



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**REPORT**

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORT AND CHILD MATTERS**

**ON THE**

**NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
N.A.B. NO. 24 OF 2026**

**FOR THE**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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## FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Matters, has the honour to present its Report on the *National Youth Development Council (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 24 of 2026*, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206(o) and 207(j) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

The Committee held five (5) meetings 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 which is at Appendix II.

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 and the conclusion.

The Committee wishes to pay tribute to all stakeholders who appeared before it and tendered both written and oral submissions. It further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to consider the *National Youth Development Council (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 24 of 2026*. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk during its deliberations.



Mr Heartson Mabeta, MP  
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026  
LUSAKA

## **ACRONYMS**

NYDC- National Youth Development Council

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## **1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

Mr Heartson Mabetwa, MP (Chairperson); Ms Jean Chisenga, MP (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Siphon Hlazo, MP; Mr Allen Banda, MP; Mr Elijah Muchima, MP; Mr Acklele Banda, MP; Mr George Chisanga, MP; Ms Emeldah Munashabantu, MP; Mr Robert Kalimi, MP; and Mr Justin Kapema, MP.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

The National Youth Development Council (NYDC), was established in 1981 and later formalised in 1986 under the Ministry responsible for Youth, Sport and Arts to address youth unemployment and promote inclusive participation in socio-economic development.

The Council plays a key role in identifying the causes of unemployment among young people while supporting entrepreneurship, skills training, and the registration of youth organisations. It also serves as an important link between Government policies and young people by facilitating access to training, mentorship, and empowerment opportunities aimed at improving livelihoods and fostering active participation in national development.

The Bill therefore seeks to amend the *National Youth Development Act, Chapter 144 of the Laws of Zambia*, in order to reconstitute the composition of the Council. The objective is to strengthen governance; improve efficiency; and enhance inclusivity in its operations through revisions relating to composition; tenure; eligibility criteria; and operational procedures.

Although the current Council structure reflects a broadly representative governance model, its inclusivity has, in some instances, been achieved at the expense of efficiency. The proposed amendments seek to improve coordination; facilitate decision-making, and enhance accountability.

## **3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL**

The object of the Bill is to amend the National Youth Development Council Act so as to-

- (a) revise the composition of the National Youth Development Council; and
- (b) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to the foregoing.

## **PART I**

### **4.0 SALIENT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL**

The salient provisions of the Bill are as set out hereunder.

#### **4.1 Clause 2 – Amendment of Section 2**

Clause 2 seeks to amend section 5 of the Principal Act, by the insertion of the following new definitions of “legally disqualified” means the absence of legal capacity, as provided under section 4 of *the Mental Health Act* among others.

#### **4.2 Clauses 3 – Amendment of Section 5 of the Principal Act**

Clause 3 seeks to amend section 5 of the Principal Act by substitution therefor of the following:

- (1) the Council shall consist of the following part-time members appointed by the Minister, and
- (a) representatives each from the ministries responsible for youth and finance, among others.

#### **4.3 Clause 4-Repeal and Replacement of Section 6**

Clause 4 seeks to amend the Principal Act by the repeal of section 6 and substitution therefor of the following:

- 6 (1) three-year tenure of office for a member of the Council from date of appointment and reappointment for further and final three-year term among others.

#### **4.4 Clause 5-Repeal and Replacement of Section 7**

Clause 5 seeks to amend the Principal Act by the repeal of section 7 and substitution therefor of the following:

- 7 (1) the office of a member of the council becomes vacant if the member, dies, is adjudged bankrupt under any written law among others.

#### **4.5 Clause 6-Amendment of Section 9 of the principal Act**

Clause 6 seeks to amend the Principal Act by the deletion of subsection (4) and the substitution therefor of the following:

- (4) “Seven members shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Council”.

## **PART II**

### **5.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS**

All stakeholders who appeared before the Committee expressed support for the Bill. However, the following concerns were raised:

#### **5.1 Clause 3-Repeal and Replacement of Section 5**

Stakeholders expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction in representation under Clause 3. They noted that the existing structure provided for twelve representatives drawn directly from the sector, whereas the proposed amendment reduces this number to three members selected from the “most representative youth organisations.”

Stakeholders submitted that this amendment seeks to reduce youth organisation representation from fifty-two percent under the existing Act, to thirty-six percent. They further argued that this change pose a risk that decisions on youth-related issues could be dominated or superseded by other members of the Council who might not necessarily be youths, as the Bill does not explicitly require all members to be youths.

Additionally, stakeholders raised concern regarding the use of the term “most representative,” noting that it lacked clarity and created uncertainty in its interpretation. They cautioned that this ambiguity could result in the exclusion of emerging youth organisations. While the qualifications for Council membership are clearly defined under subsection 5(5), stakeholders observed that the characteristics or criteria for determining what constitutes a “most representative” organisation were not specified in the Bill.

Stakeholders therefore recommended that clear and objective criteria be outlined to guide the selection of such organisations, in order to avoid discretionary interpretation by the Minister.

Furthermore, stakeholders acknowledged that the inclusion of civil society representation could enhance policy coherence, advocacy, and programme design. However, they cautioned that such inclusion might alter the institutional character of the Council by expanding it beyond a purely youth-focused governance body. This, they argued, could lead to the dilution of youth-specific priorities within a broader and more generalised governance framework.

### **PART III**

#### **5 COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee observes that all stakeholders who appeared before it expressed support for the Bill. Arising from its engagement with the stakeholders and its consideration of the submissions presented, the Committee resolved to support the Bill. In supporting the Bill, however, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations outlined below.

##### **i) Inclusion of Legal Representation**

The Committee notes that clause 3 of the Bill proposes the inclusion of legal representation from the Attorney-General. While this is a positive development, the Committee is of the view that independent, non-government legal representation is necessary to strengthen corporate governance in the Council’s operations.

The Committee is concerned that reliance solely on the Attorney-General may limit independent legal input. It, therefore, recommends that clause 3, which seeks to repeal and replace section 5(1)(b) of the Principal Act, be amended to provide for an independent legal practitioner recommended by the Law Association of Zambia, in order to promote good governance.

##### **ii) Nomination Criteria for most Representative Youth Groups and Civil Society Organisation**

The Committee observes that the terms “most representative youth organisation” and “most representative civil society organisation” used in clause 3 of the Bill lacks clarity, as the Bill does not clearly outline the criteria or qualifications for organisations to qualify for representation on the Board. The Committee considers that this ambiguity may result in subjective selection processes and could disadvantage emerging youth organisations.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Bill should clearly define the criteria for determining “most representative,” incorporating objective measures such as provincial representation; membership size; geographical reach; level of programme activity; and the strength of governance structures.

**iii) Restoring Majority Youth Representation in the Council**

The Committee notes that clause 3 of the Bill reduces youth representation on the Council from 52 percent under the current Act, to 36 percent. The Committee is of the view that this reduction may weaken inclusivity and diminish sector ownership, particularly for smaller and emerging youth organisations.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that clause 3 of the Bill, which seeks to repeal and replace section 5(1)(b), (c), (d), and (f), be amended to provide that “the nominated representatives should be dominated by the youths”. The Committee is of the view that this provision will strengthen youth ownership and ensure that the Council remains firmly under the stewardship of young people as its primary stakeholders.

**iv) Selection of Private Sector Representatives**

The Committee notes that clause 3 of the Bill provides for the inclusion of two representatives from the private sector but does not define the scope or meaning of the “private sector.” The Committee is of the view that the absence of clear definitions and selection criteria, coupled with discretionary appointments, may undermine the operational effectiveness of the Council. The Committee further considers that private sector representation should be intentional and based on demonstrable expertise relevant to youth development.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that clause 3 of the Bill, which seeks to repeal and replace section 5(1)(f), be amended to clearly define the “private sector” by specifying the categories of entities envisaged, including private enterprises; industry associations, and financial institutions, among others. The Committee also recommends that the Bill should clearly outline the requisite expertise for such representatives.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee, having considered the Bill and submissions from stakeholders, noted that the proposed reforms to the National Youth Development Act, represent a progressive step towards strengthening governance structures for youth development. The Bill seeks to enhance efficiency, coordination, and responsiveness in line with contemporary socio-economic realities.

However, the Committee observed that certain provisions raise concerns relating to inclusivity, clarity of representation, and governance integrity. If not addressed, these may undermine stakeholder participation and weaken the effectiveness of the institutional framework.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Executive carefully considers the observations and recommendations contained in this Report, particularly those relating to balanced representation; clear statutory definitions; and protection of meaningful youth participation.

The Committee is of the considered view that, subject to the recommended refinements, the Bill will significantly strengthen governance of the youth sector and promote a more inclusive, transparent, and effective framework for youth development in Zambia.

We have the honour to be, Madam Speaker, the Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Matters, mandated to consider the National Youth Development Council (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 24 of 2026.



Mr Heartson Mabeta, MP  
CHAIRPERSON

May, 2026  
LUSAKA

## **APPENDIX I**

### **LIST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS**

Mr Charles Haambote, Director of Committees (SC);  
Mrs Chitalu, K Mumba, Deputy Director of Committees (SC);  
Mr Darius Kunda, Senior Committee Clerk (SC-1);  
Mrs Prisca M Shimalungwe , Committee Clerk;  
Mrs Ruth Nambule, Administrative Assistant;  
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant;  
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant;  
Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant;  
Ms Monde Mataa (intern)

## **APPENDIX II**

### **LIST OF WITNESSES**

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Finance and National Planning

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Child Matters

Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Education

National Arts Council of Zambia

Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Zambia National Education Coalition

Zambia Law Development Commission

Zambia Tourism Agency