



PACRA BULLETIN

PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

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PACRA LAUNCHES PROJECT TO DEVELOP NEXT GEN. BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP AND BUSINESS REGISTER



PACRA working with Open Ownership and GIZ Good Governance project in January launched a three-year project of developing the Next Generation Business and Beneficial Ownership Register.

Minister of Tourism Hon. Rodney Sikumba graced the event and commended PACRA for providing strong leadership on this important reform, and for embedding it firmly within national priorities.

Mr. Sikumba also thanked Open Ownership for offering technical support and GIZ for financing the first phase of the three-year programme. He stated that

the reform speaks directly to President Hakainde Hichilema’s vision, by digitising how companies are registered, how ownership is disclosed, and how institutions work together.

The Minister noted that a modern, credible, and interoperable business register is not a technical luxury but a strategic public good.

And PACRA Board Chairperson Mr. Allan Mwaba stated that the move reflects the country’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and a modern business environment that inspires confidence. He said since the enactment of the com-

panies act of 2017, Zambia has taken deliberate steps to strengthen beneficial ownership transparency. Mr. Mwaba observed that by 2024, only 38% of companies had submitted beneficial ownership information a reflection of low compliance levels which the project aims to address.

Meanwhile Smart Zambia Institute National Coordinator Percy Chinyama, said a credible digital economy cannot exist without trusted foundational systems.

Mr. Chinyama said a business register is one such system as it sits at the intersection of commerce, regulation, service delivery, and enforcement. **PB**

GHANAIAN TECH MINISTER ELATED WITH PACRA’S DIGITAL DRIVE.



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PACRA VISITS UGANDA FOR BENCHMARKING ON IP REGISTRATION



A delegation from PACRA in March undertook a three days benchmarking exercise at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) to understand how its Intellectual Property Registry system operates.

The benchmarking was also aimed at learning how the URSB's digital improvements have been implemented over time and how reforms have contributed to reduced turnaround times.

The benchmarking is part of PACRA's continued efforts to improve IP registration services.

The PACRA delegation comprising staff from the Intellectual Property and ICT departments led by Deputy Registrar – Intellectual Property Mr. Chewe Chilufya also joined the URSB in its celebrations following the attainment of the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) Certification, marking a significant milestone in its journey toward institutional excellence, efficiency, and

enhanced service delivery.

The celebrations, held at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre (UBFC) Auditorium in Kampala, brought together government officials, stakeholders from diverse entities, members of the Board, management, and staff to commemorate the Bureau's commitment to internationally recognized quality standards.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Theopista Mary Wenene, Deputy Head of Public Service and Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, commended URSB for its remarkable transformation and dedication to performance excellence.

"URSB stands out as a perfect example of a government agency that has embraced transformation through systems, accountability, and results-oriented management. The achievement is proof of strategic strengthening of standards. It is a statement of commitment to efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centred service delivery," she said.



And URSB Chairperson Francis K. Butagira, underscored the Board's deliberate role in strengthening governance and institutional standards.

"As a Board, we intentionally supported the institutionalization of quality management standards to enhance service delivery. We recognized early that sustainable excellence requires structured systems, clear processes, and measurable outcomes. This certification affirms that URSB is on the right path," he noted.

Speaking at the event, the Registrar General of URSB, Mercy K. Kainobwiso,

reaffirmed the Bureau's unwavering commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

ISO 9001:2015 is the world's leading standard for quality management systems, focusing on customer satisfaction, process efficiency, risk-based thinking, and continual improvement.

URSB's certification reflects its strategic focus on strengthening governance, enhancing operational efficiency, and improving the overall client experience in business registration and intellectual property services. PB

PACRA ENGAGES 150 SMES ON BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE



PACRA engaged about 150 Small and Medium Business Enterprises (SMEs) in Lusaka under the Access Bank Zambia's SME Business Club Masterclass.

The Masterclass saw SMEs take part in sessions which focused on practical solutions to support SME growth, improving access to financing, sharing business insights, and strengthening market linkages.

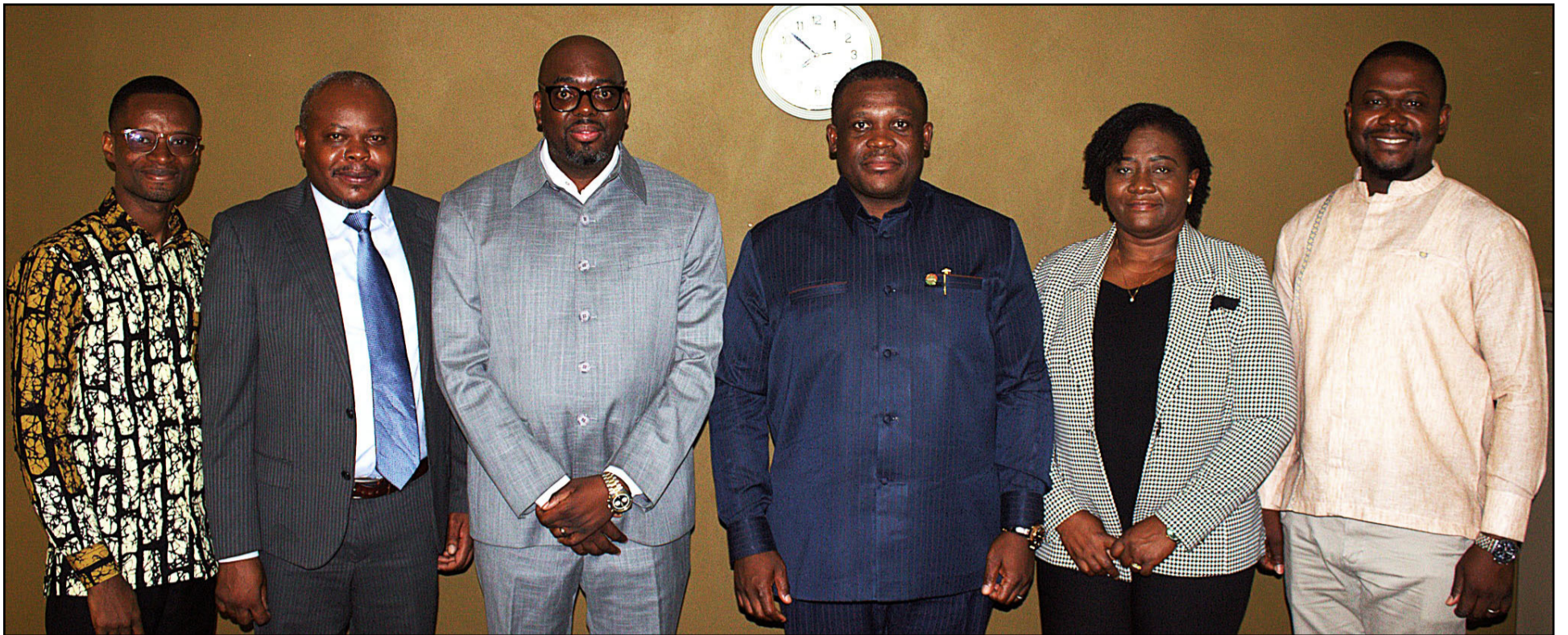
The program was themed: "From small to strong: Accelerating sustainable SME growth through business linkages and access to finance."

PACRA was represented by Senior Registration Officer Frank Muchanga whose presentation focused on business registration and post-incorporation requirements.

Mr. Muchanga delved into benefits of registering a business, being compliant through filing of annual returns and how to make necessary amends to business records among others. PB



GHANAIAN TECH MINISTER ELATED WITH PACRA'S DIGITAL DRIVE.



GHANA'S Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations Hon. Samuel Nartey George has applauded PACRA for its advanced digital drive in registration of businesses and Intellectual Property (IP) Rights.

Hon. George visited PACRA in February on the sidelines of that country's President John Mahama's state visit to Zambia at the invitation of President Hakainde Hichilema.

The Minister expressed happiness with the seamless online registration of businesses which can be done from any part of the world.

Speaking during a meeting with PACRA Senior Management led by the Registrar and CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo, Hon.

George also noted the need to establish institutional arrangements between PACRA and Ghana's Office of The Registrar of Companies (ORC) which registers businesses in Ghana for easy for reciprocal investments.

He assured Mr. Mpalo to expect an influx of Ghanaian businesses registering their businesses in Zambia.

"You are our doorway, there is nothing we can do in Zambia without you. We ask that you roll out the red carpet for us and we promise that our businesses will be law abiding," said Hon. George. Hon. George further appealed for PACRA's help to protect IP rights for Ghanaian companies that will be coming to set up base in Zambia.

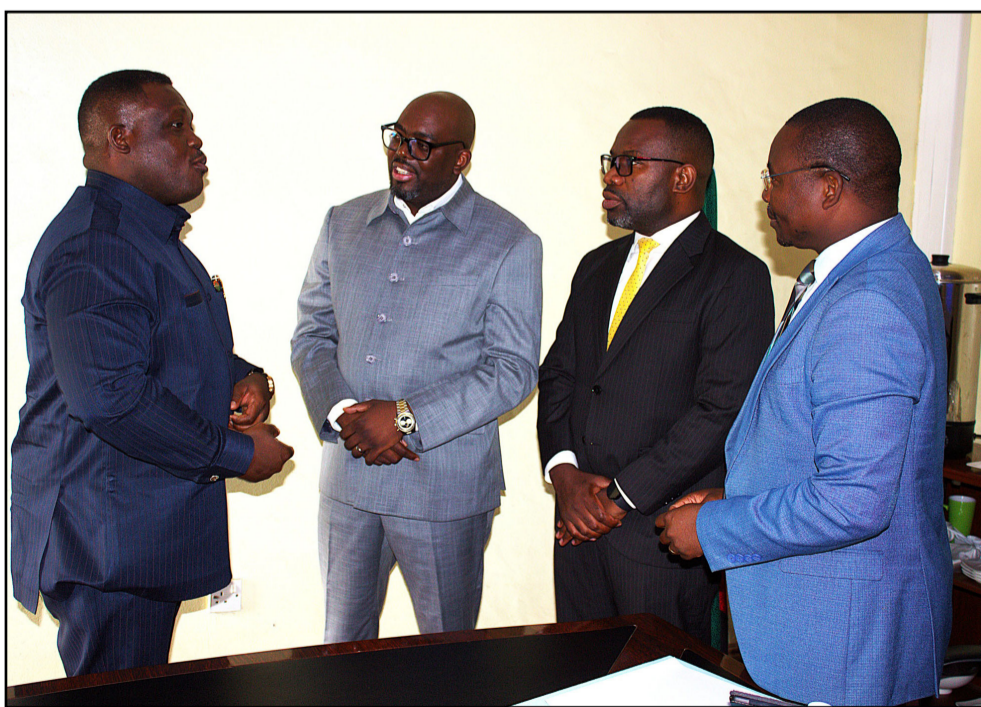
And Mr. Mpalo said PACRA has focused

more on digital innovations to enhance service provision while lessening physical interactions with clients.

He briefed the Ghanaian Minister on the agency's recently launched project to develop a Beneficial Ownership and Business Register that will allow enhancement of system integration by PACRA with various regulatory agencies and private players such as banks.

Mr. Mpalo also thanked Hon. George for visiting PACRA and committing to direct many Ghanaian businessmen to PACRA for registration.

The Ghanaian Minister's delegation included heads of private companies, a financial markets expert, and officials from that country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **PB**



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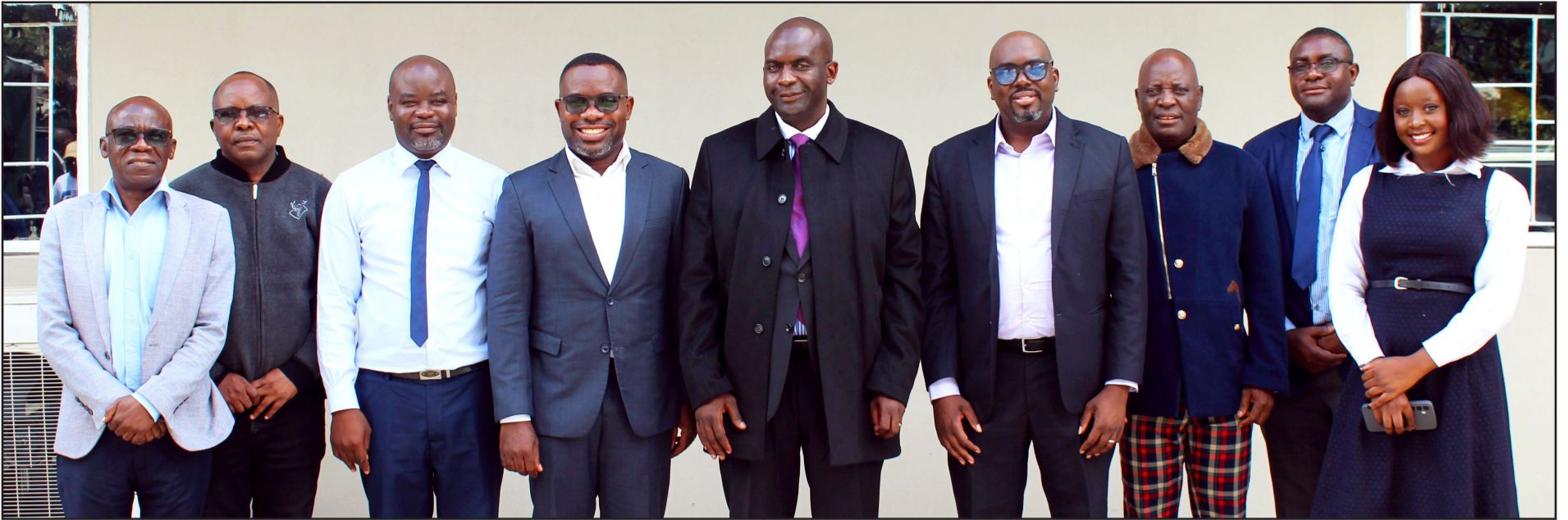
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LIKUMBI LYA MIZE ENGAGES PACRA ON IP REGISTRATION



PACRA management held a meeting with the Likumbi Lya Mize Cultural Association leadership deliberating the protection of the ceremony and other cultural aspects that come with it through registration of Intellectual Property Rights.

Association Chairman Prince Brian Kambeu said the engagement follows a rise in cases of abuse of the Makishi and other traditional elements by society.

He said people are now using traditional music and attires associated with the ceremony without the authority of the traditional leadership.

Prince Kambeu noted that some people in different parts of the country have

been masquerading as Makishi which is a costumed character representing an ancestral spirit, central to the masked dances of the Luvala, Chokwe, and Luchazi peoples in North Western Province.

He added that some people have gone as far as mass printing of t-shirts and other paraphernalia bearing the picture of a Makishi from which they profit without the traditional leadership benefiting from it.

And PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo expressed happiness that the Likumbi Lya Mize Cultural Association has expressed desire to explore IP protection.

Mr. Mpalo said legislation already exists

in the country through the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act being administered by the Agency.

He said PACRA has been engaging in such discussions across the globe and the region and is working toward raising awareness for many traditional groupings to explore IP registration.

Mr. Mpalo stated that he engaged traditional leaders through an address to the House of Chiefs early this year as part of raising awareness.

He advised the Likumbi Lya Mize Cultural Association to list the number of traditional items that should be registered for IP. **PB**

PACRA ENGAGES NAC OVER DRAFT COPYRIGHT BILL



PACRA held an engagement with National Arts Council (NAC) over the "Draft Copyright and Related Rights Bill" which earlier this year seemingly unsettled some sections of the creative industry.

Some artists had raised concerns over some provisions of the Bill after PACRA called for submissions.

However, a meeting between PACRA led by Registrar and CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo and NAC led by its Chairperson and Zambian song bird Ms. Maureen Lilanda, help cool off the impasse.

Ms. Lilanda known among musicians as Aunt Maureen expressed appreciation to PACRA for the opportunity to discuss the Draft Bill which she said NAC and its stakeholders had raised some key concerns re-

garding the ongoing call for submissions.

She said artists were concerned that they were not adequately consulted during the drafting of the Bill adding that they felt some provisions were unfavourable to creators.

Ms. Lilanda added that the concerns also involved the period for provision of submissions which she termed as having been short.

And Mr. Mpalo thanked NAC for engaging PACRA further explaining that various stakeholders have been consulted during the development of the Draft Bill.

Mr. Mpalo further explained that copyright legislation seeks to strike a careful balance between the rights of creators and the public interest in accessing information adding that ARIPO Member States are required to

harmonise their copyright laws and that PACRA endeavoured to develop a Draft Bill that reflects international best practices.

He explained that PACRA had convened a stakeholders' consultation in 2022, during which submissions were received.

Mr. Mpalo however assured NAC that an extension of time for submissions would be granted, provided the Council indicated the additional time required while emphasising that submissions should be made as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for consideration and incorporation into the Draft Bill.

The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Ministries of Commerce, Trade and Industry and Youth, Sport and Arts. **PB**

DK TO REPRESENT ZAMBIA AT REGIONAL IP SCHOOL CLUBS COMPETITION



Lusaka’s David Kaunda National STEM Secondary School is set to represent Zambia at a regional Intellectual Property (IP) Clubs competition Harare, Zimbabwe.

This is after the school emerged victorious in the first ever National IP School Clubs Competition held in Lusaka in March which school five major competitors.

The competition will see schools from 22 members states of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) battle for the top slot.

The Zambian schools that participated include Rhodes Park, Lusaka Girls, Highlands and Kasisi Girls Secondary Schools where PACRA and ARIPO are piloting IP School Clubs.

The competition was a combination of presentation of IP projects and a quiz before a panel of Judges and over 130 participants

In his opening remarks, PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Benson Mpalo noted that the IP School Clubs initiative which is supported by ARIPO and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), was established to instil knowledge of IP

rights particularly copyright and related rights and a culture of respect for creativity and innovation as drivers of socio-economic development.

Mr. Mpalo further noted that PACRA is actively working with Government towards the introduction of IP as a subject within in schools.

“This is a critical step in institutionalising IP education and ensuring that learners across the country are equipped, from an early stage, with the knowledge and appreciation of the value of their ideas and creativity,” said Mr. Mpalo.





And DK Headmistress Maureen Tonga expressed optimism that the ideas being worked on by pupils may help drive growth and inspire change and potential to contribute to economic development.


She said the event also presents an opportunity to showcase innovations and show how meaningful contributions can be made through IP.


In second and third positions were Rhodespark and Lusaka Girls Secondary Schools respectively.


PB


 www.pacra.org.zm


 0953 748 701


 [pacra_zambia](https://www.instagram.com/pacra_zambia)

 Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA)

 pro@pacra.org.zm

 Call Center 5111

 [PACRA ZAMBIA @pacrazambia](https://twitter.com/PACRA_ZAMBIA)

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PACRA AND ZTA CONFER ON POSSIBLE COLLABORATIONS

PACRA and the Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA) have held talks to deliberate possible collaborations to enhance operations of the two institutions.

ZTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Abigail Shansonga leading her team paid a courtesy call on PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo alongside his Deputies – Commercial and Intellectual Property Thomas Kaunda and Chewe Chilufya respectively.

Ms. Shansonga noted that ZTA is interested in collaborating with PACRA in information sharing of registered businesses in the tourism industry and their compliance levels.

She noted that PACRA is key to any economic sector because of being the first stop for any investor wishing to formally conduct business in Zambia.

And Mr. Mpalo expressed happiness with the talks around possible collaborations adding that this could extend to IP registrations.

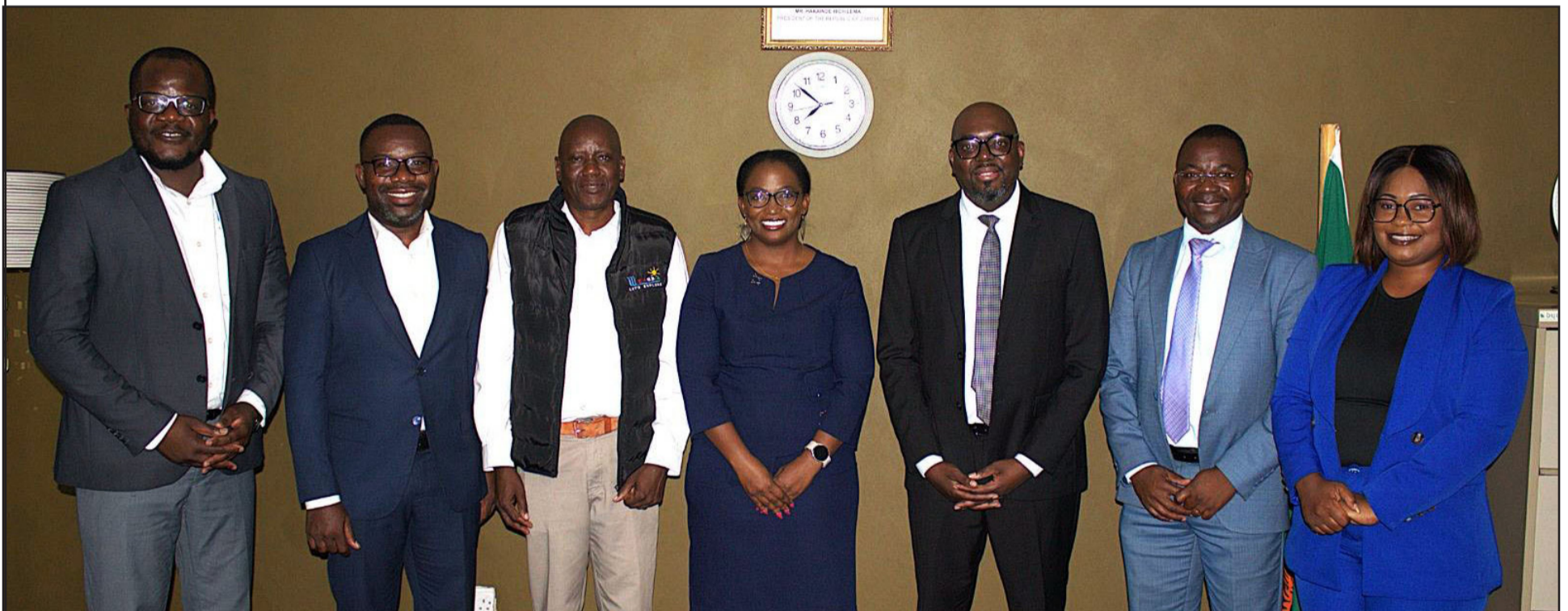


WHAT IS NEEDED TO DO THE TRANSFER OF SHARES?
FOR A COMPANY TO TRANSFER SHARES, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO:



PACRA

- Prepare two copies of the PACRA companies form 18 which must be typed.
- Attach the ZRA tax property certificate.
- Attach copies of the NRC or passport for the affected shareholders
- Make a payment of K300 on any of our online payment methods available on our website.
- Submit the two copies of the PACRA companies form 18 at your nearest service centre.



He said PACRA has various areas that are key for possible collaborations adding that the Open API the agency offers can help system integrations making access to information easy.

Mr. Mpalo added that new provisions in the Companies and Business Names Act requiring an indication of potential jobs to be created when registering a business and declaring the number of jobs created when filing annual returns can help ZTA ascertain the number of jobs the sector is responsible for.

The ZTA Acting CEO was accompanied by Justine Mbanga Acting Chief Standards Officer, Robert Simush Head Policy, Planning and Information and Hilda Mwape Manager Communication and Corporate Affairs. PB

PACRA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Trade Marks Act No.11 of 2023
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 Service marks now recognised	 Introduction of Geographical Indications
 Protection of well-known marks	 Madrid Protocol domesticated
 Stronger enforcement and border measures	 Efficient and modern registration system

Effective: 26 December 2025

PHOTO SPREAD



PACRA staff walked down memory lane by dressing up in their former school uniforms to celebrate the 2026 Youth Day theme; 'Arise and Soar'
PACRA Staff take part in celebrations of this year's international Women's Day

PHOTO SPREAD



PACRA undertook a benchmark exercise at the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) by visiting the Call Centre and appreciate their operations
The Move was part of PACRA's efforts to enhance service delivery and capacity building for the Call Centre. PACRA Public Relations Manager Mr. Brian Mwale led the three-man delegation which included Call Centre Agents Mr. Mulambo Chilimba and Ms. Tasila Nyirenda.



Small and Medium Business Enterprises (SMEs) participants in Lusaka under the Access Bank Zambia's SME Business Club Masterclass engaged by PACRA



PACRA Deputy Registrar Intellectual Property Chewe Chilufya joins Kasisi Girls and Highlands Secondary School pupils for a group photo.