



Muchinga Province Assistant Secretary Brian Sichande officially launching the Chinsali RSC on behalf of Minister of Commerce Trade and Industry as BRR Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu looks on.



## LAUNCH OF CHINSALI RSC: A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

**The Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Honourable Chipoka Mulenga MP, has described the launch of the Chinsali Regulatory Services Centre (RSC) as a milestone that will bring essential government services closer to the business community in the province.**

**A** Regulatory Services Centre serves as a one-stop shop, housing multiple regulatory services and bodies under one roof.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Muchinga Province Assistant Secretary Brian Sichande, Hon. Mulenga emphasized that the Chinsali RSC is aimed at enhancing the business environment by providing regulatory support and

expert guidance on navigating complex legal and regulatory requirements.

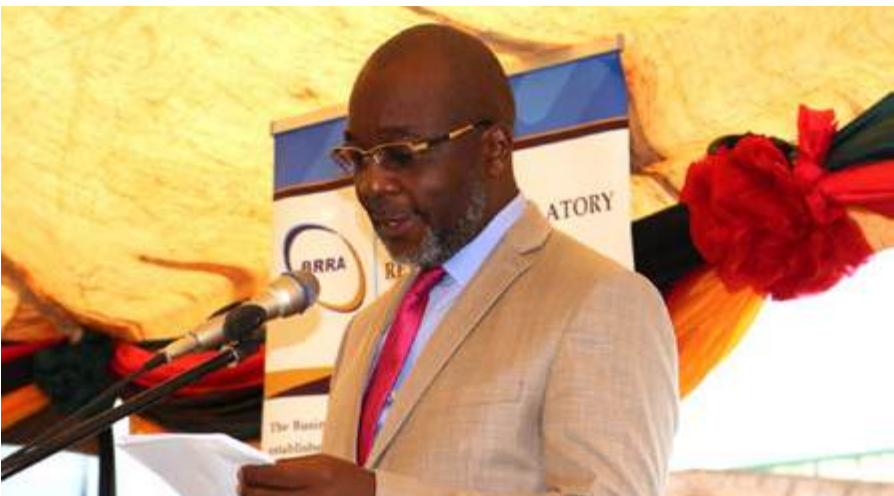
The Minister reiterated the Ministry’s commitment to fostering a business-friendly regulatory environment to support economic diversification. This commitment

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Muchinga Province Assistant Secretary Brian Sichande delivering the Minister's speech while Chinsali Deputy Mayor Alex Sinyangwe looks on.



BARRA Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu giving his remarks

is reflected in ongoing efforts to review business regulations, streamline registration processes and enhance collaboration among regulatory agencies to reduce the cost of doing business in Zambia.

Chinsali Mayor, Lucy Mukuka, not-

ed that the establishment of the RSC marks an opportunity to create and sustain a conducive business regulatory environment in the district.

In a speech delivered by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alex Sinyan-

gwe, the Mayor urged the public and business community to take full advantage of the newly established Centre.

Speaking at the same event, Business Regulatory Review Agency (BARRA) Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu highlighted the significance of the launch in advancing business reforms. He acknowledged government's prioritization of the private sector as a key driver of economic growth and the critical role of a favourable regulatory environment in enabling private sector growth.

Mr. Kapalu noted that the enactment of the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014 demonstrates government's commitment to providing a legal framework for business regulation. The establishment of RSCs, he added, reflects dedication to improving the business regulatory environment and the investment climate.

The Chinsali RSC, officially launched on December 4, 2024, becomes the seventh Centre in the country, joining those in Lusaka, Kitwe, Livingstone, Kabwe, Chipata and Solwezi.

The Chinsali RSC is currently offering services provided by the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development under the Department of Cooperatives, the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) and Chinsali Municipal Council.



(Left to right) BARRA Board Vice-Chairperson Livresage Hanene, BARRA Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu, BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo, MCTI Director Technical Regulations Brian Moonga and BARRA Director Business Facilitation David Simon Banda ahead of the launch of the RSC.



# BARRA, WORLD BANK COLLABORATE ON RIA CAPACITY BUILDING

**The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BARRA), in partnership with the World Bank, has emphasized the critical role of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) in developing effective regulatory frameworks.**

**R** IAs enhance the quality and efficiency of regulations, streamlining regulatory requirements and improving the business environment, as outlined under the Business Regulatory Act No. 3 of 2014. Section 6 of the Act mandates public bodies to conduct RIAs when proposing or reviewing policies or laws that regulate business activities.

This initiative was highlighted during a capacity-building training on RIAs for regulatory agencies. BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo underscored the importance of the World Bank's support in enhancing regulatory frameworks.

Mrs. Sichilongo described the World Bank as a steadfast partner in helping BARRA fulfill its mandate. She encouraged participants to take the training seriously, em-



(Left to right) Senior Expert in Regulatory Reform Delia Rodrigo, BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo and BARRA Manager, RIA Douglas Phiri.



Participants during the RIA capacity building.

phasizing its significance in shaping effective policies and laws.

Delia Rodrigo, Senior Expert in Regulatory Reform and the training's lead facilitator, lauded Zambia as one of Africa's leading countries in adopting RIAs for regulatory development. She urged regu-

latory bodies to actively engage in conducting RIAs, noting that they have deeper institutional insights compared to external consultants often hired for such tasks.

Ms. Rodrigo expressed happiness with the commitment exhibited by participants during the training. Participants also expressed satisfaction with the hands-on nature of the training, which was conducted by an experienced practitioner in regulatory reforms.

Among the regulatory agencies represented at the training were the Bank of Zambia, Chongwe Municipal Council, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Energy Regulation Board, Independent Broadcasting Authority, Pensions and Insurance Authority and Radiation Protection Authority.



Participants during the plenary sessions

# RISK MANAGEMENT FOCAL POINT OFFICERS URGED TO EMBRACE THEIR ROLES SERIOUSLY

**Risk Management Focal Point Officers at the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) have undergone training in Risk Management conducted by the Institute of Risk Management Zambia (IRMZA).**

The training was aimed at equipping them with skills necessary to effectively identify, address and report potential risks within the organisation.

BRRRA Director Business Facilitation, David Simon Banda, emphasized that the training was crucial not only for the Risk Management Focal Point Officers but also for the Agency. He noted that it enhances the Agency's ability to achieve its objectives while minimizing potential disruptions.

Mr. Banda urged the Risk Management Focal Point Officers to take their roles seriously, stressing their responsibility to ensure consistent application of risk management practices across all departments and units, thereby reducing gaps and inconsistencies.

Speaking at the close of the training, IRMZA Executive Director, Francis Ziba, highlighted the importance of the Risk Management Focal Point Officers' role, noting government's commitment to risk management. He commended BRRRA management for engaging IRMZA to deliver the training and challenged the participants to apply their newly acquired skills effectively.

Risk Management Focal Point Officers are key individuals within an organization who advocate for, promote and support effective risk management practices. They play a vital role in fostering a risk-aware culture and ensuring that risk management processes are seamlessly integrated into both strategic and operational activities.

By training the Risk Management Focal Point Officers, BRRRA is building internal capacity, reducing

reliance on external consultants and embedding risk management expertise within the organization.

The training was held at the BRRRA offices in Lusaka.



BRRRA Director, Business Facilitation David Simon Banda



IRMZA Executive Director Francis Ziba



BRRRA Risk Management Focal Point Officers during the training.



BRRRA Risk Management Focal Point Officers with IRMZA Executive Director Francis Ziba (fourth from left) after the training.



# MCTI, PARTNERS ENGAGE MUMBWA DURING 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV

Zambia joined the global community in commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), an annual international campaign aimed at raising awareness and inspiring action to end GBV.



Officers from MCTI, statutory bodies under MCTI and Legal Aid Clinic for Women during the engagement in Mumbwa.

Activities during this period encourage collective efforts worldwide to create a world free from discrimination and abuse.

As part of these commemorations, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), in collaboration with its statutory bodies and the Legal Aid Clinic for Women, conducted a sensitisation engagement in Mumbwa District on December 10, 2024.

Recognising the vital role of community involvement in addressing GBV's root causes, the engagement targeted farmers, clubs, cooperatives, and the business community

in Mumbwa District.

During the event, MCTI and its partners cautioned participants against GBV cases linked to financial and non-financial independence. The statutory bodies highlighted business opportunities, the importance of formalisation and adherence to business regulations, while the Legal Aid Clinic for Women focused on identifying various forms of GBV, strategies for addressing them and reporting mechanisms.

Institutions present at the engagement included the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRR), Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), Legal

Aid Clinic for Women, Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project (ZATP), Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS), Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) and Zambia Development Agency (ZDA).

GBV remains a global challenge, often rooted in systemic inequalities and cultural norms. Governments, non-governmental organisations and civil society groups worldwide observe the 16 Days of Activism annually to drive collective action against GBV.

This year's commemorations were held under the theme: "Towards Beijing +30: UNITE to End Violence Against Women and Girls."



Participants during the engagement in Mumbwa

# 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 eighth function is to Monitor and report on the activities of regulatory agencies related to business regulation, quality control and compliance with this Act.**

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