



# PACRA BULLETIN

PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

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### PACRA ENGAGES CHIEFS ON IP



**PACRA in its quest to enhance awareness and registration of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights has taken to engaging Traditional Leaders from across the country.**

PACRA Registrar and CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo in November addressed the House of Chiefs who were sitting in Lusaka, where he delved into the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act No. 16 of 2016 which the agency administers.

**PACRA officers from the Intellectual Property (IP), Commercial and Public Relations departments from November 17-18 rolled up their sleeves and joined over 500 youths in Lusaka in the 2025 Youth-Connekt National Summit at the Government Complex.**

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Mr. Mpalo said the purpose of the law is to provide for a transparent legal framework for the protection, access and use of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and expressions of folklore, which also guarantees equitable sharing of benefits and effective participation of holders.

He stated that the law was enacted to ensure that the knowledge and cultural heritage that Zambian communities have kept for generations is protected from misuse and exploitation.

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[www.pacra.org.zm](http://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](mailto:pro@pacra.org.zm)

Call Center 5111

PACRA ZAMBIA @pacrazambia

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# PACRA ENGAGES CHIEFS ON IP



*From Front Page.*

Mr. Mpalo added that the law recognises that traditional knowledge, natural resources, and cultural expressions do not belong to individuals, but to communities.

“Under this law, anyone whether a researcher, a company, or a foreigner who wishes to access or use our traditional knowledge, our plants, seeds, herbs, or our cultural expressions must first seek permission from the community through the traditional leadership”, said Mr. Mpalo.

And in a presentation to the gathering, PACRA Deputy Registrar – Intellectual Property Chewe Chilufya urged traditional leaders to document solutions such as the use of local herbs, plants

and crop rotation systems that are passed on across generations.

Mr. Chilufya further advised traditional leaders to be able to challenge people or companies claiming to have made discoveries when they are adopting solutions from their respective chiefdoms.

Meanwhile House of Chiefs Chairperson Chief Choongo commended the PACRA top brass for unpacking IP to traditional leaders and helping them enhance their understanding.

And Chief Mumbi of Petauke District echoed the Chairperson’s sentiments adding that traditional leaders have now been empowered by PACRA to effectively participate in discourse on IP.



**IP piracy and counterfeiting endangers businesses**



**Choosing a product with geographical indication label, you know you're getting the real deal**

## VEEP NALUMANGO “NODS” PACRA INNOVATION



*From Front Page*

The event themed “Green Hustle: Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Agriculture”, attracted participants from various youth groups and higher learning institutions.

Vice President Mutale Nalumango who graced the event nodded PACRA’s digital innovation drive which has made business registration seamless through its online portal and being on the Government Service Bus (GSB).

Mrs. Nalumango who toured the PACRA stand expressed delight with the innovation.

She further commended the agency for having minimal registration fees for Businesses (about K333 for a Business name and K1,420 for a Lim-

ited Company) stating that they are within manageable ranges for youths.

And addressing the gathering Mrs. Nalumango urged the youths to take advantage of various entrepreneurial opportunities in the country and not entirely rely on securing employment.

And Minister of Youth, Sports and Art Elvis Nkandu during the opening of the event said government will continue to increase investment in areas that support youth led programs in the economic sphere.

Mr. Nkandu who was represented by his Permanent Secretary Kangwa Chileshe said the development is being done through a collective approach with line ministries as they target green, agriculture and digital sectors.

And United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative James Wakia-ga urged youths in the country to take advantage of the various platforms to connect to opportunities in economic sectors such as agriculture.

The PACRA team offered on the spot business registration services to youths.

Celebrated Zambian musician 76-Drums took to the stage vocalizing his famous numbers forcing the Veep to take to her heels joining the hundreds of youths in dance.

## PACRA ENGAGES OVER 850 SMES ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PACRA has continued partnering with various organisations to enhance its awareness program. In December the Agency engaged over 850 budding entrepreneurs at two different events, closing the year on a high note.

On 12th December, 2025 the Agency in partnership which was working with the Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) engaged 600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) who had undergone a six weeks training in Business Development.

The Agency used the opportunity to guide the participants on registration of Businesses and IP and filing

of Annual Returns among others.

Various high-level delegates were in attendance including from the Presidential Delivery Unit, Ministries of Youth Sport and Art and Livestock, and some from the banks.

A similar event was held in Lusaka’s Kanyama Township on 19th December, 2025 where over 250 budding youth entrepreneurs were graduating after a six weeks training under the umbrella of Generation Alive.

The agency was given an opportunity to engage the trainees before their graduation on the procedures for registering businesses, types of businesses, compliance and a session on Intellectual Property Rights and their importance.

# PACRA EYES DEVELOPMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN ZAMBIA.

PACRA working with the the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is reviewing local products such as Miombo/Forest Honey and Kasama Coffee for Geographical Indications (GI) protection.

Research recently conducted by WIPO in partnership with PACRA in Mwinilunga and Kasama Districts has shown that the two products demonstrate strong potential for immediate GI or collective-mark protection, with readiness scores above 80%.

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Director Domestic Trade Margaret Chikuba says the study also shows that Chama Rice, Mongu Rice, and Kawambwa Tea possess meaningful reputational value and can be strengthened further through producer organisation, improved traceability systems and clearer product specifications.

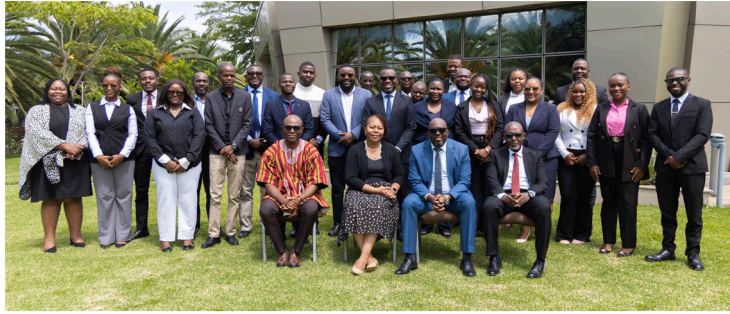
Mrs. Chikuba who graced a validation workshop in Lusaka late last year noted that the products are promising indicators for government's national ambition to build a competitive, origin-based identity for Zambian agrifood products.

And PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo said the potential for GI development in Zambia is immense.

Mr. Mpalo noted that the country is endowed with unique agricultural products, traditional foods, crafts, minerals, and cultural practices that could qualify for GI protection.

He however noted that the challenge is to identify the products systematically, assess their suitability, mobilise producer communities, establish product specifications, and create governance structures that support quality control and market expansion.

And WIPO International IP Consultant Dr. Courage Besah-Adanu said lessons picked from the field are that Mwinilunga resonates with quality honey among the over 40 corporatives which produce over 1,000 MT of honey.



Dr. Besah-Adanu noted that WIPO going forward will develop a collective mark, operationalize inspections, traceability, lab testing and brand roll out

among others.

A Geographical Indication is an intellectual property right used to identify a product whose quality, reputation, or other characteristics are essentially linked to its geographical origin.

Unlike ordinary trademarks, GIs speak not only to the producer, but to the land, the climate, the skills, and the traditions of the community behind the product.

In Africa, Rwanda's coffee, Ethiopian Sidamo and Yirgacheffe, Moroccan Argan oil, and Tanzanian cloves demonstrate the power of GI protection to support smallholder farmers, strengthen branding, promote value addition, and preserve cultural heritage.

## PACRA WAIVES ONE YEAR ANNUAL RETURNS FOR NON - COMPLIANT ENTITIES

**PACRA last year offered customers an Independence gift by waiving one-year Annual Returns for businesses that were owing for two years and above.**

The Campaign dubbed 61/61 ran for 61 days from today 1st October to 30th November 2025 to celebrate 61 years of Zambia's independence.

Only clients who were settling their outstanding Annual Returns through the PACRA Portal benefited.

Payments were being made via online banking or mobile money making it easy for clients to

improve their compliance status.

The Business Names and Companies Acts provide for deregistration of entities that have not filled Annual Returns for two consecutive years.



## PACRA & ARIPO ENGAGE ZAMBIAN ACADEMICS ON PATENT SEARCH



Zambian academics were in October brought together in the capital Lusaka for a seminar focused on unpacking Patents, a component of Intellectual Property.

The academics were drawn from various institutions of higher learning in the country by the PACRA and the University of Zambia (UNZA) with support of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The seminar was themed: “Fostering Creativity and Innovation for Economic Growth and Development in Africa

ARIPO Capacity Building Officer Dr. Bryson Sabola said the training is a critical component for academic institutions because it helps research identify existing technologies.

The training also shared the ability to identify existing inventions and avoid duplication.

And SADC representative Reaboka Morakabi said IP has become a widely used tool in many countries as it provides necessary incentives for creativity and innovation.

He noted that it also helps in creation of new jobs, innovation and business growth.

And PACRA Deputy Registrar – Intellectual Property Chewie Chilufya who was Acting Registrar and CEO at the time noted that universities can consider turning their research into cash cows and contribute to institutional revenue generation through patents.

Mr. Chilufya stated that universities now need to start putting into practice their research.

The training was officially opened by UNZA Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Boniface Namangala who called for a change in conducting research across Africa.

Prof. Namangala noted the need to conduct relevant research that will help change things.



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[pro@pacra.org.zm](mailto:pro@pacra.org.zm)

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## PACRA COMMITS TO PURSUING REFORMS THAT FACILITATE BUSINESS ENTRY

**PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo has reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to pursue reforms that facilitate business entry as outlined in 8th National Development Plan (8NDS) and associated reform roadmaps.**

And Mr. Mpalo has expressed appreciation for the valuable opportunity to learn from Saudi Arabia's experience in advancing

business entry reforms. He was speaking at the Knowledge Exchange on Advancing Business Entry Reforms which was held from 14th to 16th October 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Mpalo noted that discussions at the workshop provided practical insights into the importance of integrated, digital, and transparent systems for business registration and licensing.

The PACRA Registrar and CEO added that Saudi Arabia's experience on standard platforms, centralized service delivery and coordinated institutional frameworks can simplify processes, enhance data sharing, and improve the overall user experience for entrepreneurs.

He further stated that the lessons will inform Zambia's own reform efforts.

Mr. Mpalo was accompanied at the workshop by Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) Executive Director, Ms. Sharon Sichilongo and PACRA ICT Director Mr. Kaseke Chinyemba.

The event aimed at exchanging knowledge on business registration was graced by Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister of Commerce Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi.

## PACRA PARTICIPATES IN THE ARIPO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL IN GHANA

**PACRA participated in the 49th Session of the Administrative Council of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), in Accra, Ghana.**

The high-level meeting ran from 17th to 20th November 2025, bringing together heads of Intellectual Property offices, technical experts, and policymakers from across ARIPO Member States.

The meeting was reviewing progress in the administration of intellectual property, strengthen regional cooperation, and take decisions that shape the future of IP governance in Africa.

The Administrative Council serves

as ARIPO's main decision-making body, and its deliberations are central to modernising IP systems, improving service delivery, and supporting innovation across the continent.

Last year's Session was discussing key matters relating to industrial property, copyright and related rights, plant variety protection, digital transformation, capacity building and human capital development within national IP offices.

The meeting also considered regional strategies aimed at expanding access to IP services, harmonising protocols, and ensuring that African creators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and businesses benefit from a strong, reliable, and

forward-looking IP framework.

For Zambia, participation in the Session underscored PACRA's commitment to strengthening the country's IP ecosystem, supporting innovation-driven economic growth, and ensuring that laws, systems, and institutions remain aligned with regional and international standards.

PACRA Registrar and CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo led the Zambian delegation which comprises his Deputy Registrar IP Mr. Chewe Chilufya, PACRA Director Human Resource and Administration Mr. Aaron Mpembamoto and Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Principal Economist, Private Sector Development and Trade Promotion Ms. Nolianga Imasiku.



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# ZAMBIA SIGNS TREATY ON PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS



Zambia last year signed the Riyadh Treaty on the Protection of Industrial Designs, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the country’s Intellectual Property framework.

Zambia’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Eunice Luambia signed on behalf of government.

Luambia was accompanied by Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary Lillian Bwalya and First Secretary Trade at the Zambian Mission in Geneva, Switzerland

McPherson Munsanje during the signing.

The Riyadh Treaty establishes a modern and harmonised legal system for the protection of industrial designs, providing creators and innovators with enhanced and predictable rights across member states.

Zambia’s signing of the Treaty demonstrates the Government’s continued commitment to supporting innovation, creativity, and industrial competitiveness.

The treaty once domesticated

will see Zambia derive various benefits among them; simplified registration procedures for protecting designs nationally and internationally; stronger and longer protection of design rights, ensuring fair reward for creativity; and increased market opportunities for local designers and manufacturers to commercialise their innovations abroad.

PACRA will work closely with stakeholders to facilitate the domestication and implementation of the Treaty to ensure that Zambian designers fully benefit from it.



# 2025 Q4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

## PACRA COURTS FASHION DESIGNERS

**PACRA engaged  
Zambian Fashion  
Designers during  
a one-day training  
organized by the  
Zambia Association  
of Fashion De-  
signers.**

The training held at the Zanaco Training Hub was aimed at educating designers on the importance of being registered with PACRA and why Intellectual Property is vital for creative professionals.



## PACRA EQUIPS TEACHERS WITH KNOWLEDGE ON IP

PACRA has continued engaging teachers on Intellectual Property (IP) Rights as it rolls out IP Schools Clubs.

The latest training of teachers was conducted in October with the aim of equipping them with knowledge on IP.

Ten (10) teachers drawn from Lusaka Girls, Kasisi Girls, David Kaunda Technical, Highland School and Rhodes Park Secondary Schools

took part in the training.

PACRA Deputy Registrar - Intellectual Property, Chewe Chilufya graced the opening of the training with a call on participants to make use of the workshop to fully understand Intellectual Property as a whole.

Mr. Chilufya said the training will enable teachers pass on the knowledge to their students.

## PUSHING THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP VIBE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

PACRA officers from IP and Commercial engaged students from the Zambia Institute for Tourism and Hospitality Studies (ZITHS) delving into Registration of Businesses and Intellectual Property Rights.

The students were elated to learn that they can register their Business Names, Companies and Trademarks online from the comfort of their dorms.

The engagement took place in October just before students started preparing for their exams.



## PACRA STUDENT VIBE HITS ZAMCOM

The Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM) Educational Trust received the PACRA student Vibe as part of enhancing awareness on registration of Businesses and Intellectual Property Rights.

The agency held a half day event in October to engage students at their campus putting aside books and focusing on the business side of things.





## PACRA REGISTRAR LEADS STAFF IN INDEPENDENCE DRESS-UP

PACRA Registrar and CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo led staff in an Independence extravaganza donning chitenge materials to celebrate 2025 Independence Celebrations as Zambia turned 61.

The gesture reflected patriotism to Zambia by staff.

Celebrating under the theme: "61 years of Peace and Unity: Building a Resilient and Prosperous Zambia!", PACRA was proud to be a part of Zambia's journey by contributing to the nation economically through business registrations.

## 61/61 CAMPAIGN PWANDO KU PACRA!!!

The 61 years Independence Anniversary hype for Zambia was taken to a whole new level by PACRA through granting clients a 61 days waiver on unfiled annual returns.

PACRA led a Campaign dubbed 61/61 granting clients who were owing annual returns for two years and more a waiver on one-year annual returns when they clear their outstanding bill using the PACRA Portal.

The Campaign ran from 1st October to 30th November, 2025.

## PACRA PARTICIPATES IN 2025 B.R.I IN CHINA



Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Partner countries stakeholder engagement in China. The event or-

ganized and sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce brought involved key presentations by PACRA on reforms made in business registration and Intellectual property and the digital platforms rolled out to enhance service provision.

Mr. Brian Mwale who represented PACRA from 16th – 29th October also engaged various government officials and the private sector on the Agency's services and possible partnerships. This culminated into an establishment of partnerships between the Chinese Government's Department in-charge of Intellectual Property and PACRA.

5. Facilitated participation in the Southern Province Expo which was graced by President Hakainde Hichilema. This inaugural event was held from 12th to 16th October 2025.