



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, TRADE AND LABOUR MATTERS

ON THE

**COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL,
N.A.B. NO. 40 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 Competition and Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 40 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 eight 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 Competition and Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 40 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

April, 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 Competition and Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 40 of 2026, seeks to amend the *Competition and Consumer Protection Act, Chapter 417 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to revise the Board of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of this Bill is to:

- a) revise the composition of the Board of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission; 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 First Schedule

This clause seeks to amend Paragraph 1(1) of the First Schedule to the principal Act by the deletion of subparagraph (c) and the substitution therefor of the following: (c) five persons from the private sector with experience and knowledge in matters relevant to this Act.

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. Expansion of Private Sector Participants

Some stakeholders submitted that the amendment represents a modest expansion of the private-sector component on the Board. Bringing individuals with direct experience in markets, commerce, and industry could enrich the Commission's understanding of competitive dynamics and market realities. However, there is a risk of regulatory capture.

This was because the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission was tasked with restraining anti-competitive behaviour and defending consumers' interests. Therefore, an increase in the number of private-sector representatives, without a corresponding strengthening of consumer advocacy or public-interest seats, could tilt the Board's orientation towards industry interests at the expense of consumer protection.

It was further submitted that the amendment converts the five discretionary Board seats into five expressly private-sector seats without adding stronger or more tailored safeguards for the sector-specific conflicts that may arise from that redesign. Additionally, the principal Act does not reserve a dedicated seat for consumers or civil society. While that omission was not newly created by the Bill, the amendment made it more significant, as It expressly reorients the five discretionary seats toward the private sector, when the Commission's statutory mandate remained that of protecting both consumers and competition.

The absence of any dedicated consumer or civil society seat in the proposed composition warrants particular attention. Given the Commission's mandate to protect consumers, even as industry representation expands, the amendment raised questions about its alignment with the Commission's founding purpose.

In view of the foregoing, it was suggested that:

- i. more sector-specific conflict-of-interest rules for private sector appointees, be included in the Bill;
- ii. a requirement that at least one member represents consumer or civil society interests; and
- iii. a transparent published, set of criteria for the selection of private sector members to be put in place.

PART III

6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee makes the observations and recommendations outlined below.

Risk of Regulatory Capture

The Committee observes that going by the mandate of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, of restraining anti-competitive behaviour and defending consumers' interests, increasing the number of private-sector representatives, without a corresponding strengthening of consumer advocacy or public-interest seats, could tilt the Board's orientation towards industry interests at the expense of consumer protection.

The Committee also observes that the amendment converts the five discretionary Board seats into five expressly private-sector seats without adding stronger or more tailored safeguards for the sector-specific conflicts that may arise from that redesign. This expressly reorients the five discretionary seats toward the private sector, while the Commission's statutory mandate remains that of protecting both consumers and unfair competition.

The Committee is of the view that the absence of any dedicated consumer or civil society seat in the proposed composition, warrants particular attention. Given the Commission's mandate to protect consumers, even as industry representation expands, the amendment raises questions about its alignment with the Commission's founding purpose.

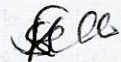
In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends the Bill should provide for:

- i. more sector-specific conflict-of-interest rules for private sector appointees;
- ii. a requirement that at least one member represents consumer or civil society interests; and
- iii. a transparent published set of criteria for the selection of private sector members, be put in place.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments to the *Competition and Consumer Protection Act, Chapter 417* of the Laws of Zambia, are progressive. However, the few challenges highlighted above must be addressed to enhance the effective operations, collaborations and coordination of the Commission.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee supports the enactment of the Competition and Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 40 of 2026, into law.



Ms Sibeso K Sefulo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 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
Bankers Association of Zambia
Business Regulatory Review Agency
Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Minister of Finance and National Planning
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development
National Economic Advisory Council
National Pensions Scheme Authority
Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants
Zambia Institute for Policy Research and Analysis
Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Zambia Metrology Agency