



THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

LAWS OF KENYA

CHIEFS' ACT

CHAPTER 128

Revised Edition 2017 [1998]

Published by the National Council for Law Reporting
with the Authority of the Attorney-General

www.kenyalaw.org

CHAPTER 128

CHIEFS' ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I – PRELIMINARY

Section

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. *Repealed.*

PART II – GENERAL

4. *Repealed.*
5. *Repealed.*
6. Duty of chief to maintain order.
7. Chief may employ persons to assist him in carrying out duties.
8. Powers of chief in prevention of crime.
9. *Repealed.*
10. Power of chief to issue orders for certain purposes.
11. Further powers of chiefs to issue orders.
12. Power to require work or services in emergency.
13. Power to require work or services for conservation of natural resources.
14. Remuneration and limitation on duration of work or services under section 13.
15. Exemptions from section 13.
16. Compensation for death or injury.
17. Administrative officer may require chief to issue or cancel orders.
18. Penalty for disobeying orders.
19. *Repealed.*
20. *Repealed*

PART III – FAMINE RELIEF

21. *Repealed.*
22. *Repealed.*
23. *Repealed.*
24. *Repealed.*
25. *Repealed.*

PART IV – RULES

26. Rules.
-

CHAPTER 128**CHIEFS' ACT***[Date of commencement: 24th March, 1937.]***An Act of Parliament to make provision in regard to the powers and duties of chiefs and to provide for matters incidental thereto**

[Cap. 97 (1948), Act No. 12 of 1950, Act No. 43 of 1952, L.N. 362/1956, L.N. 172/1960, L.N. 461/1963, L.N. 101/1964, Act No. 9 of 1967, Act No. 17 of 1967, Act No. 13 of 1978, Act No. 10 of 1997, Act No. 12 of 2017.]

PART I – PRELIMINARY**1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the Chiefs' Act.

[L.N. 101/1964, Sch., Act No. 10 of 1997, Sch.]

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“**chief**” and “**assistant chief**” respectively mean the persons appointed for any area to the offices of chief and assistant chief, respectively, in the public service.

[L.N. 461/1963, Sch., L.N. 101/1964, Sch., Act No. 17 of 1967, 1st Sch., Act No. 13 of 1978, Sch.]

3. Repealed by Act No. 10 of 1997, Sch.**PART II – GENERAL****4. Repealed by L.N. 461/1963, Sch.****5. Repealed by L.N. 461/1963, Sch.****6. Duty of chief to maintain order**

It shall be the duty of every chief or assistant chief to maintain order in the area in respect of which he is appointed, and for such purpose he shall have and exercise the jurisdiction and powers by this Act conferred upon him over persons residing or being within such area.

[Act No. 43 of 1952, Sch., L.N. 101/1964, Sch., Act No. 13 of 1978, Sch.]

7. Chief may employ persons to assist him in carrying out duties

A chief or assistant chief may employ any person or persons subject to his jurisdiction to assist him in carrying out the duties imposed upon him by this Act or otherwise by law, and any person so employed may carry out and give effect to any lawful order given by a chief or assistant chief.

[Act No. 43 of 1952, Sch., Act No. 13 of 1978, Sch.]

8. Powers of chief in prevention of crime

(1) Any chief or assistant chief may interpose for the purpose of preventing, and shall to the best of his ability prevent, the commission of any offence by any person within the local limits of his jurisdiction.

(2) Any chief or assistant chief knowing of a design by any person to commit an offence within the local limits of his jurisdiction may, if it appears to such chief or