



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, TRADE AND LABOUR MATTERS

ON THE

**PATENTS AND COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, N.A.B. NO. 63 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 Patents and Companies Registration Agency (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 63 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 the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 63 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 Patents and Companies Registration Agency (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 63 of 2026, seeks to amend the *Patents and Companies Registration Agency Act, No. 4 of 2020*, so as to revise the composition of the Board of the Patents and Companies Registration Agency.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to:

- a. revise the composition of the Board of the Patents and Companies Registration Agency; 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 2

This clause seeks to amend section 2 of the principal Act by the insertion of the following new definition in the appropriate place: “Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants” means the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants established under the *Accountants Act, Chapter 390 of the Laws of Zambia*.

Clause 3: Amendment of Section 6

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

PART II

5.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

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

i. Removal of ZACCI Representation

Some stakeholders were of the view that the removal of the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI) from the Board, and increasing the number of private-sector experts, might dilute the organised voice of the broader business community, in favour of individual appointees.

It was, therefore, suggested that a ZACCI representative be retained on the Board or any other similar broad-based business association.

ii. Lack of Representation of Broader Public-Interest Perspectives

Other stakeholders submitted that the Board's composition, as amended, lacked dedicated representation for broader public-interest perspectives, such as consumer protection, civil society oversight, or Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) advocacy.

They were of the view that a Board that heavily weighted towards private-sector and technical experts, without counterbalancing public-interest voices, risked developing policies and priorities that favoured incumbent businesses or specific professional interests over broader economic and social welfare.

It was, therefore, suggested that the number of proposed unspecified private-sector representation be reduced from three to two and introduce one seat for a representative of a civil society organisation or academic institution with expertise in consumer affairs, competition policy, or SME development.

PART III

6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee supports the Bill and doing so, makes the observations and recommendations outlined below.

i. Lack of Business Community and Industry Expert Representation

The Committee is concerned with the removal of ZACCI out of the Board; and fears that increasing the number of private-sector experts, as proposed in the Bill, may dilute the organised voice of the broader business community, in favour of individual appointees.

In view of this, the Committee recommends that a ZACCI representative be retained on the Board.

ii. Lack of Representation from Civil Society and Community Based Organisations

The Committee observes, with concern, that the proposed composition of the Board lacks representation of civil society organisations or academic institutions with expertise in consumer affairs, competition policy, or Small and Medium Enterprise development.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the number of proposed unspecified private-sector representation be reduced from three to two; and introduce one seat for a representative of a civil society organisation or academic institution with relevant expertise.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed amendment of the *Patents and Companies Registration Agency Act, No. 4 of 2020*, reflects a deliberate shift toward a private sector-driven and professionalised Board structure. The Bill aligns the Board composition more closely with economic and commercial realities and will result in a more competent, representative, and

effective Board. However, the concerns highlighted in the report must be addressed to enhance the Act's operational effectiveness.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee supports the enactment of the Patents and Companies Registration Agency (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 63 of 2026, 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 Commerce, Trade and Industry
National Economic Advisory Council
Patents and Companies Registration Agency
Zambia Institute for Policy Research and Analysis