

LEGAL AFFAIRS

REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS

535324

GOVERNING THE HINTERLAND

OF

LIBERIA

52-82-23
HARLEY

JANUARY 7, 2001

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORWARD	PAGE 1
AMENDMENTS	" 2
TERRITORIAL DIVISION	" 3
GOVERNMENT OF PROVINCES	" 6
DUTIES OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS	" 6
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S STAFF	" 7
COMMISSIONER'S TENURE OF OFFICE	" 10
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS	" 10
DISTRICT CENSUS	" 11
GENERAL COUNCIL OF CHIEFS	" 13
LIMITATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS	" 14
DUTIES OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS	" 14
DUTIES OF CLAN CHIEFS	" 16
DUTIES OF TOWN CHIEFS	" 22*
PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES	"
DISTRICT REVENUE	" 26
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	" 26
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COURT	" 26
PARAMOUNT CHIEF'S COURT	" 26
CLAN CHIEF'S COURT	" 27-28 2
WOMAN PALAVER CASES	" 28-44
PROCEDURE IN APPEAL	" 29 28
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS	" 30
DELEGATING JUDICIAL POWERS	" 33
MARITAL CASES	" 35
GRADING OF CHIEF CLERK INTERIOR DEPARTMENT	" 35
SANITARY OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES	" 36
PUBLIC WORKS	" 36
MORTGAGES	" 36
HEADSHIP OF FAMILIES	" 37
RIGHTS OF STRANGERS	" 37
LANDS	" 38
USE OF LANDS BY STRANGERS	" 38
CULTURAL SOCIETIES	" 39
UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES	"

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REGISTRATION OF FIRE ARMS	PAGE	#39
PROCEEDS OF COMMUNAL FARMS	"	39
FINES TO BE DEPOSITED IN TRIBAL TREASURY	"	39
TRIAL BY NATIVE ORDEAL	"	40
TRANSFER OF COMMISSIONERS	"	40
BONDING OF PARAMOUNT AND CLAN CHIEFS	"	41
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS	"	41
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	"	41
INSPECTORS OF COUNTIES	"	42
SUPERINTENDENT, NATIVE TRIBAL AFFAIRS	"	42

F O R W O R D

The prima object of these Regulations is to ensure proper organization; and to inaugurate a system for Interior Administration as will tend to coordinate the various agencies of Government operating in Hinterland and County Areas under the agencies of our service as well as all other Units and Organizations engaged in the solution of the multifarious problems relating to our indigeneous people particularly those within hinterland areas. To provide adequate protection for all persons travelling through, or who desire to dwell permanently in those parts that they may enjoy in safety and tranquility their natural rights and the blessings of life, in keeping with the true spirit, purpose and intent of our Declaration of Independence and the Organic Law of the Country.

To encourage by all practical means religious, industrial, commercial and agricultural pursuits; and to formulate plans calculated to bring about better social and economic conditions for greater progress, improvement and national development.

(SGD) S. DAVID COLEMAN
S. DAVID COLEMAN
SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, R. L.

A M E N D M E N T S

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Revised Laws and Administrative Regulations proposed by the Secretary of the Interior for the Government of the Hinterland of the Republic, in schedule hereto attached, be and the same are hereby approved with the following amendments:

SECTION 2. That the provisions of the Laws and Regulations hereby approved and enacted shall apply within the organized Counties, to such areas as are wholly inhabited by uncivilized natives in the same manner as if those areas were within the Hinterland Districts.

SECTION 3. That with a view of promoting more efficient administration the President be and he is hereby authorized from time to time as may be necessary for this purpose, to modify and enlarge the provisions of the Regulations hereby approved, or to introduce new Regulations. These new Regulations shall be submitted to the Legislature annually for their approval, and shall be effective as law after the approval of the Legislature.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.

APPROVED:
DECEMBER 22, 1949.

(SGD) WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN,
WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN,
PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

REVISED LAWS
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
FOR
GOVERNING THE HINTERLAND

ARTICLE I.

TERRITORIAL DIVISION:

The Hinterland of the Republic of Liberia, for administrative purposes, shall be divided into three provinces, namely:

- (a) The Western Province,
- (b) The Central Province,
- (c) The Eastern Province.

This Division shall not include the 40-mile County limit.

ARTICLE 2.

The Provincial Boundaries shall be defined as follows:

THE WESTERN PROVINCE shall extend from the Anglo-Liberian boundary on the North-West to the St. Paul River, which shall form the South Eastern boundary, and from the 40-mile limit from the Atlantic Ocean to the Franco-Liberian boundary on the North.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCE shall extend from the St. Paul River to the Cestos or Nuon River, and from the 40-mile limit from the Atlantic Ocean to the Franco-Liberian Boundary.

THE EASTERN PROVINCE shall extend from the Cestos River to the Cavalla River and from the 40-mile limit from the Atlantic Ocean to the Franco-Liberian Boundary.

ARTICLE 3.

GENERAL SUB-DIVISION OF PROVINCES:

1. Each Province shall be sub-divided into District areas as follows:

WESTERN PROVINCE shall consist of the following Districts:

- (a) District Number One.
- (b) District Number Two.
- (c) District Number Three
- (d) District Number Four.

CENTRAL PROVINCE shall consist of the following Districts:

- (a) District Number One.
- (b) District Number Two.
- (c) District Number Three
- (d) District Number Four.

EASTERN PROVINCE shall consist of the following Districts:

- (a) District Number One.
- (b) District Number Two.

ARTICLE 4.

DISTRICT POSITION: WESTERN PROVINCE:

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE of the Western Province shall comprise the territory occupied by the Gaije-Gola, Kongbaa-Gola, Lofa-Gola, Bokomu-Kpelle, Bopolu-Kpelle, Belle, Mecca-Mandingo and Dei Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Gbandi, Gissi and Guma-Mende Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Pluyma-Gissima-Ziama Loma and Gbarleir-Vevala-Palama-Kpelle Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Bondi-Wubamai-Loma and Wygromai-Womniguomai-Mandingo Chiefdoms.

CENTRAL PROVINCE:

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Zoe-Geh, Gbehley-Geh, Saclepea-Mah and Sanniquellie-Mah Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Jorquellie-Kpelle, Panta-Kpelle, Zota-Kpelle, Kpaai-Kpelle and Kokoyah-Bassa Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Kpaiplay-Gibi-Doru, Amalgamated-Gio and Yarwein-Mensonneh-Mah Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Nyanforquellie-Kpelle and Gibi Bassa Chiefdoms.

EASTERN PROVINCE

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Grebo Tribes consisting of the following Chiefdoms: Deddebo, Gedebo, Pallipo, Gbaepo, Barrabi, Clarro, Buah Tuobo and Webbo Chiefdoms.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO: This District shall comprise the territory occupied by the Krahn Tribes consisting of the following Chiefdoms: Gbarzon, B'hai, Konobo, Gleyo, Putu, Tchien, Gbarboe and Nearbo.

ARTICLE 5.

GOVERNMENT OF PROVINCES:

Each Province shall be governed by a Provincial Commissioner. Provincial Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall serve during the pleasure of the President.

DUTIES OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS:

(a) A Provincial Commissioner is charged under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, with general administrative supervision of the affairs of the Province. He shall exercise appellate jurisdiction over all appeal cases from the Courts of the District Commissioner and the Joint Courts of District Commissioners and Paramount Chiefs within their respective Provinces.

(b) The Provincial Commissioner shall convoke annually a provincial Council at such point within the Province as may to him appear most appropriate and suitable as well as convenient for attendance. At said Councils, all questions touching the economic, domestic, industrial and social welfare of the members of the tribes shall be investigated with a view of making such practical solutions as may aim for general improvement, and the welfare and development of the Province and people.

This annual council shall be conducted regularly except and unless for any reason the same may be waived during any year by the Secretary of Interior or the President for reasons which may be found necessary to do so.

He shall hold an Executive Council at the beginning of every year with the District and Assistant District Commissioners of his province at Provincial Headquarters for the purpose of formulating plans for the conduct and administration of the Province. Such Plans shall be submitted to the Secretary of Interior for his approval before they are put into operation.

The members of the Executive Provincial Council shall be:

Assistant District Commissioner, Revenue Agents, Mining Agents, Commanding Officers of the L.N.G., and such other recognized Agents of Government as may be operating regularly and are residents of said Province, together with Paramount and Clan Chiefs. At the time of meeting, the Provincial Representative to the National Legislature may also be invited.

(c) He shall investigate all complaints or charges brought by person or group of persons against the District Commissioner or any other subordinate officials of the Province for irregular practices, administrative derelicts or other unsatisfactory and improper conduct adversely affecting the public good, or infringing upon the private rights of any persons. If the result of such an investigation proves the complaints or charges to be true, prompt and suitable action shall be taken against the official

charged; and such penalty to the merits of the offence. It is understood that in all such matters where the charge is not against the District Commissioner, the Provincial Commissioner shall exercise appellate jurisdiction.

(d) He shall visit each District in his Province at least once a year in order to keep himself informed of the social and economic welfare of the people within his province. Before leaving for such tours, however, he is required to submit without failure a full itinerary chart two weeks ahead to the Secretary of Interior for his information, and also a detailed report to said itinerary at the end of his tour covering his general activities and observations in respect to said itinerary, ordering such suggestions and recommendations as he may deem appropriate.

(e) He shall approve of every District Budget for public local development and improvement within the various districts of his province and check the expenditures thereof during the yearly provincial council of Commissioners, or such other time as may be convenient to do so at a meeting called for the purpose.

(f) He shall refer any novel procedure or procedures affecting policy to the Secretary of Interior for his approval before any action whatever is taken to bring such procedure into practice in his province.

ARTICLE 6.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF PROVINCES:

The Administrative Organization of each province shall consist of:

The Provincial Commissioner and his staff;
The District & Asst. Dist. Comm'r and their staff;
Mining Agent
Revenue Agents and all other responsible Agencies of
Government operating within the Province.

ARTICLE 7.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S STAFF:

The Staff of a Provincial Commissioner shall consist of the following employees:

1. Clerk, with the rank of an Asst. District Commissioner carrying salary for latter post;
2. Steno-typist;
3. Messenger;
4. Interpreters.

ARTICLE 8.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS:

Provincial Headquarters shall be established at the following places:

Western Province Belle Yalla
 Central Province Ganta
 Eastern Province Gidiwulor. (Zia Town) or
 such other suitable point for Central Administration as may be found;
 subject to approval of the Secretary of Interior.

ARTICLE 9.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS:

The District Headquarters shall be established at the following places:

Western Province;	Number	.....	1	-----	Bopolu
	"	.....	2	-----	Kolahun
	"	.....	3	-----	Voinjama
	"	.....	4	-----	Zorzor
Central Province	"	.....	1	-----	Gbarnga
	"	.....	2	-----	Sanniquellie
	"	.....	3	-----	Tappita
	"	.....	4	-----	Salala
Eastern Province	"	.....	1	-----	Webbo
	"	.....	2	-----	Tchien

The above shall be subject to such changes as expediency may dictate and be determined by the Secretary or the President.

ARTICLE 10.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT:

Each District shall be governed by an official styled as District Commissioner.

ARTICLE 11.

COMMISSIONER'S TENURE OF OFFICE:

District Commissioner shall be appointed by the President and with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall serve during the pleasure of the President.

ARTICLE 12.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION:

(a) The Administrative Organization of each District shall compose of:

- 1. Clerk of the classified services;
 - 2. Interpreters;
 - 6. Messengers;
 - 1. Labour Agent;
 - 1. Supervisor of roads and bridges;
- The Council of Chiefs (Paramount and Clan Chiefs)

(b) A Paramount Chief shall be entitled to four (4) Messengers and one Clerk; and a Clan Chief to three (3) Messengers and a Clerk.

ARTICLE 13.

GRADES OF COMMISSIONERS:

District Commissioner shall be of three grades:

- (a) District Commissioner of the First Class;
- (b) District Commissioner of the Second Class;
- (c) District Commissioner of the Third Class;

Upon his first appointment, every District Commissioner shall be graded a third class District Commissioner. He shall be entitled to promotion after three years service provided his service record is excellent. After five years' service, a District Commissioner of the Second Class may be promoted to the First Class provided his service record is excellent.

District Commissioner shall receive salaries for their services according to the grade of the respective Commissioner. Commissioner of the First Class shall be paid a salary of not less than \$1,500.00 per annual; the second class shall receive not less than \$1,200.00 per annual and the third class not less than \$900.00 per annual.

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

(a) The District Commissioner shall, under the direction and supervision of the Provincial Commissioner, have general administrative supervision over all governmental activities in his District.

(b) He shall be responsible for the enforcement of all laws and regulations and for the maintenance of public peace and order in the District.

(c) He shall supervise, organize and encourage the development of native industries, and shall exert all efforts to promote the domestic welfare of the people within his District.

(d) He shall keep himself informed at all times of the social, political and economic conditions within his District and shall take prompt action to correct any condition detrimental to the public welfare or prejudicial to ordered Government. A District Commissioner failing to comply with the requirements of this Regulation shall be considered insufficient to perform his duties and shall be liable to dismissal from office.

(e) He may issue District orders which shall have full force and effect of law. Such District orders, which shall not be in conflict with any existing law or regulation shall be effective only upon approval of the Provincial Commissioner, copies of which shall be forwarded the Secretary of Interior.

(f) He shall supervise Tribal Administration, making frequent partols at least twice a year in each section in order to keep himself informed through personal observation of existing conditions and activities. Paramount Chiefs shall exercise administrative authority to the fullest extent, but District Commissioners shall be held responsible to prevent these tribal officials from indulging in unlawful administrative practices, abuses or oppressive measures.

(g) He shall investigate Complaints or irregular administrative practice of unsatisfactory conditions adversely affecting the public good. If investigation shows such complaints or charges to be true, he shall immediately apply requisite (remedial) measures if within the authority of the District Commissioner; and if not, immediate report shall be made to the Provincial Commissioner for instructions. Such investigation shall be a part of the administrative duties of the District Commissioner for which no cost or fees of any nature shall be collected.

(h) He shall represent the Bureau of Immigration of his District, and shall act as District Immigration Officer; he shall execute faithfully all order administrations issued him from the Interior Department relating to Immigration matters.

(i) He shall encourage the establishment of matter as strategic points in the Interior, and shall give every assistance to traders and merchants desiring to establish themselves in the District.

(j) A fine of not less than 25 cents shall be leviable on every tribesman who fails to plant crops for the market and upon failure to do shall be required to take them to market on market days; and, upon failure to do, shall be subjected to a fine of not less than 4 cents for each market day. All such fines shall form part of the Tribal Revenue and be paid into Tribal Treasury.

(k) He is required to prepare and forward to the Provincial Commissioner the following report: a monthly report which shall cover the activities in the District during the previous month and which shall include the following subjects;

- I. The stage and progress of agricultural development in the District;
 - II. The political attitude of the tribes, clans or district;
 - III. The Government supplies to schools and Missionary Schools;
 - IV. Trade and markets;
 - V. Births and Deaths. A register of births and deaths, male and female, by sex, must be kept at Headquarters;
 - VI. Stage or roads and bridges;
 - VII. Crimes and penalties;
 - VIII. Number and kind of civil actions tried before them.
 - IX. Number and nationality of aliens entering and leaving the District together with a report of their activities;
 - X. Confidential reports when required by the Secretary of Interior;
 - XI. Technical service reports which shall detain public works activities, addressed to the Secretary of Public Works and Utilities, through the Secretary of Interior.
- I. A regular inventory of all government properties purchased from time to time and place for use at District or Provincial Headquarters shall be kept thereat and certified copies thereof forwarded the Interior Department.

All reports or letters and other official documents sent or received shall also be kept on file at the Provincial and District Headquarters respectively, and shall not be removed therefrom by any Commissioner leaving his province or district, under penalty of fine or imprisonment or both.

ARTICLE 15.

DISTRICT CENSUS:

Pursuant to the Act of Legislature of 1946, relating to Census, Provincial, District, Chiefdom and Clan Officials of the various sections of the Interior shall give full collaboration in the accurate taking of a general census in the Hinterland in keeping with the true intent of the law providing for census of the Republic.

ARTICLE 16.

GENERAL COUNCIL OF CHIEFS:

(a) A general council of chiefs shall be held at District Headquarters once a year for the purpose of reviewing the Tribal Government of the District; making local rules and regulations not in conflict with existing laws and regulations, and devising a better method of effective cooperation of tribal administration with the technical services operating in the District. The District Commissioner shall preside over this council.

(b) In case of extreme emergency, this period may be extended by the District Commissioner but not longer than four days.

ARTICLE 17.

There shall be attached to the District Headquarters two or more squads of Soldiers of the Liberian National Guard for purpose of more effectively policing the District and maintaining order.

The Centralization of the military constabulary in each province shall be subject to general control of the Provincial Commissioner in the Province and under the District Commissioner at points where said constabulary set-up is established in a District.

ARTICLE 18.

DISTRICT MESSENGERS:

A regular runner service shall be maintained between the various District Headquarters and the Interior Department. These runners shall not exceed six in any one District and shall have no police functions.

ARTICLE 19.

CIVIL STAFF OF THE DISTRICT:

The representative of each of the following Government technical services shall comprise the District Commissioner's Consultative Board:

- (a) Customs
- (b) Revenue
- (c) Agriculture
- (d) Educational
- (e) Medical
- (f) Public Works
- (g) Radio Telegraphic

In order to ensure the efficient functioning of these services, the Commissioner shall exercise the general administrative supervision over these officials. The Representative of these services however, shall receive their orders in connection with the discharge of their particular duties direct from the Department or Bureau to which they are directly responsible. Copies of general orders affecting any technical service, shall be forwarded to the Commissioner for his information; and where necessary, his special collaboration to the end of the enforcement.

The Commissioner shall in no way hamper the performance of these officials of their strictly technical duties; but shall cooperate to the fullest extent to enhance the successful prosecution of projects with which they may be concerned.

In the absence of the regularly attached Representative of the Technical Service, the Commissioner shall act as Representative of that Department or Bureau.

ARTICLE 20.

LIMITATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS:

All Commissioners are prohibited from:

- (a) Engaging in any profit earning business or enterprise directly or indirectly within the limits of the province of District in which he is charged to administer.
- (b) Residing after a retirement from the service in any District, which he may have administered, except upon special permission of the Secretary of Interior.

- (c) Authority in each instance has been received from the Secretary of the Interior; and is only after the arrival of Relief to whom, upon the District Commissioner shall personally turn over the duties of his office. Upon being relieved as a result of these facts shall be made immediately to the Secretary of Interior and signed by both the Commissioner and his relief.
- (d) Forming marital duties with female inhabitants or the area under his administrative control.
- (e) No Provincial or District Commissioner shall receive any or a cent, directly or indirectly, any present or gift from any person under him or their administrative jurisdiction without returning a present or gift of equal value to the giver. The penalty for the violation of the provision of this regulation shall be fine, suspension or dismissal from the service.

(f) CEREMONIAL GIFTS:

Where ceremonial gifts are presented, those ceremonial presentations however are not to be considered the property of the Commissioner or official receiving same; but are to be regarded to the proper Government and must be noted and reported to the proper authority of Government for information and/or final disposition. A bill for reimbursement of whatever amount may have been spent in exchange therefor shall be presented for payment by the Treasury upon the approval of the proper authority, where such official does not immediately compensate the parties making such ceremonial presentations from funds allowed him by Government for travel and where the travel allowance or fund of said official are insufficient to compensate for said presentations, he shall decline the offer.

ARTICLE 21.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT:

Each tribe of chiefdom shall be governed by one Paramount Chief who shall be elected to that position by the Council of Chiefs and Elders, subject to the approval or disapproval of the President.

(b) For purpose of administration, a tribe shall consist of Clans according to tribal traditions, and shall be ruled or governed by a Clan Chief.

(c) A Clan Chief shall be elected by members of the Clan who have reached their maturity and are owners of huts and not delinquent in their taxes.

(d) No person who is not a member of a tribe shall be eligible for election to the office of Paramount Chief; and Clan Chiefs shall also be selected for election from their respective Clans.

(e) A Town Chief shall be elected by the Paramount residents of the village.

(f) In no circumstance may a Paramount, Clan or Town Chief be appointed by any official whatsoever, except in instances of suspension for official misconduct or gross dereliction of duty and such appointments shall not exceed the period of three calendar months when either Permanent restoration to office must be made or election held. In case of such suspension if done by any official other than the President or Secretary of Interior, immediate approval of the Secretary of Interior must be obtained and the suspension shall not be effective until approval is given by said Official in case of Clan Chiefs. In case of Paramount Chiefs, the approval of His Excellency, the President must be invoked and said suspension shall not be effective until said approval shall be given.

ARTICLE 22.

DUTIES OF PARAMOUNT CHIEFS:

(a) The duties of the Paramount Chief shall be under the direction of the District Commissioner to supervise the administration of the tribe; to carry such lawful instructions which may be given him from time to time by the District Commissioner in relating to the collection of taxes; construction of roads and bridges; improvements of agriculture, trade, the sanitation of his tribal area, and other matters affecting the general welfare of his chiefdom or tribe.

(b) A Tribal Treasury shall be established in each chiefdom, with a tribal treasurer to be elected by the Council of Chiefs. The Paramount Chief shall ensure that no expenditures are made from this treasury without the majority vote of the Council of chiefs. And such expenditures should only be made of proper payrolls or vouchers under warrant of the District Commissioner.

There should be an annual budget prepared by the Tribal Authorities with the approval of the District Commissioner in respect to the general improvement of the tribal chiefdom. A copy of all District approved budgets should be sent to the Secretary of Interior through the office of the Provincial Commissioner who shall retain a copy thereof on the files of his office.

(c) He shall make quarterly patrols of his chiefdom for the purpose of correcting evils in the administration of the various clans under his control. At the end of each patrol, a report thereof shall be made immediately to the District Commissioner. This report shall include also the administrative behavior and activities of all chiefs and officials.

(d) If the Paramount Chief desires to leave his chiefdom for a long period, he shall obtain permission from the District Commissioner and inform his council of chiefs in a meeting of this fact. A member of the Council of Chiefs shall be designated by him to act in his stead during the period of his absence. This arrangement should be immediately forwarded to the District Commissioner.

(e) He or his designate shall always be associated with the assessor in the tax assessment of the tribal area, and shall be furnished with a copy of the approved assessment list of his chiefdom.

ARTICLE 23.

REMUNERATION TO CHIEFS:

Until such time as the Government is in the position to pay annual salaries to chiefs, they shall receive the following commission and tributes:

- (a) A commission of 10% should be allowed by Government to Chiefs as compensation for the collection of hut taxes. Of this amount, the Paramount Chief shall receive 50% of the total commission paid by the tribes; the Clan Chief shall receive 25% of the total commission paid to the Clan; the town Chief shall receive each a share equal proportion of 25% of the total amount collected from their respective towns.
- (b) No chiefdom nor clan chief shall be required to make annual farms for the paramount or clan chief; instead, each chiefdom shall be required to contribute not less than four hundred (400) kroos of clean rice annually for the paramount chief, and two hundred (200) kroos of clean rice for the clan chief annually.
- (c) Such fees as are lawfully allowed for the settlement of litigations.

ARTICLE 24.

DUTIES OF CLAN CHIEFS:

- (a) A Clan Chief when elected and inducted into office, he shall be charged under the direction of the Paramount Chief with the supervision and administration of his clan.
- (b) He shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all laws and regulations in his clan to promote agriculture, industry, trade and sanitation within his clan, and to encourage and prompt payment of taxes by his clansmen.
- (c) He shall be assisted in the discharge of his duties by a Council of elders composed of the respective Town Chiefs and Elders of the Clan.

ARTICLE 25.

DUTIES OF TOWN CHIEFS:

A Town Chief shall be subject to all lawful orders of the Clan Chief and shall not refuse to carry out any such lawful orders which may subject him to a fine, suspension or both. Before a suspension, penalty is inflicted the prior approval of the District Commissioner must be obtained through the Paramount Chief.

DUTIES OF CHIEFS

(a) In a discharge of his duties, the paramount chief shall be assisted by a Council of chiefs which shall be composed of the chiefs of the clan of his tribe or chiefdom.

(b) The council of chiefs shall be an Administrative board which shall fully cooperate with the paramount chief in every matter affecting tribal economy. This council shall meet at least once every quarter at chiefdom headquarters and at each other time as the Paramount Chief may require.

(c) The Paramount Chief and Council of Chiefs shall be styled Tribal Authority.

(d) Upon the death, deposition, or resignation of the Paramount Chief, the Council of Chiefs and Elders according to their tribal customs, where it is not in conflict with law or regulation, shall direct and nominate for appointment by the President, another Chief to serve as Paramount Chief.

(e) The Tribal Authority shall prepare a budget covering the local development of the Chiefdom, including salary payments to clerical assistants, to be forwarded to the District Commissioner to be included in the District Budget for approval of the Provincial Commissioner. A record of all business transactions of the Tribal Authority must be kept in a book provided for that purpose and the chiefdom clerk shall be its secretary. Such record shall be opened for inspection by the Provincial or District Commissioner or their higher authority at all times. All such transactions shall be immediately reported to Central Government.

(f) Whenever necessary the District Commissioner may assemble the Tribal Authority of the Tribe, or of all tribes within the District in a general council at Headquarters for conference on any district affairs or measures of vital public interest affecting the welfare of the people progress in the development of the district.

(g) The District Commissioner may in his directions, or upon the invitation of the Tribal Authority, or the Paramount Chief, visit any and all meetings of the Council of Chiefs during which he may advise them as to whatever is deemed in the interest of the District.

(h) A District Commissioner shall not preside over a meeting of the Council of Chiefs when convoked at the instance or the Tribal Authority unless in case of inspectional tours or when they are summoned by him, in which case he will preside. At all other meetings, the Paramount Chief shall preside except in cases when he is personally interested in the question before them, or on account of illness or other disability he cannot be present, when a clan chief designated by the Body shall preside.

(i) Fines or fees authorized by the Tribal Authority to be imposed or collected shall be deposited in the Tribal Treasury together with any funds which may arise from other sources of tribal income, such as rents from Tribal land, or proceeds from the product of communal farms or other income from any source whatever. These funds are subject to audit by the Central Government but may be expanded from time to time by vote of the Council of Chiefs subject to approval by the District Commissioner for tribal projects and purposes.

(j) The Chief composing the Tribal Authority may be formed into various committees to deal with different questions affecting the tribal economy such as a committee on roads and bridges, a committee on finance; a committee on trade; and such other committee as may from time to time be found necessary.

(k) The District Commissioner or Paramount Chief may summon a meeting of the tribal authority at any time to any extra ordinary meeting or such meeting may be called upon the request of a majority of the Chiefs composing the council of chiefs who shall state the object for which such extra-ordinary meeting should be summoned.

ARTICLE 27.

TENURE OF OFFICE OF CHIEFS:

A Chief when elected and installed shall serve during his natural life but may be removed from office for the following proved misconducts:

- (a) Acts traitorous to Government
- (b) Oppressive actions against his people;
- (c) Malfesance in office;
- (d) Mal-administration or disobedience of orders.

In case of (b) a chief may either be suspended or deposed from office according to the gravity of the case and may suffer prosecution for any criminal act he may have committed.

ARTICLE 28.

PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES:

No Chief shall suffer punishment for administrative derelicts except as follows: (a) fine; (b) suspension; (c) disposition; (d) deportation. A fine and suspension may be combined as one punishment so also may disposition and deportation. Where any such acts of mal-administration should amount to the commission of some crime, said chief after deposition may be prosecuted for said criminal acts.

FINE:

No fine or other punishment shall be inflicted upon a Chief except upon due trial before the appropriate tribunal, i.e. the Court of the Paramount in case of Clan Chief; and the Court of the Commissioner in case of a Paramount Chief. Appeals in cases heard by any of these courts shall be taken in regular order. That is; from the Clan Chief's court to that of the Paramount Chief; from the Paramount Chief's court to that of the District Commissioner; from the District Commissioner's court to that of the Provincial Commissioner; and from the Provincial Commissioner's court to that of the Superintendent of Native and Tribal Affairs; and from the Superintendent of Native and Tribal Affairs to the President.

SUSPENSION:

A Chief may be suspended for minor administrative derelicts. Such suspension shall be for a definite period. After the expiration of this period of suspension, a chief shall be restored to his functions; unless during the period of his suspension he shall have committed acts detrimental to government or to tribal interest.

DISPOSITION AND DEPORTATION:

Disposition and deportation should be applied a Chief by his general conduct and character prove himself unfit to hold such a position, he may be deposed. No sentence of deposition shall be imposed by the Commissioner, however, except upon the prior approval of the President. When it appears from a preliminary investigation that a chief has committed any act or acts which would warrant disposition, a district commissioner may, with approval of the Secretary of Interior suspend such a chief pending a full investigation of his official conduct. A complete report detailing the circumstances shall at once be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior through the Provincial Commissioner.

ARTICLE 29.

GENERAL RULE OF ADMINISTRATION:

It is the policy of Government to administer tribal affairs through tribal chiefs who shall govern freely according to tribal customs and traditions so long as these are not contrary to law.