



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ON THE

THE TOBACCO (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B NO. 16 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 Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 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 Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 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 Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 of 2026 seeks to amend the *Tobacco Act, No 10 of 2022* so as to revise the composition of the Tobacco Board of Zambia.

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

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The Object of the Bill to amend the principal Act so as to:

- (a) revise the composition of the Tobacco 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 as set out below.

Clause 1 - Short Title and Commencement

The clause seeks to 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 5

The clause seeks to amend section 5 of the principal Act by the deletion of subsections (1) and (2) and the substitution therefor of the composition of the board.

PART II

5.0 SUBMISSIONS AND CONCERNS BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee were in support of the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 of 2026, and submitted as outlined below.

Clause 2 – Amendment of section 5

The Committee was informed that the composition of the Tobacco Board of Zambia did not have representation from the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Stakeholders in formed the Committee that ZEMA was critical in ensuring that tobacco farming did not affect the environment, whereas, the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry served as the leading private sector body which promoted the development of trade in the country.

In this regard, stakeholders submitted that there was need to ensure that ZEMA and the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry had representation on the Tobacco Board of Zambia.

6.0 SUBMISSION BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Committee also interacted with the Permanent Secretary who submitted on the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 of 2026, as outlined below.

The Ministry of Agriculture had initiated the process of amending the *Tobacco Act No. 10 of 2022*. There was need to strengthen the principal Act in order to boost tobacco production by attracting more buyers, supporting small/medium-scale farmers, and also fostering investment to contribute towards the economic growth of the country.

The revision of the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, 2026 aims to increase private sector participation in the operations of the Board and to improve efficiency in regulating the industry and providing extension services. The Committee was informed that the objects of the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was to amend the Tobacco Act No. 10 of 2022 in order to provide a legal framework that increases investor confidence, protects growers, and boosts economic contribution of the tobacco sector and revise the composition of the Board to incorporate private sector as opposed to what was prevailing in the Principal Act.

The Committee was further informed that the 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 welcomes the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill 2026, as it provided for the effective operations of Tobacco Board due to the incorporation of the private sector in the proposed new composition of the Tobacco Board. The Ministry recommends for further review and amendment of the Act to be in tandem the current demands for the Tobacco sub-sector.

Part III

7.0 COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND ECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee supports the enactment of the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 of 2026. However, in supporting the Bill, it is greatly concerned that the Zambia Environmental Management Agency and the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry are not part of the Tobacco Board of Zambia despite the two institutions being critical in the tobacco production industry.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Zambia Environmental Management Agency and the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry should have representation on the Tobacco Board of Zambia.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee supports the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 16 of 2026, as it will provide for private sector participation, thereby boosting tobacco production, improve market regulation, attract investment and enhance support for tobacco farmers.

Madam Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources expresses gratitude to you, for the opportunity rendered to it to consider the Bill.



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