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PATENTS AND COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY



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PACRA: Business Starts Here # <https://zamportal.gov.zm> or www.pacra.org.zm.

PALABANA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ELATED WITH PACRA'S ONLINE SERVICES



About 45 students from Palabana University in Chongwe District on Tuesday 11th June, 2024 visited the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) headquarters in Lusaka to appreciate its operations.

The 45 second year students who are pursuing a Bachelor of Animal Science Degree decided to visit the PACRA offices because one of the key courses in their program is Entrepreneurship in Agriculture.

PACRA Manager Online Business Registration Alice Mwanza took the students through the business registration process delving into registration of Business Names and Incorporation of Companies.

Mrs. Mwanza urged the students to consider registering businesses in order to formally take part in Zambia's economic development and deal with registered firms.

"Having a registered business allows you to take part in the country's economic drive through the services you will offer or products you will sale and at the same time contribute to the national

treasury through filling your annual returns," said Mrs. Mwanza.

She stated that Certificates of registration and incorporation which are granted when a business has been registered give people exclusive rights to use the business adding that any other person using the name without authority would be in contravention of the law.

The students were thrilled to learn that the process of registration of Business Names is easy and can be done from the comfort of their dorms and online.

With fees of K111.20 for Name Clearance and K222.40 for Business Name registration, Palabana students pursuing a Bachelor of Animal Science Degree are keen on putting their newly acquired Entrepreneurship in Agriculture skills to good use.

"We have learnt how to register a business, or company and what a patent, copyright or trademark is as well as the benchmarks that qualify a patent", said Pretter Chomwa one of the students.



PACRA REACHES OUT TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS AT CAMINEX

The Copperbelt Agriculture Mining Industrial Networking Enterprise (CAMINEX) is an annual expo held in Zambia's Copper rich Province the Copperbelt. The expo offers important value to both Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) rich mining belts as it is

positioned in the heart of these adjoining areas. Thousands of business decision-makers, purchasing influencers and professionals annually will use the trade show to network, exchange ideas, share information and develop partnerships.

Zambia's leading associations strategically position themselves to benefit from the continued support by government and leading industry Associations.

With the expo poised to stimulate business growth in the region, the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) saw it fit to participate in the 2024 expo and contribute to government's drive of attracting investments through offering 'on the spot' registration of businesses. PACRA staff manning the Agency's desk at the CAMINEX were delighted to host Deputy Secretary to Cabinet Mr. Si-azongo Siakalenge.

The visit reaffirmed government's commitment and interest in the agency's role in the country's social and economic development by being a key office where business starts.

PARTNERING TO MAKE COMPANY REGISTRATION EASIER

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PACRA, EU COMMIT TO STRENGTHENING IP RIGHTS AND PROMOTING INNOVATION



The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) have made a significant step towards strengthening intellectual property rights and promoting innovation.

This was done through the signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a study visit to the EUIPO headquarters in Alicante, Spain by PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Benson Mpalo in December, 2023.

The agreement builds on the longstanding partnership between the two organisations since their initial MoU in June 1999.

Through this enhanced partnership, PACRA has seamlessly integrated with TMView, TMclass, and the Harmonised Database (HDB), resulting in a more streamlined approach to intellectual property management within the region.

The Agency is poised to implement an advanced front-office version, facilitating even more efficient and impactful services for its valued stakeholders.

The enhanced collaboration seeks to cultivate stronger bonds between the two organisations and bolster their collective endeavours in stimulating economic growth and advocating for a re

silient intellectual property framework. The revitalised agreement will see PACRA and EUIPO make substantial progress in fostering an innovation-oriented culture and protecting intellectual property rights in Zambia while contributing to the overall progress and advancement of the wider ARIPO region.

PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Benson Mpalo in December, 2023 signed on behalf of the Agency while EUIPO Executive Director João Negrão signed on behalf of his organization.



MANDATORY EXAMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS COMING-VEEP



VICE President Mutale Nalumango says government has made progress in re-introducing mandatory examinations for public service workers.

Mrs. Nalumango says the examinations to be administered at the National Institute for Public Administration (NIPA) and the Chalimbana Local Government Institute will be undertaken upon entry into public service and for promotional purposes.



The Veep further stated that the public service is an important part of Zambia's heritage and an indispensable anchor and catalyst of the future.

She says the development is on the backdrop of government appreciating the role management development institutions play in developing the necessary capacities in the public service for improved service delivery.

"Your government will continue to commit resources towards capacity development in the public service for improved conduct, efficiency and productivity by working closely with our management development institutes", said Mrs. Nalumango.

Gracing the 2024 Africa Public Service Day commemorations in held at Lusaka's East Park Mall on Sunday 23rd June, Mrs. Nalumango noted that the day is important as it presents an opportunity to recognise and honour the contribution of the public service to the nation and the continent as a whole.

"On this day, we pay special tribute to the public service workers for their resilience in providing services to the communities they serve. As a country, we have been commemorating Africa Public Service Day since 2008. This year's commemoration is unique as the country celebrates Zambia @60 under the theme "60 years strong, honouring our heritage, embracing the future", she said.

Commenting on 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," Mrs. Nalumango said government recognizes the role cutting-edge technologies play in improving production and productivity.

She added that government is determined to build a public service capable of providing quality leadership and solutions in times of need.

The Vice President noted that the theme cultivates the innovative mindsets in the public sector through fostering critical thinking, problem solving and entrepreneurial skills and capacitates management development institutions for the 21st century to secure a pipeline of agile and future-ready leaders;

A number of institutions were awarded during the event.

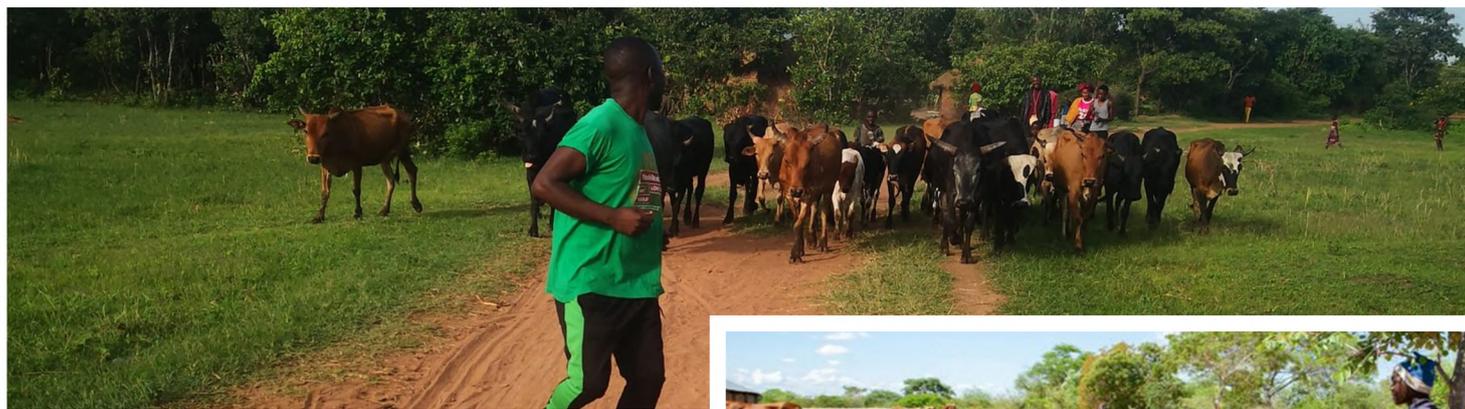
The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) is among the key government institutions that exhibited at the event. The Agency exhibited under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry Pavilion among other government agencies that fall under the Ministry.

MAKING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE FINANCE A REALITY USING PACRA'S MOVABLE PROPERTY (SECURITY INTEREST) REGISTRY

Musika and the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) have partnered to implement a collaborative awareness program on the Agency's Movable Property (Security Interest) Registry System (MPRS) that will enable access to affordable finance for a targeted 2,000 smallholder farmers.

The Musika and PACRA partnership is proposing an affordable financial market system model that links farmers to financial service providers, with a reduced default risk rate, and provides for use of movable assets as collateral.

Story courtesy of Musika



The pilot intervention, funded by Sweden through Musika, will be rolled out in all the 10 provinces of Zambia and will engage insurance companies, financial lending institutions, and PACRA. The movable assets awareness program includes stakeholder dialogue meetings, radio and television programmes at provincial level across 11 districts.

"The expected outcome of this awareness raising intervention is that Insurance companies will insure movable assets such as livestock and mechanized farm equipment; financial service providers will register these assets on the MPRS administered by PACRA and the database will act as an asset collateral reference system; and financial lending institutions will provide financial products and services to farmers that have insured their movable assets and those whose assets are not registered as collateral with any other financial institutions," explained Musika Head of Corporate Affairs, Pamela Hamasaka.

In 2023, Musika conducted Market Systems Analysis (MSAs) to build into its 2024 business strategy which consolidates interventions implemented with funding support from Sweden since 2012. Out of the five identified markets, Access to Affordable Finance was a key focus area that would improve rural smallholder farmers' participation in the market and consequently increase their income.

According to Hamasaka, the MSAs revealed how financing was a critical barrier for smallholder farmers to access inputs and services needed to increase crop and livestock productivity, and household income. Additionally, local financial institutions in Zambia generally did not provide financing to smallholders because of the perceived high risk and this was partly because they lacked proper capital assets as collateral.



"In order to make access to affordable finance a reality Musika, in its role as a market facilitator, will facilitate the design and development of appropriate and affordable financial products and services for smallholder farmers, support awareness raising programs for affordable financial products and services, and support the value chain actors such as off-takers to offer embedded financial and insurance products and services in order to de-risk support to Zambian agriculture SMEs and smallholder farmers," she explained.

According to PACRA, the stakeholder meetings that the Agency will conduct across the country will make financial lending institutions aware of the benefits of registering security interest relating to movable property on MPRS registry and also raise awareness on how movable property can help reduce risks to banks to enable more longer term loans, and at lower interest rates for youth, women and men in the agricultural sector.

"Most financial service providers are unaware of this instrument established under the Movable Property (Security Interest) Act No. 3 of 2016 administered by PACRA, and those who are aware are not utilizing it to benefit and grow the financial sector. In this particular instance, insurance companies can provide cover to borrowers for their movable assets and financial service providers will accept the registration of livestock as collateral to access any form of finance for smallholders. This is to ensure that these animals are not used as collateral by anyone else until the loan is fully paid," said PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Benson Mpalo.

PACRA CELEBRATES ALL THE AMAZING WOMEN



Personnel from various PACRA units on 8th March 2024 joined in Zambia's commemorations of International Women's Day celebrating the milestones and achievements that women in the country and around the world have continued scoring. For PACRA this day is important as it has also placed women in various key decision making positions within the agency.

PHOTO FOCUS OF PACRA PARTICIPATING AT THE 2024 AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN LUSAKA.



The Africa Public Service Day which is commemorated annually presents an opportunity for various government agencies to exhibit their services and interact with the public in a central spot.

The event which has been commemorated by Zambia since 2008 presents an opportunity to recognise and honour the contribution of the public service to the nation and the continent as a whole.

This year's commemorations were held under the theme "Empowering a citizen-centric public service for an inclusive and thriving 21st century Africa: a journey of lifelong learning and technological transformation."



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY



PACRA PARTICIPATED AT THE 2024 ZAMBIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



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FORMER CHIPOLOPOLO STAR JUSTIN SHONGA DIES.



Sunday 30th June, 2024 turned out to be a dark day for the Zambian football family following the death of former Chipolopolo midfielder Justin Shonga.

Shonga died at Sikanze Military Hospital in Lusaka after a short illness according to Zambia Police Deputy Spokesperson Dan Mwale. The 27 soccer player was last in the books of Najran FC of Saudi Arabia where he signed a short term contract to wrap up the 2023/24 season. Shonga also spent three years at Orlando Pirates after being signed from Zambian Super League side Nkwazi FC in 2017. He left the Buccaneers at the end of the 2019/20 season after falling out of favour, searching for green pastures.

The former Chipolopolo star has been a vital part in the team that had been assembled by Serbian coach Milutin Sredojević.

Shonga made his debut for the Zambia national team in June 2017, earning 15 caps and scoring seven goals for the 2012 AFCON winners. Social media was awash with messages of condolence and celebrating of his illustrious career from fans, fellow players, coaches and his friends among others.

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