



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL

SERVICES

ON THE

THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE (AMENDMENT)

BILL, N.A.B. NO. 15 OF 2024

FOR THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Published by the National Assembly of Zambia

FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Services has the honour to present its report on the consideration of the Zambia National Public Health Institute (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 15 of 2024, for the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The Committee is mandated to consider any Bills that may be referred to it by the House, as per Standing Order 113 (1) and 210(j) of the National Assembly Standing Orders, 2024.

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

Madam Speaker, the Committee is grateful to the stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. The Committee also wishes to thank you for according it the opportunity to scrutinise the Zambia National Public Health Institute (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 15 of 2024. Further appreciation is extended to the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support and guidance rendered throughout the Committee's deliberations.



Dr Christopher K Kalila, MP
CHAIRPERSON

November, 2024
LUSAKA

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1.0 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Dr Christopher K Kalila, MP (Chairperson); Mrs Marjorie Nakaponda, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Paul Chala, MP; Mr Alex Katakwe, MP; Mr Joseph S Munsanje, MP; Mr Masautso Tembo, MP; Mr Leevan Chibombwe, MP; Mr Monty Chinkuli, MP; Mr Heartson Mabeta, MP; and Mr Miles Sampa, MP.

2.0. BACKGROUND

The *Zambia National Public Health Institute Act, No. 19 of 2020* provided the regulatory framework for the continued existence of the Zambia National Public Health Institute and set out the mandate and functions which included coordination of public health security; and the establishment of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, among others. The Act provided that the Institute could conduct public health research.

The National Health Research Act, No. 2 of 2013, established the National Health Research Authority, and one of its functions was to regulate the conduct of research and monitor and evaluate all health research in Zambia. However, as earlier noted, *the Zambia National Public Health Institute Act* provided that the Institute could conduct public health research without stating that the research in question needed to be carried out in collaboration with the National Health Research Authority, which by law regulated the conduct of research, as well as monitored and evaluated all health research in Zambia. In that regard, the Government introduced the Zambia National Public Health Institute (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 15 of 2024, whose object was to amend the *Zambia National Public Health Institute Act No. 19 of 2020*, so as to revise the functions of the Institute.

3.0. PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The salient provisions of the Bill were set out as follows:

Clause 1 – Short title

The clause provided for the citation of the Act, once enacted.

Clause 2 – Amendment of section 2

The clause sought to amend section 2 of the principal Act by inserting the definition of the words, “National Health Research and Training Institute”, so as to assign the meaning to the National Health Research and Training Institute established under the National Health Research and Training Institute Bill, 2024.

Clause 3 – Amendment of section 4

The clause sought to revise the functions of the Zambia National Public Health Institute in relation to the conduct of research by the Institute.

Furthermore, the clause sought to mandate the Institute to conduct its research in accordance with the *National Health Research Act, 2013*.

4.0. SUBMISSIONS AND CONCERNS OF STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders submitted that the Bill was progressive as it sought to enact the Zambia National Public Health Institute (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 15 of 2024. However, the stakeholders proposed to amend clause 3 (b), owing to concerns that the clause would bring some operational inefficiencies in dealing with public health security. Clause 3 (b) of the Bill stated as follows:

(p) conduct research in collaboration with the National Health Research and Training Institute, to ensure public security and health security.

In view of the concerns, stakeholders proposed that clause 3 (b) should instead read as follows:

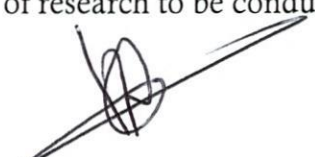
(p) where necessary, collaborate with National Health Research and Training Institute, in conducting research in matters related to public health security and global health security

5.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee notes that most witnesses who appeared before it were generally supportive of the Bill. The Committee also endorses the Bill. However, it observes that clause 3(b) is not sufficient to deal with public health safety. Therefore, the Committee finds the proposal necessary and recommends that the Bill is enacted.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Zambia National Public Health Institute (Amendment) Bill, once enacted would enhance compliance to the provisions under *the National Health Research Act, No. 2 of 2013* in terms of research to be conducted by the Institute. The Bill was, therefore, progressive.



Dr Christopher K Kalila, MP
CHAIRPERSON

November, 2024
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS

Mrs Doreen N C Mukwanka, Director (Social Committees)
Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Director (Social Committees)
Mr Darius Kunda, Senior Committee Clerk (SC1)
Mr Kelezo Lushako, Committee Clerk
Ms Catherine Chibuye, Administrative Assistant II
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembi S Kantumoya, Committee Assistant
Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II–LIST OF WITNESSES

Ministry of Health
Ministry of Justice
Tropical Diseases Research Centre
Zambia National Public Health Institute