



Tonga

CONSTITUTION OF TONGA

Chapter 1.01

2020 Revised Edition



CONSTITUTION OF TONGA

Arrangement of Clauses

Clause

PART I - DECLARATION OF RIGHTS		7
1	Declaration of freedom	7
2	Slavery prohibited.....	7
3	Conditions under which foreign labourers may be introduced	7
4	Same law for all classes	8
5	Freedom of Worship	8
6	Sabbath Day to be kept holy	8
7	Freedom of the press.....	8
8	Freedom of petition.....	9
9	Habeas Corpus	9
10	Accused must be tried.....	9
11	Procedure on indictment	9
12	Accused cannot be tried twice	9
13	Charge cannot be altered.....	9
14	Trial to be fair	10
15	Court to be unbiased	10
16	Premises cannot be searched without warrant	10
17	Government to be impartial	11
18	Taxation - Compensation to be paid for property taken	11
19	Expenditure to be voted	11
20	Retrospective laws	11
21	Army subject to civil law	11
22	Guards and Militia	12
23	Disabilities of convict	12
24	Public officer not to engage in trade	12
25	<i>Repealed by Act 28 of 1978</i>	12
26	<i>Repealed by Act 28 of 1978</i>	12

27	Age of maturity	12
28	Qualifications for jurors	13
29	Naturalization	13
29A	Law may declare specific naturalization	13
PART II - FORM OF GOVERNMENT		13
30	Form of Government	13
31	Government	14
31A	Attorney General	14
32	Succession to the Throne	14
33	Heir Apparent may not choose consort	15
34	Coronation oath	15
35	Idiot not to succeed	16
36	King commands forces	16
37	King may grant pardons	16
38	King's relations with Parliament	16
39	Treaties	16
40	Foreign ministers	16
41	King's powers – Signature to Acts	17
42	Prince Regent	17
43	Prince Regent, how appointed	17
44	King may confer titles	17
45	Coinage	17
46	Martial law	17
47	National flag	18
48	Royal property	18
49	King exempt from action	18
PRIVY COUNCIL		18
50	Constitution and powers of Privy Council	18
THE PRIME MINISTER		18
50A	The Prime Minister	18
50B	Votes of No Confidence	19
CABINET		20
51	Function, constitution and powers of Cabinet	20
52	Duties of Ministers	21
53	Minister for Finance to report to Parliament	21
54	Governors – how appointed	21
55	Powers of Governors	21
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY		21
56	Power of Legislative Assembly	21
57	Title	22
58	Sessions	22
59	Composition of Legislative Assembly	22

60	Representative members	22
61	Speaker.....	22
62	Rules of procedure	23
63	Qualification of nobles.....	23
64	Qualification of electors.....	23
65	Qualification of representatives	24
66	Threats and bribery	24
67	Privilege of nobles	24
68	King's veto precludes discussion	24
69	Quorum	24
70	Offences against the Assembly	25
71	Noble may be deprived of his seat.....	26
72	Journal.....	26
73	Immunity from arrest	26
74	Resignation	26
75	Impeachment.....	26
76	Bye-elections	27
77	General elections.....	27
78	Assembly to assess taxation.....	27
79	Amendments to Constitution	27
80	Enacting formula.....	28
81	Laws to cover but one subject.....	28
82	Constitution is supreme law.....	28
83	Oaths of Councillors and Representatives	28
	THE JUDICIARY	29
83A	Rule of Law and Judicial Independence	29
83B	The Lord Chancellor.....	29
83C	Judicial Appointments and Discipline Panel	30
84	The Courts.....	30
85	The Court of Appeal	31
86	The Supreme Court.....	31
86A	The Land Court.....	31
87	Judges to hold office during good behaviour.....	32
88	Acting Judge	32
89	Powers.....	32
90	Jurisdiction of Supreme Court	32
91	Appeals from Supreme Court	32
92	Jurisdiction of Court of Appeal.....	33
93	<i>Repealed by Act 23 of 1990</i>	33
94	Judge may not hear appeal from own decision	33
95	Oath of Judge	33
96	Court fees.....	33
97	Judge not to receive fine	34
98	<i>Repealed by Act 23 of 1990</i>	34
99	Trial by jury	34
100	Form of verdict	34