took place from 15th to 19th September 2025 in Chinsali, Muchinga Province.

The event was held under the theme, *"Promoting Investment for a Green and Healthy Environment through Sustainable Development."*

The Muchinga Investment Forum and Expo served as a strategic platform for showcasing the province's vast investment opportunities across sectors such as agriculture, tourism, forestry, energy, and manufacturing. It attracted different stakeholders including government institutions, private investors, small and medium enterprises and development partners, all eager to explore partnerships

that can drive sustainable regional growth.

The BRRA took advantage of the exhibition to highlight its mandate in spearheading regulatory reforms and promoting an enabling environment for business growth in Zambia. The Expo's close proximity to the Chinsali Regulatory Services Centre (RSC) proved beneficial as the exhibiting team used the platform to promote the Chinsali RSC's services and encour-

aged visitors to tour the facility to better understand the range of ser-

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services offered, including business registration facilitation, licensing support, and information on compliance requirements. This approach not only increased awareness about the RSC's role but also strengthened its visibility within

the local community.

The Muchinga Investment Forum and Expo marked a significant milestone for the province as it seeks to position itself as a new frontier for investment. For BRRA,

it was yet another opportunity to interact directly with stakeholders, share knowledge on regulatory reforms, and build partnerships that will contribute to Zambia's broader agenda of sustainable economic transformation.



BRR Senior Public Relations Officer Masiye Mulenga interacting with MCTI Chief Economist Mr. Derrick Sikombe.



(Second from the front) BRR Director for Business Facilitation Mr. David S. Banda attending one of the Business-to-Business seminars during the Muchinga Expo.

MANAGING REGULATORY OVERLAPS IN FISH IMPORTATION



BRRR engagement with stakeholders in Luangwa District

As a member of the National Trade Facilitation Steering Committee, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRR), continues to play a key role in identifying and addressing regulatory bottlenecks that hinder trade.

During one of the Committee's sittings, concerns were raised over the introduction of fish import levies by the Luangwa and Chirundu Town Councils. In response, the BRRR conducted a monitoring visit to Luangwa District to assess the situation on the ground.

The assessment revealed regulatory overlaps involving three institutions. The Luangwa Town Council imposes a fish levy on both locally sourced and imported fish, while the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) collects import taxes and the Department of Fisheries issues additional fish import permits.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that, although the Department of Fisheries has been

Luangwa's strategic role in Zambia's fish trade means that any regulatory inconsistencies have far-reaching implications

devolved to the Council under the National Decentralisation Policy, it continues to collect certain fees independently. This has resulted in duplication of charges and inconsistent application of regulations.

The BRRR noted that such overlapping fees pose significant challenges to trade facilitation and regulatory coherence, while also increasing the overall cost of doing business.

During the engagement in Luangwa, BRRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo highlighted that Luangwa's strategic role in Zambia's

fish trade means that any regulatory inconsistencies have far-reaching implications. Mrs. Sichilongo expressed concern over the cumulative impact of multiple fees and emphasized that reforms will be recommended to ensure that all charges are legally grounded, transparent, proportionate, and harmonized. She further stressed the importance of streamlining procedures to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and promote an enabling trade environment.

Following the engagement, and in recognition of the devolution of the Department of Fisheries to the Council, the Luangwa Town Council indicated that the harmonisation process had already commenced. This process aims to



Stakeholders for the Luangwa engagement

reduce duplication and address regulatory overlaps affecting fish traders and other stakeholders. The Council's commitment aligns with the objectives of the National Trade Facilitation Committee,

which seeks to enhance regulatory consistency, promote trade and foster business growth.

Stakeholders who participated in the engagement included the

Luangwa District Commissioner, representatives from the Luangwa Town Council, the Zambia Revenue Authority, the Cross-Border Traders Association and the Luangwa Traders and Buses Cooperative.

ENTREPRENEURS ENCOURAGED TO FORMALIZE THEIR BUSINESSES

Support from cooperating partners continues to play a key role in enabling institutions such as the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) to implement core programmes and activities that advance regulatory reform and business facilitation.

One such activity took place recently when the Agency conducted awareness and sensitisation workshops for both public and private sector stakeholders on the role of One Stop Shops for business registration and facilitation, also known as Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs).

With support from the Lobito Corridor Trade Facilitation Project implemented by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

and funded by the African Development Bank the BRRA successfully held a series of awareness activities in Kitwe and Solwezi.

The workshops aimed to sensitise and create awareness among entrepreneurs, government departments, and business associations about the services available in RSCs, while encouraging the formalisation of businesses to increase participation of local enterprises in value chains along the

Lobito Corridor, which connects Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia.

Speaking during the official opening of the workshop in Kitwe, BRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo underscored the Agency's role as a key driver of regulatory reform and business environment improvement in Zambia. Mrs. Sichilongo highlighted that one of the Agency's major milestones has been the establishment



Stakeholder engagement in Kitwe

and rollout of Regulatory Services Centres across the country, which bring multiple regulatory institutions under one roof.

She explained that the RSCs have proven instrumental in simplifying business registration, improving access to regulatory services, and reducing the cost of doing business, thereby advancing Government's vision of a more efficient, transparent and inclusive regulatory environment.

In Solwezi, Mrs. Sichilongo noted that since the launch of the Solwezi RSC, about 4,000 businesses have



Stakeholders that attended the Kitwe engagement



BRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo touring the Kitwe RSC accompanied by Director for Business Facilitation David S. Banda (on her right) and Manager, Regulatory Services and Licensing System Joel Mumba (on her left).



Stakeholder engagement in Solwezi



Stakeholders that attended the Solwezi engagement

formalised their operations, a clear reflection of Government's commitment to reducing informality and supporting enterprise growth. She added that the establishment of RSCs has led to faster registration processes, reduced duplication of information requests, improved access to regulatory services and enhanced investor confidence in regions such as Kitwe and Solwezi.

During his presentation at the workshops, BRRRA Director for Business Facilitation, Mr. David S.

Banda, highlighted that the primary beneficiaries of the Lobito Corridor initiatives include Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women and youth-owned enterprises, agribusiness operators, investors and local communities.

In addition to the workshops, the BRRRA had radio programmes and conducted roadshows across the Copperbelt and North-Western Provinces, urging the business community to take full advantage of RSCs to access regulatory services

more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Stakeholders included the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, local authorities, regulatory agencies, public institutions and the private sector in the Copperbelt and North Western Provinces.

These engagements are part of the Agency's broader effort to promote business formalisation, strengthen compliance, and contribute to Zambia's ongoing economic transformation.

BRRA ENGAGES MANUFACTURERS AT THE ZAMBIA ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS EXHIBITION

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) joined a wide array of industry players at the Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) Exhibition, held from 5th to 6th September 2025 at Manda Hill in Lusaka.

The event formed part of the activities commemorating ZAM's 40th Anniversary, celebrating four decades of promoting industrial growth and competitiveness in Zambia.

The two-day exhibition attracted a broad range of manufacturers from diverse sectors including food processing, textiles, construction materials, packaging, and agro processing. It served as a showcase of Zambia's growing manufacturing potential and innovation, while also providing an opportunity for dialogue among key stakeholders in the country's industrial landscape.

As part of its continued collaboration with ZAM, the BRRA participated in the exhibition to raise awareness about its mandate, highlight ongoing regulatory reforms, and share information on programmes aimed at improving the ease of doing business.

Through direct engagement with exhibitors and visitors, the BRRA team used the platform to receive feedback from industry players on existing regulatory challenges and to identify opportunities for further collaboration in shaping a more efficient and predictable business environment.

Participation in the ZAM Exhibition further strengthened BRRA's relationship with the manufacturing sector and reaffirmed its role



BRRA staff engaging with a visitor at the ZAM exhibition



Some of the Manufacturers that exhibited at the ZAM exhibition at Manda Hill

as a partner in driving Zambia's economic transformation through

effective regulation and stakeholder engagement.

DID YOU KNOW? CORNER

DID YOU KNOW THAT

According to the Business Regulatory (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 2018, Section 31 (1) A person or public body aggrieved with a decision of the Agency may appeal to the Minister against the decision within thirty days of the decision

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