



HeinOnline

Citations:

Bluebook 20th ed. Amos J.; Xydis Peaslee, Dorothy Peaslee. Constitutions of Nations (3).

ALWD 6th ed. Amos J.; Xydis Peaslee, Dorothy Peaslee. Constitutions of Nations (3).

APA 6th ed. Peaslee, A. (3). Constitutions of Nations. The Hague, M. Nijhoff.

Chicago 7th ed. Peaslee Amos J.; Xydis, Dorothy Peaslee. Constitutions of Nations. The Hague, M. Nijhoff.

McGill Guide 9th ed. Amos J.; Xydis Peaslee, Dorothy Peaslee, Constitutions of Nations (The Hague: M. Nijhoff., 3)

MLA 8th ed. Peaslee, Amos J., and Dorothy Peaslee Xydis. Constitutions of Nations. The Hague, M. Nijhoff. HeinOnline.

OSCOLA 4th ed. Peaslee, Amos J.; Xydis, Dorothy Peaslee. Constitutions of Nations. The Hague, M. Nijhoff.

Provided by: Harvard Law School Library

- -- Your use of this HeinOnline PDF indicates your acceptance of HeinOnline's Terms and Conditions of the license agreement available at https://heinonline.org/HOL/License
- -- The search text of this PDF is generated from uncorrected OCR text.

CONSTITUTION of YEMEN¹

1962

CHAPTER I

Art. 1. Yemen is an Islamic State, Arab, independent and sovereign. It constitutes a democratic republic and the Yemeni people form part of the Arab Nation.

Art. 2. Sovereignty belongs to the State and shall be exercised in the manner provided in this Constitution.

Art. 3. The religion of the State is Islam and the official language is Arabic.

Art. 4. Islamic law is the source of all laws.

CHAPTER II

Art. 5. The basis of the Yemenite social system consists of social solidarity.

Art. 6. The family is the basis of society and is founded on religion, morality and patriotism.

Art. 7. To all Yemenis the State shall ensure liberty, security, tranquility and the possibility of opportunity.

Art. 8. The national economy shall be organized on the basis of plans which, founded on the principles of social justice, which shall have as their purpose the development of production and the raising of the standard of living.

Art. 9. Private property shall be protected; laws shall provide for the fulfilment of its social mission.

Art. 10. The State shall encourage saving; it shall direct the regulation of credit and facilitate the investment of the people's savings.

Art. 11. The State shall encourage co-operative activities and shall

¹ Translated from the Arabic text supplied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December 1964, by P. Vagis and the Editor. Ed.

protect co-operative establishments of all kinds. Provisions relating to co-operative associations shall be prescribed by law.

Art. 12. The State shall endeavor to ensure to all citizens an appropriate standard of living, based on the provision of food, dwellings and medical, cultural and social services.

Art. 13. The State shall ensure, in accordance with the laws, the support of the family and the protection of motherhood and childhood.

Art. 14. The State shall protect youth against exploitation and against moral, physical or spiritual abandonment.

Art. 15. The basis for the calculation of taxes and public expenditures shall be social justice.

Art. 16. All Yemenis shall display solidarity in meeting costs arising out of public misfortunes and disasters.

Art. 17. The State shall, in accordance with the laws, ensure the indemnification of victims of war damage as soon as possible.

Art. 18. The State shall, in accordance with the laws, ensure indemnification for damages arising out of fulfilling the requirements of military service.

Art. 19. The natural wealth of the sub-soil and the territorial waters belong to the State as well as the resources and energy therefrom derived. The State shall ensure their proper exploitation, taking into account the requirements of national defense and the public economy.

Art. 20. Public office shall constitute positions of responsibility for those entrusted therewith. In the exercise of the duties devolving from their responsibilities, State officials shall consider serving the people to be their objective.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Art. 21. Yemenite nationality shall be defined by law. No Yemeni may be deprived of his nationality. The changing or deprivation of nationality may be authorized only in accordance with the law.

Art. 22. Yemenis are equal before the law; they have the same obligations and enjoy the same rights without any distinction whatsoever between them.

Art. 23. There shall be neither crime nor punishment except in accordance with the law. There shall be no penalties imposed for acts committed prior to the promulgation of a law which forbids them.

Art. 24. Punishment shall be personal.

Art. 25. Arrest and imprisonment may only be authorized in accordance with the law.

Art. 26. The right of defense shall be ensured by law, whether in person or by a person appointed for that purpose.

Art. 27. Anyone accused of an act which is subject to punishment shall be provided with a defender.

Art. 28. No Yemeni may either be exiled outside of Yemenite territory nor prevented from returning thereto.

Art. 29. No Yemeni may be prevented from nor obliged to residence in any particular place except in the cases provided by law.

Art. 30. The extradition of political refugees is forbidden.

Art. 31. The domicile is inviolable. It may be neither watched nor entered except in the cases and the form provided by law.

Art. 32. The freedom and secrecy of correspondence shall be ensured within the limits of the law.

Art. 33. Freedom of opinion and of scientific research shall be guaranteed. Everyone has the right to express his opinion and to make it known either by the spoken or written word, by photography or by other means authorized by law.

Art. 34. Freedom of the press, printing and publication shall be guaranteed in accordance with the interests of the people and within the limits authorized by law.

Art. 35. Education shall be free within the limits of the law, of public order and of morality.

Art. 36. All Yemenis have the right to education which shall be ensured by the State through the creation and gradual development of schools and educational institutions of various kinds. The State shall be particularly concerned with the physical and spiritual development of youth.

Art. 37. The State shall assume the direction of public education and laws shall regulate matters relating thereto.

Art. 38. All Yemenis have the right to work. The State shall see to the provision of opportunities.

Art. 39. The right to form unions is guaranteed. Such unions shall have legal status under the conditions stipulated by law.

Art. 40. All Yemenis have the right to medical assistance. This shall be ensured by the State through the creation and gradual development of hospitals and health establishments.

Art. 41. Defense of the country is a sacred duty. Fulfilment of military service is an honor for all Yemenis.

Art. 42. Payment of taxes and public expenditures in accordance with the law is a duty. The exemption of small incomes from the payment of taxes shall be stipulated by law in such a manner as to leave a minimum income necessary for existence.

Art. 43. Respect for the public order and observation of Islamic morality shall be the duty of all Yemenis.

Art. 44. Yemenis shall have the right to complain to any State organization concerning violations of the laws by public officials or their negligence of the duties of their office.

CHAPTER IV

THE POWERS

I. The Head of State

Art. 45. The Head of State is the President of the Republic. He shall exercise his functions in the manner stipulated in this Constitution.

II. The Legislative Power

Art. 46. The Consultative Council is the organ which exercises the legislative power.

Art. 47. The Consultative Council shall watch over the work of the executive power in the manner provided in this Constitution.

Art. 48. The Consultative Council is composed of members elected from among Yemeni citizens. A law shall stipulate the number of members and the conditions required and shall decide the method of election and the rules applicable thereto.

Art. 49. The term of office of the Consultative Council shall be three years counting from its first meeting.

Art. 50. If the office of member of the Consultative Council falls vacant before the expiration of its term, a replacement shall be appointed within a time limit of sixty days from the date when the notice of vacancy was communicated to the Council. The term of the new member thus appointed shall expire at the same time as the term of the member he has replaced.

Art. 51. The President of the Republic shall convene and declare closed the sessions of the Consultative Council.

Art. 52. The Consultative Council shall sit at Sanaa. It may meet in another place for extraordinary reasons at the request of the President of the Republic. Meetings elsewhere than as stipulated above shall be considered illegal and any resolutions taken in any such meetings shall be null and void.

Art. 53. The Consultative Council shall meet in one regular annual session at a date fixed in advance. It shall meet by law on that date whether it has been convened or not. The regular session shall last at least three months and may not be closed before approval of the budget.

Art. 54. The Consultative Council may not meet other than at its regular session unless it is convened. If it does so meet, the meeting and any resolutions taken thereat shall be null and void.

Art. 55. The Consultative Council may meet in extraordinary session, if necessary, either at the request of the President of the Republic or upon a written request signed by a majority of its members. The President of the Republic shall proclaim the end of the extraordinary session.

Art. 56. At the regular session of the Consultative Council, the President shall make a speech on the general policy of the State. He may also make declarations concerning other general matters which he deems it necessary to communicate to the Consultative Council.

Art. 57. Each member of the Consultative Council shall, before taking up his office, take the following oath before the Council meeting in public session:

"I swear in the name of Almighty God to be faithful to the democratic regime, to care for the interests of the people and the security of the country and to respect the Constitution and the laws."

Art. 58. The President of the Republic shall appoint by decree the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Consultative Council. They shall exercise their functions throughout the Council's term of office. If one of these offices falls vacant, a replacement shall be appointed to fill out the term.

Art. 59. Meetings of the Consultative Council shall be public. Meetings may be held at the request of the Government, of the President of the Consultative Council, or of ten of its members. The Council shall decide whether its deliberations shall be held in open or closed session.

Art. 60. Resolutions of the Consultative Council may be taken only when a majority of the members are present. Except in cases where a special majority is required, decisions shall be taken by an absolute majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the matter shall be considered rejected.

Art. 61. All Government bills shall be sent to a Commission of the Consultative Council for study and report.

Art. 62. Bills submitted by one or more members shall be sent to a Commission for study and advice as to whether they may be submitted to the Council for examination. If the Council agrees to examine such bills, the provisions of the preceding article shall apply.

Art. 63. No law may be promulgated without the approval of the Consultative Council. Bills may be approved only after they have been examined and approved article by article.

Art. 64. No bill submitted by a member and rejected by the Consultative Council may be submitted again during the same session.

Art. 65. The Consultative Council shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

Art. 66. The Consultative Council alone shall ensure the maintenance of order in its midst. The President of the Council shall be responsible. No armed force shall have the right to enter the Consultative Council nor to install itself near its doors except at the request of its President.

Art. 67. The President of the Council of Ministers and the Ministers shall be heard by the Consultative Council whenever they so request. They may ask to be assisted by high officials or may delegate high officials in their place. The Consultative Council may require Ministers to attend its meetings. A Minister may take part in a vote only if he is a member of the Consultative Council.

Art. 68. Any member of the Consultative Council may interpellate and question the President of the Council of Ministers and the Ministers. Debates on interpellations may not take place less than seven days after the interpellation has been made, except in urgent cases and with the approval of the Minister concerned.

Art. 69. The Consultative Council may, at the request of ten of its members, open a discussion of a question of general interest in order to clarify the policy of the Government in the matter or in order to obtain an exchange of opinions.

Art. 70. The Consultative Council may, with regard to questions of general interest, express its wishes or submit proposals to the Government.

Art. 71. Members of the Consultative Council may not intervene in matters which fall within the jurisdiction of the Executive or Judicial power.

Art. 72. The institution, modification or abolition of taxes and public expenditures shall be effected only by a law. Noone shall be exempted from payment except in the cases provided by law. Noone may be required to pay taxes or duties except within the limits stipulated by law.

Art. 73. A law shall establish the fundamental principles for the collection and use of public revenues.

Art. 74. The Government shall not be authorized to contract loans or engage in projects involving expenditure by the Treasury over years to come, without the prior approval of the Consultative Council.

Art. 75. A law shall establish the basis and principles for the granting of salaries, pensions, indemnities, allocations and rewards to be paid by the Treasury, and shall stipulate any exceptional cases together with the authorities responsible for their application.

Art. 76. A law shall establish the principles and formalities arising out of the obligations resulting from the exploitation of public resources and services. It shall also make provisions regarding cases of free grants of real estate belonging to the State, of the waiving by the State of its rights over its movable property, and the principles and formalities applicable thereto.

Art. 77. No concession or monopoly may be accorded except by law and for a fixed period.

Art. 78. A law shall establish the method of preparation of the State Budget, its presentation to the Consultative Council, and the financial year.

Art. 79. The general State budget bill must be submitted to the Consultative Council at least three months before the expiration of the financial year for examination and approval. The Consultative Council may modify it only with the consent of the Government.

Art. 80. If the new budget has not been approved before the beginning of the financial year, the old budget shall continue to be applied until approval of the new budget.

Art. 81. Approval of the Consultative Council shall be necessary for the transfer of any article of expenditure from one heading of the budget to another, or for any expenditure not provided or exceeding the amount inscribed in the budget.

Art. 82. The Consultative Council shall be competent to approve the balance sheet of the State.

Art. 83. Members of the Consultative Council may not be prosecuted during sessions without the consent of the Council except in *flagrante delicto*. If any prosecutions are undertaken without its prior knowledge, the Council must be informed.

Art. 84. Members of the Consultative Council may not be attacked for ideas or opinions expressed during the exercise of their functions in the Council or in its Commissions.

Art. 85. A member of the Consultative Council may not be deprived of his office except by decision of the Council by a two-thirds majority of its members, upon the proposal of at least ten members, and then only if such a member has lost the confidence and esteem of the Council, failed in the exercise of his duties or been absent from meetings of the Consultative Council and of its Commissions.

Art. 86. The Consultative Council alone is empowered to receive the resignations of its members.

Art. 87. The President of the Republic has the right to dissolve the Consultative Council. If he dissolves the Consultative Council for whatever reason, he may not dissolve the new Council for the same reason as the preceding one.

Art. 88. The decree of dissolution of the Consultative Council must fix the date of meeting of the new Council, which meeting shall take place within not more than sixty days.

Art. 89. If the Consultative Council decides to withdraw its confidence from one of the Ministers, the latter shall resign from the Council of Ministers. Withdrawal of confidence may not occur until after an interpellation addressed to the Minister in question. A request for withdrawal of confidence must have the approval of at least one tenth of the members of the Council. The Council may not act upon such a request until at least three days following its presentation. Withdrawal of confidence shall require approval by a majority of the members of the Council.

Art. 90. Noone may be both a member of the Consultative Council and a public official. A law shall stipulate other offices which may not be held conjointly.

Art. 91. Members of the Consultative Council shall receive remuneration as stipulated by law.

III. The Executive Power

Art. 92. The executive power shall vest in the President of the Republic who shall exercise it in the form prescribed in this Constitution.

A. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Art. 93. The elected President of the Republic must be Yemeni on both his mother's and father's side. He must enjoy civil and political rights and be not less than thirty five years of age (Gregorian calendar).

Art. 94. Candidacies for President of the Republic shall be submitted to the Consultative Council by at least one third of its members and election of the President of the Republic shall be by a two-thirds majority of its members. If no candidate receives such a majority, the President shall be elected by an absolute majority of the members of the Council on a second ballot which shall take place two days after the first.

Art. 95. The duration of the Presidential term shall be five years beginning from the date of publication of the results of the election.

Art. 96. Before taking office, the President of the Republic shall take the following oath before the Consultative Council:

"I swear before Almighty God to defend faithfully the democratic regime, to respect the Constitution and the laws, to protect completely the interests of the people and to defend the independence of the country and the security of its territory.

Art. 97. A law shall stipulate the emoluments of the President of the Republic. No modification to such emoluments may take effect during the presidential term of office when they were decided. The President of the Republic may receive no other remuneration nor indemnity.

Art. 98. During his term of office, the President of the Republic may exercise no other liberal profession nor any commercial, financial or industrial activity, nor may he acquire or lease goods belonging to the State, nor sell or lease to the State his own belongings nor make any exchanges with the State.

Art. 99. The President of the Republic may appoint a Vice-President of the Republic and dismiss him from office. Before taking office, the Vice-President of the Republic shall take before the President of the Republic the following oath:

"I swear before Almighty God to protect faithfully the democratic regime, to respect the Constitution and the laws, to protect completely the interest of the people and to defend the independence of the country and the integrity of its territory."

Art. 100. Formalities for the election of a new President shall begin sixty days before the expiration of the presidential term. The election shall be completed at least one week before the expiration of the preceding term. Should this time limit expire without the election of a new President for whatever reason, the incumbent President shall continue to exercise his prerogatives until the election of his successor.

Art. 101. If the President of the Republic is unable for any reason to exercise his functions he shall delegate the Vice-President to do so.

Art. 102. In case of the resignation, total incapacity or death of the President of the Republic, the Vice-President shall provisionally assume the duties of President. The Consultative Council shall decide by a twothirds majority of its members as to whether to certify the existence of a vacancy in the office of President. The election of a new President of the Republic shall take place within not more than sixty days of the start of such a vacancy.

Art. 103. If the President of the Republic resigns his office, his letter of resignation shall be addressed to the Consultative Council.

Art. 104. The President of the Republic in collaboration with the Government, shall draw up the general policy of the State in all fields, political, economic, social and administrative, and shall watch over its application.

Art. 105. The President of the Republic shall appoint the President of the Council of Ministers and dismiss him from office. He shall also appoint and dismiss the Ministers members of the Government.

Vice-Presidents of the Council of Ministers, Ministers of State and Under-Secretaries of State may also be appointed and shall be subject to the same formalities as Ministers.

Art. 106. The President of the Republic shall have the right to convene the Council of Ministers and to attend its meetings. He may preside over the meetings of the Council of Ministers at which he is present. He may also require the President of the Council of Ministers and the Ministers to submit reports to him.

Art. 107. The President of the Republic shall have the right to submit bills, to oppose bills and to promulgate the laws.

Art. 108. If the President of the Republic oppose a bill, he shall return it to the Consultative Council within a time limit of thirty days from its submission to him by the Council. Any bill not returned within this time limit shall be considered approved and shall be promulgated.

If a bill is returned to the Council within the time limit indicated and is subsequently approved by a majority of two thirds of its members, it shall be considered approved and shall be promulgated as law.

Art. 109. Should it be necessary to take urgent measures between sessions of the Consultative Council or at a time when it has been dissolved, the President of the Republic shall issue decrees having the force of law.

Such decrees shall be submitted to the Consultative Council within fifteen days of their publication if the Council is in session, or at its first meeting if it has been dissolved. If they are not submitted to the Consul-

tative Council, they shall lose retroactively their legal force without need of any further decree to such effect. If they are submitted to the Council and the latter does not give its approval, they shall lost their legal force from the date of non-approval.

Art. 110. In exceptional circumstances the President of the Republic may, by virtue of powers which shall be assigned to him by the Consultative Council, take decisions having the force of law. Such extraordinary powers shall of limited duration and any decrees issued in exercise thereof shall specify the questions to which they relate and the reasons on which they are based.

Art. 111. The President of the Republic shall issue the decrees required for the organization of the public service.

Art. 112. The President of the Republic shall issue the decrees and regulations necessary to the implementation of the laws. He may also delegate his powers for the issuance of such decrees. The laws themselves may specify the authority charged with issuing the implementing regulations.

Art. 113. The President of the Republic shall be Commander of the Armed Forces.

Art. 114. The President of the Republic shall declare war with the agreement of the Consultative Council.

Art. 115. The President of the Republic shall conclude treaties. He shall communicate such treaties to the Consultative Council together with any necessary explanations. Such treaties shall have the force of law from the time of their conclusion, approval and publication in the forms stipulated. However, treaties of peace, of alliance, commercial treaties and those relating to maritime navigation, agreements involving territorial changes, those which affect the sovereign right of the State or which involve for the Treasury expenses not provided for in the budget, shall not be valid until they have been approved by the Consultative Council.

Art. 116. The President of the Republic shall proclaim a state of emergency in the manner provided by law. Such a proclamation shall be submitted to the Consultative Council within thirty days in order that it may take such decisions as it may see fit. If the Consultative Council has been dissolved, it shall be submitted to the new Council at its first meeting.

Art. 117. The President of the Republic shall have the right to pardon or commute penalties. General Amnesty may however only be granted by a law.

Art. 118. The President of the Republic shall appoint civilian and military officials and diplomatic representatives, in the manner provided by law. He shall also approve the appointment of diplomatic representatives of other countries.

Art. 119. Presidential decrees shall be executed after their signature by the President of the Republic and by the President of the Council of Ministers.

B. THE GOVERNMENT

Art. 120. The Government is the supreme executive and administrative organ of the State.

Art. 121. The Government shall be composed of the President of the Council of Ministers, the Vice-Presidents of the Council and of the Ministers. The President of the Council of Ministers shall direct the work of the Government and preside over meetings of the Council of Ministers.

Art. 122. The Government shall be responsible for the application of the general policy of the State in accordance with the laws and decrees of the President of the Republic and shall do whatever is required to this effect.

Art. 123. The Government shall be responsible for the elaboration and execution of financial and cultural projects, for raising the standard of living of the people and for the application of a healthy foreign policy.

Art. 124. The Government shall have the right to:

(1) issue directives, co-ordinate and control the work of the Ministries, institutions and public organizations;

(2) issue administrative and executive orders for the application of laws and decrees and see to their execution;

(3) prepare bills and decrees;

(4) appoint and dismiss officials in accordance with the law;

(5) draw up the general budget of the State.

(6) draw up the general Plan of the country for the development of the economy and take the measures required for its execution;

(7) watch over the organization of the monetary system, the system of credit and that of insurance within the country;

(8) contract or grant loans within the framework of the general policy of the country.

(9) watch over the efficient functioning of all public institutions.

(10) watch over the application of laws, the maintenance of order in the country, the defense of the rights of citizens and the interests of the State.

Art. 125. The Government shall supervise the work of the Ministries, of the administration and of the general and local organizations in accordance with the law.

Art. 126. The President of the Council of Ministers shall supervise the functioning of the organizations charged with the control and supervision of the country.

Art. 127. Ministers must be Yemenite and must enjoy their civil and political rights.

Art. 128. Before taking office, members of the Government shall take the following oath before the President of the Republic:

"I swear before Almighty God to defend faithfully the democratic

regime, to respect the Constitution and the laws and to protect completely the interests of the people."

Art. 129. Ministers, from the date of taking office, may not engage in any liberal profession or commercial, financial or industrial activity, nor may they acquire or lease belongings of the State, nor sell nor lease to the State their own belongings, nor make any exchanges with the State.

Art. 130. The President of the Republic and the Consultative Council shall have the right to initiate prosecutions against a Minister for crimes committed in the exercise of his office. Decisions by the Consultative Council to accuse a Minister shall be taken on the proposal of five of its members, and must be decided by a majority of two thirds of its members.

Art. 131. A Minister who has been accused shall be suspended from his functions until a decision has been reached on his case. Suspension of a Minister shall not prevent the introduction nor continuation of any prosecution directed against him.

A law shall stipulate the organization competent to try Ministers and shall provide the formalities of their accusation and trial.

Art. 132. Both the members of the Government and the Under Secretaries of State may be members of the Consultative Council.

C. NATIONAL DEFENSE

I. The Commission of National Defense

Art. 133. A Commission entitled the "Commission of National Defense" shall be instituted and shall be presided over by the President of the Republic.

Art. 134. The Commission of National Defense shall have the right to examine questions relating to the means required to ensure the security and integrity of the country. A law shall stipulate other matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

II. The Armed Forces

Art. 135. Armed Forces may be instituted only by the State. No organization or group shall be authorized to institute military or semimilitary formations.

Art. 136. The State shall organize the military education of youth and of the National Guard in accordance with the provisions of a law.

Art. 137. General mobilization shall be decreed in accordance with the law.

Art. 138. A law shall establish the conditions of service and promotion of officers in the Armed Forces.

D. REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Art. 139. The Yemenite Arab Republic shall be divided into administrative units. Each unit, or several units grouped together, may be accorded legal status in accordance with the law.

Art. 140. The organizations representing the administrative units shall have the right to consider all questions concerning the Units they represent and shall collaborate in the application of the general Plan of the country. They may found and direct financial, social and health services and establishments, under the conditions provided by law.

CHAPTER IV

THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Art. 141. Judges shall be independent. Judges shall be subject, in their judgments, to no authority other than the law which is based on Islamic law. No other authority may intervene in judicial matters nor in affairs that are before the judicial authority.

Art. 142. A law shall establish the different jurisdictions and stipulate their powers.

Art. 143. Hearings before the courts shall be public unless the court decides otherwise for reasons of public order or morals.

Art. 144. Judicial decisions shall be rendered and executed in the name of the nation.

Art. 145. Judges shall be irremovable under the conditions stipulated by law.

Art. 146. A law shall establish the conditions for the appointment of judges, their transfer and the disciplinary sanctions to which they shall be subject.

Art. 147. A law shall provide for the organization of State Security courts and shall stipulate their jurisdiction and the conditions to be fulfilled by their members.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 148. The city of Sanaa shall be the capital of the Yemenite Arab Republic.

Art. 149. A law shall provide for the national flag and the coat of arms of the State, as well as the provisions concerning both emblems.

Art. 150. Laws shall be applicable only to acts taking place after their coming into effect. They shall have no effect on acts prior to that time. It

may however, in other than criminal matters, be otherwise provided if approved by a majority of the members of the Consultative Council.

Art. 151. Laws shall be published in the Official Journal within two weeks of their promulgation.

Art. 152. Both the President of the Republic and the Consultative Council may request the amendment of one or more articles of the Constitution. A request of amendment must indicate the articles in question and the reasons therefor. Such a request made by the Consultative Council must be signed by at least one third of its members.

All requests for amendment are discussed by the Council and decided by a majority of its members. If the request is rejected, no new request for amendment involving the same articles may be submitted within one year.

If the Consultative Council approves the principle of a proposed amendment, it shall then discuss the articles in question two months after the approval in principle. If the proposed amendment is then approved by a two-thirds majority, it shall be considered to have effect from the date of approval.

Art. 153. All provisions in effect prior to this Constitution whether by laws, decrees, ordinances or regulations, shall remain in effect. They may however be abolished or modified in application of the principles and in accordance with the formalities provided in this Constitution.

CHAPTER VI

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Art. 154. The term of the incumbent President of the Republic shall begin from the day he takes the oath before the Consultative Council.

Art. 155. Citizens shall form organizations in order to work toward the realization of the purposes of the Revolution and to encourage the efforts to build the Nation on a solid foundation.