TITLE 20

Local Government Law
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Page
1. Territorial Divisions of Liberia 395
2. Counties 395
3. Territories 403
4. Leeward Districts 404
5. Townships 404
Chap. XXXII - Act creating grades of District Commissioners 407

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Chapter 1. TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS OF LIBERIA

§ 1. County Area and Hinterland.

The territory of the Republic shall be divided for the purpose of administration into the County Area and Hinterland. The County Area shall include all territory extending from the seaboard forty miles inland and from the Mano to the Cavalla Rivers. The Hinterland shall com-mence at the eastern boundary of the County Area; i.e., forty miles inland and extend eastward as far as the recognized limit of the Republic. It shall be bounded on the north by Sierra Leone, and on the south by the Ivory Coast.

The Minister of Internal Affairs shall be the chief officer of the local governments of both the County Area and the Hinterland. He shall have power to make from time to time such regulations as are conducive to their successful government, subject to the approval of the President. All complaints concerning their administration shall be made to him, and all reports by their officers shall be submitted to him except where otherwise provided by statute. I

Chapter 2. COUNTIES

§ 10. Division into counties.

The County Area of the Republic shall be composed of the counties of Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland 2, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Bomi, Grand Kru, Margibi, and

1. Prior legislation: L. 1914, 16, §§ 1, 2, 4, 8.

2. Prior legislation: L. 1923-24, ch. VIII; OBB 235; Resolution for the admission of Maryland as a county; Acts 1846, Act to incorporate Sinoe into a distinct county, 2 Hub. 1664; Acts 1839, Act to provide regulations for counties and towns, § 1, 2 Hub. 1394.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 395

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Section 5. That this Decree shall take effect immediately upon the signature of the Head of state and chairman of the people's Redemption Council of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Liberia. 4

PRC DECREE NO. 87
DECREE BY THE PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, CREATING GRAND KRU COUNTY, WITH PROVISIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SAME.

It is hereby decreed by the People's Redemption Council of the Armed Forces of Liberia, as follows:

§ 1. Grand Kru County Created.

That the areas known as the Territories of Sasstown, Kru Coast and the Statutory District of Buah shall henceforth be known as the Grand Kru County and as such shall enjoy all the rights and privileges enjoyed by all other Counties of the Republic of Liberia.

§ 2. Boundaries of Grand Kru County and Capital seat.

That the said Grand Kru County shall include all portions of the land and boundaries now comprising the Territories of Sasstown and Kru Coast as well as the Statutory District of Buah with the capital seat in Barclay-ville.

§ 3. Superintendent and other appointed officials for the Grand Kru County.

That the Head of State shall constitute the Government of Grand Kru County which shall consist of a Superintendent who shall serve as the Executive and Administrative Head of the said County and all other officials necessary for administering the affairs of the County in keeping with the appointive powers of the head of State in other Counties of the

4. The decree creating Bomi County was issued on January 19, 1984 and published on march 19, 1984.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 397

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Republic of Liberia.

§ 4. Senators, Representatives and other elected Officials.

That the said County shall be entitled to such Senators, Representatives and other elected officials to be prescribed and determined in common with other counties of the Republic of Liberia. The said officials shall be elected by the people of Grand Kru County under the same conditions as shall appertain to similar officials in other counties of this Republic.

This decree shall take effect immediately upon the signature of the Head of State of the Republic of Liberia. 5

INA DECREE NO. 14
DECREE BY THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA CREATING THE COUNTY OF MARGIBI AND PROVIDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAME

It is hereby decreed by the Interim National Assembly of the Republic of Liberia as follows:

§ 1. Margibi County Created.

That from and immediately upon the issuance of this Decree, the area referred to as the Territory of Marshall under the law of 1956, LCL Volume 2, Chapter 3, page 779, under the caption "MARSHALL TERRITORY", comprising all the Territories lying east of Paynesville and Caresburg as far as the mouth of the Farmington River known as the territory of Marshall as well as Gibi Territory comprising the area presently known as the District of Kakata and that portion of the area referred to as the Sub-District of Gibi, Montserrado County, known as the Territory of Gibi by an Act approved April 24, 1978, and published May 9, 1978, and the Firestone Plantations comprising the area referred to as bordering the Monrovia-Kakata highway, Careysburg District, Mamba District along the Du River to Harbel Fish Creek near Roberts-

5. The decree creating Grand Kru County was issued on July 19, 1984.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 398

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

field and Twenty-Six gate near Kakata known as Firestone Plantations, Montserrado, shall be known as the County of Margibi, Republic of Liberia.

§ 2. Boundaries of Margibi County.

That the County shall include all the area stated in Section 1 hereof, comprising of Marshall Territory, Gibi Territory, Harbel and Firestone Plantations be and the same is hereby declared a county which shall be known as MARGIBI COUNTY, Republic of Liberia.

§ 3. Senators, Representatives and other elected officials.

That the said County shall be entitled to such Senators, Representatives and other elected officials to be prescribed and determined in common with other counties of the Republic of Liberia. The said officials shall be elected by the people of Margibi under the same conditions as shall appertain to similar officials in other counties of the Republic.

§ 4. Superintendent and other appointed officials for Margibi County.

That the Head of State ... shall appoint for the Government of said County a Superintendent and all other officials necessary for the same; and the County and its officials shall enjoy all rights and privileges granted unto any other County of the Republic.

This Decree shall take effect immediately upon the signature of the Head of State and President of the Interim National Assembly of the republic of Liberia. 6

INA DECREE NO. 15
DECREE BY THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA REPEALING THE ACT WHICH CREATED THE TERRITORY OF

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

RIVERCESS COUNTY AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SAME

It is hereby decreed by the Interim National Assembly of the Republic of Liberia as follows:

§ 1. Repealing Act.

That the Act entitled "An Act creating the District of Rivercess, Grand Bassa County, a Territory in Grand Bassa County and providing the Government of same", approved February 19, 1955 is hereby repealed.

§ 2. Rivercess County created.

That immediately after the passage of this Decree, the area comprising the territory of Rivercess, Grand Bassa County, is hereby declared a county which shall be known as "RIVERCESS COUNTY", Republic of Liberia.

§ 3. Senators, Representative and other elected officials.

That the said County shall be entitled to such Senators, Representatives and other elected officials to be prescribed and determined in common with other counties of the Republic of Liberia.

§ 4. Superintendent and other appointed officials for Rivercess
County.

That the Head of State shall appoint for the Government of said County, a Superintendent and all other officials necessary for the said County; and the County and its officers shall enjoy all rights and privileges granted unto any other County in this Republic.

This Decree shall take effect immediately upon the signature of the Head of State and President of the Interim National Assembly of the Republic

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 400

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

of Liberia.

§ 11. Administration of Montserrado County.

The civil affairs of Montserrado County shall be administered by the general Government of Liberia. 8

§ 12. Appointment and duties of Superintendents.

A Superintendent shall be appointed for each of the several counties of the Republic presently in existence and for all other counties hereafter annexed to the Republic.

The Superintendents shall perform the following duties in their respec-tive counties:

(a) They shall act as executive officers of the counties;

(b) They shall have the general supervision of all county officers subject to the control of the Executive Branch of the Government;

(c) They shall investigate and settle, under the direction of the Presi-dent, all difficulties between native tribes, and all matters appertain-ing to the aborigines not within the authority of the tribal chiefs;

(d) They shall keep the President fully informed respecting all matters generally of an executive character in their respective coun-ties, and especially of their official proceedings;

(e) In case of unexpected invasion or of insurrection, they shall, after consultation with members of the Legislature, the County Attorney, and the chief military officer in their respective counties, adopt appropriate measures of defense until advice and instructions shall be

7. The Decree creating the County of Rivercess was issued on December 13, 1985.

8. Prior legislation: L. 1917 (E.S.), 8 (2nd); L. 1885-86, 6 (157).

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 401

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

received from the President;

(f) They shall administer the oath of office to all county officials;

(g) They shall preside over the Courts of the County Superinten-dents.9

§ 13. Bonds may be required of Superintendents.

To guarantee the faithful performance of their official duties, the Su-perintendents of counties may be required to furnish bonds. 1°

§ 14. Compensation and allowances for Superintendents.

The Superintendents shall receive such compensation for their services and such allowances as may be provided for in the annual budgetary appropriations. 11

§ 15. Assistants for Superintendents.

A Superintendent may employ such clerical and other assistants as may be necessary for the conduct of his office. Such employees shall receive the amount of compensation provided from time to time in the annual

9. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII, § 1929, ch. VII, § 596 (15); L. 1899-1900, 37 (1st), §§ 1, 2; L. 1874-75, 7, § 4; L. 1872-73, 3, § 9; L. 1858, 24; Acts 1844, Act creating an agency for Grand Bassa, 2 Hub. 1640; Acts 1843, Act to repeal an act creating an agency in Grand Bassa County, 2 Hub. 1439; 1841 Digest, Act creating an agency in Grand Bassa County, 2 Hub. 1425.

Cross reference:
Appointment of Superintendents by President, see Constitution, ch. VI, art. 54(d), § 1st.

10. Prior legislation: L. 1896-97, 12 (2nd), §§ 1, 2.

11. Prior legislation: L. 1858, 24, § 4.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 402

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

budgetary appropriations. 12

§ 16. County seal.

Each county of the Republic shall have a count seal which shall be kept in the custody of the Superintendent. 13

Chapter 3. TERRITORIES

§ 40. Territory of Marshall. (Repealed)"

§ 41. Territory of River Cess. (Repealed) 15

§ 42. Territory of Sasstown. (Repealed) 16

§ 43. Territory of Kroo Coast. (Repealed)"

12. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII, § 598; L. 1858, 24, § 4; L. 1858, 39 (3rd).

13. Prior legislation: 1841 Digest, pt. 1, Act incorporating, bounding, and regulating counties and towns, § 10, 2 Hub. 1459; Acts 1839, Act to provide regulations for the, counties and towns, § 5, 2 Hub. 1395.

14. Section 40 which created the Territory of Marshall was repealed by Interim National Assembly decree No. 14 (issued December 13, 1985) which created Margibi County. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), § 54; L. 1914, 54 (2nd); L. 1859, 54 (2nd).

15. Section 41 which created the territory of Rivercess was repealed by Interim National Assembly Decree No. 15 (issued December 13, 1985) which created Rivercess County. Prior legislation: Former section 41 repealed and new section 41 added in lieu thereof. L. 195455, ch. XIII, eff. Feb. 19, 1955. Prior legislation: L. 1923-24, ch. VII, § 1.

16. Section 42 which created the territory of Sasstown was repealed by PRC Decree No. 87 (issued July 19, 1984) which created Grand Kru County.

17. Section 43 which created the Territory of Kroo Coast was repealed by Interim National Assembly Decree No. 87 (issued July 19, 1984) which created Grand Kru County. Prior legislation: Added. L. 1957-58, ch. XL, eff. Mar. 20, 1958.
Legis. note: The District of Kroo Coast was created by L. 1954-55, ch. XIV, eff. Feb. 28,

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 403

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Chapter 4. LEEWARD DISTRICTS
§ 60. District of Careysburg.
The settlements of Kingsville, Careysburg, Bensonville [now the City of Bentol], Crozierville, White Plains, Coffee Mountain, and Harrisburg shall comprise the District of Careysburg. 18
§ 61. Appointment of Superintendent for District of Careysburg. The President shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint and commission a Superintendent for the District of Careysburg. 19
§§62-65. Repealed. 20

Chapter 5. TOWNSHIPS
§ 80. Division of counties into townships.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

miles between any two settlements, then each township shall be limited by half the distance between the two settlements.

The President is hereby empowered to designate by public proclamation the limits of all townships not already defined by legislation. The township officers are strictly forbidden to exercise their functions outside the limits so fixed by the President's proclamation. 21

§ 81. Corporate powers of townships.

The several townships shall be bodies corporate, and as such may sue and be sued; take and hold real and personal property for the benefit of the township; make and fulfill contracts; and levy taxes authorized under the provisions of the Revenue and Finance Law. 22

§ 82. Town meetings.

A town meeting shall be held in each township annually on the first Tuesday in October for election of township officers who hold elective offices, for levying taxes necessary for township purposes, and for enacting laws and regulations for the government of the township. If necessary to accomplish those purposes, the meeting shall continue two days. The citizens present shall elect a chairman to preside. 23

21. Prior legislation: L. 1895-96, 5 (1st); OBB 133, Public Domain, art. II, § 1; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act incorporating, bounding, and regulating counties and towns, § 2, 2 Hub. 1459; Acts 1841, Act requiring public officers to renew their bonds, § 4, 2 Hub. 1424; Acts 1839, Act to provide regulations for the counties and towns, § 1, 2 Hub. 1394.

22. Prior legislation: L. 1937, ch. XXV, art. 5; OBB 133, Public Domain, art. III, § 2; 1841 Digest, pt. 1, Act incorporating, bounding, and regulating counties and towns, § 7, 2 Hub. 1459; Acts 1839, Act to provide regulations for the counties and towns, § 3, 2 Hub. 1394.

23. Prior legislation: L. 1938, ch. IV; L. 1938, ch. XI, § 5; L. 1916, 17 (1st); L. 1914, 38; L. 1882-83, 6, § 4; OBB 133, Public Domain, art. V, § 4; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act regulating towns and villages, § 4, 2 Hub. 1461; Acts 1839, Act to provide regulations for the counties and towns, § 13, 2 Hub. 1394.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 405

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

§ 83. Township laws and regulations.

All township laws made and ordained by the people in the annual town meeting shall remain in effect until the next meeting and shall have the full force and effect of law provided that they do not conflict with the laws of the Republic. 24

§ 84. Township officers.

The corporate powers of each township shall be exercised by a Commis-sioner who shall be appointed to office by the President and shall serve during the pleasure of the President. In addition to the Commissioner, the affairs of each township shall be conducted by the following officers: A Town Clerk, a Treasurer, three Road Overseers, and three constables, all of whom shall be elected by the annual town meeting. If the citizens should fail to elect any of those officers at their annual town meeting, the officer or officers elected at the previous town meeting shall have full power to act until the next annual meeting. 25

§ 85. Commissioners of townships.

Commissioners of townships shall have the following duties:

(a) They shall have the power to execute and enforce all laws relating to the govemnient of townships;

(b) They shall have the care of all public property in their respective townships;

(c) They shall submit the annual township budget to the Bureau of the Budget for the approval of the President;

24. Prior legislation: L. 1882-83, 6, § 4; Acts 1843, Act establishing the boundaries of the several townships, § 7, 2 Hub. 1442.

25. Prior legislation: L. 1938, ch. IV, § 1; Rev. Stat (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), §§ 1331, 1414, 1415; L. 1882-83, 6, § 5; L. 1871-72, 22, §§ 1, 2.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. N, PAGE: 406

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

excellent record is eligible to promotion to the rank of Provincial Commissioner, when vacancy occurs in that position.

Section 4. Promotion. The salaries of the aforesaid Commissioners shall be prescribed according to their grades, from time to time.

Section 5. Authority. That the President of Liberia, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to re-uniform the wage and compensation of Provincial, District and Assistant District Commissioners, County and assistant Commissioners and employees of the Interior Service subject to the approval of the Legislature.

Section 6. When effective. This Act shall take effect immediately and be published in hand-bills. 27

§ 86. Town clerks.

The Town Clerk shall keep all records pertaining to the government of the township, including accounts of moneys disbursed by the Treasurer of the township; draw checks or orders on the Treasurer for disburse-ments of all township moneys; report at each annual town meeting the business transacted for the town during the year; and perform such other duties as the Commissioner may require.

The Town Clerk shall receive as compensation five percent of all moneys paid out by the township. 28

§ 87. Treasurers of townships.

The Treasurer of the township shall disburse all township money, and shall hold all township property and papers relating thereto having

27. Approved April 7, 1960.

28. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), § 1416 (2); L. 1882-83, 6, § 3; OBB 158, Act requiring the register of births and deaths; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act requiring the register of births and deaths, 2 Hub. 1493.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 408

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

permanent value. 29
The compensation of the Treasurer shall be five percent of all money paid out by him. 3°

§ 89. Constables.

Constables shall without warrant suppress any riot or infraction of the peace committed in their presence, and shall arrest all felons and violent offenders against the peace without a warrant when they have not time to procure one. For neglecting to attempt to quiet any infraction of the peace or to arrest persons committing a breach of the peace, a constable shall be fined according to the magnitude of the offense in the discretion of the court. 31

§ 90. Penalty for neglect of duty by town officers.

Any Town Officer other than a constable who fails to perform his duty

29. Amended. L. 1955-56, ch. VIII, eff. Feb. 23, 1956.
Legis. note: Provision relating to bonding of Treasurer omitted. That provision now covered by the general provisions of Public Employment L., ch. 2.

30 Amended L. 1955-56, ch. VIII, eff. Feb. 23, 1956.

Cross reference:
Collection and allocation of municipal revenues, see Revenue and Finance L., ch. 81.

Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L 1929, ch. VII), § 1416 (3); L. 1912-13, 16 (1st); L. 1882-83, 6, §§ 2, 3; OBB 133, Public Domain art. III, § 6.
Government employees having custody of public moneys required to give bonds, see Public Employment L., § 60.

31. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), §§ 676, 677, 679 (3), 1416 (5); J.P. Code (adopted L. 1907-08, 16), §§ 67, 68, 70 (3); OBB 113, Judiciary, art. I, § I; art. X, § 6; 1841 Digest, pt. 1, Act punishing official misconduct, § 6, 2 Hub. 1473.

Cross reference:
Constables as ministerial officers of justices Courts, see Judiciary L., § 16.2.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

shall be fined not less than one dollar nor more than five dollars. 32

CHAPTER XXXIII
AN ACT SETTING UP A COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE REGULATIONS OF THE INTERIOR SERVICE 1960

WHEREAS, there are many changes that are now taking place in the Administration of the Interior, and

WHEREAS, the present Interior Regulations need revision to cope with problems involving said changes, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the President of Liberia be and is hereby authorized to set up a Commission to evaluate the Regulations of the Interior Service and make recommendations for necessary changes to improve the admi-nistration of the Interior Service.

CHAPTER XIII
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA TO SET UP A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY AND STUDY OF THE TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE REPUBLIC AND TO PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND MAKE PROVISION FOR ITS EXPENSES. •

Whereas in a decision handed down in 1919, the Supreme Court of Liberia declared unconstitutional certain portions of an Act Making Regulations Governing the Interior Department and dividing the Re-public into County and Hinterland jurisdictions;

32. Prior legislation: Rev. Stat. (adopted L. 1929, ch. VII), § 1417; J.P. Code (adopted L. 1907-08, 16), § 105; OBB 137, For regulating towns and villages, art. V, § 5; Acts 1839 (published 1843), Act to amend an Act entitled an Act regulating towns and villages, § 3, 2 Hub. 1448.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 410

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

And whereas the extension of roads, and the construction of bridges, schools, hospitals, clinics, airfields and radio stations throughout the Country, in pursuance of the Development Program of Government has unified and integrated the entire population of the Republic;

And whereas Government recognizes the right of all the people to par-ticipate fully in all the facets of Government and to enjoy equally their inalienable rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of this Republic;

Therefore

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

Section 1. Commission established. The President of Liberia is hereby authorizeipate uB9turpulecialn 1. Commisszeithe isidentnine m aseridges,

Sect2. Func statives of 1. Commisshed. Nopulaaln 1. Commississeby

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

CHAPTER XXII
AN ACT AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW PASSED AND APPROVED DURING THE 1970-1971 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE WITH RESPECT TO THE ELECTION OF CHIEFS

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

Section 1. Section 5.2 Chapter 5, of the Local Government law passed during the 1970-1971 Session of the Legislature and approved April 1. 1971, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5.2 Tribal Government. Each Chiefdom shall be governed by a Paramount Chief, who shall have resided in the Chiefdom for not less than two years.

For purposes or administration a tribe shall consist of Clans which shall be sub-divided into towns.

All Paramount, Clan and Town Chiefs shall be elected quadrennially by popular election in the respective jurisdictions and shall serve for tour years from the time of their election. They shall be eligible for re-election for successive four-years terms, as their conduct and popularity shall permit. All such elections shall be supervised by representatives of the Elections Commission and returns thereof shall be certified to the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Urban Recon-struction who shall report same to the President. In cases of mal-feasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance or other official misconduct on part of any Paramount, Clan and Town Chief, such Paramount, Clan or Town Chief shall be suspended by the President. Such suspended chief shall be prosecuted and upon conviction he shall be removed from office in keeping with law.

In case of death, resignation or suspension of a Chief for official mis-conduct, the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Urban Reconstruction [the Local Government now being the Ministry of Internal Affairs], with approval of the President, shall appoint an Acting

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 412

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Chief until an election is held.

The first election for Paramount, Clan and Town Chiefs shall be held on the second Tuesday in October 1975 and on the same day every four years thereafter.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in hand-bills.
Approved May 10, 1972.

LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, VOL. IV, PAGE: 413