

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2021**

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MEMORANDUM

The object of this Bill is to amend the Higher Education Act so as to—

- (a) redefine the functions of the Authority;
- (b) re-constitute the Board of the Authority;
- (c) revise the categories of higher education institutions;
- (d) provide for accreditation of a learning programme for a higher education institution; and
- (e) provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

A. MWANSA,  
*Solicitor-General*

# A BILL

ENTITLED

## **An Act to amend the Higher Education Act.**

ENACTED by the Parliament of Zambia

Enactment

1. This Act may be cited as the Higher Education (Amendment) Act, 2021, and shall be read as one with the Higher Education Act, 2013, in this Act referred to as the principal Act.

Short title

Act No. 4 of  
2013

5 2. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended—

Amendment  
of section 2

(a) by the deletion of the definitions of Aided higher education institution”, Aaffiliated institution, “constituent college”, “learning programme”, Aprincipal officer” and “school”and the substitution therefor of the following:

10 “aided higher education institution” means a higher education institution which is not a public higher education institution and is established or maintained by a person, organisation or community with assistance from the Ministry  
15 responsible for higher education;

**N.A.B. 21, 2021**

- “affiliated institution” means a college or higher education institution affiliated to a public or private higher education institution in accordance with this Act;
- “constituent college” means a college, institution or school registered or declared by statutory order as a constituent college of a higher education institution under section 38A; 5
- “learning programme” means a process, programme of study or academic programme by which learners acquire knowledge, skill, competence, instruction, apprenticeship, training or employment; 10
- “principal officer” means the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Principal, Registrar, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Librarian or Dean of Students; and 15
- “school” means a faculty or an academic unit of a higher education institution in which teaching, learning, study and research is pursued”; 20
- (b) by the deletion of the definitions of “Bursar”, “course of study” and “Alibrarian”; and
- (c) by the insertion of the following new definitions in the appropriate places in alphabetical order: 25
- “chief financial officer” means a person appointed as chief financial officer under paragraph 11 of the Third Schedule;
- “chief librarian” means the person appointed as chief librarian under paragraph 10 of the Third Schedule; 30
- “chief internal auditor” means a person appointed as a chief internal auditor under paragraph 12A of the Third Schedule; 35
- “citizen” has the meaning assigned to the word in the Constitution;
- “college” means an institution registered or declared by statutory order as a higher education institution that provides tertiary education to the level of certificate and diploma; 40

- “higher education” means tertiary education leading to the award of a certificate, diploma, bachelor’s degree, postgraduate diploma, master’s degree or doctorate degree;
- 5 “institute” means an institute established under section 20A created solely for the purpose of conducting research;
- “legally disqualified” means the absence of legal capacity as provided in section 4 of the Mental Health Act, 2019;
- 10 “principal” means the head of a college, technical university college, university college and constituent college;
- “technical university college” means a higher education institution which does not have full university status and does not provide postgraduate education and provides programmes leading to award of certificates, diplomas and bachelor’s degrees in a range of practical and technical subjects;
- 15 20 “technical university” means a higher education institution providing learning programmes leading to award of a certificate, diploma, bachelor’s degree and post graduate qualifications and conducts research and development in various technical subjects;
- 25 “university” means a higher education institution which provides learning programmes leading to award of certificates, diploma, bachelor’s degrees and post graduate qualifications and conducts research and development in various academic disciplines; and
- 30 “university college” means a college or institution registered or declared by statutory order as a higher education institution does not have full university status and does not provide postgraduate education, that provides tertiary education leading to award of a certificate, diploma and bachelor’s degree in various academic disciplines.
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Act No. 6 of 2019

- Repeal and replacement of section 3
3. The principal Act is amended by the repeal of section 3 and the substitution therefor of the following:
- Application Act No. 13 of 1998
3. This Act does not apply to colleges registered under the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Act, 1998. 5
- Amendment of section 6
4. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (1) (a) by the deletion of paragraph (h) and the substitution therefor of the following:
- (h) set standards for higher education institutions;;
- (b under paragraph (i), by the insertion of the following new subparagraph immediately after subparagraph (v): 10
- (vi) classification of higher education institutions;;
- (c) by the deletion of paragraphs (j), (k), (l) and (m) and the substitution therefor of the following:
- (j) promote cooperation among higher education 15  
institutions at national, regional and international level and facilitate their linkages with industry; and
- (k) create a database of students studying in higher education institutions;; and 20
- (d) by the re-numbering of paragraph (n) as paragraph (l).
- Repeal and replacement of section 7
5. The principal Act is amended by the repeal of section 7 and the substitution therefor of the following:
- Board of Authority
7. (1) There is constituted a Board of the Authority which consists of the following parttime members appointed by the 25 Minister:
- (a) one representative each of the ministries responsible for—
- (i) higher education; and
- (ii) labour; 30
- (b) a representative of the Attorney General;
- (c) a representative of the Zambia Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry;
- (d) a representative of the Examinations Council of Zambia;
- (e) a representative of the Zambia Institute of Human 35  
Resource Management;
- (f) a representative of the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority;