



PACRA BULLETIN

PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

PACRA BEATS 2024 REVENUE TARGET BY 39%

THE Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) last year exceeded its over K105 million revenue target by 39%.

This was after the agency collected K147,139,833 between January and December 2024, which was K41,177,125 above the targeted K105,962,708. This was an increase from the 2023 collection of K107,270,328.

PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Benson Mpalo says the income is from the various

business registration and Intellectual Property Rights services offered by the agency.

“For commercial services which include registration of businesses and filing of annual returns among others, the Agency collected K116,699,093 against the K70,906,385 target, representing a 65% increase. In 2023 the Agency collected K80,389,023”, said Mr. Mpalo.

He added that the agency also recorded an increase in income collected from IPRs in 2024 compared to 2023.

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Benson Mpalo - PACRA Registrar & CEO

“NO PACRA CERTIFICATE, NO TRADING LICENSE”, Chipata Mayor.

CHIPATA Mayor George Mwanza says the municipality will this year not issue Trading Licenses to businesses that are not registered with the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA).

Mr. MWANZA says the move is part of promoting formalization of businesses in the district and increase revenue for government’s development agenda.



George Mwanza - Chipata Mayor

He says Chipata currently has only about 15,000 registered businesses against a potential of 40,000. The Mayor said this

when a delegation from PACRA, Open Ownership and...

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READ MORE

ZAMCOPS AND PACRA FORGE TIES FOR COMMON GOOD

PACRA BOARD UNDERGOES RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

FORMER GHANA WOMEN’S TEAM COACH, NORA HAUPTLE TAKES OVER COPPER QUEENS

UNDERSTANDING BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Beneficial Ownership (BO) refers to a natural person or group of people who ultimately own or control an asset or entity, even though the legal title to the

asset may be held by someone else. The concept of BO is often used in the context of financial accounts, companies, trusts, or real estate. **Continued on Page 5...**



“Business Starts Here!”

PACRA CEO'S PA RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS



“Mbolongwe good morning”, is the response PACRA staff would get every time they called the extension for the CEO’s Personal Assistant.

Even when one is in a bad mood, the soft and assuring voice on the other end of the line would sooth and calm them.

This had been the trend for nearly 21 solid years at an agency mandated to provide business registration and Intellectual Property protection services in Zambia: PACRA.

Mrs. Theresa Mbolongwe considered to be the “Mother” of PACRA staff including the CEO is now handing down her working tools as a PA of the Agency’s CEO after having diligently served three of them. Among PACRA CEOs she has served is Court of Appeal Judge, Hon.

Mrs. Justice Anessie Banda-Bobo.

Pacra Bulletin (PB) had an exclusive exit interview with Mrs. Mbolongwe on Dec 27th her last day at the Agency.

PB: Good morning mum and thank you for according us an opportunity to interview you on your 21 year stay at PACRA. How would you describe your stay and work?

Mrs. Mbolongwe: I have been at PACRA for 21 years and I have been a PA for three Registrars. I have served Mrs. Bobo who is now a Judge, Mr. Anthony Bwembya and last but not the least the current CEO Mr. Benson Mpalo.

PB: Tell us a bit about your early days at PACRA.

Mrs. Mbolongwe: I joined PACRA

in 2003 under ICT. In 2004 I was transferred to the office of the Overseer who came from either Cabinet Office or Ministry of Commerce where I worked for about two years then I was transferred to the CEO Office.

PB: How has been your experience at PACRA?

Mrs. Mbolongwe: I have really enjoyed working for PACRA, I have enjoyed every bit of working with everyone, the Registrars, Deputy Registrars and generally almost everyone.

PB: You are considered mother of PACRA, how do you manage to provide motherly guidance to everybody?

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PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

PACRA & ZAMCOPS FORGIES TIES FOR COMMON GOOD

The new **Zambian Music Copyright and Protection Society (ZAMCOPS) Board** has committed to work with the **Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA)** to improve the welfare of musicians in the country.

ZAMCOPS is a **Zambian Collective Management Organisations (CMO)** which deals with copyright related issues among musicians.

And PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer **Benson Mpalo** committed to working with ZAM-



COPS in raising awareness on Intellectual Property matters ahead of this year's (2025) International IP Day which falls on April 26th themed; "IP and music: Feel the beat of IP".

Mr. Mpalo was speaking when the new ZAMCOPS Board led by its Vice Chairperson **Danny Mwikisa** known in the music circles as **Danny Peddle** paid a courtesy call on him at his office.

And Mr. Mwikisa thanked the PACRA CEO for hosting his team and committing to work together.

The ZAMCOPS Board members included

General Manager **Mirrias Siamutondo** and Musicians **James Banda aka Red Linso** and **Mweembe Chulu** from the **Black Muntu** fame among others.



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PACRA BEATS 2024 REVENUE TARGET BY 39%

From front page...

“Income from Intellectual Property services which include Copyright and Trademark registration among others, was K30, 440,740 against the target of K35, 056,323. This is however an increase from the K26, 881,305 collected in 2023. PACRA in 2024 had targeted to register 34,595 Business Names and 18,300 Companies, but closed the year by registering 35,190 Business Names and 18,138 Companies” he said.

He further noted that on compliance levels for annual returns submission, the Agency had targeted 55, 539 Business Names and 55,539 Companies in 2024, but 54,975 Business Names and 56,5796 Companies filed annual returns.

Meanwhile PACRA last year received 2,623 trademark applications, an increase from the 2,445 applications recorded in 2023. Of these the agency registered 1,654 trademarks compared to 1,499 registrations in 2023.

Additionally, trademark renewals saw a significant rise, with 1,704 renewals processed

in 2024, up from 1,056 in 2023. Patent activity also remained steady with 29 applications received in 2024, of which 8 were granted.

“77 patents were renewed during the same period. In the area of industrial designs, PACRA recorded 68 new applications in 2024, a decrease from the 168 applications filed in 2023. Despite this reduction, 84 industrial designs were registered during the year”, said Mr. Mpalo.

Others were copyright deposits which saw a slight decline, with 199 works deposited for copyright protection in 2024, compared to 216 in 2023.

In a press statement issued to the media on the performance of PACRA in 2024, Mr. Mpalo reiterated the agency’s commitment to effective facilitation of business and IPRs registration.

He added that PACRA will continue to build on its automation efforts to ensure all services including IPRs are available online in line with the Government’s mission of ensuring accelerated public service digital transformation while urging the public to continue utilising the online portals for business registration.

PACRA CEO’S PA RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS

From page 2

Mrs. Mbolongwe: Since I am a mother that comes in automatically, and you know I am older than the people I work with, therefore I should be different from the young ones, I should be an example to the young ones. If they need guidance I should be able to provide the guidance they need.

PB: What is the key for someone to succeed and stay longer in PACRA?

Mrs. Mbolongwe: You need to work hard, be consistent with the work that you do. You need to be determined

and not only that but you need to be humble. You also need to respect your supervisors, you cannot try to be at par with your supervisor.

Even as a supervisor you need to respect your subordinates. Just because you are above them doesn’t mean that you should disrespect them

PB: What is your plan for retirement?

Mrs. Mbolongwe: I have always wanted to be a farmer, (amidst chuckles and an ear-to-ear smile), so I think this is what I am going to do now, I will be a full time farmer. I will focus on both

livestock and crops.

PB: What are your final words as you depart from PACRA?

Mrs. Mbolongwe: I would like to thank the Registrar, the Directors, management, and even all members of staff for according me this opportunity to work for this great institution PACRA. I really enjoyed working with everyone and I will really miss everyone.

If in the course of my duty, unknowingly I offended anyone I am just asking for forgiveness.

UNDERSTANDING BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

FROM PAGE 2

Key aspects of beneficial ownership:

1. **Ownership Control:** While the legal owner is the one who holds title, the beneficial owner enjoys the benefits, rights, and profits from the asset or entity. For example, the beneficial owner of a company may receive the profits from the company's activities, even if their name is not listed as the official owner.

2. **Transparency in Corporate Structures:** In business, beneficial ownership is used to understand the individuals who have significant control over companies or other legal entities. This helps prevent activities like money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption. For instance, a company might be registered under one person's name, but the beneficial owner could be someone else, perhaps with significant shares or decision-making power.

3. **Financial and Legal Regulations:** Many countries require businesses, particularly financial institutions and corporations, to identify and report their beneficial owners to regulatory authorities.

This is often part of the "Know Your Customer" (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) regulations. It is crucial for authorities to know the ultimate owners to trace any illegal financial activity.

Declaration of Beneficial Owners
All Companies are required to declare their Beneficial Owners at incorporation by filling in Part D of the Companies Form 3. The details to be provided include full names, date of birth, nationality or nationalities, country of residence and residential address among others.

Who should declare Beneficial Owners?

- All existing Companies
- Newly registered Companies

- Foreign Companies
- Public and SoEs Companies

All companies that were registered in 2017 are required to update their records on Beneficial Ownership in line with provisions of the Companies Act of 2017.

Who is responsible for maintaining and updating information on beneficial ownership in a company?

- Company Secretary
- Board of Directors

What is the Penalty for Non-Compliance of declaring Beneficial ownership?

Failure to disclose Beneficial Ownership information attracts a fine of 400,000 penalty units – which is equivalent to K160,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding four (4) years or to both.

PACRA CEO EXTOLS HIS OUTGOING PA

PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo has extolled his outgoing Personal Assistant Mrs. Theresa Mbolongwe.

Mr. Mpalo thanked Mrs. Mbolongwe for the services rendered to the Agency in the 21 years she served.

He said most people that joined PACRA found Mrs. Mbolongwe who helped guide them in their work and stay in the Agency.

"Speaking for myself as CEO, the support that I have received from you has been impeccable. Not only to me but to the staff generally", he said.

Mr. Mpalo stated that the staff will miss her support because she has earned her-

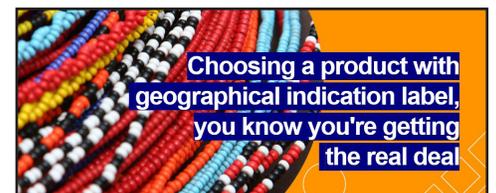
self a lot of respect at the Agency mostly because of the way she carried herself.

"You have that level of professionalism that we feel every staff must have. We shall miss you and as you start your new chapter in life I Just want to wish you all the very best. My door will always remain open, should you require any assistance please feel free to come and knock on our door", said Mr. Mpalo adding that "Its not easy to depart. I don't know how some of us will take it. I am at peace knowing that this came from you and it was your decision to just go and rest. We would have loved to have you even longer but that time comes when people feel like let me go and try a new chapter in life.

Mr. Mpalo thanked Mrs. Mbolongwe and wished her well in her future endeavours.

And Mrs. Mbolongwe thanked Mr. Mpalo for according her an opportunity to work for him.

"I would like to thank you so much sir, I enjoyed working for you, you are so approachable I don't even know how to thank you. I am so grateful and may God bless you", said Mrs. Mbolongwe.



“NO PACRA CERTIFICATE, NO TRADING LICENSE”, Chipata Mayor.

From front page...

The Mayor said this when a delegation from PACRA, Open Ownership and USAID’s Zambia Accelerating Transparency and Integrity (ZATI), paid a courtesy call on him at his office in December.

“...as Mayor of Chipata I want to assure you that as we start issuing Trading Licenses for next year (2025), any one running a business will be required to produce a Business Registration Certificate from PACRA in order for us to give them a trading license”, said Mr. Mwanza.

He added that the council will also not award any contracts to firms that are not compliant with PACRA.

Mr. Mwanza urged contractors and suppliers wishing to participate in council projects to be compliant with PACRA by filing Annual Returns.

And Mr. Mwanza expressed concern with foreign firms using locals to access businesses and services.

He noted that declaration of Beneficial Ownership of Businesses is key because it allows agencies know people seeking businesses and participating in local projects.

The Mayor commended PACRA and ZATI for their outreach programs in Chipata pledging to mobilize the community for spreading of information.

And PACRA Deputy Registrar – Commercial Belinda Siankumo said the agency has embarked on a data clean up to ensure it provides accurate information.

Mrs. Siankumo also emphasized the need for businesses to formalize their operations.

“Businesses need to have a Certificate of Registration either as a Business Name or Registered Company. We also have post registration requirements which involve filing in of annual returns”, said Mrs. Siankumo.



From Left; Innocent Kanyanta - Pacra Eastern Province Regional Manager. Eneya Maseko - Open Ownership Consultant. Pezo Phiri - Zati Deputy Country Director. George Mwanza - Chipata Mayor. Belinda Siankumo - Pacra Deputy Registrar Commercial. Thomas Kaunda - Pacra Director Internal Audit. Felix Kabwe - Zati



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PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

PACRA BOARD UNDERGOES RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING



Pacra Board Members, Management And Trainers

The PACRA Board on Saturday 7th December 2024 underwent a Risk Management Training aimed at equipping the members with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to effectively identify, assess, and manage risks.

The training took place at the end of a Board Meeting at Twangale in Lusaka. PACRA Board Chairperson Allan Mwaba noted that the objectives of the training were to acquire a comprehensive understanding of risk management principles and best practices and fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Board members.

Speaking during the opening of the training, Mr. Mwaba expressed delight with the Board and Management's commitment to enhancing the Agency's proactiveness in addressing potential institutional risks.

"In today's complex and rapidly changing environment, risk management skills are a necessary tool every one of us must possess. Effective risk management is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability, reputation, and success of our institution. It enables us to make informed decisions, minimise potential losses, and maximise opportunities", said Mr. Mwaba.

He expressed optimism that the workshop would be a catalyst for meaningful change and improvement in PACRA's risk management practices and approach.

And speaking earlier PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo said the Agency has a huge mandate of providing business registration and Intellectual Property protection services hence the need to equip the board and management with necessary skills to carry out the mandate.

Mr. Mpalo reiterated management's commitment to ensuring that the Board and Management are equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills in risk management.

"...Risk management is an essential tool for an institution, as it enables the institution to make informed decisions by identifying and assessing potential risks, enabling institutions to develop strategies to mitigate or manage risks. Risk management helps institutions establish a robust governance framework, ensuring accountability and transparency", said Mr. Mpalo.

Mr. Mpalo added that PACRA management believes that effective risk management training can contribute to good corporate governance and to increased stakeholder confidence in the Agency, which may lead to improved access to financial support from cooperating partners.



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PACRA PARTICIPATES IN DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE DESIGN LAW TREATY.

Zambia in November 2024 took part in the Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh.

PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo and his Deputy in-charge of Intellectual Property Chewe Chilufya were part of the Zambian delegation which was led by Zambia’s Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland Eunice Luambia.

In her opening declaration for Zambia at the Conference Ms. Luambia noted that the country is committed to fostering an environment conducive to intellectual property that drives innovation and supports socio-economic growth.

She said Zambia underlines the critical need for provisions such as the disclosure of origin or source, safeguarding traditional knowledge and cultural expressions to ensure fair and equitable benefits from these resources.

“Zambia values the opportunity to reinforce the global framework for in-

tellectual property protection, especially in the domain of industrial designs, which play a crucial role in fostering innovation, economic development, and the preservation of cultural heritage”, said Ms. Luambia.

The Zambian Envoy in Geneva further noted that the country aligns itself with the African Group’s position, which advocates for flexibility within the Treaty to respect the unique national contexts of developing nations.

She emphasized the importance of procedural harmonisation that accommodates the diverse needs of each country.

“Zambia underlines the critical need for provisions such as the disclosure of origin or source, safeguarding traditional knowledge and cultural expressions to ensure fair and equitable benefits from these resources”, Ms. Luambia told the global gathering.

The Zambian envoy to Switzerland also reiterated Zambia’s commitment to fostering an environment conducive to intellectual property that drives innovation and supports socio-economic growth.

“We believe the DLT will simplify and standardise protection for designers across borders, especially benefiting our SMEs and creatives who are invaluable contributors to Zambia’s economy and cultural identity” she said.

Ms. Luambia said the country is ready to engage constructively with all Member States to reach a consensus that will yield a Treaty that is inclusive, balanced, and responsive to the requirements of both developed and developing countries.

Other members who formed part of the delegation were First Secretary, Economic and Trade at the Zambian mission to the UN in Geneva, Mcherson Munsanje and Michelo Makwembo Economist, Private Sector Development Officer, Domestic Trade and Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry.

The future treaty aims to streamline the global system for protecting industrial designs, making it easier, faster and more affordable for designers to protect their work in home markets as well as overseas.





Mrs Mbolongwe bids farewell to PACRA CEO



PACRA Registrar & CEO Benson Mpalo (l) with his Deputy Registrar in Charge of Intellectual Property Chewe Chilufya in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



PACRA Ladies at HQ celebrate Zambia's 60th Independence



PACRA Solwezi Staff celebrate Zambia's 60th Independence



PACRA Kitwe Staff celebrate Zambia's 60th Independence

FORMER GHANA WOMEN'S TEAM COACH, NORA HAUPTLE TAKES OVER COPPER QUEENS



"Business Starts Here!"

Picture by FAZ



Nora Hauptle
Zambia Women National
Team coach.

"Nora Hauptle is Copper Queens coach"

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has appointed Swiss national Nora Hauptle as Copper Queens coach on a three year deal.

And FAZ General Secretary Reuben Kamanga is optimistic that the former Swiss national defender will take Zambian women football to a higher level.

"We are excited to announce the appointment of Nora Hauptle as the new Zambia Women National Team coach.

We have every reason to believe that she has the pedigree and profile that will take us to the next level", says Kamanga.

Kamanga further noted that Hauptle has been hired to con-

solidate on the gains made in the women's game.

"Her duty is to consolidate on the gains made in our women's game in the last few years that has seen us win bronze at the WAFCON, qualify to a maiden FIFA World Cup in 2023 and back-to-back Olympic qualifications", he said.

The new Copper Queens coach had a distinguished career as a defender in Europe and represented Switzerland at international level before retiring in 2009.

She took up coaching and notably drilled SC Sand in the German Frauen-Bundesliga, in 2020, where she was, at the time, the only female coach in the league.

In 2021 Hauptle left SC Sand and went on

to join Black Queens of Ghana as coach in 2022.

Kamanga says Hauptle's predecessor Bruce Mwape will be re-assigned in a different capacity in the developmental teams.

"We also wish to thank Bruce Mwape for the work done since his appointment in 2018 which has seen the team qualify to the World Cup and two Olympics. He remains a core member of our wider technical development program as we secured a CAF Pro License course for him as part of our collaboration with the Royal Morocco Federation", he said.

The Copper Queens have already qualified for the 2024 WAFCON (to be played in July 2025) that takes place in Morocco.

Are you an entrepreneur or investor wishing to register your business?

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