



ENERGY SINGLE LICENSING SYSTEM ELATES BRR

THE Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRR) has welcomed the introduction of the Energy Single Licensing System (ESLS) which will reduce the cost of doing business in the sector.

BRR Director for Business Facilitation and Engagement, David S. Banda, said the ESLS will facilitate compliance with multiple licensing requirements by multiple regulatory bodies in the energy sector through a single regulatory point.

Mr. Banda said the introduction of the ESLS aligns with the Agency’s mandate of coordinating the implementation of a Single Licensing System for each sector or subsector of the economy.

The Energy Single Licensing System was launched by Ministry of Energy Permanent Secretary for Administration, Dr. Chisangano Francesca Zyambo, on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Ener-



Ministry of Energy Permanent Secretary – Administration, Dr. Chisangano Zyambo

gy Eng. Peter C. Kapala.

During the launch, Dr. Zyambo said the system will enhance private sector investments in the energy sector and promote socio-economic development in the country as envisioned in the Vision 2030.

The system will reduce duplications, improve response times and enhance coordination among agencies, thereby reducing the period appli-

cants take to obtain licenses and permits for power development.

The ESLS was developed by the Copperbelt University with support from the EU Increased Access to Electricity and Renewable Energy Production (IAEREP) programme.

BARRA SPEARHEADS REGULATORY REFORMS IN SELECTED SECTORS

THE Business Regulatory Review Agency (BARRA) continues to drive regulatory reforms in selected sectors to improve the business regulatory environment and foster investment and business growth. The Agency's mandate is to ensure an efficient, cost-effective and accessible business licensing system.

BARRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo stated that the BARRA has been actively engaging with regulators, policy-makers and the private sector to harmonize laws, eliminate redundancies and abolish unnecessary licenses.

These efforts aim to create a conducive environment for business operations.

Mrs. Sichilongo emphasized that advancing regulatory reforms will not only align with key government priorities but also enable business enterprises to grow, create employment and generate wealth for the nation.

She noted that the Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, has recently held discussions with various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Local Government and Rural



Development, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure and Urban Development and Ministry of Finance and National Planning to address regulatory issues and propose reforms.

One significant recommendation to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development was the merger of the business levy, fire certificate and health permit to reduce the number of licenses and associated compliance costs.

Additionally, the Agency has proposed eliminating multiple levies imposed by different districts on the same consignment traversing the country.

BARRA has also engaged with the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment and the Department of Forestry recommending revisions to the Forest (Amendment) (Forest Produce) Fees Regulations No. 52 of 2013. These recommendations aim to establish fees acceptable to both the private sector and the Government.

The recommendations to the Department of Forestry include submissions from Zambia Apiculture Trade Association (ZAPITRADE) who have complained that multiple charges on the same quantities of honey and high processing fees undermine the industry's viability.

The engagement with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Urban Development focused on finding a solution to the duplication in the registration of contractors between the Engineering Institute of Zambia and the National Council for Construction.

The Executive Director stated that most of these engagements had reached an advanced stage and would yield positive benefits for the private sector.

She said the selection of sectors and subsectors under discussion was informed by challenges in business regulation highlighted by private sector players including the burden of multiple and duplicative licenses on enterprises.



MCTI Director of Planning and Information Edwin Zimba (fourth from left) BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo (fifth from left) Team Leader - DAI EU Technical Assistance for Business Environment Dr. Argent Chuula (sixth from left) with other MCTI officers, the EU Project team and BRRRA Management and staff.

EU SUPPORTS BRRRA ON REGULATORY REFORMS

The Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) has received support from the European Union (EU) through the Inclusive Regulatory Environment Conducive to Business and Investment in Zambia project.

The project, part of the Economic Governance Support Programme funded by the EU under the 11th European Development Fund, aims to contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation in Zambia. The three-year project, worth Four Million Euros, will strengthen BRRRA's capacity to monitor and maintain a conducive business regulatory environment and eliminate unprogressive business prac-

tices.

Team Leader, DAI EU Technical Assistance for Business Environment Argent Chuula said BRRRA, the lead Agency under the project would be guided by three principles: responsibility, authority and accountability.

Dr. Chuula added that while the initial stages of the project were in motion, full implementation would commence in September 2024.

BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo said the EU project's support was timely and would enable the Agency to meet some of its objectives at a time when there was immense pressure to reduce the cost of doing business in the

country. She also noted that support should be extended to provide capacity building for the BRRRA team to enable it to work efficiently and effectively.

The project would also benefit other statutory bodies under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and other Ministries like the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.

This came to light during an introductory meeting at the BRRRA offices attended by Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Director Planning and Information Edwin Zimba, other MCTI officers, the EU EGSP Project team and BRRRA Management and staff.

APSD: OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOUR PUBLIC SERVICE

AFRICA Public Service Day presents an opportunity to recognize and honour the contribution of the public service to the nation and the continent as a whole.

Speaking during the Public Service Day commemorations in Lusaka, Vice President Mrs. W. K. Mutale Nalumango said this is a day to pay special tribute to public service workers for their resilience in providing services to the communities they serve.

Mrs. Nalumango said this year's theme, "Empowering a citizen-centric public service for an inclusive and thriving 21st century Africa: a journey of lifelong learning and technological transformation," reminds the government of the need to embrace emerging technologies for enhanced socio-economic development in the 21st century.

In line with the Public Service Day theme, the Agency has focused on how it is leveraging technology in providing services to its stakeholders such as the Notice and Comment portal, the e-Registry and the One Stop Shop Integration System.

The Notice and Comment portal is an online consultation platform for business regulations accessible for use by public bodies and regulatory agencies. The Agency uses the portal to publicise regulatory proposals in order to promote stakeholder consultations in the process of developing policies and laws that impact on business.

The Notice and Comment platform enables citizens and businesses to interact with regulatory agencies and public bodies in the process of formulating regulatory interventions.

The e-Registry is a centralized database and online transaction platform holding information on licenses, permits, certificates, authorizations and regulations, including the formalities businesses must comply with and capable of facilitating the processing of applications online.

The One Stop Shop Integration System



Deputy Secretary to Cabinet - Administration Dr. Oliver Kalabo engaging with BRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo while MCTI Director HR Nalituba Mwale looks on



Vice President Mrs W. K. Mutale Nalumango toured the MCTI One Stop Shop

(OSSIS), used in the Regulatory Services Centre, is an e-Governance intervention leveraging Information and Communications Technology to enhance business regulation by integrating back-office systems of various Regulatory Agencies to facilitate information sharing and business registration through a single point.

These online systems have been integrated into the activities and programmes of the Agency to embrace dig-



BRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo with PRO Masiye Mulenga (on the left) and Senior RIA Analyst Thelma Musonda (on the right)

ital transformation in easing regulation of business.

The Africa Public Service Day was characterised by exhibitions from 20th June to 23rd June, 2024 by public service institutions at East Park Mall.

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR UNDER SPOTLIGHT

As one of the fastest-growing sectors in the country, the construction sector has faced challenges regarding its regulation due to bureaucratic, cumbersome and multiple regulatory frameworks that negatively affect the sector.

In response to these concerns, the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) held an engagement meeting with various players in the construction sector.

During the engagements, BRRRA Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo noted that business enterprises have continued to express concern with the way the construction sector is regulated adding that bottlenecks have hindered the smooth operation of business activities and transactions.

Mrs Sichilongo further noted that while regulators in the construction sector have provided online platforms for ease of doing business, many



BRRRA Management (left to right) Manager – RIA Douglas Phiri, Director – RA David F. Banda, Executive Director – Sharon Sichilongo during the construction sector engagement

players face challenges utilizing these platforms, hence the need for physical presence in most provinces to enhance visibility and accessibility of regulatory services.

She called on regulators in the sector to utilize the Regulatory Services Centres established by BRRRA in Chinsali, Chipata, Kabwe, Kitwe, Livingstone, Lusaka and Solwezi.

During the engagement, stakeholders recommended that professionals such as Engineers, Architects and Quantity Surveyors should be the only ones to be licensed by the Engineering Institute of Zambia (EIZ) while contractors should be licensed by the National Council for Construction (NCC). Stakeholders further recom-

mended that the duo registration should be stopped in order to reduce the cost of doing business in the sector.

The engagement meeting held in Lusaka, aimed to obtain submissions from stakeholders on regulations in the sector and provide recommendations on what the Government should do to improve the situation.



Stakeholders during the construction sector engagement



Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon. Elias Mubanga (right) and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga (second from right) interacting with the BRR Executive Director Sharon Sichilongo

BRR EXHIBITS AT 58TH ZITF

THE Business Regulatory Review Agency exhibited at the 58th Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola. The ZITF which brought together local and foreign exhibitors provided a platform for the Agency to interact with different show-goers.

The 2024 theme, “Unlocking Economic Potential Through Collaboration and Partnerships,” resonated well with the Agency given the numerous partnerships it has entered into with regulatory agencies and public bodies such as the Patents and Companies Registration Agency and the Private and Public Dialogue Forum.

Among the visitors to the stand were the Minister of Commerce, Trade and

Industry, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga and the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon. Elias Mubanga.

Hon. Mubanga expressed concern over the many business licenses that businesses especially small ones, must comply with. Meanwhile, Hon. Mulenga assured his counterpart that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry had received a report on licensing reforms from the BRR, which the Ministry was reviewing.

On the sidelines of the ZITF, the BRR Board Chairperson Mr. Dominic Kapalu, participated in the business forum centred on “unlocking opportunities and

addressing challenges in the Lobito Corridor for sustainable trade development.”

Mr. Kapalu explained the importance of the Lobito Corridor and its potential to contribute to trade and development. He also highlighted interventions that the Agency was putting in place to create a conducive business environment along the Lobito Corridor, including operating Regulatory Services Centres in Kitwe and Solwezi.

The Agency exhibited at the ZITF under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry together with other statutory bodies under the Ministry from 26th June to 2nd July, 2024.



Director - BFE David S. Banda with Grade 11 pupils from Rass Secondary School



Panelists during the Business Forum (left to right) BRR Board Chairperson Dominic Kapalu, Societe Nationale d'Assurance (Sonas) Head of Agency Michel Mukengere Enama and British Shipping Managing Director Chris Chipimo

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 second function is to “advise Government on matters relating to business regulation and licensing.”

Contributors

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