



Tonga

DEFAMATION ACT

Chapter 5.02

2020 Revised Edition



DEFAMATION ACT

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DEFAMATION ACT

AN ACT RELATING TO DEFAMATION¹

Commencement [17th July 1923]

1 Short Title

This Act may be cited as the Defamation Act.

2 Definition of defamation

- (1) Defamation of character consists in speaking or in writing, printing or otherwise putting into visible form any matter damaging the reputation of another or exposing another to hatred, contempt or ridicule or causing him to be shunned.
- (2) The repetition by any person of defamatory matter concerning another also constitutes defamation of character.

3 Penalty for defamation of King or Queen

Every person who shall defame the character of His Majesty the King or Her Majesty the Queen shall on conviction thereof be liable to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and in default of payment to imprisonment for any term not exceeding 2 years.²

4 *Repealed by Act 15 of 1993*