



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

ON THE

NATIONAL MUSEUMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, N.A.B. NO. 34 OF 2026

FOR THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

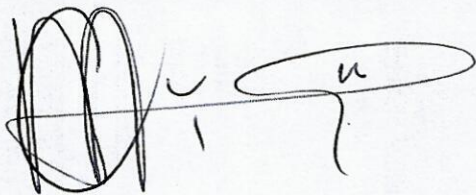
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FOREWORD

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Legislation and International Agreements has the honour to present its Report on the National Museums (Amendment), Bill, N.A.B No. 34 of 2026. The functions of the Committee are set out under Standing Orders 206(a) and 204(2)(iv) of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024

In order to acquaint itself with the ramifications of the Bill, the Committee held eight meetings and sought both written and oral submissions from stakeholders. Stakeholders, who appeared before the Committee, are listed at Appendix II of the Report. The Report is organised in three parts. Part I provides a background and summary of the provisions of the Bill. Part II presents the summary of submissions from stakeholders, while Part III constitutes the Committee's observations and recommendations.

The Committee is grateful to stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. The Committee further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it the opportunity to scrutinise the National Museums (Amendment), Bill, N.A.B 34 of 2026. The Committee's appreciation is further extended to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the support and guidance rendered throughout its deliberations.

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Mr Remember C Mutale, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr Remember C Mutale, MP (Chairperson); Mr Charles Abel Mulenga, (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Chonde Saka, MP; Mr Francis Kapyanga, MP; Rev Given Katuta, MP; Mr Wesley Kolala, MP; Mr Kenny Siachisumo, MP; Mr Menyani Zulu, MP; Mr Sipho Hlazo, MP; and Mr Phillimon Twasa, MP.

PART I

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Bill seeks to amend the *National Museums Act, Chapter 174 of the Laws of Zambia*, so as to revise the composition of the Board. This is in line with the Government policy as stipulated in Cabinet Office Circular Minute No. 101/39/1 of 2025, calling for the amendment of pieces of legislation on Boards and Committees.

The decision by the Government is aimed at strengthening governance in public institutions, including parastatal and statutory bodies in order to enhance service delivery and socio-economic transformation. The measure further seeks to strengthen the participation of the private sector, civil society organisations and other non-state actors in national affairs and programmes.

3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL

The object of the Bill is to:

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

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

The summarised provisions of the Bill are as set out below.

Part One

Clause 1 – Preliminary Provisions

This clause provides for the short title and commencement of the Bill and stipulates that, once enacted, it shall be read as one with the National Museums Act, Chapter 173 of the Laws of Zambia. It further provides for a transitional arrangement under which new members of the Commission shall be appointed in accordance with the Act upon expiry or removal of the current members.

Clause 2 – Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act

This clause provides for the amendment of section 2 of the principal Act so as to insert new definitions. This will provide clarity to the understanding of the Act, once enacted.

Clause 3 – Amendment of Section 5

Clause 3 provides for the constituting of the Board of the National Museums, which shall consist of eleven part-time members appointed by the Minister. The clause further provides for a selection mechanism requiring institutions to nominate their representatives for the appointment by the Minister.

Clause 4 – Amendment of Section 7

Clause 4 provides for the amendment of section 7 of the principal Act in order to provide for a five-member quorum at a meeting of the Board.

PART II

5.0 SUBMISSIONS AND CONCERNS BY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders who appeared before the Committee were in support of the National Museums (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B. No. 34 of 2026, and submitted as outlined below.

The Committee was informed that the revision of the composition of the Board was in line with the Government policy so as to enhance private sector participation in the governance of public institutions. In this regard, the Government through Cabinet Office Circular Minute No. 101/39/1, provided the underlisted guidelines.

- (i) Each Board or Committee has adequate representation from the private sector.
- (ii) The total number of members on each Board does not exceed eleven.
- (iii) Each Board or Committee has adequate gender representation.
- (iv) Each Board or Committee has adequate national representation.

Stakeholders submitted that the National Museums Board was a critical institution responsible for the protection, management and promotion of Zambia's natural, cultural and historical heritage. This mandate intersects directly with land use planning, biodiversity conservation, tourism, community development and climate resilience.

In this regard, stakeholders submitted that the amendment was progressive, as it reflects a multi-sectoral governance framework, incorporating representation from the Government, traditional leadership, professional bodies, civil society, and the private sector. This approach was commendable, as it promoted inclusive decision-making; enhanced policy coherence across sectors; and strengthened the integration of heritage conservation within national development frameworks.

However, stakeholders observed that to enhance provisions of the Bill, the underlisted should be addressed.

(i) Clause 2 – Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act

In order to ensure professional accountability, and maintain the highest standards, stakeholders submitted that the Bill should stipulate that the representatives from the professional bodies such as Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM) and Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management (ZIHRM) must be registered members in good standing with their respective professional bodies. This would ensure that the representative was subject to the professional code of ethics and disciplinary oversight of their home institution.

(ii) Clause 3 – Composition of the Board

Stakeholders submitted that the amendment was progressive, as it reflected a multi-sectoral governance framework, incorporating representation from the Government, traditional leadership, professional bodies, civil society, and the private sector.

This approach was commendable, as it promoted inclusive decision-making; enhanced policy coherence across sectors; and strengthened the integration of heritage conservation within national development frameworks.

Further, stakeholders submitted that the clause was a shift from the current section 5 of the principal Act, under which it provided that the Board shall consist of not more than twelve members appointed by the Minister, one of whom shall be appointed by the Minister to be Chairman. By incorporating state and non-state actors, it was anticipated that this would enhance corporate governance and performance of the Board.

PART III

6.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After scrutinising the Bill, and taking into consideration the submissions from various stakeholders, the Committee supports the amendment of *the National Museums Act, Chapter 174 of the Laws of Zambia*. In doing so, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations set out below.

(i) Clause 2 – Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Act

The Committee observes that, while the Bill is progressive in that it now provides the composition of the Board, it does not stipulate that the nominated representatives of professional bodies such as ZIM and ZIHRM must be registered members in good standing with their respective professional bodies.

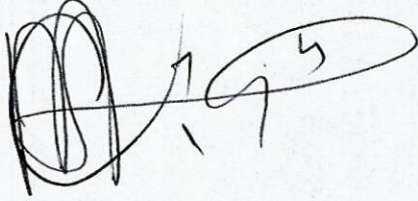
In this regard, in order to ensure professional accountability, and maintain the highest standards, the Committee recommends that the Bill stipulates that the representatives from the professional bodies be registered members of such professional bodies. This would ensure that the representative was subject to the professional code of ethics and disciplinary oversight of their home institution.

7.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the National Museums (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B No. 34 of 2026, strengthens the governance framework of the National Museums by promoting a more inclusive, multidisciplinary and representative Board structure. This will be important in the effective administration of National Museums, which requires not only cultural and heritage expertise but also competences in governance, stakeholder engagement, institutional management, public visibility and organisational effectiveness.

In this regard, it is envisaged that the Board will contribute positively to the reservation of cultural and natural heritage for present and future generations and the forging of national unity.

We have the honour to be, Madam, the Committee on Legislation and International Agreements, mandated to scrutinise the National Museums (Amendment) Bill, N.A.B 34 of 2026.

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Mr Remember C Mutale, MP
CHAIRPERSON

April, 2026
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I – List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Charles Haambote, Director – Social Committees
Mr Geoffrey Zulu, Deputy Director – Financial Committees
Ms Chitalu R Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC2)
Mr Timothy C Lumba, Committee Clerk
Ms Ruth Nambule, Administrative Assistant
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant
Ms TaonaChabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II – List of Witnesses

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Tourism

Tourism Council of Zambia

Zambia Institute of Human Resource Management