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CHAPTER 1.

INTERPRETATION.

An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Interpretation Ordinance, 1933. 13 of 1945.
2 of 1953.
25 of 1954.
13 of 1957.
28 of 1957.

[1ST JANUARY, 1946.]

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Interpretation Ordinance. Short title.

2. This Ordinance shall apply to the Colony and Protectorate and its provisions shall apply to this Ordinance and to all Ordinances in force at the date of this Ordinance and to all Ordinances hereafter enacted. Application.

3. In every Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpreta-
tion of terms.
“act” used with reference to an offence or civil wrong includes a series of acts, and words which refer to acts done extend to illegal omission;

“administrative officer” means and includes every Provincial Commissioner of a Province, District Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner and every cadet in the Administrative Service of the Government of Sierra Leone;

“Assistant District Commissioner,” bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance; Cap. 60.

“British possession” means any Dominion, India, or any British Colony or Protectorate, or any protected state or any territory in respect of which a mandate is being exercised by Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom or the Government of any part of Her Majesty’s dominions;

“Chapter,” “Part,” “section,” and “schedule” denote respectively a Chapter, Part and section of, and schedule to, the Ordinance in which the word occurs, and “sub-section” denotes a sub-section of the section in which the word occurs;

Cap. 60.

"Chief," used in relation to the Protectorate, bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

"Chief Justice" means the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

"Colony" means the Colony of Sierra Leone;

"commencement" used with reference to an Ordinance means the day on which the Ordinance comes into force, and "commence" has a meaning corresponding with that of "commencement";

"common law" means the common law of England;

"constable" includes any member of the Sierra Leone Police Force;

25 of 1954.

"Crown Agents" means the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations or the person or persons for the time being acting as Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations in England or any of them, and save where the context otherwise requires, all references to the Crown Agents for the Colonies shall be deemed to be references to the Crown Agents as herein defined;

2 of 1953.

"district," used in relation to the Protectorate, bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

2 of 1953.
Cap. 60.

"District Commissioner" bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

2 of 1953.
Cap. 79.

"District Council" means a District Council constituted in terms of section 2 of the District Councils Ordinance;

2 of 1953.

"Executive Council" means the Executive Council of Sierra Leone;

"Gazette" means *The Sierra Leone Royal Gazette*;

13 of 1957.

"Gold Coast" shall be construed, with effect from the 6th day of March, 1957, as referring to Ghana;

"Governor" includes the Officer for the time being administering the Government of Sierra Leone;

"Governor in Council" means the Governor acting with the advice of the Executive Council, but not necessarily in such Council assembled;

"Government," "the Government," "the Colonial Government" mean the Government of Sierra Leone;

“Government Notice” means any public announcement not of a legislative character made by, or by command of, the Governor or by a public officer;

“Headman,” used in relation to the Protectorate, bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance; 2 of 1953.
Cap. 60.

“Her Majesty’s dominions” includes all British Protectorates and British Protected States and all territories administered by the Government of any part of Her Majesty’s dominions under the trusteeship system of the United Nations; 28 of 1957.

“His Majesty,” “Her Majesty,” “King,” “Queen,” “Crown” mean the Sovereign for the time being of the United Kingdom and his or her heirs and successors;

“House of Representatives” means the House of Representatives of Sierra Leone;

“land” includes messuages, tenements and hereditaments, houses and buildings of any tenure;

“legal practitioner” means a person admitted and enrolled to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court;

“Legislative Council” means the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone, as formerly constituted, provided that with effect from the 1st day of July, 1957, a reference in any Ordinance to the Legislative Council or to a Legislative Councillor shall be construed as a reference to the House of Representatives and to a member of the House of Representatives, respectively; 2 of 1954.
13 of 1957.

“Magistrate” includes a Police Magistrate;

“Minister” means the member of the Executive Council for the time being charged with the responsibility for the department or subject to which the context refers;

“month” means calendar month;

“native” means any person who is a member of a race, tribe or community settled in Sierra Leone (or the territories adjacent thereto), other than a race, tribe or community—

(a) which is of European or Asiatic origin; or

(b) whose principal place of settlement is in the Colony;

“non-native” means any person other than a native;

“oath,” “swear,” and “affidavit” include and apply to the affirmation or declaration of any person by law allowed to make an affirmation or declaration in lieu of an oath;

"Order in Council" means an order made in pursuance of powers conferred by Ordinance on the Governor in Council;

"Ordinance" means any enactment by the Legislature of the Colony, and shall include Orders in Council, orders, rules and bye-laws made under an Ordinance, and an Ordinance may be cited for all purposes by its short title, if any;

2 of 1954.

Cap. 60.

"Paramount Chief" used in relation to the Protectorate bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

"person" includes any company or association or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate;

Cap. 150.

"Police Officer" includes all members of the Sierra Leone Police Force, established under the provisions of section 3 of the Police Ordinance, of and above the rank of sub-inspector;

"prescribed" means prescribed by or under the Ordinance in which the word occurs;

Cap. 60.

"Protectorate" bears the meaning assigned thereto by sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

2 of 1954.

"Province," used in relation to the Protectorate, bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

Cap. 60.

"Provincial Commissioner," used in relation to the Protectorate, bears the meaning assigned thereto by section 2 of the Protectorate Ordinance;

Cap. 60.

"public holiday" means any day which, under the provisions of any Ordinance in force, is to be observed as a public holiday;

"public officer" includes any person who is appointed to discharge a public duty whether or not he receives compensation therefor and whether or not he is under the immediate control of the Governor;

"public notice" means a notice published in the *Gazette* under this title, or published in such manner as may be prescribed by law;

"Railway" means the Sierra Leone Railway;

"registered medical practitioner" means a person registered in Sierra Leone as a medical practitioner under the law for the time being relating to the registration of medical practitioners;

"regulations" includes rules and bye-laws;

"rules" include regulations and bye-laws;