



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, TRADE AND LABOUR MATTERS

ON THE

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO.
62 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 National Economy, Trade and Labour Matters has the honour to present its Report on the Occupational Health and Safety (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 62 of 2026, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206(j) and 207 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 the stakeholders is at Appendix II of the Report.

The Report is in three Parts. Part I contains the salient 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 Occupational Health and Safety (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 62 of 2026. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.



Ms Sibeso K Sefulo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Ms Sibeso K Sefulo, MP (Chairperson); Mr Joel Chibuye, MP (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Gary Nkombo, MP; Mr Kabwe T Chewe, MP; Mr Davison Mung'andu, MP; Mr Derricky Chilundika, MP; Dr Simon Mwale, MP; Mr Simon Banda, MP; Mr Walusa Mulaliki, MP; and Mr Wesley Kolala, MP.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Occupational Health and Safety (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 62 of 2026, seeks to amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, No. 16 of 2025*, so as to revise the composition of the Board of the Occupational Health and Safety Institute.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to:

- a. revise the composition of the Board of the Occupational Health and Safety Institute; and
- b. provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

PART I

4.0 PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The provisions of the Bill are as 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 6

This clause seeks to amend section 6 of the principal Act by the deletion of subsection (1) and the substitution therefor of the revised composition of the Board of the Institute.

PART II

5.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

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

Risk of Ineffective Operation of the Board

Some stakeholders submitted that the proposed Board was highly congruent with the Institute's statutory functions. The diverse composition allowed the Board to develop policies that were practical for the industry, while also protecting workers.

It was, however, submitted that the primary risk associated with the amendment was that of ensuring effective operation of the Board. The Board, as reconstituted, was a manageable size for a part-time Board. The challenge in this case would be to ensure that the civil society nominee genuinely represented broad public-interest concerns in occupational health.

In this regard, it was suggested that clear nomination and selection guidelines be developed and issued, for the civil society organisation seat and that of the two private-sector experts, to ensure appointments were based on merit, relevant expertise, and genuine representation.

PART III

6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee supports the Bill and doing so, makes the observation and recommendation outlined below.

Potential Risk of Operational Ineffectiveness by the Board

The Committee notes that the proposed Board is highly compatible with the Institute's statutory functions. It however, observes that the primary risk associated with the amendment is that of ensuring its effective operation.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that clear nomination and selection guidelines be developed and issued, for the civil society organisation nomination and that of the two private-sector experts, to ensure that appointments are based on merit, relevant expertise, and genuine representation.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Occupational Health and Safety (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 62 of 2026, stands out for its approach to balancing technical expertise, regulatory oversight, and representation of social partners and the public interest.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee supports its enactment into law.



Ms Sibeso K Sefulo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I – List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Stephen Chiwota, Director (Financial Committees)
Mr Geoffrey Zulu, Deputy Director (Financial Committees)
Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC2)
Mr Moses Chuba, Committee Clerk
Mrs Racheal M Kanyumbu, Administrative Assistant
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant
Ms Debora Mbewe, Intern

APPENDIX II – List of Witnesses

Anti-Corruption Commission
Ministry of Finance and National Planning
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Labour and Social Security
National Economic Advisory Council
Occupational Health and Safety Institute
Zambia Institute for Policy Research and Analysis