



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA  
Parliament Buildings  
P.O Box 31299  
Lusaka  
[www.parliament.gov.zm](http://www.parliament.gov.zm)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA  
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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ABSTRACT SERIES

## **MANNER OF EFFECTING AMENDMENTS IN THE HOUSE**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

## **PREFACE**

This Abstract is part of the Zambian Parliamentary Procedure Abstract Series and describes the procedure regarding the effecting of amendments to Bills in the House. The Abstract Series is based on the Provisions of the National Assembly Standing Orders and its practice and procedure. It is hoped that this Abstract will give some basic understanding on the manner in which amendments are effected in the House and will serve as a handy guide for ready reference.

Roy Ngulube  
**ACTING CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

## **DEFINING AN AMENDMENT**

An amendment is a subsidiary Motion moved in the course of a debate on another Motion. The main objective of an amendment is either to modify a question before the House with a view to increasing its acceptability or to present to the House a different proposition as an alternative to the original question.

### ***Types of Amendments***

An amendment may be made in the following ways:

- a) by leaving out certain words;
- b) by leaving out certain words in order to insert other words; or
- c) by inserting other words

## **NOTICE OF AMENDMENT**

Notice of an amendment to a Motion or Bill should be given in writing, addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly, signed by the Member giving notice and handed in to the Legal Services Department and should conform to the requirements of Standing Order 93. Amendments to deal with Motions, Questions, Budget (Estimates of Revenue or Expenditure) etc., are processed by the Journals and table Office.

### ***Conditions of Amendments***

In order for any amendment to be acceptable, it must satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) an amendment should be relevant to, and within the scope of the subject of the Motion;
- (ii) an amendment should add value to, or improve the quality of the motion under discussion and not merely oppose the Motion;
- (iii) an amendment which has the effect of opposing the Motion is not admissible because such a proposal is tantamount to a negative vote, which should only come when the Speaker finally puts the “question;
- (iv) an amendment which is substantially the same as the original Motion, or the same as another already negated Motion is not admissible;
- (v) generally, any amendment to a Bill or Motion should not be unintelligible, vague, indefinite, meaningless or frivolous; and
- (vi) an amendment should be prepared in such a way that it can be put to vote of the House by the Presiding Officer or Speaker.

## **AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

An amendment to an amendment is admissible. When this happens, the question by the Speaker deals with the first amendment as if it were a distinct question, and with the second as if it were an ordinary amendment. The original question is for a time being, laid aside and the amendment becomes a substantive question. When the amendment to the amendment has been agreed upon, the original debate can then be resumed to amend as agreed.

## **CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

Certain amendments, particularly to Bills may be consequential. Consequential amendments are those which come about as a result of amending the principal clause or the main proposal on which such provisions are dependant. Thus, as a result of amending the main provisions, consequential amendments are automatically effected.

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