



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Nauru Lands Committee Act 1956

As in force from 15 April 2011

This compilation comprises Ordinance No. 3 of 1956 as amended and in force from 15 April 2011 (being, at the time the compilation was prepared on 22 May 2011, the date of commencement of the most recent amendment).

The notes section at the end of the compilation includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made. The Table of Amendments in the notes section sets out the legislative history of individual provisions.

The operation of amendments that have been incorporated in the text of the compilation may be affected by application provisions that are set out in the notes section at the end of the compilation.

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REPUBLIC OF NAURU

Nauru Lands Committee Act 1956

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Nauru Lands Committee, and for other purposes

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Nauru Lands Committee Act 1956*.

2 Definitions

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

'Nauruan' and **'Pacific Islanders'** have, respectively, the same meanings as those expressions have in the *Nauruan Community Ordinance 1956*,¹

'the Committee' means the Nauru Lands Committee established under this Act.

3 Establishment of Nauru Lands Committee

- (1) There shall be a committee to be called the Nauru Lands Committee.
- (2) The Committee shall consist of not less than five, or more than nine, members, all of whom shall be Nauruans.
- (3) The members of the Committee:
 - (a) shall be appointed by the Cabinet; and
 - (b) hold office during the pleasure of the Cabinet.

¹ See Notes on Definitions at the end of this compilation.

4 Procedure, etc., of Committee

Subject to the last preceding section, the constitution and procedure of the Committee shall be as determined by the Cabinet.

5 Remuneration of members of Committee

Members of the Committee shall be paid such remuneration as the Cabinet approves.

6 Powers of Committee

- (1) The Committee has power to determine questions as to the ownership of, or rights in respect of, land, being questions which arise:
 - (a) between Nauruans or Pacific Islanders; or
 - (b) between Nauruans and Pacific Islanders.
- (2) Subject to the next succeeding section, the decision of the Committee is final.

7 Appeals from decisions of Committee

- (1) A person who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Committee may, within twenty-one days after the decision is given, appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision.
- (2) The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an appeal under this section and may make such order on the hearing of the appeal (including, if it thinks fit, an order for the payment of costs by a party) as it thinks just.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, a judgment of the Supreme Court given on an appeal under this section is final.

8 Validation of decisions of Central Court and Administrator

- (1) The former Central Court is taken to have had, at all relevant times, jurisdiction to determine appeals from the Lands Committee constituted, before the date of commencement of Ordinance No. 3 of 1956, in accordance with the customs and usages of the Nauruan people.

- (2) The following decisions made before the date of commencement of Ordinance No. 3 of 1956 are taken to have been validly made:
- (a) decisions of the former Central Court made on appeal from the Lands Committee;
 - (b) decisions of the pre-independence Administrator made on further appeal from the former Central Court.