



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**REPORT**

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON CABINET AFFAIRS**

**ON THE**

**SPORTS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 52 OF 2026**

**FOR THE**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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## **FOREWORD**

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Cabinet Affairs has the honour to present its Report on the *Sports Council of Zambia (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 52 of 2026*, for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206(m) and 207(j) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

The Committee held two (2) 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 stakeholders is at Appendix II of the Report.

The Report is in three parts. PART I highlights the background, objectives and salient provisions of the Bill, PART II covers concerns raised by stakeholders and PART III contains observations and recommendations made by the Committee.

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 study the Sports Council of Zambia (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 52 of 2026. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.

P.P. 

Andrew Z Lubusha,  
**CHAIRPERSON**

May, 2026  
**LUSAKA**

**ACRONYM**

NSCZ – National Sports Council of Zambia

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## **1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

Mr Andrew Z Lubusha, MP (Chairperson); Ms Sibeso Sefulo, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Elias Musonda, MP; Mr Peter Phiri, MP; Mr Kaliye Mandandi, MP; Mrs Chushi Kasanda, MP; Rev Given Katuta Mwelwa, MP; Mr Newton Samakayi, MP; Dr Christopher Kalila, MP; and Mr Cliff Mpundu, MP.

## **PART I**

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

The Bill seeks to amend the *Sports Council of Zambia Act, Chapter 142 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to strengthen the institutional and administrative framework of the Council by revising the composition of its Executive Board and enhancing corporate governance. This amendment shifts the governance structure towards a more inclusive and streamlined model that integrates various government sectors and key sports stakeholders into the decision-making process.

The principal Act currently operates under a board structure that requires modernisation to better align with contemporary governance standards and fiscal oversight. Therefore, there is a need to amend the Act to adopt a framework that ensures the Council's leadership is representative of multi-sectoral interests, including health, education, and local government, while ensuring that the Emoluments Commission provides standardised oversight regarding financial allowances.

The Bill, once enacted, will provide for a clearly defined Executive Board with the mandate to provide strategic policy direction, approve annual work plans, and monitor the Council's performance against budgets. Furthermore, it seeks to promote modernised administration by establishing the role of a Secretary as the chief executive officer and updating the Act's language to be gender-neutral through the adoption of the title Chairperson.

### **3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL**

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Sports Council of Zambia Act, Chapter 142 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to:

- (i) revise the composition of the Executive Board of the Sports Council of Zambia; and
- (ii) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

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

#### **Clause 1 – Short title and Commencement**

The clause provides for the citation of the Act and its commencement upon the expiry of the term of office, or removal by the Minister, of the members of the Board holding office prior to the enactment of the Act.

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

The clause provides for the insertion of definition of the "Emoluments Commission" as established by the Constitution, to clarify the body responsible for financial determinations under the Act.

### **Clause 3 – Amendment of Section 13**

The clause seeks to empower the Emoluments Commission to determine the allowances of a member of a committee of the Council, based on the recommendation of the Minister.

### **Clause 4 – Repeal and Replacement of Section 16**

This clause seeks to repeal section 16 of the principal Act and substitutes it with a new provision regarding the composition of the Executive Board. It seeks to create the Board consisting of nine (9) part-time members appointed by the Minister, including representatives from the ministries responsible for sports, local government, health, and education, alongside a representative of the Attorney-General and four representatives from registered associations.

The clause further stipulates that the Director shall be an *ex-officio* member without a vote and provides for the election of a Vice-Chairperson and the determination of Board allowances by the Emoluments Commission.

### **Clause 5 – Insertion of Section 16A**

The clause seeks to introduce a new section to define the functions of the Board. These functions include providing strategic policy direction, approving policies, annual budgets, work plans, and activity reports, as well as monitoring the performance of the Council and promoting effective corporate governance. It also provides for the delegation of functions to the Director and allows the Minister to give specific or general directions to the Board.

### **Clause 6 – Repeal and Replacement of Section 18**

The clause seeks to provide for the appointment of a Secretary for the Council, who shall serve as the chief executive officer responsible for day-to-day administration. It further outlines that the Council shall appoint necessary agents and staff, whose emoluments shall be determined by the Emoluments Commission.

### **Clause 7 – Amendment of Section 21**

The clause provides for an amendment to section 21 of the principal Act through the deletion of paragraph (b) and the subsequent renumbering of the remaining paragraph.

### **Clause 8 – General Amendment**

The clause provides for a general amendment throughout the Act to replace the word "Chairman" with the word "Chairperson" to ensure gender-neutral language.

## **PART II**

### **5.0 SUBMISSIONS AND CONCERNS FROM STAKEHOLDERS**

The stakeholders generally supported the principle of revising the governance framework of the Sports Council of Zambia to enhance service delivery. However, they raised specific concerns regarding the administrative autonomy of the Board, the appropriateness of certain ministerial representations, and the transition of the current leadership. The detailed concerns are set out below:

#### **5.1. Clauses 2 and 3 – Emoluments Commission**

**5.1.1. Standardisation of Allowances** Stakeholders supported the role of the Emoluments Commission in determining allowances. However, they submitted that to prevent the

accumulation of arrears and administrative delays, a statutory timeline of 30 days should be inserted for the Commission to determine these allowances following the Minister's recommendation.

## **5.2. Clause 4 – Composition of the Board**

**5.2.1. Ministerial Representation (Defence vs. Health):** Clause 4(1)(a) includes a representative from the Ministry responsible for health. Stakeholders challenged this inclusion, arguing that the Ministry of Health has a limited interface with active sports management. They proposed that the Ministry of Defence replace the Ministry of Health, citing the Defence force's significant role in maintaining sports facilities and its historical contribution to sports development in Zambia.

**5.2.2. Seniority of Representatives:** Stakeholders expressed concern regarding the level of representation from various ministries. They submitted that to ensure effective decision-making authority, all ministerial representatives should be senior officers at a level not below Assistant Director.

**5.2.3. Gender Equity and Women in Sport:** While the Bill proposes four representatives from registered associations, stakeholders noted the absence of a specific mandate for gender representation. They recommended that the four association representatives must include a designated female representative from an organisation representing the interests of women in sport. Furthermore, they proposed a statutory requirement for a minimum of 30 per cent female representation on the overall Board to promote gender equity in sports governance.

## **5.3. Clause 5 – Functions of the Board**

**5.3.1. Protection of Board Autonomy:** Clause 5(5) allows the Minister to give the Board "general or specific directions" regarding its functions. Stakeholders argued that specific directions could lead to political interference in the day-to-day strategic operations of the Council. They recommended narrowing this provision to only allow for "general policy directions in writing" to protect the autonomy of the Board.

## **5.4. Clause 6 – Secretary and Staff Appointments**

**5.4.1. Appointment of the CEO (Conflict of Interest):** Clause 6(1) proposes that the Council shall appoint the Secretary/CEO. Stakeholders strongly opposed this provision, arguing that allowing the Council to appoint its own chief executive creates a conflict of interest and undermines the separation of powers. They submitted that the Minister should appoint the Secretary/CEO to ensure direct accountability to the government.

**5.4.2. Oversight of Agents and Staff** Regarding Clause 6(2), stakeholders observed that the power to appoint agents and staff should reside explicitly with the Board rather than the "Council". They argued that the Board, as the governing body, must have direct oversight of staff and the authority to approve conditions of service (excluding emoluments) to ensure operational control.

## **PART III**

### **6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee notes that the stakeholders who appeared before it are in support of the Bill. Having interacted with the various stakeholders and hearing their views, the Committee resolves to support the Bill. In supporting the Bill, however, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations outlined below:

**6.1** The Committee observes that the inclusion of a representative from the Ministry responsible for health under Clause 4(1)(a)(iii) may not be the most effective technical alignment for the Council's mandate. The Committee notes that the Ministry of Defence has a more significant and practical interface with sport through the provision and maintenance of national sports facilities and a long-standing history of promoting sports development.

In this regard, the Committee recommends that Clause 4(1)(a) be amended to replace the representative from the Ministry responsible for health with a representative from the Ministry responsible for defence.

**6.2** The Committee observes that the Bill does not explicitly integrate gender representation quotas or designate seats for women-led sports organisations within the revised Board structure. The Committee notes that without a statutory mandate, the goal of achieving gender equity in sports governance remains vulnerable to oversight.

The Committee recommends that Clause 4 be amended to specify that of the four representatives from registered associations, one shall be a female representative from an organisation representing the interests of women in sport, and further, that the Act should mandate a minimum of 30 per cent female representation across the entire Board.

**6.3** The Committee observes that Clause 6(1), which allows the Council to appoint its own Secretary or Chief Executive Officer, may create a conflict of interest that undermines the principles of independent oversight and accountability. The Committee notes that for statutory bodies of this nature, the appointment of the chief executive by the Minister ensures a clearer separation of powers between the governing board and the executive management.

In light of this, the Committee recommends that Clause 6(1) be amended to provide that the Minister shall appoint the Secretary of the Council on the recommendation of the Board, thereby ensuring greater administrative transparency and accountability.

**6.4** The Committee observes that the provision in Clause 5(5) which allows the Minister to give "specific directions" to the Board is too broad and could lead to interference in the Council's day-to-day strategic decision-making.

The Committee recommends that Clause 5(5) be amended to restrict the Minister's powers to issuing "general policy directions in writing," thereby safeguarding the Board's autonomy in its operational and technical functions.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

The Sports Council of Zambia (Amendment) Bill, 2026 aims to modernise sports governance by streamlining the Executive Board and enhancing accountability through integration with the Emoluments Commission. However, improvements are needed, particularly in clarifying the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, reducing ministerial influence, and ensuring gender-inclusive leadership. Safeguards for Board autonomy and clear transition plans are also essential.

The Committee supports the Bill and therefore urges the House to endorse this Report and trusts that the Executive will implement the recommendations in order to create a transparent, inclusive, and professional governance framework for the sports sector in Zambia.

P.P. 

Andrew Z Lubusha  
**CHAIRPERSON**

May, 2026  
**LUSAKA**

## **APPENDIX I - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS**

Mr Charles Haambote, Director (Social Committees)

Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Director (Social Committees)

Mr Darius Kunda, Senior Committee Clerk (SC1)

Mr Andrew T Siwale, Committee Clerk

Ms Ruth Nambule, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi S Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

Ms Emma Mwandila, Intern

Ms Dorothy Kapanji, Intern

**APPENDIX II – LIST OF WITNESSES**

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Youth Sport, and Arts

National Sports Council of Zambia