



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ON THE

**CONSIDERATION OF PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 27 OF 2026**

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

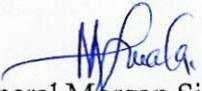
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FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, has the honour to present its Report on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 27, 2026, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. Accordingly, the Bill was referred to the Committee for consideration. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Order 206(k) of the National Assembly of Zambia, Standing Orders, 2024, which mandates the Committee to reconsider any Bill that may be referred to it by the House. Further, Standing Order 207 (J) of the National Assembly of Zambia, Standing Orders, 2024 gives locus classicus to the Committee to study and review a Bill referred to it by the House.

In order to acquaint itself with the ramifications of the Bill, the Committee sought both written and oral submissions from various stakeholders, the list of which is at Appendix II. The Report highlights a summary of submissions from stakeholders; concerns raised by stakeholders; and the observations and recommendations made by the Committee.

The Committee wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it the opportunity to consider the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 27, 2026. The Committee further wishes to pay tribute to all stakeholders who appeared before it and rendered both oral and written submissions. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk during its deliberations.


Brig General Morgan Sitwala, DFS, Psc, MP, (Rtd)
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Brig General Morgan Sitwala, DFS, Psc, MP (Rtd) (Chairperson); Ms Sibongile Mwamba MP (Vice Chairperson); Ms Chrizoster Halwiindi Phiri, MP; Mr Christopher Chibuye, MP; Mr Mubika Mubika, MP; Mr Derricky Chilundika, MP; Mr Yotam Mtayachalo, MP; Mr Cliff Mpundu, MP; Mr John Lusale Simbao, MP; and Mr Philimon Twasa, MP.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Prohibition of the Development; Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 27 of 2026, seeks to amend the Principal Act in order to strengthen institutional governance and enhance Zambia's compliance with its obligations under the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

2.1 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of the Bill is to the Prohibition of the Development; Production; Stockpiling; and Use of Chemical Weapons Act so as to:

- (a) Revise the composition of the Zambia National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention; and
- (b) provide for the matters connected with, or incidental to the foregoing.

2.1.2 SALIENT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The salient provisions of the Bill are set out hereunder.

Clause 3: Amendment of Section 5 - Composition of the Authority

This clause seeks to amend the composition of the Zambia National Authority (the Authority). The Act establishes a broad-based Authority comprising representatives from various ministries, regulatory bodies, and technical institutions, while the Bill proposes a streamlined structure with fewer members. The number of representatives in the Act, is seventeen, which is proposed to reduce to seven in the Bill. The Bill proposes to include two representatives from the private sector.

2.2 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

The submissions made by the stakeholders are summarised below.

2.2.1 Transitional Arrangements

Stakeholders observed that clause 1(2) provides that the Act comes into operation after expiry or removal of existing members, after which the Minister shall appoint members of

the Authority in accordance with the Act. This provision may potentially create a transitional vacuum, if members' tenure expires without immediate replacement. Stakeholders proposed a much clearer transitional provision which would state that existing members shall continue in office until new appointments are made. This would prevent a transitional vacuum that may be created in case of any delay in the appointment of new members of the Authority.

2.2. 2 Composition of the Authority

Stakeholders supported the proposed restructuring of the National Authority from a broad multi-sectoral body to a leaner governance structure, submitting that the amendment would enhance efficiency, improve coordination and expedite decision-making. They noted that the retention of key institutions responsible for national security, public health, legal oversight and border control would preserve the Authority's core functions. Stakeholders further submitted that the proposal aligns with Government's broader governance reform agenda aimed at reducing bureaucracy and improving institutional effectiveness.

However, some stakeholders expressed concern that the reduction in membership may weaken the Authority's multidisciplinary character by excluding important technical, scientific and environmental institutions. They submitted that this may limit access to specialised expertise and undermine the Authority's regulatory and enforcement mandate. In this regard, stakeholders recommended the inclusion of additional institutions, particularly those responsible for home affairs, policing, science and technology, environmental regulation, the Office of the President and the Ministry responsible for Green Economy and Environment. Stakeholders further proposed that representation on the Authority should be by a representative of the Attorney-General, rather than the Attorney-General in person, in line with established practice.

2.2.3 Private Sector Participation

Stakeholders acknowledged that the introduction of private sector representatives may enhance the Authority's work through practical industry expertise and stronger stakeholder collaboration. However, concerns were raised regarding confidentiality, national security and potential conflicts of interest, particularly in the absence of explicit safeguards in the Bill.

To address these concerns, stakeholders recommended that private sector representatives be drawn from relevant institutional bodies, particularly the manufacturing and logistics sectors, to contribute technical expertise in chemical management, transportation and compliance. Stakeholders further submitted that private sector participation should be regulated through appropriate safeguards, including confidentiality obligations, conflict-of-interest declarations, and exclusion from classified matters where necessary, to ensure that such representation strengthens rather than compromises the Authority's mandate.

3.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the foregoing, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

(i) Technical and Scientific Expertise

The Committee observes, with concern, the removal of technical institutions such as research bodies, environmental agencies, and academic institutions which may weaken the Authority's capacity to effectively regulate and monitor chemical substances. The multidisciplinary nature of chemical weapons control requires sustained technical input.

The Committee, therefore, recommends the inclusion of environmental agencies such as ZEMA, academic institutions and research bodies to the board. The Committee further recommends the establishment of a formal Technical Advisory Committee comprising representatives from institution which have been excluded from the board to support the Authority and ensure continued access to specialised expertise.

(ii) Coordination Challenges

The Committee observes, with concern, reduced institutional representation which has the potential to create coordination gaps, particularly with agencies that play critical roles in enforcement, research, and environmental regulation.

The Committee recommends that in order to institutionalise collaboration frameworks with key stakeholders not represented in the revised structure and to reduce coordination gaps, formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), should be developed in data-sharing arrangements, and joint enforcement mechanisms.

(iii) Private Sector Participation

The Committee notes that the inclusion of private sector representatives is progressive and may enhance industry compliance and provide practical insights. However, the Committee is concerned about the potential risk of conflict of interest and regulatory capture if adequate safeguards are not instituted.

The Committee, therefore, recommends the inclusion a member of the Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM), particularly an institution representing companies involved in the production or use of industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, detergents, cosmetics, mining inputs, or related products. In addition, the Committee recommends the inclusion of a representative body of the logistics sector involved in handling controlled or hazardous chemicals to contribute practical insight on transportation, storage, risk management, and sector-wide adherence to legal requirements.

(iv) Transitional Arrangements

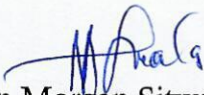
The Committee observes the absence of clear transitional provisions which may create an operational vacuum during the reconstitution of the Authority. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Bill should provide that existing members remain in office until new appointments are effected to avoid institutional gaps.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee reviewed the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (Amendment) Bill, N.A. B No. 27 of 2026, and supports its enactment, subject to the favourable consideration of stated observations. The Bill represents a deliberate policy shift towards a more efficient and streamlined governance structure for the Zambia National Authority on the Chemical Weapons Convention. While this approach is commendable from an administrative and operational standpoint, it must be carefully balanced with the need to retain adequate technical, scientific, and regulatory capacity.

The Committee is of the considered view that the effectiveness of the revised Authority will largely depend on the establishment of supporting mechanisms to address potential gaps arising from reduced institutional representation. In particular, ensuring access to specialised expertise, maintaining strong collaboration with key stakeholders, and safeguarding the integrity of decision-making processes will be critical to achieving the objectives of the Act.

The Committee further supports the Bill, subject to the implementation of measures that preserve technical and scientific input through advisory structures; strengthening coordination with excluded institutions; and the introduction of clear safeguards governing private sector participation. With these enhancements, the proposed amendments will achieve an appropriate balance between efficiency and effectiveness, thereby strengthening Zambia's capacity to meet its national and international obligations in the prohibition and regulation of chemical weapons.



Brig Gen Morgan Sitwala, DFS, Psc, (Rtd), MP
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I

LIST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS

Mr Charles Haambote, Director, (Social Committees)
Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Director (Social Committees)
Mr Charles Chishimba, Senior Committee Clerk (FC-2)
Mr Fanwel M Chiwama, Committee Clerk
Ms Charity Kabika, Administrative Assistant II
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 Defence

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Radiation Protection Authority

National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research

Zambia Environmental Management Authority

Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Zambia Revenue Authority