



## **Press Release**

### **Role of Credit Registry System in Facilitating Access to Finance and Promoting a Sound Credit Culture**

1. The Reserve Bank is pleased to advise that in January 2017 we completed the first phase of the implementation of a Credit Registry system and commenced the provision of credit reports to subscribers in May 2017. The Credit Registry, which is a web-based public repository of both positive and negative credit data of borrowers, started with the collection of credit data from banking institutions. In subsequent phases, the Reserve Bank shall grow the database by incorporating credit data from other lending institutions such as microfinance institutions, utility companies and other credit providers, in line with the supporting legislation.
2. The Credit Registry system is a convenient and flexible facility available to subscribers for purposes of assessing clients seeking credit or credit terms and it is accessible via the internet on a 24 hour basis. The registry can also be utilised to carry out due diligence checks on prospective employees as well as review of business partners by an organisation. In line with international best practices, access to the credit reports is restricted to authorised subscribers.
3. Access to credit data on current and/or prospective clients, enables lending institutions and other credit providers to make informed credit decisions and enhances the management of default risk. Thus the Credit Registry is a critical platform which has improved the credit reporting infrastructure and minimises information asymmetry which has been blamed for the generally high credit defaults experienced by corporations.
4. On the other hand, the Credit Registry presents an opportunity for borrowers to build a credit profile which, if well-maintained, can enhance their risk profile and promote access to credit at sustainable terms. Further, a positive credit history is considered to be a strong form of “collateral” for future borrowings.
5. The Credit Registry also offers free reports as well as other paid services to consumers or data subjects who may want to check on the accuracy of the credit data in the system on their borrowings and payment patterns.
6. Overall the Credit Registry system is expected to promote access to finance, spur the financial inclusion agenda, promote the safety and soundness of the banking system and improve the credit culture across economic sectors.
7. Additional information on the credit registry can be obtained from the Reserve Bank on the following contact details:
  - Tel: 04-703000
  - Email: [creditregistry@rbz.co.zw](mailto:creditregistry@rbz.co.zw)

**August 2017**