

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHIEFS (ORGANISATION)
ACT No. 13 OF 1985

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provide for the organisation of the National Council of Chiefs.

IT ENACTED by the President and Parliament as follows:-

INTERPRETATION

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

"Council" shall mean "the National Council of Chiefs".

ORGANISATION OF THE COUNCIL

COMPOSITION AND ELECTION

- (1) The Council shall comprise 22 chiefs.
- (2) Each regional council of Chiefs shall elect one or more custom chief(s) from the regional council to sit in the Council until the next election as follows:-

(a) Banks and Torres region	2 custom chiefs;
(b) Santo and Malo region	2 custom chiefs;
(c) Ambae and Maewo region	2 custom chiefs;
(d) Pentecost region	2 custom chiefs;
(e) Paama region	1 custom chief;
(f) Ambrym region	2 custom chiefs;
(g) Malekula region	2 custom chiefs;
(h) Epi region	1 custom chief;
(i) Shepherds region	2 custom chiefs;
(j) Efate region	2 custom chiefs;
(k) TAFEA region	4 custom chiefs.
- (3) Elections to the Council shall be held every 4 years.
- (4) In the event of the death or resignation of a chief from the Council, the regional council which elected the chief shall elect another in his stead within a period of 6 weeks after the death or resignation as the case may be. Provided that no such election shall take place if such chief dies or resigns within a period of six months or less before the date of the next election.

ROLE OF CHIEFS

The customary law of Vanuatu, in so far as it has not been repealed or modified by written law shall determine the rules, functions, duties and obligations of customary chiefs at village, island and regional levels.

MISCELLANEOUS

MEETINGS

In addition to the meetings held in accordance with article 27(3) of the Constitution, the Council shall meet at such times as the President of the Council may determine. Meetings shall be held in Port Vila, unless the President with the agreement of a majority of the Council of Chiefs, decides otherwise.

RULES

The Electoral Commission after consulting the minister may make rules of procedure for election to the Council.

DISSOLUTION

Where the Council is dissolved a new election shall be held within 60 days after the dissolution.

QUORUM AND VOTING AT MEETINGS

- (1) The quorum at any meeting shall be one half of the elected members.
- (2) Any question or matter going before the Council for its opinion or decision shall not be carried through unless it has been adopted by a majority of the members of the Council present.

REPEAL

Part II of The Representative Assembly (Elections) Regulation No. 30 of 1975, The Council of Chiefs (Elections) Regulation No. 33 of 1976, The Council of Chiefs Regulation No.42 of 1976 and any Orders or Rules made thereunder are repealed.

COMMENCEMENT

This Act shall come into force on the day of its publication in the Gazette.