



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

ON THE

ZAMBIA WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 49 OF 2026

FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Energy, Water Development and Tourism has the honour to present its Report on the Zambia Wildlife (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No.49 of 2026, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 207 (j) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

The Committee held five sittings to consider the Bill. In order to gain insight into the ramifications of the Bill, the Committee sought both written and oral submissions from various stakeholders. The list of stakeholders is at Appendix II of the Report.

The Report is in three Parts. Part I contains the provisions of the Bill. Part II highlights concerns raised by stakeholders, while Part III contains the Committee's observations and recommendations.

The Committee wishes to pay tribute to all stakeholders who appeared before it and tendered both oral and written submissions. It further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to consider the Zambia Wildlife (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No.49 of 2026. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.



Mr Romeo Kangombe, MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

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List of Acronyms

ACC Anti-Corruption Commission

1.0 Membership of the Committee

The Committee consisted of Mr Romeo Kangombe, MP (Chairperson); Ms Mulenga Kampamba, MP (Vice Chairperson); Ms Mirriam Choonya, MP; Mr Binwell Mpundu, MP; Mr Michael J Z Katambo, MP; Mr Chanda Katotobwe, MP; Mr Davies Chisopa, MP; Mr Gregory Ngowani, MP; Mr Raphael Mabenga, MP; and Mr Lameck Hamwaata, MP.

PART I

2.0 Background

The Zambia Wildlife (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No.49 of 2026, seeks to amend *the Zambia Wildlife Act, No.14 of 2015*, so as to revise the composition of the Wildlife Management Licensing Committee and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to:

- a) revise the composition of the Wildlife Management Licensing Committee; and
- b) provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing.

PART II

4.0 PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The provisions of the bill are set out hereunder.

Clause 1: Short Title and Commencement

This clause provides for the short title and commencement of the Act, once enacted.

Clause 2: Amendment of Section 2

This clause seeks to amend section 2 of the principal Act by the insertion of new definitions in the appropriate place in alphabetical order: “Anti-Corruption Commission” means the Anti-Corruption Commission established under the Constitution; “Emoluments Commission” means the Emoluments Commission established under the Constitution; and “legally disqualified” means the absence of legal capacity as provided in section 4 of the *Mental Health Act, No.6 of 2019*.

Clause 3: Amendment of Section 7

This clause seeks to amend section 7 of the principal Act by the (a) deletion of subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5); to provide for part-time Committee members appointed by the Minister; and (b) insertion of new subsections immediately after subsection (5).

Clause 4: Repeal and Replacement of Heading to First Schedule

This clause seeks to repeal the heading to the First Schedule in paragraph 3 by the deletion of sub-paragraph (5) and the substitution therefor of the following: (5) Seven members shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Committee; and (b) by the deletion of paragraph 5

and the substitution therefor of the following: '5. A member of the Committee or subcommittee of the Committee shall be paid allowances that the Emoluments Commission may, on the recommendation of the Minister, determine.

PART III

5.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee supported the Bill. However, in doing so, they raised concerns as outlined below.

i. Composition of the Wildlife Management Licensing Committee

Some stakeholders commended the inclusion of representatives from ministries responsible for chiefs, green economy, and mines, together with the Office of the President and Attorney-General. Others were of the view that while this introduced oversight and governance institutions directly into the licensing process, it posed a risk of over-centralisation and increased executive influence in a primarily regulatory and technical body.

It was, therefore, recommended that the Bill should clarify the roles of institutional representatives to ensure that the Committee retained its technical and regulatory character.

ii. Inclusion of the Anti-Corruption Commission

Some witnesses submitted that the inclusion of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) strengthened oversight, accountability, and institutional integrity within the licensing process, while others expressed the view that the ACC was primarily an investigative and preventive integrity institution. Additionally, its mandate was materially different from that of sector regulators or policy stakeholders who were expected to deliberate and determine licence applications.

Others submitted that if the ACC had a voting right, it would create practical challenges such as institutional dilution of the ACC's independence and core mandate and reputational exposure where disputed licensing decisions were made collectively.

In view of the foregoing, stakeholders were of the view that the ACC should be retained within the governance framework, but designated as an ex officio member without voting rights. Others recommended that the ACC should only attend meetings by invitation where matters of governance risk, complaints systems, or process integrity arose.

iii. Removal of Line Ministries

Stakeholders submitted that the removal of key line ministries, such as the Ministries of Lands and Natural Resources, Tourism, Fisheries, and Livestock, which played a central role in shaping wildlife, was a significant departure from the multi-sectoral approach embedded in the principal Act. Further, their exclusion risked weakening policy coherence and undermining the integrated approach required for effective wildlife governance.

iv. Lack of a Clear Definition of Private Sector

Some stakeholders submitted that the term “private sector” was not defined in the Bill, creating ambiguity in interpretation. It was recommended that the Bill should include a clear definition of “private sector,” specifying the categories of entities and expertise envisaged, to ensure consistency and transparency.

v. Sector-Specific Representation

Some witnesses welcomed the retention and refined representation from key industry stakeholders, among them, the hunting industry, tourism, and the Wildlife Producers Association of Zambia, which ensured sector expertise and informed decision-making. Others were of the view that there was a need to balance between industry interests and conservation priorities to avoid regulatory capture. Others suggested that the Act should provide for structured mechanisms to incorporate community or local stakeholder perspectives, particularly given the role of wildlife in community-led livelihoods.

PART IV

6.0 COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee notes that stakeholders who appeared before it supported the Bill. In supporting the Bill, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations outlined below.

i. Risk of Over-Centralisation in the Licensing Committee

The Committee observes that while the inclusion of oversight institutions such as the Office of the President and the Office of the Attorney General enhances governance, it may lead to over-centralisation and excessive executive influence in what is intended to be a technical and regulatory body.

The Committee recommends that the roles of institutional representatives be clearly defined to preserve the technical, independent, and regulatory character of the Wildlife Management Licensing Committee.

ii. Role of the Anti-Corruption Commission

The Committee notes that although the inclusion of the Anti-Corruption Commission strengthens accountability, granting it full participation and voting rights may conflict with its core investigative and oversight mandate.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Anti-Corruption Commission be designated as an ex officio member without voting rights, or attend meetings by invitation where integrity and governance issues arise.

iii. Removal of Key Line Ministries

The Committee observes that the exclusion of critical line ministries such as Tourism, Lands, Fisheries, and Livestock risks weakening policy coordination and undermining the multi-sectoral approach required for effective wildlife management.

The Committee recommends the reinstatement of key line ministries in the composition of the Committee to ensure policy coherence and integrated decision-making.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments to the *Zambia Wildlife Act, No.14 of 2015*, are progressive as they reflect a shift towards a more structured, multi-sectoral, and integrity-driven governance framework. Additionally, the proposed amendments significantly broaden the institutional composition of the Wildlife Management Licensing Committee by including entities such as the Office of the President and retaining the Anti-Corruption Commission, among others. This enhanced framework introduces oversight and governance institutions directly into the licensing process.

The Committee, therefore, supports the enactment of the Zambia Wildlife (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No.49 of 2026, into law.

Handwritten signature of Mr. Romeo Kangombe, MP, consisting of stylized initials 'pp' followed by a signature that appears to be 'Romeo Kangombe'.

Mr Romeo Kangombe, MP
(Chairperson)

May, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - 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 Elijah I C Chilimboyi, Committee Clerk

Ms Media Hachombwa, Committee Clerk

Ms Eneless Njobvu, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II-WITNESSES

Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Justice

Hotel and Catering Association of Zambia

Tourism Council of Zambia

Zambia Tourism Agency

Zambia Law Development Commission

Wildlife Procedures Association of Zambia