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PACRA BULLETIN

PATENTS & COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY

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Grade 10 Pupil Develops Organic Sunscreen -2-



Increased CDF Boosts Business Registration -7-



Muzala Bags Bronze at Olympics -10-

PACRA, USAID AND IMF PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP



Government says strengthening the country's Beneficial Ownership framework can help create a more transparent and accountable business climate that fosters sustainable economic growth.

Commerce Minister Chipoka Mulenga says the move can also help reduce the risk of illicit activities and promote trust in the corporate systems.

On Tuesday September 24, 2024, the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), USAID and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held a two day multi-stakeholder workshop on Beneficial Ownership followed by another two

days of drafting policies.

Mr. Mulenga who was represented by Lilian Bwalya a Permanent Secretary in his Ministry at the opening of the workshop noted that transparency is a crucial factor in attracting foreign investments.

"Transparency is also a crucial factor in attracting foreign investment. Investors are more likely to commit to economies where ownership structures are clear, regulatory frameworks are transparent, and there is a strong commitment to corporate governance," said Mr. Mulenga.

Continued - Page 2



PACRA, USAID & IMF PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

From Page 1

He added that investors are more likely to commit to economies where ownership structures are clear, regulatory frameworks are transparent, and there is a strong commitment to corporate governance.

Mr. Mulenga further stated that hidden and opaque ownership structures have long been used to facilitate financial crimes such as money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption.

He also revealed that government has made significant progress in establishing a legal and regulatory framework that mandates the disclosure of beneficial owners.

"These efforts are aligned with our broad-based policy goals of promoting sustainable economic development, increasing foreign investment, and ensuring that businesses operate in a transparent and accountable manner", stated the Minister.

And USAID Zambia Director, Office of Democracy, Rights and Governance, Meral Karan pledged continued support to Zambia in efforts of promoting transparency and economic development in through Beneficial Ownership.

Ms. Karan said Beneficial Ownership is key in sustained economic development for Zambia.

Speaking at the same event, Patents and Companies Registration Agency – PACRA- Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo noted that the two day workshop is an opportunity for key stakeholder engagements among stakeholders.

Mr. Mpalo said transparency in Beneficial Ownership is a critical tool in combating financial crime and promoting good governance as it ensures that true ownership of companies are known.

"Our expectation is that this two-day work-

shop will provide a platform for the stakeholders to discuss the means through which we can achieve a 'whole-of-government' approach to the collection and transparency of beneficial ownership information", said Mr. Mpalo.

NABOYE SEC SCH GRADE 10 PUPIL DEVELOPS ORGANIC SUNSCREEN.



Mwape Chimpampa a 10 student of Naboye Secondary School in Kafue district was a shining light of the 2024 National Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) Fair that took place in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

While many people living with albinism have been lamenting over the high cost of Sunscreen, Mwape put complaints aside and summoned her creative side by researching on contents of the skin protecting lotion.

An Organic Sunscreen was therefore born out of a combination of vegetables, fruits, spices and Aloe Vera among other ingredients.

Mwape was among the over 700 participants of the 2024 National JETS Fair that ran from 12-16th August in Lusaka themed "Promoting Innovation, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship: Accelerating STEM growth and development" did not disappoint in

terms of the type of innovations on display."

And PACRA Deputy Registrar Intellectual Property Chewie Chilufya who visited the JETS fair urged Mwape to ensure that she keeps her ingredients as a Trade Secret and register for Trademarks when commercializing her innovation.

"As PACRA we would like to urge the young lady Mwape to closely guard her trade secret and ensure that she registers for trademarks so that even when her Organize Sunscreen is commercialized it will be protected", said Mr. Chilufya.

A trademark is a recognizable insignia, phrase, word or symbol that denotes a specific product and legally differentiates it from all others of its kind.



"Business Starts Here!"

FELIX KANGWA GETS COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR HIS DIABETES PHONE APP



Felix Kangwa an innovative youth received his Certificate of Registration of Copyright for his invention called 'Eyris – Diabetes Scanner' a Phone App he developed that enables diabetes patients to check their sugar levels.

Felix's invention was among the 15 that PACRA picked for Protection as part of the sponsorship from the 2024 Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) Fair that was held in Lusaka in August.

Developers of the 15 inventions picked by PACRA were also each rewarded with a K2000 by the Agency. PACRA Deputy Registrar Intellectual Property Chewa Chilufya handed over the Certificate of Copyright to Felix a Clinical Officer General employed by the Ministry of Health at Mazabuka's Magoye Rural Health Centre in Southern Province.

The 23 year old is also a final year student pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Medicine at Zambian Royal Medical University. PACRA apart from offering Business Registration Services also offers Intellectual Property Protection Services.

Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce which can all be protected by PACRA.

KALOMO YOUTH BENEFITS FROM BUSINESS REGISTRATION WAIVER.

What was pitched as a project during the 2023 JETS Fair by 20 year old Lweendo Mayumbelo of Kalomo District of Southern Province, has turned out to be a full-fledged business, courtesy of PACRA Registrar and CEO Benson Mpalo.

Lweendo last year exhibited an innovation of covering books using Chitenge Fabrics, designing bags from Chitenge and Curtains which saw him being awarded with a Sewing Machine.

Armed with a Sewing Machine and a K100 for materials given to him by his teacher, Lweendo immediately ventured into business after completing school and now employs 4 people.

The National Science Centre a Department under the Ministry of Education which hosts the JETS Fair gave the young lad a contract to supply Curtains for the facility a record which touched Minister of Education Douglas Syakalima during a tour of stands and Mr. Mpalo granted an immediate waiver for his (Lweendo's) business to be incorporated immediately.

A team from the PACRA headquarters immediately followed Lweendo to the JETS Fair venue to register his Business and 'Lweendo the Tailor and Fashion Designer' was thus officially registered on 16th August, 2024 and a Certificate issued immediately.



BUSINESS CLINIC IN KALUMBILA

Nancy and Stanley from PACRA's Regional Office in Solwezi district spread their tentacles from their base to offer mobile Business Registration Services in Kalumbila District.

Kalumbila is about 103 kilometers from Solwezi now considered the new "Copperbelt of Zambia" because of vast mining projects.

The Business Clinic organized by FQM Foundation took place at Sentinel School, running for three straight days (23rd - 25th August) which saw a huge number of rural businesses being formalized.

The two vibrant PACRA staff were on hand to help people

who are not tech-savvy to register their businesses online with on the spot guidance. They also helped people with existing businesses on filling of Annual Returns online, Increasing of capital and other key services.



BUSINESS ON THE MOVE

10 days mobile business registration in Kanchibiya District

In an effort not to leave anyone behind a team from the PACRA headquarters and Kabwe regional office penetrated remote parts of Kanchibiya District of Muchinga Province for Mobile Business Registration.

For 10 solid days, the PACRA team alongside their colleagues from ZANACO accompanied the Kanchibiya Council for a sensitization program with support of the USAID Local Impact Governance Project.

The initiative was aimed at educating and assisting local entrepreneurs in registering their Businesses and opening bank accounts as part of enhancing local economic development and supporting small businesses in the area.



QUOTABLE NOTES



"The UN Cultural Agency (UNESCO) estimated that Africa's film and audio-visual industries could create over 20 million jobs and contribute USD\$20 billion to the continent's combined GDP. This denotes the socio-economic potential that the audio-visual sector can offer to our creators",

David Njuguna

ARIPO Director Intellectual Property.



"The future of the audiovisual sector is bright, and together, we have the power to shape it. Let us seize the opportunities before us, drawing lessons from nations that have realised the immense value of their audiovisual sectors, and ensuring that the stories we tell continue to inspire, educate, and entertain future generations."

Benson Mpalo

PACRA Registrar & Chief Executive Officer



ENGAGEMENT WITH ZAMCOPS

PACRA Deputy Registrar Chewe Chilufya met with the management of ZAMCOPS to appreciate their operations and challenges. The team was led by the General Manager Mirrias Siamutondo

Mr. Chilufya was taken through the developments and transformation that ZAMCOPS has gone through over the years since its establishment by musicians as a Collecting Society in 1996. From accepting Cassettes for submission and now to online applications by musicians.

Mr. Siamutondo however appealed for the amendments to legislation to give the CMO some "teeth to bite" so that it can easily take to task firms refusing to pay for licenses for playing Zambian music which is key in collection of Royalties on behalf of musicians.



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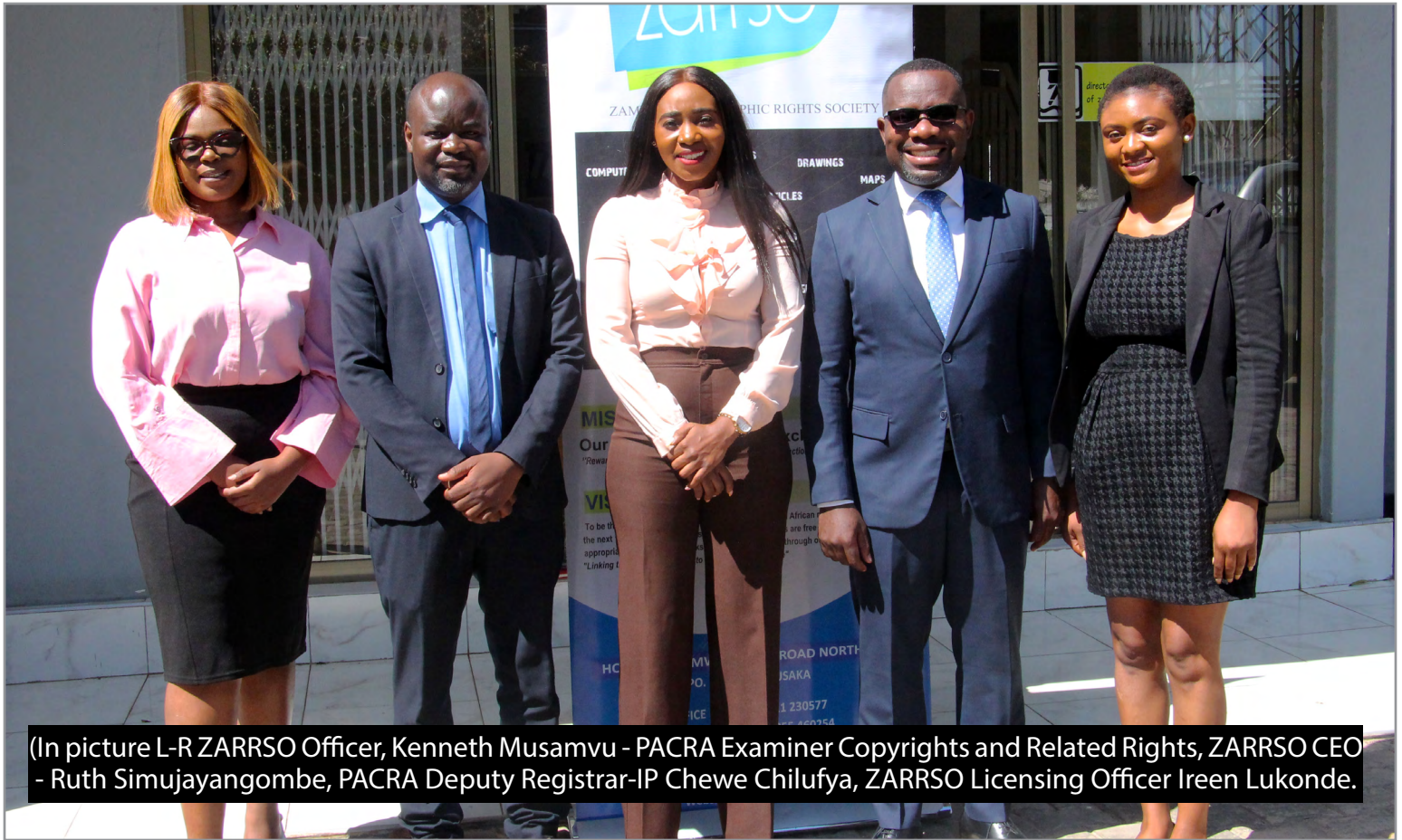
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(In picture L-R ZARRSO Officer, Kenneth Musamvu - PACRA Examiner Copyrights and Related Rights, ZARRSO CEO - Ruth Simujayangombe, PACRA Deputy Registrar-IP Chewe Chilufya, ZARRSO Licensing Officer Ireen Lukonde.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CMOS

Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), sometimes also referred to as collecting societies, represent groups of copyright and related rights owners. These include authors (such as writers, composers, painters and photographers), performers (such as musicians, actors and dancers) and publishers among others.

CMOs are one option within the copyright system that requires or allows rights holders to administer their rights. An author, performer or producer, for instance, cannot contact every single radio station to negotiate licenses and remuneration for the use of their songs. On the other side, it is not practical for a radio sta-

tion to seek specific permission from every author, performer and producer for the use of each song hence CMOs help facilitate rights clearance in the interest of both parties and economic reward for rights holders.

In Zambia the Zambia Reprographic Rights Society (ZARRSO) and the Zambian Music Copyright Protection Society (ZAMCOPS) are two CMOs that deal with Copyright holders.



“Business Starts Here!”

Spotlight on ZARRSO

ZARRSO is a nonprofit making organization which belongs to authors, creators and publishers of literary and artistic works who together with stakeholders established it to address the problem of unauthorized reproduction of their works in Zambia. Its creation is supported by the Copyright and Performance Rights Act of the Laws of Zambia.

ZARRSO's aim is to make the writing, arts and cultural industry of Zambia a sustainable, respectable and appreciated industry, capable of generating sufficient revenue that will contribute to Zambia's GDP

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PACRA hosts 3rd ARIPO Regional Copyright and Related Rights Seminar.



Delegates from various ARIPO members states and experts from overseas in August gathered in the Zambian capital, Lusaka for the 3rd Regional Copyright and Related Rights Seminar for Audio – Visual Collective Management Organisations to deliberate on various pertinent matters.

Zambia's Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Hon. Chipoka Mulenga graced the event during which he expressed government's desire to see content creators and others being rewarded for the work they put in.

"We don't want the Gen-Z to go on the streets to rally and throw stones, but let the innovators and creators of content inspire them to do things right. But they can only do this if we the policy makers, the decision makers will protect them and charter a way forward to a better livelihood for themselves. I look forward to a time when the singers, actors and many others will not do it part time, but it will be a full time livelihood for themselves."

Hon. Chipoka Mulenga MP

Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry (Zambia)



INCREASED CDF BOOSTS BUSINESS REGISTRATION



PACRA Deputy Registrar Commercial Belinda Siankumo says the Agency has in the past three years recorded a 64.7% increase in registration of Business Names and a 22.5% increase for local companies.

"In 2023, 34,486 Business Names were registered, and 17,779 local companies were registered. The increase is as a result of the directive by government for local companies to supply and carry out CDF projects and it is required by law for every business to be registered if it has to carry out any CDF project", said Mrs. Siankumo.

She added many firms have continued registering their Businesses as CDF which currently stands at K30.6 million continues to be adjusted upwards.

About 442,000 school desks were last year locally procured from entrepreneurs who took part in CDF projects to supply desks. With a target of 1-million desks to be procured locally, more Businesses continue being registered by PACRA while others are taking part in construction projects.

Mrs. Siankumo adds that PACRA projects an increase in the number of businesses that will be registered with the first half of 2024 having recorded 18,475 Business Names and 10,558 Local Companies ha registrations.

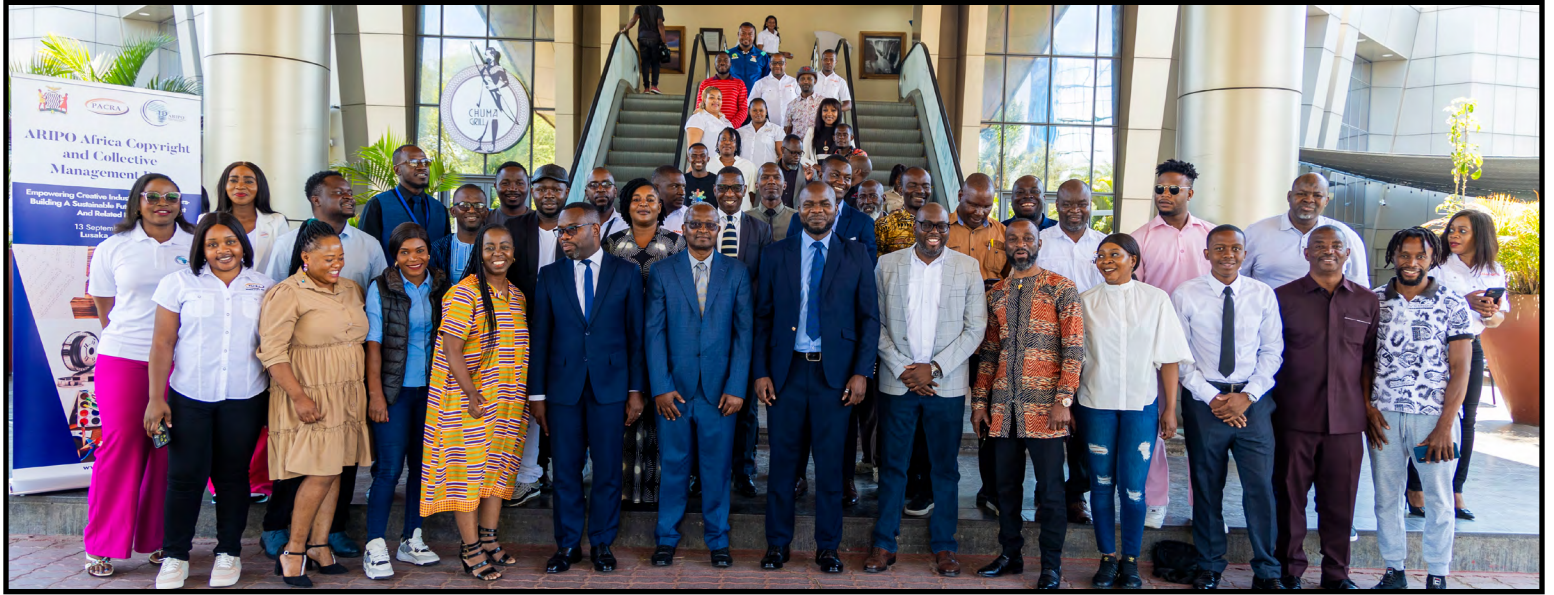
The increased Constituency Development Fund (CDF) by government has led to a rise in registration of Businesses as many people attempt to have a share of the national cake.

In 2021, government increased funding to all 156 Zambian constituencies 16-fold, unlocking K27 million per constituency from about K1.6 million hereby allocating significant financial power to communities.

President Hakainde Hichilema noted that the increased CDF was meant to enhance community development through grants, skills development and all CDF funded projects to be undertaken by companies within that locality.

The situation has over the years seen a rise in the number of Companies and Business Names registered by PACRA.

PACRA AND ARIPO DIALOGUE WITH PLAYERS IN THE CREATIVE ARTS INDUSTRY



PACRA and the African Region Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) on August 13th engaged players in Zambia's Creative Industry, a day before the Africa Copyright and Collective Management Day.

This year's day was themed "Empowering Creative Industries stakeholders building a sustainable Future for Copyright and Related Rights."

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Arts Permanent Secretary Fumba Chama graced the event where he noted that government wants the creative sector to be an economic sector and not a social sector.

Mr. Chama a former musician himself also called on PACRA and ARIPO to work with stakeholders in the creative industry to ensure that play-

ers reap maximum benefits. And ARIPO Director Intellectual Property David Njuguna noted that Globalization of the internet has provided challenges for the creative industry.

Mr. Njuguna however said the challenges can be used as an opportunity for the creative industry to grow because it supports entrepreneurship, innovation and job creation.

Meanwhile PACRA Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Benson Mpalo observed that a lot of musicians in Zambia and across Africa remain unaware of their rights to be compensated for their music being played on Radio and TV.

Mr. Mpalo said Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) play a vital role in ensuring that monies for musicians are collected and distributed.



PACRA OFFERS 15 INNOVATORS FREE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION.



PACRA in August selected fifteen (15) innovations that kit offered free IP registration services. The 15 were picked from the 2024 National Junior Engineers, Technicians and Scientists (JETS) Fair that was held in Lusaka.

The 15 were also empowered with cash prizes to encourage them to continue innovating.

PACRA Registrar Benson Mpalo at an Awards ceremony graced by Minister of Education Douglas Syakalima noted that it is important for young inventors, engineers, and entrepreneurs to understand and utilize IP because it is key to turning their brilliant

concepts into tangible impact.

“As we honour the top innovators, it is crucial to highlight the role of intellectual property (IP) in nurturing and sustaining this growth. IP is the bedrock upon which innovation stands. It ensures that those who create and innovate are rewarded for their hard work, and it provides the legal framework necessary to protect and commercialise new ideas”, said Mr. Mpalo.

The 15 inventions centered various sectors from energy, software development through to security and irrigation systems. (Photo-focus of JETS fair.)

SPOTLIGHT



The PACRA Call Centre is one unit that deals with hundreds of calls on a weekly basis as clients seek information and clarity on various services. Tasila is one of the Call Centre agents who endeavors to attend to queries putting clients at ease with her soothing voice.

Name: Tasila N. Mutamina

Education: Bsc. Public Administration, Dip. Public Administration, Adv Dip. HRBM.

Occupation: Call Centre Agent at PACRA Head Office.

"I am passionate about quality customer service delivery and clientele satisfaction. I am also focused on developing teams in customer based platforms and evaluating customer problems to provide accurate solutions."



"Business Starts Here!"

MUZALA SAMUKONGA BAGS BRONZE AT OLYMPICS.



Zambian track and field sprinter Muzala Samukonga in August kept the country talking with his exceptional performance at the Paris Olympics which saw him bag a Bronze medal.

The athlete who specialises in the 400 metres race put up a memorable performance taking bronze with a time of 43'74, a personal best and a new national record for Zambia.

Ahead of him at the Stade de France on 7 August, was American Quincy Hall who was crowned 400m Olympic champion with a time of 43'40, narrowly beating Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith, who finished in 43'44.

Muzala's bronze medal win marks a historic milestone for the country, as it is Zambia's first Olympic medal in 28 years. Before Samukonga, only two other medals had been won by Zambia: Keith Mwila's bronze in boxing in Los Angeles in 1984 and Samuel Matete's silver in the 400m hurdles in Atlanta in 1996.

Muzala was also part of the relay team at the Olympics, which include Kennedy Luchembe, Patrick Nyambe, and David Mulenga.

Zambia was represented by 32 athletes from five sporting disciplines at this year's Paris Olympic games. The disciplines include Athletics, Boxing, Football, Judo, and Swimming.

After the Olympics Muzala proceeded to participate in other international athletic activities before coming back to Zambia to a thunderous heroes welcome.

Picture Courtesy of NOCZ



BUSINESS REGISTRATION MADE EASY!

Did you also know that you can register your business using the PACRA Online Registration System?

Simply do the following to register as an online user;

- Visit www.pacra.org.zm
- Click on Online Services
- Scroll down to Business Services
- Click on sign up
- Fill all mandatory fields
- Check your mail box and follow the link provided to confirm your registration.