



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, TRADE AND LABOUR MATTERS

ON THE

STANDARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 53 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 Standards (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 53 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 Standards (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 53 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 Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2026, N.A.B. No. 53 of 2026, seeks to amend the *Standards Act, Chapter 416 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to revise the composition of the Board of the Zambia Bureau of Standards.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to:

- a. revise the composition of the Board of the Zambia Bureau of Standards; 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 in alphabetical order: “legally disqualified” means the absence of legal capacity as provided under section 4 of the *Mental Health Act, No.6 of 2019*.

Clause 3: Amendment of Section 6

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

Clause 4: Amendment of Section 8

This clause seeks to amend section 8(4) of the principal Act by the deletion of the word “Four” and the substitution therefor of the word “Five”.

PART II

5.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

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

Private Sector Capture

Some stakeholders submitted that the orientation of the Board towards private sector raises a critical governance concern regarding regulatory balance and capture, since the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) had a dual mandate of facilitating trade and industry; and the protection of consumers through health, safety, and quality standards, as provided in the principal Act. It was therefore, suggested that the proposed composition of the Board be revised to better reflect the Bureau's full statutory mandate.

In this regard, it was proposed that the Board be revised as follows:

- a. have one representative from the ministry responsible for commerce and industry, the Attorney-General, the Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and the Zambia Association of Manufacturers;
- b. reduce the number of unspecified private-sector expert seats from three to two; and
- c. introduce one new seat for a representative of an association engaged in consumer protection or a civil society organisation with relevant expertise.

PART III

6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Potential Private Sector Dominance

The Committee observes that membership of the Board as proposed, is oriented towards private sector, which raises governance concerns of regulatory balance and capture, going by the mandate of ZABS.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the proposed composition of the Board be revised by reducing the number of unspecified private-sector expert seats from three to two; and introducing one new seat for a representative of an association engaged in consumer protection or a civil society organisation with relevant expertise.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Amendment of the *Standards Act, Chapter 416 of the Laws of Zambia* is commendable, as it will ensure good corporate governance in the appointment and running of the Board and consequently lead to improved service delivery by the Bureau.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee supports the enactment of the Standards (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 53 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
Zambia Bureau of Standards
Zambia Institute for Policy Research and Analysis