

No. 19 OF 1931.

A.D. 1931. A LAW TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW WITH
19 of 1931. RESPECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MUKHTARS AND
AZAS AND THE REGULATION OF THE DUTIES THEREOF.

RONALD STORRS.]

[30th November, 1931.

BE it enacted:—

Short title. 1. This Law may be cited as the Village Authorities Law,
1931.

Interpreta- 2. In this Law:
tion, "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the
district in which the village or quarter is situated.

Appoint- 3. Upon the commencement of this Law one mukhtar and
ment of four azas from among the Christian community and one
mukhtars mukhtar and four azas from among the Moslem community
and azas. 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 inhabi-
tants 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.

Appoint- 4. Notwithstanding anything in this Law contained a
ment in mukhtar and azas may be appointed by the Governor at
case of any time when their appointment is rendered necessary by
emergency. reason of the formation of any new village or quarter or by
any emergency not otherwise by this Law provided for, and
the mukhtar and azas 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.

5. Every inhabitant of a village or quarter between the ages of twenty-five and sixty years not being,

Qualifications of mukhtars and azas.

(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 or administrative 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

(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.

6. The mukhtar and azas appointed under section 3 of this Law shall hold office until the first day of December, 1933. On such date and thereafter on the first day of December in every second year the Governor shall appoint mukhtars and azas in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this Law:

Term of office of mukhtars and azas.

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.

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.

Dismissal of mukhtars or azas.

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.

Swearing of
mukhtar.

9.—(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 His Majesty King George V., His 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.

Duties and
rights of
mukhtars.

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

(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 Land Registration and Surveys of his fitness for the duties of an auctioneer and to giving financial security to the satisfaction of the Director of Land Registration 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 the sale, and when the owner of the immovable property to be sold belongs to the Moslem community, the qualified Moslem mukhtar shall conduct the sale ;

(ii) Where there is no qualified mukhtar in a village or quarter the sale shall be conducted by the qualified Christian or Moslem mukhtar, as the case may be, of the nearest village or quarter in the district ;

(iii) Where the qualified Christian or Moslem mukhtar, as the case may be, in a village or quarter is ill or unavoidably absent from his village or quarter and is thereby prevented from conducting a sale, such mukhtar or the aza appointed by him to perform his duties shall give notice in writing of such illness or absence to the qualified Christian or Moslem mukhtar, as the case may be, of the nearest village or quarter in the district, who shall then conduct such sale at the time and place originally fixed therefor.

(g) To carry into effect the duties imposed upon him by the Births and Deaths Registration Laws, 1895 and 1928 ;

(h) To keep a seal as mukhtar and to affix the same to all certificates and documents requiring the seal ;

(i) To wear a badge in the form to be prescribed by the Governor ;

(j) To report to the Principal Land Registry Officer of his district the death of any person possessed of or beneficially interested in immovable properties, together with a list of such properties and the heirs left by the deceased ; and to report the failure of heirs entitled to inherit such properties : Provided always that no mukhtar shall be disqualified by reason of his office from having a right to obtain such remuneration for giving such information as aforesaid as any other person might be entitled to ;