



Office of The Attorney General and Department of Justice
BUSINESS REGISTRATION SERVICE

Ease of Doing Business

**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INFORMATION SUBMISSION - DEADLINE EXTENSION
FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WITH EFFECT FROM 1st FEBRUARY 2021**

Nairobi, Kenya – 27th January 2021 –

The Business Registration Service (BRS) has received a significantly high number of applications to file Beneficial Ownership Information E-Register at the Companies Registry by persons who are keen to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act, 2015.

As per our previous communication, companies registered under the Companies Act, 2015 and the Companies Act Cap. 486 Laws of Kenya (now repealed) are required under Section 93A to prepare and submit a copy of the Beneficial Ownership registers to the Registrar of Companies within 30 days of its preparation and to notify the Registrar within 14 days of any change in beneficial ownership information. We had previously issued a deadline of 31st January 2021.

Having taken note of the progress made in filing these registers and in the spirit of encouraging compliance with the Companies Act, BRS has in consultation with stakeholders granted a **final grace period** of six months ending **31st July 2021**.

Failure to comply with this requirement after 31st July 2021 makes it an offence to the company and every officer of the company who is in default and such officer will be liable to a fine upon conviction.

We have first operationalized the e-Register for private limited companies and shall progressively operationalize the e-Registers for the other types of companies.

We advise the public to be cautious of persons soliciting money to facilitate them in complying with this requirement. Submission of the beneficial ownership information is a **simple process** and **free of charge** that can be undertaken by any company officer/authorized person online by following the step-by-step Beneficial Ownership E-register Manual available at www.brs.go.ke.

BRS would like reiterate for emphasis that the disclosure of the beneficial ownership information is a positive exercise that will promote good governance and increase trust in Kenyan companies and ensure greater transparency of company ownership. This will also support the government in the fight against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Finally, we wish to make it clear that the register is not accessible to unauthorized persons but only to competent authorities who may use the register upon request in accordance with the law.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Notes to the editor:

About Business Registration Service (BRS)

The Business Registration Service (“BRS” or the Service) is a state corporation established through an Act of Parliament, the Business Registration Act 2015. The Service is under the general supervision of the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice.

The Service is mandated to oversee implementation and effective administration of the laws relating to the incorporation, registration, operation and management of companies, partnerships and firms. We also administer the Insolvency Act and the Movable Property Security Rights Act as well as the Hire Purchase Act.

“**Beneficial Owner**” means the natural person who ultimately owns or controls a legal person or arrangements or the natural person on whose behalf a transaction is conducted, and includes those persons who exercise ultimate effective control over a legal person or arrangements;

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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