



WESTERN SAMOA

Arrangement of Provisions

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1983, No. 9

AN ACT to make provision for the administration of internal affairs and rural development. *[26th July 1983]*

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa in Parliament assembled as follows:—

1. Short title— This Act may be cited as the Internal Affairs and Rural Development Act 1983.

2. Commencement— This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet, by Order.

3. Interpretation— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Alii ma Faipule” means the Alii ma Faipule existing by custom in each village:

“Minister” means the Minister charged with the administration of this Act:

“Pulenu'u” means the Pulenu'u or Sui o le Malo appointed under the Pulenu'u and Sui o le Malo Act 1978 for each village:

"Secretary" means the Secretary for Internal Affairs and Rural Development appointed under this Act:

"Women's Committee" means the Women's Committee existing by custom in each village.

4. Minister of Internal Affairs and Rural Development—

(1) The Prime Minister may charge any Minister of Government with the administration of this Act, or may retain in his charge the responsibility therefor.

(2) The Minister shall be charged with the administration of local government and the promotion and encouragement of rural development activities through local government.

5. Secretary for Internal Affairs and Rural Development and other officers—(1) The Secretary to Government shall be the Secretary for Internal Affairs and Rural Development and shall exercise and perform the functions conferred on the Secretary by this Act under the control of the Minister.

(2) There may also be appointed such other officers of the Public Service as may be necessary to assist the Secretary in the execution of his office.

6. Functions of the Secretary as to internal affairs— The functions of the Secretary in relation to internal affairs shall be:—

- (a) To consider proposals, formulate policies and make recommendations to Cabinet for the recognition and organisation of local government in each village based on the Alii ma Faipule and Samoan custom and tradition:
- (b) To provide guidance and advice to Alii ma Faipule in the preparation, development and implementation of local government:
- (c) To undertake, assist in, co-operate with and encourage the development, collection, maintenance and publication of data, statistics, reports, financial proposals and any other materials relevant to the preparation and administration of local government:

- (d) To initiate, encourage, assist and participate in meetings, presentations, discussions and other education or explanatory activities for the purpose of popularizing or explaining the need for the requirements of local government:
- (e) To review from time to time the needs, functions and efficiency of local government institutions and recommend courses of action to Cabinet for approval in regard to such needs, functions and efficiency:
- (f) To consider and approve for recommendation to Cabinet proposed by-laws to have effect in local government:
- (g) To advise Cabinet and Alii ma Faipule on matters pertaining to the conduct, finance, business and control of any local government activity:
- (h) To recommend such regulations to Cabinet as may be necessary or expedient for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due administration thereof:
- (i) To provide such technical services as may be required for the administration and purposes of this Act in accordance with local government standard.

7. Functions of the Secretary as to rural development— The functions of the Secretary in relation to rural development shall be:—

- (a) To formulate policies and guidelines for social and economic development in the rural areas:
- (b) To receive, assess, approve and process requests for development projects from Alii ma Faipule and Women's Committees:
- (c) To receive, manage and allocate funds as may be appropriated from time to time by Parliament or received in the form of grants or otherwise from any source for the purposes of rural development:
- (d) To organise and promote competitions among the village for the purpose of encouraging and stimulating increases in productivity:

- (e) To assist Alii ma Faipule and Women's Committees in the mobilisation, co-ordination and utilisation of manpower resources for social and economic projects;
- (f) To assist in and encourage the development of special projects for women in villages through the auspices of the Women's Committees;
- (g) To provide such technical and advisory services as may be considered necessary and expedient for rural development.

8. Technical and advisory committees— (1) There may from time to time be established by the Minister on the recommendation of the Secretary, technical or advisory committees to assist the Secretary and his officers in the performance of their functions.

(2) Technical or advisory committees shall consist of members appointed to them by the Minister and may include officers from each of the following government departments:

- (a) Treasury
- (b) Public Works
- (c) Health
- (d) Education
- (e) Lands
- (f) Agriculture
- (g) Labour
- (h) Economic Affairs
- (i) Police
- (j) Justice
- (k) Attorney-General

(3) In assisting the Secretary and his officers in the performance of their functions, technical or advisory committees may gather data, engage in research, undertake studies, seek advice on a formal or informal basis from public agencies or private persons, make analyses and prepare reports or other explanatory materials.

(4) All departments of central government and public agencies shall furnish to the Secretary any data, statistics, surveys, reports, publications on other information properly and reasonably required by technical or advisory committees.

9. Regulations—(1) The Head of State acting on the advice of Cabinet may from time to time make regulations for any purpose for which regulations are contemplated by this Act and all such other regulations as may in his opinion be expedient for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due administration thereof.

(2) Without limiting the general power conferred by subsection (1) it is hereby declared that regulations may be made under this section for all or any of the following purposes:—

- (a) Providing for the establishment of village councils based on the Alii ma faipule and Samoan custom and tradition and incorporating the Pulenu'u;
- (b) Providing for the constitution powers, functions and responsibilities of village councils as local government institutions;
- (c) Providing for by-laws that may be made by village councils and enforcement of such by-laws;
- (d) Prescribing fines that may be imposed for the breach of any by-law;
- (e) Providing for the accounts that shall be kept for or by village councils in respect of all monies collected or disbursed under their authority.