

## CHAPTER 75.

## RURAL AREA.

11 of 1949.  
17 of 1952.  
31 of 1953.  
12 of 1955.  
15 of 1956.  
22 of 1956.  
22 of 1957.  
P.N. 100 of  
1958.

**An Ordinance to make Further and Better Provision for Local Government in the Rural Area of that part of the Colony which includes the Freetown Police and Headquarters Judicial Districts of the Colony.**

[15TH FEBRUARY, 1950.]

## PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

Short title.\*

1. (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Rural Area Ordinance.

Commence-  
ment.

†

(2) This Ordinance shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1950, or on such later date or dates as the Governor in Council may by Order appoint:

Provided that in any such Order the Governor in Council may suspend the coming into operation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, and such provisions shall not take effect until the Governor in Council shall by further Order so appoint.

Interpreta-  
tion.

15 of 1956.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—

“alien” means a person who is not a British subject nor a British protected person nor a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;

“annual value” means the amount at which the premises can reasonably be expected to let in the open market in average years;

“assessed annual value” means the annual value of any premises as entered in the Valuation Roll for the time being in force;

“appropriate rural district council” in respect of a particular village committee means the rural district council to which it is subordinate;

“assessed premises” means any premises which appear in the Valuation Roll for the time being in force;

\* It should be noted that this is the Rural Area (in the singular) Ordinance. Some sections mention the Rural Areas (in the plural) Ordinance. The latter is Ordinance 26 of 1937 (as subsequently amended) which was Chapter 208 in the 1946 Edition of the Laws and which has now “ceased to have effect” by virtue of section 133 of this Ordinance.

† 15th February, 1950 (P.N. No. 15 of 1950).

“local authority” means the Rural Area Council, a rural district council, or a village committee constituted under section 4;

“occupier” means a tenant, sub-tenant, or any person in the actual occupancy of any premises;

“owner” includes joint owner, lessee, tenant for life, and any other person in the actual possession of or entitled to receive the rents of premises of any tenure or description, and the agent or attorney of such persons or any of them, and any other person who has an interest in or draws the rents;

“premises” means any land together with any building thereon;

“President” means the President of the Rural Area Council;

“proper member” means the member of a local authority appointed to perform a particular duty or function by such local authority;

“proper officer” means the person appointed to perform a particular duty or function by a local authority;

“Rural Area” means the area defined in section 3;

“street” includes any highway and any public bridge and any road, lane, footway, square, court, alley and passage to which the public have access whether a thoroughfare or not;

“Treasurer” means the Treasurer appointed by the Rural Area Council under section 44.

## PART II.—CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE RURAL AREA.

### 3. (1) The area of the Colony included in—

(a) the Headquarters Judicial District as defined in the Courts Ordinance; and

(b) the Police District of Freetown as defined in the Courts Ordinance, excluding the portion thereof lying within the limits of the City of Freetown as defined in the Freetown Municipality Ordinance

Constitution  
of the Rural  
Area.

Cap. 7.

Cap. 7.

Cap. 65.

is hereby constituted the Rural Area of the Colony, hereinafter referred to as the Rural Area.

(2) The Rural Area shall be divided into the rural districts set out in the fourth column of the First Schedule hereto.

(3) Each rural district shall be divided into the corresponding village areas set out in the second column of the said Schedule.

Division of  
the Rural  
Area into  
rural districts  
and village  
areas.

(4) Each village area shall comprise the corresponding village groups set out in the first column of the said Schedule.

PART III.—ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTITUTION  
OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Establish-  
ment of local  
authorities.

4. (1) There shall be established a council in and for the Rural Area hereinafter referred to as the Rural Area Council and a council in and for each rural district hereinafter referred to as a rural district council.

(2) There shall be established a village committee in and for each village area.

(3) The Rural Area Council, rural district councils and village committees are hereby constituted local authorities with the functions, powers, duties and liabilities as are hereinafter provided.

Incorporation  
of local  
authorities.

5. (1) The Rural Area Council shall be a body corporate by name of the Rural Area Council of the Colony of Sierra Leone and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in the corporate name and acquire and hold such real and personal property as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this or any other Ordinance applying thereto.

(2) Until such time as a common seal is provided for the Rural Area Council the common seal of the Rural Areas Council constituted under the Rural Areas Ordinance shall be and be deemed to be the common seal of the Rural Area Council for all purposes whatsoever.

(3) Every rural district council and village committee shall be a body corporate by name of the rural district council or village committee, as the case may be, with the addition of the name of the rural district or village area as the case may be, shall have perpetual succession and may sue and be sued in the corporate name and acquire such real and personal property as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this or any other Ordinance applying thereto.

Composition  
of Rural Area  
Council.  
15 of 1956.

6. (1) The Rural Area Council shall consist of twelve members two of whom shall be elected to represent each rural district of the Rural Area in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance by the registered voters of such rural district:

Provided that when a person who is not a member of the Rural Area Council is elected to be President thereof, the Rural

Area Council shall consist of thirteen members including the President.

(2) At the first meeting of the Council after the general elections to be held as directed by the Minister under section 24, and thereafter annually, the Rural Area Council shall proceed to elect one of their number or any person qualified to be elected to a village area committee, to be President. The President shall hold office for one year and shall then retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

7. (1) A rural district council shall consist of twelve members who shall be elected by the registered voters of the village areas comprised in that rural district in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, the registered voters of each such village area electing twice the number of members indicated for that village area in the third column of the First Schedule.

Rural district  
councils.  
15 of 1956.

(2) A rural district council shall elect from among its members a Chairman.

8. (1) A village committee shall consist of six members each of whom shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance to represent the village area concerned by the registered voters in such village area.

Village  
committees.  
15 of 1956.

(2) Each village committee shall elect from among its members a Chairman.

9. (1) The President of the Rural Area Council shall be the Chairman thereof and shall by virtue of his office be a Justice of the Peace for the Headquarters Judicial District and the Police District of Freetown.

President to  
be Chairman  
of Rural Area  
Council and a  
Justice.

31 of 1953.

(2) The chairman of a local authority shall hold office until the happening of any one of the following events, that is to say—

15 of 1956.

(a) he resigns from the office of chairman; or

(b) a general election is held.

(3) The chairman of a local authority shall be the chief executive authority of such local authority.

(4) The chairman of a local authority (other than a President appointed by the Governor) may resign his office at any time by notice in writing addressed to the local authority. Such notice may not be withdrawn without the consent of the local authority.

Appointment  
of deputies.

10. The chairman of a local authority may from time to time appoint any member of such local authority to act as deputy president or deputy chairman, as the case may be, in the event of and during the illness or absence from duty of the chairman.

(2) The chairman may terminate any such appointment at any time in like manner.

(3) Any such appointment or the termination thereof shall be recorded in the minutes of the local authority.

(4) A deputy, appointed under this section, may while acting as such, do all acts which the person for whom he is acting, might do provided that a deputy president shall not by virtue of his office act as a Justice.

Qualifications  
of members of  
local  
authority.  
22 of 1957.

11. (1) Subject to the provision of sub-section (2) of this section, a person shall be qualified for election as a member of a local authority if he—

(a) is entitled to be registered as a voter under this Ordinance and his name is on the Register of Voters for any village area of that local authority; and

(b) except in the case of a village committee, is literate in the English language.

Disqualifica-  
tion for  
membership  
of Council.  
15 of 1956.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (1) of this section, a person shall be disqualified for election as a member of a local authority and if a member his seat shall become vacant—

(a) if he is an alien; or

(b) if and while he holds any office or place of profit in the gift or disposal of the local authority save as provided in sections 86, 91 and 94; or

22 of 1957.

(c) if he is under sentence of death or is serving, or has within the immediately preceding five years completed the serving of, a sentence of imprisonment (including a sentence of preventive detention or corrective training) without the option of a fine, of or exceeding twelve months imposed by a court in Sierra Leone for any felony or for any offence involving dishonesty and has not received a free pardon; or

15 of 1956.

(d) if he is a lunatic so found under the laws for the time being in force in Sierra Leone; or

(e) if and while he has, directly or indirectly, by himself or a partner any share or interest in any contract or employment with, by or on behalf of the local authority, and has not