

## **RECENT LEGISLATION**

### **REFUGEE LAW**

#### **The Refugees Act, No. 1 of 2017**

This Act establishes the office of the Commissioner for Refugees and outlines its functions. In addition to this, it outlines the recognition, protection and control of refugees. Furthermore, the Act, also provides the rights and responsibilities of refugees. Moreover, it establishes the refugee fund and domesticates the following: United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 and its Protocol of 1967, and the Organisation of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa, 1969.

### **AGRICULTURE LAW**

#### **The Agricultural Institute of Zambia Act, No. 2 Of 2017**

This Act provides for the registration of agricultural professionals. Its purpose is to regulate their professional conduct in the interest of the agricultural sector. As such, it establishes the Agricultural Institute of Zambia whose role is to register agricultural professionals and regulate their professional conduct. Agricultural professional is defined in the Act as, “a scientist, technician or craftsperson in the science of agriculture, but excludes a veterinary professional or para-veterinary professional”.

### **STANDARDS AND THE LAW**

#### **The Compulsory Standards Act, No. 3, 2017**

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency and provide for its powers and functions; provide for the administration and maintenance of compulsory standards for the purpose of public safety and health, consumer protection and environmental protection; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

### **The Standards Act, No. 4 2017**

An Act to continue the existence of the Zambia Bureau of Standards and re-define its powers and functions; provide for standardisation and quality assurance of products and services through the setting of national standards and provision of conformity assessment services for products and services; repeal the Standards Act, 1994; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

### **The Metrology Act, No. 6 of 2017**

An Act to continue the existence of the Zambia Weights and Measures Agency, rename it as the Zambia Metrology Agency and re-define its functions; establish the Board of the Agency and provide for its functions; provide for the designation, keeping and maintenance of national measurement standards; provide for the use of measurement units of the International System of Units and other units; provide for consumer protection, health, safety and environmental management through legal metrology measures; repeal the Weights and Measures Act, 1994; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

## **BANKING LAW**

### **The Banking and Finance Act, No. 7 of 2017**

An Act to provide for a licensing system for the conduct of banking or financial business and provision of financial services; to provide for the incorporation of standards, principles and concepts of corporate governance in institutional systems and structures of banks and financial institutions; to provide for sound business practices and consumer protection mechanisms; to provide for the regulation and supervision of banking and financial services; to repeal and replace the Banking and Financial Services Act, 1994; and to provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

## **COMPANY LAW**

### **The Companies Act, No 10 of 2017**

The new Companies Act repeals and replaces the Companies Act of 1994. The new Companies Act is about promoting the development of the economy through fostering and encouraging entrepreneurship, enterprise efficiency, flexibility and simplicity in the formation and maintenance of companies. The Act has a plethora of provisions dealing with the incorporation of different types of companies and how they are to be managed and administered. Other procedures in the Act include the approval of company names and name changes. In addition to this, it provides for the conversion of companies. The new Companies Act also provides for shareholders' rights and obligations, the manner in which meetings are conducted and the passing of resolutions by shareholders. Moreover, the Act encourages transparency and high standards of corporate governance. It does so by providing for the functions and obligations of company secretaries and directors.

*Sangwani Patrick Ng'ambi*  
UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA,  
SCHOOL OF LAW