



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

**COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON
THE CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS FOR 2025**

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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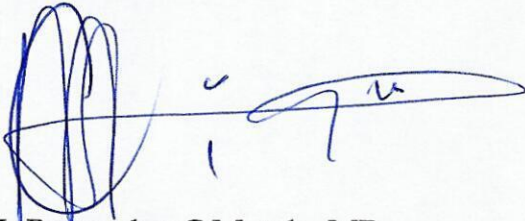
FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Legislation and International Agreements has the honour to present its Report for the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out in Standing Order 204 (2) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024.

In line with its Programme of Work, the Committee considered fifty-two Statutory Instruments for the year 2024 and received Explanatory Memoranda from Permanent Secretaries and the Chief Administrator of the Judiciary, under whose portfolios the Statutory Instruments were issued. In that regard, the Committee held a total of twelve meetings.

Madam Speaker, the Committee's Report is organised in two parts: Part I is on the consideration of Statutory Instruments for the year 2025. Part II deals with consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Fourth Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly.

The Committee is grateful to all stakeholders who tendered both oral and written submissions before it. The Committee further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it the opportunity to carry out its work for this Session. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly during its deliberations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a flourish.

Mr Remember C Mutale, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

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ACRONYMS

AfCFTA-----	African Continental Free Trade Area
ICAO-----	International Civil Aviation Organisation
IDC-----	Industrial Development Corporation
NTB-----	Non -Tariff Barriers
TFA-----	Trade Facilitation Agreement
SARS-----	Standards and Recommended Practices
WTO-----	World Trade Organisation
MSMEs-----	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
PPP-----	Public Private Partnership

1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of Mr Remember C Mutale, MP (Chairperson); Mr Charles A. Mulenga, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Menyani Zulu, MP; Mr Francis R Kapyanga, MP; Mr Kenny Siachisumo, MP; Mr Siphon Hlazo, MP; Mr Phillimon Twasa, MP; Mr Gystave Chonde, MP; Reverend Given Katuta, MP; and Mr Wesley Kolala, MP.

PART I

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS FOR 2025

As part of its Programme of Work, the Committee considered Statutory Instruments issued in 2025 by different Government Ministries and quasi-Government institutions.

2.1 EMOLUMENTS COMMISSION

2.1.2 Statutory Instrument No. 7 of 2025 – The Ministerial and Parliamentary (Emoluments) (Amendments) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 2 of the *Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 262 of the Laws of Zambia*, which empowered the Minister of Finance and National planning, to prescribe by regulation, the salaries and allowances payable to the Vice-President; Speaker and the two Deputies; Cabinet Ministers; Chief Whip; Leader of the Opposition; Deputy Chief Whip; Independent Whip; Opposition Whip and Members of Parliament.

These regulations were deemed to have come into operation on 1st July, 2024.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes the Statutory Instrument as it was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.1.2 Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2025 – The Cyber Security Act, (Commencement) Order, 2025.

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of the *Cyber Security Act, No. 3 of 2025*. The objective of the SI was to bring into effect the *Cyber Security Act, No. 3 of 2025*, which provided a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of Zambia's information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, data integrity and electronic transactions, through addressing challenges related to cybercrime, identity theft and issues compromising national digital infrastructure.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to the enabling legislation.

2.1.3 Statutory Instrument No. 24 of 2025 – The Judges (Conditions of Service) (Amendments) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 3 and 12 of the *Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, Chapter 277 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to provide for the emoluments of Judges and amend, revoke and replace the principal regulations in the First Schedule of the said Act and to provide for regulations and additional conditions of service for the Judges.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.1.4 Statutory Instrument No. 34 of 2025 – The Ministerial and Parliamentary (Emoluments) (Amendments) (No.2) Regulations, 2025.

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 2 (1) of *the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 262 of the laws of Zambia* so as to revise the emoluments payable to Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices.

These regulations were deemed to have come into operation on 1st January, 2025.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.2 CABINET OFFICE

2.2.1 Statutory Instrument No. 39 of 2025 – The Revised Edition of the Laws of Zambia (2019 Edition) (Commencement) Order, 2025.

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 13 (2) of the *Laws of Zambia (Revised Edition) Act, No. 9 of 1968* so as to bring into effect the Act. The objective of the SI was to maintain the integrity, accessibility, and coherence of Zambia’s legal framework.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.2.2 Statutory Instrument No. 48 of 2025 – The Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria) Order, 2025.

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 4 of the *Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, Chapter 20 of the Laws of Zambia*. The SI was issued so as to grant immunities and privileges to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Additionally, the SI was issued to ensure that officers and representatives of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria operating in Zambia enjoyed appropriate legal protections to facilitate unhindered implementation of their mandate.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendation

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.2.3 Statutory Instrument No. 51 of 2025 – The Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (African Association of Accountants - General) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 4 of the *Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, Chapter 20 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to grant immunities and privileges to the Pan African Association of Accountants-General (PAAAG), a continental professional body for public accountants. The objective of the SI was to facilitate the smooth coordination and operations of PAAAG representatives in Zambia without legal encumbrances, thereby supporting Zambia’s engagement in continental initiatives for public financial management and accountability.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3 MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

2.3.1 *Statutory Instrument No. 4 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Precious Stones and Metals) (Export Duty) (Suspension) Order, 2025*

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* to suspend the 15 per cent export duty on precious stones and metals. The measure was intended to boost the country's mining sector particularly for precious stones and metals and increase its competitiveness in the global market.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

However, the Committee urges the Government to review the sector legislation so as to provide stability and ensure the country was adequately benefitting from the sector.

2.3.2 *Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2025 – The Bank of Zambia (Withdrawal and Exchange of Currency) Regulations, 2025*

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 17(1) of the *Bank of Zambia Act, No. 5 of 2022*. The withdrawal of the old currency and the introduction of a new one would enhance financial security and transparency by reducing counterfeiting, strengthening public confidence, and curbing illicit activities such as tax evasion and money laundering.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the Statutory Instrument was issued in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.3 *Statutory Instrument No. 27 of 2025-The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Wheat) Regulations, 2025*

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* to suspend duty on wheat when imported by a holder of an import permit issued by the Ministry responsible for agriculture. The suspension intended to address a wheat supply deficit by temporarily suspending customs duty on imports, thereby stabilising domestic prices, and ensuring millers could continue production.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.4 *Statutory Instrument No. 28 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Wheat) (No. 2) Regulations, 2025*

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* to suspend duty on wheat when imported by a holder of an import permit issued by the Ministry responsible for agriculture. The measure intended to address a wheat supply deficit so as to stabilise domestic prices, and ensure millers could continue production.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.5 Statutory Instrument No. 29 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Refined Sugar) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* to suspend duty on refined sugar so as to maintain a steady supply of the commodity for domestic use and to stabilise prices by allowing certain companies to import specific quantities without paying import duties.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.6 Statutory Instruments No. 30 of 2025 – The Public Audit (Commencement) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of the *Public Audit Act, No. 29 of 2016* so as to operationalise the *Public Audit Act No. 29 of 2016*. The main objective of issuing the Statutory Instrument was to address the need for robust public sector financial and performance oversight.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.7 Statutory Instrument No. 31 of 2025 – State Audit Commission (Commencement) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of the *State Audit Commission Act, No. 27 of 2016*. The main objective of issuing the Statutory Instrument was to operationalise the aforementioned Act.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.8 Statutory Instruments No.32 of 2025 – Presidential Emoluments (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 2 of the *Presidential Emoluments Act, Chapter 261 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to revise the salary and special allowance payable to the President of the Republic of Zambia.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.9 Statutory Instrument No. 45 of 2025-The Public Procurement (Preference and Reservation Schemes) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 91 of the *Public Procurement Act, No. 8 of 2020* so as to provide preferential treatment for local content, local businesses and manufacturers. The objective of the SI was to enhance the utilisation of local raw materials and participation of Zambians in public procurement and boosting local value addition and production, exports and to create jobs.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.10 Statutory Instrument No. 46 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Manganese Ore) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to suspend 15 per cent export duty on manganese ore. The measure was intended to enhance the competitiveness of local minerals in the global market, attract increased investment in exploration and production, and ultimately boost the national economy.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.11 Statutory Instrument No. 47 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Suspension of Export Duty on Copper Concentrates) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to suspend 10 per cent export duty on copper concentrates for three months. The measure was intended to address liquidity issues and stimulate the mining industry, a major sector in the economy.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.12 Statutory Instrument No. 54 of 2025 – The Public-Private Partnership (Administration of Fund) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 88 of the *Public-Private Partnership Act, No. 18 of 2023* so as to make provisions for how the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Fund was managed, controlled, and accounted for, thereby ensuring that the Fund was handled efficiently, transparently, and in compliance with the *Public Finance Management Act, No. 1 of 2018*.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.13 Statutory Instrument No. 60 of 2025 – The Customs and Excise (Excise Duty) (Suspension) (Revocation) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 89 of the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to reinstate 40 per cent excise duty on beer made from malt including ale, lager and stout.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.3.14 Statutory Instrument No. 61 of 2025 – The Value Added Tax (Zero-Rating) (Amendment) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to sections 15 and 51 of the *Value Added Tax Act, Chapter 331 of the Laws of Zambia*. The measure was intended to increase the Value Added Tax rate to 16 percent from 0 per cent for the listed ICT equipment as per the schedule. With the proposed 16 per cent rate, businesses that purchased the listed ICT equipment would be able to reclaim the incurred VAT through their normal VAT operations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.4 MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

2.4.1 Statutory Instrument No. 19 of 2025 – The Investment, Trade and Business Development (Fintech City Multi-Facility Economic Zone) (Declaration) Order, 2025

The Statutory instrument was issued pursuant to section 7 of the *Investment, Trade and Business Development Act, No. 22 of 2022*, which mandated the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry in consultation with the Minister of Finance and National Planning to declare an area a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The objective of the SI was to declare the proposed parcel of land to an extent of 230.00 hectares located in Ngwerere Area, in Chongwe District, Lusaka Province, belonging to Union Gold (Z) Limited, as Fintech City Multi-Facility Economic Zone (Fintech City MFEZ).

The SEZ would be developed within the larger Bonanza Estate (852 hectares) and would include: commercial space; residential park; open green space; golf course; research and institutional zone; mixed use commercial zone; and infrastructural development.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.4.2 Statutory Instrument No. 20 of 2025 – The Compulsory Standards (Declaration) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to sections 11 and 32 of the *Compulsory Standards Act, No. 3 of 2017*, which mandated the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry on the recommendation of the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency Board, to declare a Zambian National Standard as compulsory in order to promote public safety, health, consumer and environmental protection.

In this regard, following Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs), forty-one (41) Zambian National Standards, were confirmed as Compulsory Standards.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.4.3 Statutory Instrument No. 57 of 2025 – The Control of Goods (Prohibition of Export) (Sulphuric Acid) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 3 of the *Control of Goods Act, Chapter 421 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to temporarily restrict the export of sulphuric acid and allow the players involved to discuss the matter and find a lasting solution to the shortages on the local market.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

Statutory Instrument No. 63 of 2025 – Control of Goods Act-The Control of Goods (Prohibition of Export) (Sulphuric Acids) (Revocation) Order, 2025

The Statutory instrument was issued pursuant to section 3 of the *Control of Goods Act, Chapter 421 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to revoke *Statutory Instrument No. 57 of 2025– The*

Control of Goods (Prohibition of Export) (Sulphuric Acid) Order, 2025, which was issued to temporarily restrict the export of sulphuric acid.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.5 MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2.5.1 Statutory Instrument No. 5 of 2025 –The Zambia Institute of Quantity Surveyors Act (Commencement) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of the *Zambia Institute of Quantity Surveyors Act, No. 19 of 2024*, which was enacted to repeal and replace the *Quantity Surveyors Act, Chapter 37 of 1995*, to modernise and strengthen the legal framework governing the profession.

The commencement order was issued to bring into operation the aforementioned Act.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.5.2 Statutory Instrument No.11 of 2025 – The Tolls (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued under sections 10 and 25 of the *Tolls Act, No. 14 of 2011* so as to amend the First Schedule of the principal *Tolls Regulations, 2016*. The objective of the SI was to update the official list of toll points following the designation of the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza as a tolling point under *Statutory Instrument No. 12 of 2025 – The Tolls (Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza) Regulations, 2025*.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.5.3 Statutory Instrument No. 12 of 2025 – The Tolls (Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 25 of the *Tolls Act, No. 14 of 2011* so as to formally designate the Ndola-Kitwe Road as a toll road and establish the Michael Chilufya Sata Toll Plaza as a toll point.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes that the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

2.5.4 Statutory Instrument No. 13 of 2025 – The Tolls (Abram Zayoni Mokola Toll Plaza) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 25 of the *Tolls Act, Act No. 14 of 2011* so as to designate the Abram Zayoni Mokola Toll Plaza as an official toll point.

The SI provided the legal basis for toll collection by the Macro Ocean Investment Consortium Limited, the concessionaire for the Lusaka-Ndola Road upgrade project, in line with the terms of the Concession Agreement.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations.

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument was in accordance with the enabling legislation.

However, the Committee bemoans the poor implementation revenue sharing mechanism agreements and the poor implementation of PPP projects, such as roads.

In this regard, the Committee urges the Government to negotiate better sharing mechanisms with Concessionaires.

In the same vein, the Committee recommends that PPP projects are of the right quality, price and built on time.

2.5.5 Statutory Instrument No. 53 of 2025-The Tolls (Toll Exemption) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 10 of the *Tolls Act, No. 14 of 2011* in order to grant Khal Amazi Farms a 5-year exemption from paying toll fees. The Order came into operation on 25th July, 2025, and would stand revoked on 25th July, 2030. The exemption order was restricted to the Chongwe Toll Station with the exempted vehicles shown on the schedule to the Statutory Instrument.

The objective of the Statutory Instrument was to help Khal Amazi Farms sustain its operations in the period of exemption with a view of the company putting in place a Sustainable Management Plan for its operations, thereafter.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.6 THE JUDICIARY

2.6.1 Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2025 – The Legal Practitioners' (Continuing Professional Development) Rules, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 90 of the *Legal Practitioners Act, Chapter 30 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to set out a framework for the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) obligations among Legal Practitioners in Zambia. The rules were part of a broader regulatory regime governing legal practitioners in relation to admission, discipline, practising certificates, among others.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

The Committee further acknowledges that the introduction of Continuing Professional Development among Legal Practitioners is progressive. However, the Committee observes, with concern, that the regulations attach renewal of legal practitioners' certificates to undertaking CPDs. This is in violation of Standing Order 204 (2) (iii) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024, which provides that Statutory Instruments should not trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties and not make the rights and liberties of citizens depend on administrative decisions but rather be concerned only with administrative detail and not amount to substantive legislation.

In this regard, the Committee recommends the revocation of the Statutory Instrument so as to address the concerns.

2.6.2 Statutory Instrument No. 50 – The Legal Practitioners’ Practice (Amendment) Rules, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 90 of the *Legal Practitioners Act, Chapter 30 of the Laws of Zambia* and with the concurrence of the Chief Justice, so as to among others, remove the prohibition on contingency fee arrangements, that is allowing legal practitioners to enter into contingency fee arrangements.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.7 MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

2.7.1 Statutory Instrument No. 15 of 2025 – The Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory instrument was issued pursuant to section 233 of the *Road Traffic Act, No. 11 of 2002* so as to prohibit the branding and/or advertising of any signage or information related to online ride-hailing service operators on vehicles providing such services.

The Committee was informed that the introduction of online ride-hailing services had created a dual market structure within Zambia’s transport sector. While the digital transformation of the taxi industry had increased convenience, it had also resulted in disputes with conventional taxi operators over issues of fair competition, visibility, and compliance costs.

The proposed amendment would therefore help level the playing field by restricting promotional branding on ride-hailing vehicles. It would also mitigate public safety risks and improve consumer protection.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.7.2 Statutory Instrument No.16 of 2025 – The Civil Aviation (Designated Provincial and Strategic Airports) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 16 of the *Civil Aviation Act, No. 5 of 2016* so as to revoke the *Civil Aviation (Designated Provincial and Strategic Airports) Regulations, 2018* and designate the airports annexed to the Schedule as provincial and strategic airports.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.7.3 Statutory Instrument No. 59 of 2025 – The Road Traffic (Honorary Road Traffic Inspectors) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 226A of the *Road Traffic Act, No. 11 of 2002*, which provided for the appointment of Honorary Road Traffic Inspectors. In this regard, the objective of the SI was to give legal effect to the appointment of Honorary Inspectors and stipulate their terms, conditions, and responsibilities.

The regulations were issued as a cost-effective measure in strengthening law enforcement presence on the roads and enhancing compliance with road safety regulations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.8 MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

2.8.1 Statutory Instrument No. 41 of 2025 – The Geological and Minerals Development (Commencement) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of *the Geological and Minerals Development Act, No. 2 of 2025* so as to bring into force the aforesaid Act. The Act repealed and replaced the *Mines and Minerals Development Act No. 11 of 2015*.

The Committee was informed that the Act provided for the:

- (a) geological survey, mapping, and exploration of minerals across the Republic;
- (b) establishment of the Directorate of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Value Addition;
- (c) creation of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Fund to promote the development of the ASM subsector;
- (d) promotion of local content, value addition, and beneficiation;
- (e) enhancement of environmental and social governance (ESG) principles in mining operations; and
- (f) commencement of this Act will facilitate the formalisation of the artisanal and small-scale mining subsector and ensure improved management of geological data and mineral resources.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

In this regard, the Committee resolves to await a progress report on the implementation of the SI, in particular, the aforementioned objectives.

2.8.2 Statutory Instrument No. 42 of 2025 – The Minerals Regulation Commission (Commencement) Order, 2025

This Statutory Instrument brings into operation *the Minerals Regulation Commission Act, No. 14 of 2024*, which established the Minerals Regulation Commission (MRC) as the regulatory body responsible for overseeing the management, compliance, and sustainable development of Zambia's mining sector.

The Committee was informed that under the Act, the Commission was mandated to:

- (a) regulate and monitor exploration, mining, and mineral processing activities;
- (b) enforce compliance with mining laws, safety, and environmental standards;
- (c) establish a transparent licencing and inspection framework;
- (d) collect, analyse, and disseminate mineral production and export data; and
- (e) advise Government on mining policy, strategy, and performance.

Therefore, the operationalisation of the Commission would strengthen institutional oversight and separate regulatory from policy functions within the Ministry, in line with best international practices.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.9 MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

2.9.1 Statutory Instrument No. 26 of 2025 – The Information and Communication Technologies (Electronic Communications) (Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 91 of *the Information and Communication Technologies Act, No. 15 of 2009*. It amends the principal Licensing Regulations of 2010 by introducing Regulation 6A, which provides for payment timelines and extension procedures for network and service licence fees.

The objectives of these regulations were to enhance administrative clarity and compliance by:

- (i) establishing a thirty-day payment window for licence fees upon grant of an application;
- (ii) allowing applicants to request a payment extension in writing, subject to approval by the Authority; and
- (iii) updating the licensing forms to improve data capture and processing efficiency.

The Committee was further informed that the amendment would improve regulatory compliance and enhance efficiency in revenue collection, reduce administrative delays, and strengthen transparency in the management of licence applications. It was anticipated that this would also promote predictability and investor confidence within the telecommunications sector by setting clear payment and extension timelines.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.9.2 Statutory Instrument No. 35 of 2025 – The Information and Communication Technologies (Radiocommunication) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 91 of *the Information and Communication Technologies Act, No. 15 of 2009*. The S.I amended the Second Schedule of the principal *Radiocommunication Regulations of 2024* by revising the spectrum fee structure.

The objectives of the regulations were to:

- (i) promote equitable access to spectrum resources and encourage rural coverage expansion.
- (ii) provide clarity on spectrum charges for Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), satellite services, and emergency channels;
- (iii) align spectrum pricing with regional benchmarks and market realities; and
- (iv) introduce differentiated fees for urban and rural broadcasting areas.

The Committee was further informed that the amendment would create a fair and competitive spectrum management regime, enable operators to expand network coverage into underserved areas. It was also anticipated that this would enhance spectrum efficiency and fairness, while ensuring Zambia’s spectrum pricing aligned with international norms, thereby supporting rural connectivity and investment.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.9.3 Statutory Instrument No. 36 of 2025 – The Information and Communication Technologies (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 91 of the *Information and Communication Technologies Act, No. 15 of 2009*. It revoked and replaced the fee schedule under the principal regulations of 2017.

The objectives of these regulations were to:

- (i) streamline the licensing fee structure across market segments (international, national, provincial, district);
- (ii) introduce tiered fees based on geographic classification;
- (iii) clarify the percentage of Gross Annual Turnover (GAT) applicable for annual operating fees; and
- (iv) improve transparency and predictability in the licensing process for network and service providers.

The Committee was informed that the revised fee schedule would enhance fairness and inclusivity in market participation, reduce administrative ambiguities, and encourage investment by providing a clear and consistent cost structure. It would also support the government's objective of balancing fiscal responsibility with private-sector growth in the digital economy.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.9.4 Statutory Instrument No. 37 of 2025 – The Information and Communication Technologies (Universal Access and Service) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 70 of the *Information and Communication Technologies Act, No. 15 of 2009*. It repealed and replaced the Universal Access Regulations of 2012.

The objectives of the regulations were to:

- (i) strengthen the management of the Universal Access and Service Fund;
- (ii) enhance procedures for subsidy applications, fund disbursement, and performance monitoring; and
- (iii) promote digital inclusion in unserved and underserved areas and communities.

The Committee was informed that the regulations would enhance the reach of ICT services to marginalised populations, bridge the urban-rural connectivity divide, and stimulate socio-economic growth through increased access to education, health, and e-government services. It further positioned Zambia to achieve universal digital inclusion.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.9.5 Statutory Instrument No. 52 of 2025 – The Ionising Radiation Protection (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 46 of *the Ionising Radiation Protection Act, No. 16 of 2005*. It amended the principal regulations of 2011 by introducing new definitions and expanding the Sixth Schedule to include additional categories of radiation screening.

The objectives of these regulations were to:

- (i) align the definition of “product” thereby harmonising terminology across regulatory frameworks;
- (ii) introduce new screening fees for radioactive materials found in imported or exported by-products of mining, building materials, and construction materials;
- (iii) enhance public safety and environmental protection through improved monitoring of radiation risks in industrial supply chains.

The Committee was informed that the amendment would strengthen Zambia’s radiation safety regime, ensuring consistency with international standards and the International Atomic Energy Agency safety framework. It would further enhance protection of workers, the public, and the environment, while generating sustainable inspection revenue to support regulatory enforcement.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.10 MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORT AND ARTS

2.10.1 Statutory Instrument No. 14 of 2025 – The National Arts Council of Zambia (Amendment) Rules, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 30 of *the National Arts Council of Zambia Act, Chapter 170 of the Laws of Zambia* so as to replace and revoke the *National Arts Council of Zambia Rules, 1995* by the revocation of the Second Schedule and the substitution therefor of the Schedule set out in the Appendix to the Statutory Instrument.

The main objectives of the Statutory Instrument were to:

- (i) establish a Registrar of Arts associations to ensure uniform registration and oversight of arts organisations and promoters;
- (ii) provide a clear framework for licensing, renewal, and supervision of arts associations and promoters;
- (iii) promote accountability, professionalism, and transparency within the arts and creative sector.
- (iv) safeguard artists’ welfare, ensuring fair labour practices, social security, and protection from exploitation;
- (v) enhance event safety, consumer protection, and public order during arts events;
- (vi) promote coordination among national arts associations, the National Arts Council, and other government bodies; and
- (vii) establish a framework for fees, levies, and penalties to sustain regulatory functions.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

The Committee observes that the Statutory Instrument is well intended. However, it bemoans the low levels of awareness and sensitisation of sector players on the regulations. In this regard, the Committee urges the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts to undertake sensitisation of its members on the new regulations.

2.11 MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY

2.11.1 Statutory Instrument No. 23 of 2025 – The Cyber Crimes Act (Commencement) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 1 of *the Cyber Crimes Act, No. 4 of 2025*. The objective of the S.I was to formally bring the aforesaid Act into operation upon its publication in the government gazette.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.12 ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA

2.12.1 Statutory Instrument No. 17 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (General) Regulations, 2016; The National Assembly By-Election (Lumezi Constituency No. 46) (Election Date and Time of Poll) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the Lumezi Constituency by-election.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.12.2 Statutory Instrument No. 18 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (Local Government By-Elections) (Election Date and Time of Poll) (No. 2) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the district and wards contained in the schedule of the Statutory Instrument.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

Statutory Instrument No. 38 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (Local Government By-Elections) (Election Date and Time of Poll) (No. 3) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the district and wards contained in the schedule of the Statutory Instrument.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the law.

2.12.3 Statutory Instrument No. 40 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (General) Regulations, 2016 The National Assembly By-Election (Mfuwe Constituency No. 91) (Election Date and Time of Poll) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the Mfuwe Constituency by-election.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.12.4 Statutory Instrument No. 43 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (Local Government By-Elections) (Election Date and Time of Poll) (No. 4) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the district and wards contained in the schedule of the Statutory Instrument.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.12.5 Statutory Instrument No. 55 of 2025 – The Electoral Process (Local Government By-Elections) (Election Date and Time of Poll) Order, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 125 of *the Electoral Process Act, No. 35 of 2016*. The objective of these regulations was to stipulate the election dates and times of polls in respect of the district and wards contained in the schedule of the Statutory Instrument.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

2.13 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

2.13.1 Statutory Instrument No. 49 of 2025 – The Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education (Students) (Amendment) Rules, 2025

The Statutory Instrument was issued pursuant to section 23 of *the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education Act, Chapter 49 of the Laws of Zambia*. The SI was sought to amend the principal Rules, so as to remove the permanent ban and introduce a three-year ban which will apply to students who fail to pass all the eleven Heads of the Legal Practitioner’s Qualifying Examinations in three attempts.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the issuance of the Statutory Instrument as it was done in conformity with the enabling law.

PART II

CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.0 A REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

i) Investment in Infrastructure Development

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to enhance infrastructure in the transportation, energy and communication sectors to facilitate smooth trade and reduce operational costs on businesses. As a result, improved infrastructure would boost efficiency, reduce transportation costs and attract investment.

In its update to the Committee the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, in collaboration with relevant Government Ministries and Agencies, was addressing infrastructure challenges through ongoing projects. Border development works were underway at Kasumbalesa, Nakonde, Chirundu, Sakania, Chanida, Chalwe/Kaiba, and Kambimba, supported by Public-Private Partnerships and grants. These projects included improvements to border facilities and surrounding infrastructure to ease congestion, streamline procedures, and facilitate the efficient flow of goods.

Further, the Lobito Corridor Project would link Zambia to the Port of Lobito in Angola through the Democratic Republic of Congo, thereby expanding export opportunities, boosting regional trade, and reducing transit times. In addition, investment in the TAZARA Railway for track rehabilitation and acquisition of new locomotives and wagons would enhance rail capacity and efficiency.

These interventions were expected to significantly reduce operational costs, improve trade facilitation, and position Zambia to effectively participate in the AfCFTA, while attracting greater investment.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the completion of the aforementioned projects.

ii) *Full implementation of the provisions of the World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)*

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to provide technical support to the Zambia Revenue Authority in order to fully implement provisions of the WTO, Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), in particular Article 4, 7.6 and Article 11.10 of the TFA. The implementation of the TFA can significantly complement and enhance the successful realisation of the AfCFTA by addressing critical issues related to trade facilitation, such as infrastructure, customs procedures, and trade policy harmonisation.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the implementation of the WTO TFA Article 4 on procedures for appeal or review, required that customs laws provided for the right to appeal decisions of customs through an administrative appeal or review by an administrative authority higher than or independent of the official or office that issued the decision, and further judicial appeal or review of the decision.

The Committee was informed that the *Customs and Excise Act, Chapter 322 of the Laws of Zambia* provided for the right to appeal and an elaborate procedure was outlined therein including an appeal to the Commissioner General and Minister of Finance and National Planning depending on the matter.

The Committee was further informed that the gap was on the judicial appeal and review mechanism, which provided for the Revenue Appeals Tribunal to be appointed by the Minister of Finance and National Planning. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the Government had not appointed members of the Revenue Appeals Tribunal since 2021. In this regard, there was a four-year backlog of cases outstanding at the tribunal. This had created a situation where certain goods being held pending appeals had expired, while still in custody of ZRA. This, therefore, meant that Zambia was currently non-compliant on this Article.

Committee's Observations and Recommendation

The Committee observes, with concern, the failure by the Government to appoint the Tribunal, which has resulted in a four-year backlog of unresolved tax disputes.

In this regard, the Committee urges the Government to expedite the process of appointing members to the tribunal, as a matter of extreme urgency.

iii) Guided Trade Initiative

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to accelerate efforts towards Zambia becoming a State Party to the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) and commencing trade thereon.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry submitted that working in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), it was undertaking national sensitisation programmes across all ten provinces to raise stakeholder awareness and promote participation in the AfCFTA GTI. These sensitisation activities also aimed at identifying private sector actors that could effectively participate in the GTI.

In addition, the Ministry was engaging with the World Bank through the Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project (ZATP), as well as other cooperating partners, to mobilise support for Zambia's participation in the GTI, including potential trade engagement with West African AfCFTA State Parties.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee awaits a progress report on the steps being undertaken to participate in the Guided Trade Initiative.

iv) Enhance Access to Finance

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended that the Government, in collaboration with financial sector players, should develop financial instruments and support mechanisms to improve access to finance to enable Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to expand their operations and participate in regional trade.

In response, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry was engaging the financial sector through participation in trade finance activities to promote the development of inclusive financial products and instruments, as well as affordable and accessible trade finance. In addition, efforts were underway to design tailored financial solutions that would support informal traders in transitioning into formal market.

Further, a recent engagement between the Ministry, International Finance Centre and World Bank brought together the Bank of Zambia, sixteen commercial banks and SMEs to discuss modalities on improved access to finance and what instruments could be customised to enhance SMEs access to affordable finance.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee awaits a progress report on development of financial instruments and support mechanisms to improve access to finance to enable Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to expand their operations and participate in regional trade.

v) Strengthen capacity building initiatives

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended that skills development and training interventions were expedited in agriculture, textiles, and animal products so as to ensure effective participation of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the AfCFTA.

The Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) to implement an incubation programme in the Ndola, Kitwe, and Solwezi Industrial Yards, which hosted a significant number of SMEs and cooperatives. The programme was designed to build capacity and enhance export readiness, thereby enabling MSMEs and cooperatives to effectively participate in the AfCFTA.

Further, through collaboration with the Facilitation Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Trade (FIRST) Project, the Ministry was working at strengthening trade facilitation and, addressing gender inequality and barriers to inclusive economic growth to improve small-scale cross border traders for women, youth and person with disabilities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee awaits a progress report on skills development and training interventions in order to ensure effective participation of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the AfCFTA in agriculture, textiles, and animal products.

vi) Diversifying Export Products and Value Addition

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended that in order to reduce dependence on copper exports and set itself apart from established markets, Zambia had to develop unique, value-added products. This could be achieved through diversification strategies focusing on key sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism and Manufacturing. By diversifying the economy and developing unique value-added products, Zambia could unlock sustainable growth, reduce economic vulnerability, reduced copper dependence, increased export earnings, create jobs and establish itself as a competitive player in the AfCFTA market.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry was promoting Non-Traditional Exports (NTEs) as part of its diversification strategy to reduce dependence on copper. The Quick Guide for Non-Traditional Exports (2024) provided exporters, particularly MSMEs and cooperatives, with procedures and opportunities in key sectors such as agriculture, textiles, animal and fish products, manufactured goods, and gemstones. By leveraging preferential market access under COMESA, SADC and the AfCFTA, and supporting the development of unique value-added products, Zambia aimed to boost competitiveness, expand export earnings, create jobs, and achieve sustainable growth.

In addition, with support from the international Agencies and cooperating partners such as the International Trade Centre, various capacity building initiatives and studies were undertaken in the leather and cotton value chains. Further, through ZATP Phase I, a

number of programmes targeting market linkages and firm growth in agribusiness were also undertaken. The Government was currently in the process of commencing the Zambia Agri-Business Trade Project (ZATP) Phase II following finalisation of key implementation modalities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Government to expedite the process of diversifying export products and value addition. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

vii) Broaden the Domestic Tax Base

The Committee in the previous Session had noted the potential for revenue loss expected from the gradual removal of trade tariffs under the AfCFTA. In this regard, the Committee had urged that to ensure fiscal stability and continued investment in national priorities, there was need to put in place strategic measures to expand Zambia's domestic tax base.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Government through the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry had committed to tariff concessions under the AfCFTA. In this vein, efforts were underway to diversify revenue sources beyond trade tariffs, by strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and promoting value addition in key sectors of the economy. These measures were intended to mitigate potential revenue losses arising from the gradual removal of tariffs under the AfCFTA, while sustaining fiscal stability and development financing.

Therefore, the Ministry through a number of programmes, in collaboration with various ministries and cooperating partners, has continued to be intentional through targeted programmes to stimulate growth and formalisation of the SMEs as notable category for broadening tax base. These efforts were complemented by the "Proudly Zambian Campaign" aimed at stimulating production and consumption local goods and services.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Government to ensure efficiency in tax collection and enhance inspections to prevent tax evasion. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

viii) Encourage innovation and technology adoption

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to put in place measures that promoted innovation and the adoption of new technologies to enhance productivity, which would drive efficiency, reduce costs and open new market opportunities.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, in collaboration with Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), was finalising a concept note to develop and implement a multi-agency integrated risk management system. This initiative was in line with Article 7.4 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which encouraged Member-States to adopt risk management systems for customs control.

The system would replace the current fragmented approach where border agencies operated separate risk assessment frameworks, which often resulted in duplication, inconsistent decisions, and delays. Once implemented, the unified platform would enable the sharing of risk information, coordination of inspections, and application of harmonised risk profiles across agencies. This innovation was expected to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and facilitate smooth trade, thereby supporting Zambia's competitiveness under the AfCFTA.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the concept note aimed at developing and implementing a multi-agency integrated risk management system.

ix) Identify Strategic Sectors and Targeted Interventions

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to expedite the process of identifying export markets in Africa in order to formulate specific, targeted interventions to maximise the country's competitive advantage, drive economic growth, and ensure Zambia fully benefited from the Agreement in line with the National Industrial Policy (2024-2027) and the National Exports Strategy (2018-2022).

In its update to the Committee, the Executive through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry submitted that an increasing number of AfCFTA State Parties had gazetted their Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions (PSTCs) thereby opening immediate opportunities for Zambia to expand exports into newly liberalised African markets. From this perspective, the Government would through the National Strategy for the Implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area of 2021 focus on programmes to identify and enter non-traditional markets where Zambia did not currently export.

Therefore, the Ministry would prioritise targeting countries based on tariff phase-downs, rules of origin, demand trends, standards requirements and logistics costs and through an established Monitoring and Evaluation Framework track market entries, export values and firm participation. This would then maximise Zambia's competitive advantage; drive export led growth and ensure that the country fully benefited from opportunities under the AfCFTA.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

x) Increase Private Sector Awareness to maximise the AfCFTA benefits for Zambian businesses

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended that the Government should develop a national AfCFTA sensitisation programme so as to create awareness on the AfCFTA. Further, the Government was urged to conduct regular impact assessments and evaluations of AfCFTA sensitisation efforts.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry submitted that it had established the AfCFTA National Implementation Committee (NIC) to oversee and monitor implementation of the Agreement, including stakeholder awareness. In collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Ministry was conducting sensitisation programmes across all ten provinces to raise awareness, promote participation in the AfCFTA GTI, and identify potential private sector participants. The Government remained committed to scaling-up these efforts and conducting regular evaluations to ensure their effectiveness.

The Committee was informed that the Ministry continued to also utilise virtual platforms to carry awareness creation on the AfCFTA and the opportunities it presented. Additionally, through the established monitoring and evaluation frameworks at ministerial and AfCFTA level, regular monitoring and evaluations would continue to be undertaken regularly in line with prescribed indicators. This process underwent annual review to assess impact.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Ministry to provide an annual review to the Committee assessing impact of the sensitisation activities.

xi) Establish One-stop Centres for Permits and Licensing

The Committee in the previous Session had noted that the numerous offices awarding permits and licenses in Zambia hampered efficiency in business registration. The Committee, had recommended the establishment of one-stop centres for the acquisition of permits and licenses, and in particular, establishing of an AfCFTA desk at the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA).

The Executive in updating the Committee submitted that the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, through the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA), had successfully established seven Regulatory Services Centres (RSCs) located in Lusaka, Livingstone, Chipata, Kitwe, Kabwe, Solwezi, and Chinsali. In addition, efforts were currently underway to expand this network with additional centres planned for Kasama, Mansa, and Mongu. These RSCs brought together key regulatory institutions including Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA), Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA), local authorities, the ZDA, and the Department of Cooperatives to provide streamlined, coordinated services that supported business registration and regulatory compliance.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee awaits a progress report on the remaining regulatory service centres to be established. The Committee further resolves to await a progress report on the establishment of an AfCFTA desk by the ZDA.

The Committee had further urged the Government to streamline all investment and business licenses to be managed by the ZDA, which should create an online domain for ease of access of information by members of the public.

In updating the Committee, the Executive through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Business Regulatory Agency had continued to propose reforms in order to reduce regulatory overlaps, increase or enhance consistency, predictability and transparency in the manner in which legislative and regulatory frameworks were administered, streamlined processes and procedures for administration of licenses, fees and permits and reduced the cost of doing business. Further, a joint cabinet memorandum had been developed and submitted to Cabinet Office seeking approval to amend legislative frameworks sitting in other ministries in order to ease regulatory compliance through the reduction of multiple fees.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee awaits a progress report on the streamlining of all investment and business licenses to be managed by the ZDA.

3.1 MINISTRY OF ENERGY

3.1.1 Statutory Instrument No. 38 of 2024 – The Electricity (Net Metering) Regulations, 2024

i) Low Level Prosumer Participation

The Committee in the previous Session had bemoaned the low levels of citizen participation as prosumers in the net metering initiative and the lack of proper incentives to prosumers. In this regard, the Committee had urged the Government to enhance

sensitisation to attract more prosumers to invest in renewable energy and provide the excess to the national grid through net metering.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that ZESCO Limited, through the Ministry of Energy, had already commenced targeted sensitisation campaigns on the Net Metering Regulations of 2024. These had included provincial engagements in Lusaka, Copperbelt, Central, Southern and North-Western Provinces where public meetings were held with residential, commercial, and farming customers. In addition, ZESCO had undertaken radio and television programmes, press releases, and social media articles aimed at explaining the benefits of net metering. ZESCO was also carrying out door-to-door campaigns, and using SMS broadcasts. Furthermore, ZESCO continued to review processes for the purpose of simplification and provide incentives that would attract customers. ZESCO had since removed the net metering fees through a promotion, allowing customers to connect at no fee.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee urges the Executive to provide updated figures on Net Metering.

ii) Payment of Electricity Credits as Incentive

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended that better incentives such as cash and not only electricity credits were provided to prosumers so as to attract more investment in the sector.

The Executive submitted in the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Energy through ZESCO, had noted the Committee's recommendation. The Committee was informed that the Net Metering Regulations provided for electricity credits as the incentive mechanism. However, recognising the need to enhance participation, ZESCO had been engaging the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) and other stakeholders to explore the feasibility of additional incentives, including cash payments. These consultations remained ongoing, with due consideration being given to both the importance of encouraging prosumer investment and the need to maintain financial sustainability of the utility.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the review of incentives for the net metering.

3.1.2 Statutory Instrument No. 40 of 2024 – The Electricity (Open Access) Regulations, 2024

Meeting with ZESCO Limited in Ndola

iii) Legal Framework

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to expedite the enactment of a legal framework to fully implement the open access initiative. In addition, the Committee had recommended that the Government expedited the Open Access Initiative by providing funding to carry out activities related to open access realisation and establishment of the Independent System and Market Operator.

In its update to the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Energy had engaged Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the two institutions were actively spearheading establishment of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO). The ISMO was expected to be anchored by IDC with funding support from Ministry of Finance and National Planning in the initial phase.

Furthermore, a technical committee comprising Ministry of Energy, ZESCO, IDC and other key industry players had been constituted to help develop the institutional structure and budget for the establishment, operation and sustainability of an Independent System Management Operator (ISMO).

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite the process of enacting legislation to fully implement the open access initiative matter.

3.2 MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING

3.2.1 Statutory Instrument No. 60 of 2023 – The Value Added Tax (Exemption) (Amendment) Order

Meeting with Water Utility Companies

Kafubu and Lukanga Water and Sanitation companies

- i) The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on when the Government would undertake the process to adjust tariffs.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation was in the short term, providing budget surplus support in its annual budget. For example, the Ministry had allocated K26, 487,208.00 in the 2024 budget for water utilities. This support was used for various purposes such as emergencies, performance improvement, and operational needs of the water utilities.

The Ministry submitted that as a long-term measure, the Government would consider tariff adjustments for the sustainability of the water utility companies.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the tariff adjustment.

- ii) The Committee had further recommended that water utility company services should be classified as zero rated so that the companies could be entitled to claim Value Added Tax (VAT).

In the Action-Taken Report, the Committee was informed that the Government had noted the observation and the recommendation of the Committee as zero rating would reduce production costs by eliminating VAT on the procurement of electricity, chemicals, pipes, pumps, motor vehicles and spare parts. The 16 per cent reduction in production costs would provide the resources to the commercial utilities to undertake maintenance and rehabilitation of dilapidated infrastructure and procure the domestic meters, meet their payables such as statutory obligations and salaries on time and expand service provision to un-serviced areas.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on steps taken to zero rate production inputs for water utility companies.

3.3 MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.3.1 Statutory Instrument No 39 of 2016 – The Provincial and District Boundaries (Division) (Amendment) Order (Kalumbila and Mushindamo Districts)

Meeting with Mushindamo District Council

The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on the process to establish the Central Business District (CBD) at the Mafita site.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the site for the CBD of Mushindamo District had not yet been established. The local authority resolved to establish the CBD on three separate portions of land (2105 hectares, 4070 hectares and 2371 hectares) at Kilumba. However, the three identified portions were considered not to be ideal. The local authority had been directed to reconsider its resolution of establishing the CBD on three separate sites which did not provide room for future expansion. The North-Western Provincial Administration, in its letter dated 13th August, 2025, advised the local authority to consider the previous sites, one of which is Mafita. A response was being awaited from the authority.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the on the process to establish the Central Business District (CBD).

3.4 MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

3.4.1 Statutory Instrument No. 50 of 2023 – The Employment Code (Shop Workers Minimum Wages and Conditions of Employment) Order, 2023

Meeting with Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Representative Associations

The Committee in the previous Session had urged the Government to expedite the process of restructuring the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in order to ensure that the staffing challenges were resolved.

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security submitted that the new structure for the Ministry was approved by Cabinet in March, 2025. The Ministry working with Management Development Division (Cabinet Office) was currently working on developing job descriptions for all the 822 positions in the new structure.

The new structure had provided for seventy-two (Districts) operation stations and forty-four satellite stations in districts with less economic activity. The structure would be operationalised once the Treasury Authority was granted.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the submission and urges the Government to expedite the seeking of Treasury Authority so as to implement the new structure. The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

3.5 LOCAL TOUR REPORT

i. Statutory Instrument No. 36 of 2022 – The Customs and Excise (Ports of Entry and Routes) (Amendment) Order, 2022

Meeting with Zambia Revenue Authority at Sakania Border

The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on the process of finalising the procurement process for the construction of the Ndola/Mufulira Road and the modernisation of Sakania Border facilities through a Public Private Partnership model.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted through the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry that the Project Scope involved the construction of Sakania Border

Post, Ndola-Mufulira Road and access road to Sakania Border Post for the Concession Period of 22 years and Financial Close attained.

Additionally, Phase 1, the contractor had been mobilised on site and the construction of 17.2 kilometres Ndola to Sakania Border Road including a toll gate had been completed and was awaiting the issuance of Partial Certificate of Completion by the RDA. All Project Affected Persons (PAPs) had been compensated.

Further, Phase 2 construction of the border, the Concessionaire had been given right to access the site for the border and works had commenced for laying of foundation of the new border terminal. This phase was scheduled to be completed by April, 2026.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

ii. Statutory Instrument No. 49 of 2022 - The Public-Private Partnership (Kasumbalesa Border Post) (User Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022

Meeting with Zambia Revenue Authority at Kasumbalesa Border

- i) The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on the implementation of the One-Stop-Border Post.

In Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Project Scope involved the construction of an Ultra-modern customs building, fifty housing unit, 300 SME shops, Multi-Facility Economic Zone, Hotel, Fuelling station, 10 kilometres each of urban roads in Chililabombwe and Chingola under a Concession Period of 20 years and Financial Close attained.

Additionally, urban roads base was completed in July, 2025 followed by laying of bitumen to be completed by November, 2025. Further, early works for border infrastructure had commenced with laying foundation and all (PAPs) for Phase 1 had been compensated.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

iii. Statutory Instrument No. 47 of 2022 – The Emoluments Commission Act (Commencement) Order, 2022

Meeting with Acting Director General and Management team

The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to await a progress report on the procurement process, and when the funds would be made available by the Treasury for the purchase of a building for office accommodation.

In its update to the Executive submitted that the Government through the Emoluments Commission was currently operating from an old facility which had become inadequate to its operational needs, which poses a health hazard. At present, a total of thirty-eight (38) technical and support staff were accommodated in the limited available space, resulting in overcrowding.

Following the issuance of Treasury Authority on 1st February 2025, to recruit eighty-one officers, the need for more office accommodation had become even more critical. The approved organisational structure required adequate space to support the full operationalisation of the Commission and to enable effective delivery of its mandate.

In response to this development, the Commission had undertaken the following actions:

- (a) a needs assessment was completed to determine current and future space requirements;
- (b) a preliminary market scan of available office properties within Lusaka had been conducted;
- (c) stakeholder Consultation: Engagements had been held with the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development as well as the Ministry of Finance and National Development; and
- (d) requested for funding from the Ministry of Finance and National Planning for inclusion in the 2026 National Budget. The request sought to secure financial resources to facilitate the procurement of suitable and permanent office accommodation for the Emoluments Commission, in line with the Treasury Authority that was granted.

The Committee was informed that the Commission had continued to engage and made formal submissions, to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, which was the lead in the actual procurement process. However, to date, there had been no significant traction on this matter. The lack of progress continued to negatively impact the Commission's ability to operate in a conducive, secure, and professional working environment necessary for the effective execution of its mandate. The Commission, therefore, reiterated the urgent need for the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to expedite the process and ensure that appropriate office space was secured without further delay.

In addition, the Commission had written to the Treasury seeking consideration for forfeited properties. The Commission remained committed to ensuring that this process was handled transparently and efficiently, in accordance with public procurement guidelines and continued to keep the Committee updated on the progress toward securing a permanent office for the Commission.

Committees Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

iv. Statutory Instrument No. 87 of 2020 – The Animal Health (Designated Border Inspection Posts) Regulations

Visit to Kazungula Boarder

The Committee in the previous Session observed with concern the inordinate delay by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to purchase the eighty vehicles and 600 motor bikes, which was affecting service delivery. The Committee resolved to await a progress report on the matter.

In updating the Committee, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock acknowledged the Committee's concern regarding the delay in procuring the eighty vehicles and 600 motorbikes intended to enhance service delivery in combating livestock diseases.

As earlier reported, the procurement process commenced in 2023, and a draft contract was prepared. However, due to fiscal constraints, the required funds were not released, resulting in the deferment of the procurement to 2024.

To mitigate the impact of the delay, the Ministry resolved to implement the procurement in phases. The first phase, comprising twenty motorbikes and twenty vehicles, commenced

in 2024 and was currently at the evaluation stage. This phased approach was aimed at ensuring gradual but steady improvement in logistical capacity to support veterinary and extension services, particularly in high-risk and remote areas.

The Ministry remained committed to improving service delivery and would continue to engage the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to secure funding for subsequent phases of the procurement. A progress report would be submitted to the Committee during the Fourteenth Session outlining the status of implementation and deployment of the procured assets.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

v. Statutory Instrument No. 7 of 2018 – The Railways (Transportation of Heavy Goods) Regulations, 2018

Visit to Zambia Railways Limited Headquarters

The Committee in the previous Session had resolved to request for a progress report on the matter and specifically the status of works on the contract signed between the IDC and Team Sweden Railway Consortium.

In the Action-Taken Report, Executive submitted that the Lusaka High Court delivered its judgement in the case between Team Sweden Railway (TSR), through their representative Yapiray Demiryolu and the IDC and Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL) on 14th March, 2025 dismissing TSR's claim of Euros 4,956,323.89 and Euros 1,433,797.57 for breach of contract and non-payment of some Interim Payment Certificates. The Court further ordered that an independent Engineer be appointed within 120 days (4 months) with effect from 23rd July, 2025, to evaluate the extent and value of works undertaken in order to determine the parties' payment obligations or liabilities.

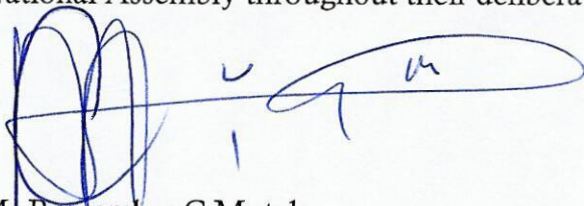
It was therefore, submitted that following the suspension of the works under Phase 1 and the commencement of the Court action, no further works on the rehabilitation and modernisation of Zambia Railways had been conducted. The ZRL and IDC were in the process of appointing an independent engineer, as ordered by the Court.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee resolves to await a progress report on the matter.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee, Madam Speaker, would like to express their appreciation for your wise counsel and direction given to them during the past year. Your Committee also wishes to thank all witnesses who submitted memoranda that provided the basis for them to make informed decisions on the issues under their consideration. Lastly, your Committee wishes to express their appreciation of the service rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly throughout their deliberations.



Mr Remember C Mutale
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I – List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Charles Haambote, Director, Social Committees (SC)

Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Director (SC)

Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC-2)

Mr Timothy C Lumba, Committee Clerk

Mrs Ruth Nambule Mwiinga, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II – List of Stakeholders

Cabinet office

Emoluments Commission

Electoral Commission of Zambia

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development

Ministry of Finance and national Planning

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security

Ministry of Technology and Science

Ministry of Youth, sport and Arts

Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources

Ministry of Transport and Logistics

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

The Judiciary

Ministry of Labour