



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ON THE

THE COFFEE (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B NO. 36 OF 2026

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Published by the National Assembly of Zambia

FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has the honour to present its Report on the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206(a) and 207 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024. Specifically, Standing Order 207(j) provides that portfolio Committees shall study and review Bills referred to them by the House.

In order to acquaint itself with the ramifications of the Bill, the Committee held five meetings and sought both written and oral submissions from stakeholders. The stakeholders, who appeared before the Committee, are listed at Appendix II of the Report. The Report is organised in three Parts. Part I provides a background and summary of the provisions of the Bill, Part II presents the summary of submissions from stakeholders, while Part III constitutes the Committee's observations and recommendations.

The Committee is grateful to the stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. It further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it the opportunity to scrutinise the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026. The Committee's appreciation is further extended to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support and guidance rendered throughout its deliberations.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP (Chairperson); Mr Michael J Z Katambo, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Tyson Simuzingili, MP; Mr Lusale J Simbao, MP; Mr Yotam Mtayachalo, MP; Mr Andrew Tayengwa, MP; Mr Peter Phiri, MP; Mr Mweemba Malambo, MP; Mr Vumango Musumali, MP; and Mr Ackleo I A Banda, MP.

PART I

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026 seeks to amend the Coffee Act, Chapter 228 of the Laws of Zambia so as to revise the composition of the Coffee Board of Zambia.

The governance of public institutions has not been adequate, leading to governance variability and weakened private sector engagement, which subsequently hinders the effective operation of public body in the country. Further, it undermines the effective governance of public body and thereby compromising long term sustainability of public body.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The Objective of the Bill is to amend the principal Act so as to:

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

4.0 SALIENT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The summarised provisions of the Bill are set out below.

Clause 1 - Short Title and Commencement

The clause provides for the short title of the Act, once enacted.

The clause also provides for the commencement of the Act by stating that the Act shall come into operation on the expiry of the term of office, or removal by the Minister, of members of the Board holding office prior to the enactment of the Act, after which the Minister shall appoint the members of the Board in accordance with the Act.

Clause 2 – Amendment of section 2

The clause seeks to amend section 2 of the principal Act by the insertion of the new definition “Legally disqualified” as provided under section 4 of the *Mental Health Act, No. 6 of 2019*.

Clause 3 – Repeal and replacement of section 4

The clause seeks to amend section 4 of the principal Act by repeal and replacement of section 4 which provided for the composition of the Board.

Clause 4 – Repeal and replacement of section 5

The clause provides for the amendment of section 5 of the principal Act by repeal and replacement of section 5 which provided for tenure and vacancy of office of member of the Board.

PART II

5.0 SUBMISSIONS AND CONCERNS BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee were in support of the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026, and submitted as outlined below.

Clause 3 – Repeal and replacement of section 4

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee submitted that they were in support of the Bill and the revision of the composition of the Coffee board of Zambia was intended to modernise the coffee industry regulations, enhance governance and address production of coffee which was already on the decline. Stakeholders were, however, concerned with the price of coffee which had never been attractive, thereby discouraging many coffee farmers. In this regard, stakeholders emphasised the need to make the price for coffee attractive in order to attract many coffee farmers.

6.0 SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Committee also interacted with the Permanent Secretary who submitted on the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026, as outlined below.

The Ministry of Agriculture had initiated the process of amending the Coffee Act, Chapter 288 of the Laws of Zambia. There was need to strengthen the principal Act in order to regulate, control and promote the production, processing and marketing of coffee in the agriculture sector.

The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026 aimed to modernise the coffee industry regulations, enhance governance and address production declines. This legislative shift would focus on restructuring the board in order to improve efficiency in regulating the coffee sector and also implementing government policies.

The objects of the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026 was to amend the Coffee Act in order to provide a legal framework that would boost coffee production, improve market regulation, attract investment and enhance support for Coffee growers. The proposed amendment to the Coffee Act would also incorporate private sector participation as opposed to what was prevailing in the previous years.

The proposed Bill would not have any adverse impact on the day-to-day operations of the Ministry of Agriculture or the operations of private agricultural enterprises.

The Ministry of Agriculture supported the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36, as it provided for the effective operations of Coffee Board due to the incorporation of the private sector in the proposed new composition of the Coffee Board of Zambia.

Part III

7.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND ECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee supports the enactment of the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026, however, in supporting the Bill, it observes with great concern the prevailing low price of coffee which has never been attractive, thereby discouraging many coffee farmers. In this regard, the Committee urges the Government to take concrete steps to ensure that the price of coffee becomes attractive and cause many farmers to engage in coffee farming.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee is in support of the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 36 of 2026, as it will provide for private sector participation, thereby boost coffee production, improve market regulation, attract investment and enhance support for Coffee growers.

The Committee is confident that, as the Bill is enacted into law, its observation and recommendation will be taken into consideration.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Stephen Chiwota, Director – Financial Committees

Mr Geoffrey Zulu, Deputy Director – Financial Committees

Ms Chitalu Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk - Financial Committees

Mr Evans Chilongu, Committee Clerk

Ms Eneless Njobvu, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II - List of Witnesses

Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Agriculture
Agricultural Consultative Forum
Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute
Oxfam Zambia
Civil Society for Poverty Reduction