

THE LEGAL AID (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

MEMORANDUM

The object of this Bill is to amend the Legal Aid Act, 2021, so as to—

- (a) revise the composition of the Board of the Legal Aid Board; and
- (b) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

M. D. KABESHA,
Attorney-General

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Act to amend the Legal Aid Act, 2021.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Zambia.

Enactment

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Legal Aid Act (Amendment) Act, 2026, and shall be read as one with the Legal Aid Act, 2021, in this Act referred to as the principal Act.

Short title and commencement
Act No. 1
of 2021

5 (2) This Act shall come into operation on the expiry of the term of office, or removal by the Minister, of the members of the Board holding office prior to the enactment of this Act, after which the Minister shall appoint the members of the Board in accordance with this Act.

10 2. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following new definitions in the appropriate places in alphabetical order:

Amendment
of section 2

“higher education institution” has the meaning assigned to the words in the Higher Education Act;

Cap. 136

15 “Human Rights Commission” means the Human Rights Commission established under the Constitution;

Cap. 1

“Law Association of Zambia” means the Law Association of Zambia established under the Law Association of Zambia Act; and

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|-----------------------------------|---|----|
| Cap.31 | “Zambia Law Development Commission” means the Zambia | |
| Cap. 32 | Law Development Commission established under the | |
| Amendment of section 8 | Zambia Law Development Commission Act; | |
| | 3. Section 8 of the principal Act is amended by the deletion of | 5 |
| | subsection (2) and the substitution therefor of the following: | |
| | (2) The Board consists of the following part- | |
| | time members appointed by the Minister: | |
| | (a) the Chairperson, who shall be a person | |
| | qualified to be a judge of the High Court; | |
| | (b) a representative of the Attorney- | 10 |
| | General; | |
| | (c) a representative of the Judiciary; | |
| | (d) a representative of the Zambia Law | |
| | Development Commission; | |
| | (e) a representative of the Human Rights | 15 |
| | Commission; | |
| | (f) a representative of the Law Association | |
| | of Zambia; | |
| | (g) two representatives from civil society | 20 |
| | organisations providing legal aid; | |
| | (h) a representative of a higher education | |
| | institution, from the school of law, | |
| | providing legal aid; and | |
| Amendment of First Schedule | (i) two persons from the private sector with | 25 |
| | knowledge and expertise in matters | |
| | relating to this Act. | |
| | 4. Paragraph 4(4) of the First Schedule to the principal Act is | |
| | amended by the deletion of the word “Six” and the substitution | |
| | therefor of the word “Seven”. | |