

CYPRUS

VILLAGE AUTHORITIES

CHAPTER 244 OF THE LAWS

1959 EDITION

PRINTED BY

C. F. ROWORTH LIMITED, 54, GRAFTON WAY, LONDON, W.1

*[Appointed by the Government of Cyprus the Government Printers of this Edition
of Laws within the meaning of the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act, 1907.]*

1959.

CHAPTER 244.

VILLAGE AUTHORITIES.

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A LAW TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW WITH
RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MUKHTARS AND
AZAS AND THE REGULATION OF THE DUTIES THEREOF.

1949 Cap.
256.

17 of 51.

60 of 55.

30 of 57.

[30th November 1931].

Short title.

1. This Law may be cited as the Village Authorities Law.

Interpreta-
tion.

2. In this Law—

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the district in which the village or quarter is situated.

Appoint-
ment of
mukhtars
and azas.

3. One mukhtar and four azas from among the Christian community and one mukhtar and four azas from among the

Moslem community shall respectively be appointed by the Governor for every village or quarter to serve as village Commissions in such village or quarter:

Provided that where in any village or quarter there is a mixed population of Christians and Moslems and one section of such population does not, according to the latest census or latest periodical census, number at least thirty inhabitants the Governor shall appoint one mukhtar and four azas for the whole village or quarter to serve as a village commission in such village or quarter.

4. Notwithstanding anything in this Law contained, mukhtars and azas, or, as the case may be, additional mukhtars or azas, may be appointed by the Governor at any time when any such appointment is rendered necessary or considered advisable—

Appointment in case of emergency or for a specific purpose.
2 of 60/65.

- (a) by reason of the formation of any new village or quarter;
- (b) by reason of the provisions of any Law in force for the time being and for the better carrying out of the provisions of any such Law; or
- (c) by reason of any emergency not otherwise provided for by this Law,

and the mukhtars and azas so appointed shall, unless the Governor otherwise directs, hold office until the date when the other mukhtars and azas holding office at the time of such appointment shall cease to hold office.

5. Every inhabitant of a village or quarter over twenty-five years of age not being—

Qualifications of mukhtars and azas.
2 of 34/35.

- (a) the holder of a religious office; or
- (b) the holder of an appointment under the Government of Cyprus; or
- (c) a member of any municipal council; or
- (d) an advocate or medical practitioner or schoolmaster actually practising his profession; or
- (e) a person who within ten years of the date when his appointment but for the provisions of this paragraph, would take effect has been—
 - (i) convicted of any crime and has undergone in respect thereof a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, or
 - (ii) convicted of any offence under the provisions of this Law, or

2 of 18/37.

(iii) dismissed by the Governor from the office of mukhtar or aza, shall be qualified and liable to serve as a mukhtar or aza therein:

2 of 34/35.

Provided that no person who is over sixty years of age shall be liable to serve as mukhtar or aza except with his consent.

Term of office of mukhtars and azas.

6. On the first day of December in every second year after the 1st day of December, 1933, the Governor shall appoint mukhtars and azas in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this Law:

Provided that if at any time any mukhtar or aza shall become disqualified to hold or shall be dismissed from his office or shall resign his office with the consent in writing of the Governor, he shall thereupon cease to be a mukhtar or aza.

Dismissal of mukhtars or azas.

7. The Governor may dismiss any mukhtar or aza—

- (a) for misconduct or neglect of duty; or
- (b) if he shall for any reason become, in the opinion of the Governor, incapable of efficiently performing the duties of his office.

Filling vacancies.

8. If any mukhtar or aza shall die or if any vacancy in the office of mukhtar or aza shall occur by reason of the provisions of this Law the Governor shall proceed to fill such vacancy by appointing another qualified person to serve as mukhtar or aza and the mukhtar or aza so appointed shall hold office until the date when the other mukhtars and azas holding office at the time of such appointment shall cease to hold office.

Acting mukhtar.
2 of 17/51.

9. In the case of a temporary illness, absence or other temporary incapacity of a mukhtar, the Commissioner may appoint any other person to act as mukhtar during the continuance of the temporary illness, absence or other temporary incapacity of the mukhtar and every such person so appointed shall, while so acting, exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of a mukhtar.

Swearing of mukhtar.

10. (1) Every person duly appointed to serve as mukhtar of a village or quarter shall, on a day to be named by the Commissioner, as early as conveniently may be after such appointment, attend at the office of the Commissioner, and

shall in the presence of such Commissioner take the following oath, according to the form prescribed by his religion, that is to say:—

“ I, A.B., do swear faithfully to serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II., Her Heirs and Successors in the performance of my duties as mukhtar of during my term of office.”

(2) Every person duly appointed to serve as mukhtar of any village or quarter who shall be duly summoned to be sworn and take upon him the said office and who shall refuse or without reasonable cause to be allowed by the Governor, shall neglect to attend and be sworn shall be guilty of an offence and shall on summary conviction be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

11. It shall be the duty and right of every mukhtar—

Duties and
rights of
mukhtars.

- (a) to keep the peace within the village or quarter of which he is the appointed mukhtar;
- (b) to send information as soon as possible to the nearest police station of every serious offence or accident occurring in his village or quarter;
- (c) to assist the officers of the Government in the collection of the revenue;
- (d) to publish within his village or quarter all such notices, proclamations and other official documents as may be sent to him by the Commissioner or by the mudir of the nahieh for that purpose;
- (e) to execute all such writs of execution as may be delivered to him by or on behalf of the Sheriff for that purpose;
- (f) subject to his obtaining a certificate from the Director of Lands and Surveys of his fitness for the duties of an auctioneer and to giving financial security to the satisfaction of the Director of Lands and Surveys, to conduct all sales on execution of immovable property in his village or quarter:

Provided that—

- (i) when the owner of the immovable property to be sold belongs to the Christian community, the qualified Christian mukhtar shall conduct