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Defense Act of 2008

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL DEFENSE LAW OF 1956, THE COAST GUARD ACT OF 1959 AND THE LIBERIAN NAVY ACT OF 1986 AND TO ESTABLISH THE NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT OF 2008





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CHAPTER 1: ENACTMENT

Section 1.1

That immediately after the passage of this Act, the National Defense Law of 1956, the Coast Guard Act of 1959 and the Liberian Navy Act of 1986 are hereby repealed and the New National Defense Act of 2008 is hereby enacted.

CHAPTER 2: THE ARMED FORCES OF 🇱🇮**Section 2.1: Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 (AFL)**

The existence of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 under the authority of this Act, consistent with Article 34(b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of 🇱🇮 is hereby affirmed.

Section 2.2: Organization and Composition of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 (AFL)

The Armed Forces of Liberia 🇱🇮 shall consist of the following: The Army, Coast Guard and the Air Force, and such other components that shall be established by an Act of the Legislature.

Section 2.3: Duties and Functions of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮

(a) The primary mission of the AFL shall be to defend the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of 🇱🇮, including land, air and marine territory, against external aggressions, insurgency, terrorism and encroachment. In addition thereto, the AFL shall respond to natural disasters and engage in other civic works as may be required or directed.

(b) The AFL shall also participate in international peacekeeping, peace enforcement and other by the UN, the AU, ECOWAS, MRU and/or all international institutions of which 🇱🇮 may be a member. All such activities shall be undertaken only upon authorization of the President of 🇱🇮 with the consent of the Legislature.

(c) The AFL shall provide command, communications, logistical, medical, transportation and humanitarian support to the civil authority in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, outbreak of disease or epidemic. Such assistance shall be authorized by the President of 🇱🇮.

(d) The AFL shall assist civil authorities in search, rescue and saving of life on land, sea or air; such assistance shall be authorized by the President for immediate response by specialized search and rescue units in conjunction with other Government Ministries and Agencies.

(e) The duties of the AFL in peacetime shall include support to the national law enforcement agencies when such support is requested and is approved by the President. Such support shall include exchange of information, personnel training, and mobilization and deployment of security contingents. At no time during peacetime however, shall the AFL engage in law enforcement within 🇱🇮, such function being the prerogative of the 🇱🇮 National Police and other law enforcement agencies. Notwithstanding, the Military Police of the AFL may, on request of the Ministry of Justice made to the Ministry of National Defense, and approved by the President of 🇱🇮, provide assistance to these law enforcement agencies as determined by prevailing situations. The AFL shall intervene only as a last resort, when the threat exceeds the capacity of the law enforcement agencies to respond.

Section 2.4: Contribution of Security Forces to the Military

In time of armed conflict, all Liberian Security forces shall automatically contribute to the operational defense of Liberian territory and people, according to their respective capabilities, alongside the AFL, upon the orders and approval of the President of 🇱🇮 in consultation with the Liberian Legislature.

Section 2.5: Standards of Conduct for the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮

Members of the AFL shall perform their duties at all times in accordance with democratic values and human rights. They shall perform their duties in a non-partisan manner, obey all lawful orders and commands from their superior officers in ways that command citizen respect and confidence and contribute towards the maintenance and promotion of the respect for the rule of law.

CHAPTER 3: ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND OF THE AFL

Section 3.1: Supervision and Command of the AFL

Members of the AFL, shall at all times observe and respect the principle of civilian control of the military. Decisions for the deployment of AFL military forces are the responsibility of the President of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮.

Section 3.2: Appointment and Duties of the Chief of Staff

(a) There shall be a Chief of Staff who shall be the head of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 and who shall be responsible for the operational effectiveness, readiness, morale and probity of the AFL. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for the provision of all military advice and plans. He or she shall issue orders for the deployment of AFL military forces within and outside the national territory of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 subject to the prior approval of the President of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮. The conditions contemplated under Section 2.7 of this Act shall apply. The Chief of Staff shall direct and be responsible for all activities and operations resulting from the deployment.

(b) The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be appointed by the President of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 with the consent of the Senate. The Chief of Staff shall serve at the pleasure of the President of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 and shall hold the rank of Lieutenant General.

(c) The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be the principal military advisor to the President, Minister of National Defense and the National Security Council, consistent with the chain of command.

(d) The Chief of Staff shall also perform the following specific duties:

1. Preside over the AFL General Staff;
2. Transmit the plans and recommendations of the General Staff to the Minister of National Defense and advice the Minister with regard to such plans and recommendations;
3. Perform such other military duties, not otherwise specifically assigned herein, as are assigned to him/her by the President through the chain of command;

(e) Planning, Advice and Policy Formulation. The Chief of Staff shall, in consultation with the Minister of National defense and subject however to the authority, direction and control of the commander-in-Chief, be responsible for the following:

1. Strategic Direction - Assisting the President of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 and the Minister of National Defense in providing for the strategic direction of the AFL.
2. Strategic Planning - Preparing strategic plans which conform to the resource levels projected by the Ministry of National Defense to be available for the time in which the plans are to be effective.
3. Contingency Planning - Providing for the preparation and review of contingency plans which conform to the policy guidance from the President through the Ministry of National Defense.
4. Preparedness - Advising the Minister of National Defense and the President on critical deficiencies and strengths in force capabilities (including manpower, logistics, and mobility support) and assessing the effect of such deficiencies and strengths on meeting national security objectives and policy and on strategic plans.
5. Advice on Requirements, Programs, and Budget -Advising the President and Minister of national Defense on the priorities of the requirements which have been identified by the AFL General Staff, and recommending to the Ministry of National defense budget proposals for the support of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮.

Section 3.3: Appointment and Duties of the Deputy Chief of Staff

There shall be a Deputy Chief of Staff who shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Deputy Chief of Staff shall serve at the pleasure of the President and shall hold the rank of Major General. The Deputy Chief shall be authorized to give instructions for the operational deployment of the AFL within 🇱🇮. Any such deployment shall be limited to the minimum time required and shall be subject to primacy of the civil authority. The decision to authorize the operational deployment of the AFL within 🇱🇮 shall be communicated expeditiously to the Legislature.

Section 3.4: AFL General and Special staff

(a) The AFL shall have a general and Special Staff with officers drawn from the Army, Coast Guard and Air Wing as recommended to the Minister of National Defense by the Chief of Staff and approved by the President of 🇱🇮. The General and Special Staff shall serve in the Ministry of National Defense and shall be directed by the Chief of Staff of the AFL.

(b) The ranks of the general and Special Staffs of the AFL shall be in accordance with the table of organization and structure of the unit to which they are assigned with the top rank being Colonel.

(c) The Commanders of Battalions shall hold the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel. Other officers and soldiers shall hold such ranks as prescribed by the table of organization and equipment of the unit to which they belong.

(d) The Commander of the Liberian Coast Guard shall hold the rank of Captain (Coast Guard) and the commander of units shall be Commanders. Other officers and sailors shall hold such ranks as prescribed by the table of organization and equipment of the unit to which they belong.

(e) The Commander of the Liberian Air Wing shall hold the rank of Colonel and the Commander of units shall hold the rank of lieutenant Colonel. Other officers and soldiers shall hold such ranks as prescribed by the table of organization and equipment of the unit to which they belong.

(f) Commander of the AFL brigade shall be by an officer authorized to hold the rank of Brigadier General. The Commander of the Liberian Coast Guard shall hold the rank of a Brigadier general. The Commander of the Liberian Coast Guard shall hold the rank of a Brigadier general. All orders from the President as Commander-in -Chief or from the minister of National defense shall be issued to the Commanding general through the Chief of Staff of the AFL. The Commanding general shall report, a required, on the operations and status of the AFL to the Chief of Staff of the AFL who shall communicate those reports to the minister of National Defense, and the Commander-in-Chief.

(g) Subordinate Commanders of the army, Coast Guard and Air Wing shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief of Staff and the Minister of Defense. These officers shall report to the Chief of Staff through the Commanding general and shall be entrusted with the command of their respective functions.

Section 3.5: Authority for Operational deployment of the AFL within 🇱🇮

Subject to receiving a request from the Ministry of Justice, as specified in section 2.3(D) above the Ministry of National Defense, with the approval of the President of 🇱🇮, shall authorized to give instructions for the operational deployment of the AFL within 🇱🇮. Any such deployment shall be limited to the minimum time required and shall be subject to primacy of the civil authority. The decision to authorize the operational deployment of the AFL within 🇱🇮 shall be communicated expeditiously to the Legislature.

Section 3.6: Authority for Operational deployment of the AFL outside of 🇱🇮

(a) **The President of Liberia** 🇱🇮 shall be the sole authority for the operational deployment of the AFL outside of the territory of 🇱🇮. The decision to authorize the operational deployment of the AFL outside of 🇱🇮 is subject to the approval of the Legislature.

(b) Whenever the Army is to be deployed under section 3.6(a) of this Act, the Legislature shall

be informed within one week with details of the purpose for deployment, the expenditure to be incurred or incurred, number of troops deployed or to be deployed, and the place they are being deployed.

(c) Units and personnel of the AFL deployed as part of a multinational force outside of 🇱🇮🇧🇪 shall function under the operational command and control of such forces consistent with the policies and agreements reached by the ministry of National Defense through the Chief of Staff in the case of disagreements with the operational command wherein he or she is deployed.

Section 3.7: Sustainability and affordability of the AFL

The strength and size of the AFL shall be determined by the national Security threat level of the Republic of 🇱🇮🇧🇪.

Section 3.8: Civil Authority over County units of the AFL

No civilian agency of the Liberian government other than the Ministry of National defense shall exercise authority over units of the AFL. Superintendents and County Officials shall not exercise authority over Units of the AFL stationed in or seconded to the county, whether permanently or for any temporary period. Notwithstanding, the Minister of National Defense shall have the authority to designate a liaison from the Ministry National defense who shall serve as the Ministry's representative on the Joint Security Committee of the Counties.

Section 3.9: Duties and Responsibilities specific to the Liberian Army

(a) The Liberian Army is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Maintaining the territorial integrity of 🇱🇮🇧🇪. Provide support in suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore law and order when called upon to do so and as laid down in section 2.3(d).
2. Participate in multilateral contingency operations, peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.
3. Honor 🇱🇮🇧🇪's international obligations and treaties to the extent that such obligations are consistent with the constitution of the Republic of 🇱🇮🇧🇪.

(b) In order to perform the functions enumerated above, the Liberian Army shall be equipped with the organic equipment and supplies

CHAPTER 4: THE COAST GUARD OF 🇱🇮🇧🇪

Section 4.1: Appointment of an Assistant Minister for Coast Guard Affairs

There shall be appointed an assistant minister for Defense for coast guard affairs, within the Liberian military (AFL), who shall be nominated, and with the consent of the Senate, appointed by the President. The President of 🇱🇮🇧🇪 is hereby authorized and empowered to make such arrangements as may be necessary for the proper functioning of the Coast Guard. The President is further authorized and empowered to negotiate and conclude arrangements for the acquisition of the necessary resources subject to legislative appropriation to equip the Coast Guard to adequately perform its functions.

Section 4.2: Duties and Responsibilities of the Liberian Coast Guard

(a) The Coast Guard of 🇱🇮🇧🇪 shall have law enforcement functions which relate to protecting the Liberian Coast lines and its marine. In order to carry out the functions assigned to it, the Liberian Coast Guard shall be empowered to make such inquiries, examinations, inspections, searches, seizures, and arrests upon the high seas as may be necessary under the laws of the Republic of 🇱🇮🇧🇪. Further, the commissioned, warrant, and petty officers and enlisted ratings of the Liberian Coast Guard shall at any time be empowered to go on board any vessel subject to the jurisdiction or to the operation of any law of the Republic of 🇱🇮🇧🇪, address inquiries to those aboard, examine the ship's documents and papers, and examine, inspect, and search the vessel and use necessary minimum force to compel compliance.

(b) When from such inquiries, examination, inspection, or search, it appears that a breach of the laws of the Republic of **Liberia** rendering a person liable to arrest is being or has been committed, the person shall be arrested, or if escaping to shore, shall be immediately pursued and arrested on shore, or other lawful and appropriate action shall be taken. All persons so arrested shall be transferred to the legal custody of the appropriate civilian law enforcement agency as soon as practicable thereafter.

(c) If it appears that a breach of the laws of the republic of **Liberia** has been committed as renders the vessel, fittings, cargo of any of the merchandise on board the vessel liable to forfeiture, or as renders the vessel liable to a fine or penalty and if necessary to secure such fine penalty, the vessel or the merchandise, or both, shall be seized. All such seized vessels, fittings, cargos and merchandise shall be impounded until requirements of the laws of the Republic of **Liberia** are satisfied and any duty imposed legal penalties are met in full.

Section 4.3: Collaboration with Other Ministries and Agencies

The Liberian Coast Guard shall collaborate and work closely with other Ministries and Agencies of the Republic of **Liberia** to ensure that the national interest of the Republic is protected at sea. The collaboration shall be made in the areas of saving lives at sea, enforcing marine safety regulations, prevention of crimes, terrorism or illegal movement of protection of marine resources, including persons, assisting in the fisheries and undersea minerals, assisting with hydrographic survey and the protection of hydrocarbon resources, aid in dealing with the effects of natural disasters and pollution and help maintain a national marine search and rescue organization.

Section 4.4: Rendering aid to distressed Persons, vessels and aircraft

(a) In accordance with the order to render aid to distressed person, vessels, and aircraft on the high seas and waters over which the Republic of **Liberia** has jurisdiction and also with the view to rendering assistance to persons and property imperiled or endangered by floods and wrecks, the Liberian Coast Guard shall:

1. Perform any and all acts necessary to rescue, aid persons, and protect and save property.
2. Compel any persons or vessels with the capacity to render assistance to distress persons and vessels at sea.
3. Take charge of and protect all property saved from marine or aircraft disasters or floods which the Liberian Coast Guard is present, until such property is claimed by persons legally authorized to receive it or until otherwise disposed of in accordance with the laws of the Republic of **Liberia** or regulations governing the Liberian Coast Guard and care for bodies of those whom may have perished in such catastrophes.
4. Destroy or tow into port sunken or floating dangers to navigation

CHAPTER 5: THE LIBERIAN AIR WING

Section 5.1: Liberian Air Wing - Appointment of Assistant Minister

There shall be within the Liberian military (AFL) the Liberian Air Wing shall hold the rank of Colonel and the Commander of Unit shall hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonels other officers and soldiers shall hold such ranks as prescribed by the table of organization and equipment of the unit to which they belong.

Section 5.2: Duties and responsibilities Specific to the Liberian Air Wing

(a) The Liberian Air Wing is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Undertake search and rescue missions.
2. Provide limited air transportation for the movement of troops and logistics for the Armed

Forces of Liberia .

3. Undertake medical evacuation.

4. Undertake limited marine patrol over Liberian Exclusive Economic Zone.

5. The Liberian Air Wing also has the responsibility of assisting other government ministries and agencies in times of emergency and natural or man-made disasters as well as assisting in evacuation and logistic movement.

(b) In order to perform these functions, the Liberian Air Wing shall be equipped with the requisite equipment by the Government of .

(c) The comparative ranks of the AFL are laid out below:

Grade Army Coast Guard Air Wing

0-9 Lieutenant General – _

0-8 Major General _ _

0-7 Brigadier General _ _

0-6 Colonel Captain Colonel

0-5 Lieutenant Colonel Commander Lieutenant

0-4 Major Lieutenant Commander Major

0-3 Captain Lieutenant Captain

0-2 First Lieutenant Lieutenant (junior grade) First Lieutenant

0-1 Second Lieutenant English Second Lieutenant

E-8 Sergeant Major Master Chief Petty Officer Chief Master Sergeant

E-7 Master sergeant Senior Chief Petty Officer Master sergeant

E-6 First Sergeant Chief Petty Officer Technical Sergeant

E-5 Staff Sergeant Petty Officer 1st Class Staff Sergeant

E-4 Sergeant Petty Officer 2nd Class Senior Airman/Woman

E-3 Corporal Petty Officer 3rd Airman/Woman 1st Class

E-2 Private First Class Seaman Airman

E-1 Private Seaman Recruit Airman/Woman Basic

Section 5.3: Assignment of Units

The assignment of units within the AFL shall be determined by the Chief of Staff of the AFL subject to approval of the Minister of National Defense.

Section 5.4: Organizational Structures

The organization of the AFL shall be modeled in accordance with modern military best practice. In particular, the AFL shall be inter-operable and compatible with the other armed forces of MRU, ECOWAS as well as those of the African Union and other nations in general.

Section 5.5: Training and Administrative Regulations

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall draw up and promulgate regulations for the training, administration and operations of the AFL. These regulations shall be reviewed on a regular basis and approved by the Minister of National Defense.

Section 5.6: Estimates of Expenses, Budget Preparation and Funding Management

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall prepare estimates of expenditure and expenses of the AFL to the Ministry of National Defense on an annual basis in support of the Defense and National Budgetary Process.

CHAPTER 6: NATIONAL MILITARY RESPONSE CENTRE (NMRC)

Section 6.1: National Military Response Centre (NMRC)

The Ministry of National Defense shall establish a National Military Response Centre (NMRC) which shall function as a central crisis monitoring and management organization for the Ministry of National Defense and AFL to coordinate their actions. The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall exercise overall direction of the National Military Response Centre. The structure, manning and mission of the National Military Response Centre shall be determined by the Chief of Staff in consultation with the Minister of National Defense with the intent that this facility monitor the military situation for possible security contingencies, and communicate and control responses directed by duly appointed command authorities.

CHAPTER 7: MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF 🇱🇧

Section 7.1: A National Force for 🇱🇧

The AFL shall be a truly national force that reflects the ethnic, gender, religious and regional diversity of the country. It shall reward merit, loyalty and dedicated effort to the nation.

Section 7.2: Eligibility for Service in the Armed Forces of 🇱🇧

Service in the AFL shall be open to all qualified citizens of 🇱🇧 between the ages of 18 to 35. Applicants shall possess not less than a high school diploma or equivalent vocational education, and meet the professional, medical and other fitness qualifications of the AFL. The Ministry of National Defense shall establish a committee to investigate a recruit to ensure they have not committed human rights abuses and/or other violations. The AFL shall at all times reflect the national character of 🇱🇧.

Section 7.3: Method of Recruitment

The Ministry of National Defense shall draw up and promulgate regulations detailing with the required entry standards and rules for recruitment into the AFL. The terms of enlistment shall be subject to a one-year probationary period during which, if the AFL member is found to be unfit for service, he or she may be dismissed upon recommendation from the Chief of Staff to the Minister of National Defense.

Section 7.4: Period of Enlistment

Military service in the AFL shall be by voluntary enlistment and shall be for a minimum period of five (5) years, after which members may continue their service in accordance with procedures established by the Ministry of Defense, and approved by the President.

Section 7.5: Oath of Allegiance

All persons enlisted for service in the AFL shall at the time of enlistment take the following oath of allegiance:

I (STATE NAME) DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF 🇱🇧 AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, AND DEFEND THE STATE AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF 🇱🇧; THAT I WILL OBEY LAWFUL ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND ALL OFFICERS APPOINTED OVER ME ACCORDING TO THE RULES AND ARTICLES OF WAR; THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY, WITHOUT MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION; THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTY OF THE OFFICE OF UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER, SO HELP ME GOD.

Section 7.6: Quarters and Medical Attendance

Quarters and medical attendance shall be supplied free of charge to each service member of the AFL.

Section 7.7: Reasons for Discharge

Military personnel in the AFL may be discharged for reason of: (a) voluntary retirement; (b) age; (c) tenure; (d) disabilities (e) conviction by court-martial; (f) sentence by a Liberian civil or

criminal court; (g) misconduct; (h) fraudulent enlistment; (i) physical incapacity to perform official duties; or (j) for the good of the service, and/or for conduct not in keeping with the AFL standards and also for conduct which contravenes the Constitution of the Republic.

Section 7.8: Certificate of Discharge

Each soldier who shall serve 20 days or more in the AFL and shall, upon being discharged, be furnished with a printed certificate of discharge which shall state the conditions of the discharge.

Section 7.9: Regulations Applicable to the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮

The AFL shall be subject to and be governed by such regulations as the Ministry of National Defense may have made or hereafter shall make with the approval of the President, consistent with the Constitution.

Section 7.10: Appointment of Officers

In accordance with Article 54 of the Constitution of the Republic of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮, the President shall nominate and, with the consent of the Senate, appoint and commission members of the AFL from the rank of lieutenant or its equivalent and above. Procedures for identifying candidates for commissioned service, including the appropriate rank to be held by each candidate for commissioning, shall be prescribed and promulgated by the Chief of Staff and subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defense, taking into consideration geographical representation.

Section 7.11: Conditions of Service

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall draw up and promulgate regulations of the conditions of service for all members of the AFL subject to approval of the Minister of National Defense. These regulations shall be made public and reviewed regularly.

Section 7.12: Assignment of AFL Personnel

The Chief of Staff of the AFL, subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defense, shall be responsible for the assignment of all AFL personnel.

Section 7.13: Discharge of AFL Personnel

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall devise and promulgate regulations for the discharge of AFL personnel, both on a voluntary and involuntary basis subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defense. Discharge for involuntary or disciplinary reasons shall be in accordance with AFL Regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

CHAPTER 8: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AFL PERSONNEL

Section 8.1: Allegiance

All members of the AFL shall owe their full and undivided allegiance to the Republic of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮. They shall take no action or permit any activity that is contrary or injurious to the Constitution, the laws and people of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮.

Section 8.2: Standards of Conduct

All members of the AFL remain citizens who are subject to the laws of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮. They shall perform their duties at all times in accordance with democratic values and human rights, a non-partisan approach to duty, and in ways that command citizen respect and confidence and contribute towards maintaining and promoting respect for the rule of law.

Section 8.3: Political Neutrality

As citizens all members of the AFL shall have the right to a secret vote, but in all other ways they shall be politically neutral and shall not join, support or participate in the activities of any political party or similar organizations.

Section 8.4: Legal obligations and protection for members of the AFL

All members of the AFL shall be subject to the uniform code of military justice whether on duty or off-duty. All members of the AFL shall be entitled to the same legal protection and safeguards

as other citizens of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮.

Section 8.5: Respect for Human Rights

All members of the AFL shall respect the human rights of all persons at all times. No member of the AFL shall engage in any form of torture, mistreatment, abuse or degrading behavior to other persons at all times.

Section 8.6: The Laws of Armed Conflict

All members of the AFL shall comply fully with International Humanitarian Laws and the laws of armed conflict including the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols.

Section 8.7: Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

The AFL shall provide equal opportunity for all members with advancement based on individual merit. They shall ensure that no person is discriminated against by reason of gender, clan, language, ethnic affiliation, or religious background.

Section 8.8: Outside Employment

All members of the AFL shall give a full commitment to their jobs and shall not take up outside pay or remunerative employment without the express written permission of their commanding officer in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of National Defense.

CHAPTER 9: AFL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Section 9.1: General Principles of Acquisition, Use, Accounting and Disposal

The Ministry of National Defense and the AFL shall carry out the acquisition, use, accounting and disposal of equipment, consumables, supplies and information for the purposes of national defense as directed by the Commander-in-Chief and as financially authorized by the Budget. All such activities must be conducted within the laws of the Republic of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 and specifically no person shall make private benefit from such activities.

Section 9.2: Acquisition of equipment, real property, consumables, supplies and information

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be responsible for specifying the requirements, equipment quantities, qualities and desired effects of all equipment, consumables, supplies, and information required by the AFL. All of the above are subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defense.

Section 9.3: Accounting for Public Property

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be accountable for the proper receipt, record keeping, storage, use and ultimate disposal of all public properties, including real property, in the charge of the AFL. The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be similarly accountable to the Minister of National Defense for the public property, including real property, held by the AFL.

Section 9.4: Accounting of public funds

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be accountable for the proper receipt, recording-keeping, disbursement and audit of public funds and property in the charge of the AFL. The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be similarly accountable to the Minister of National Defense for the public funds held by the AFL.

Section 9.5: Disposal of equipment, real property, consumables, supplies, and information

The Chief of Staff of the AFL shall be responsible for ensuring that all surplus, obsolete, damaged or otherwise not required supplies are disposed of in an open, transparent manner in accordance with the laws of the Republic of 🇱🇮 Liberia 🇱🇮 upon the approval of the Minister of National Defense. He shall be assisted by the general and special staff of the AFL, who shall provide expert advice on the specific requirements for the disposal of such supplies.

Section 9.6: Auditing of public property and funds

The Ministry of National Defense shall establish a recognized and credible system of auditing and accountability for all public property, including real property and funds in the charge of the AFL.

Section 9.7: Legislative Oversight of Accountability and Auditing

Consistent with Article 34b & c of the Constitution, the Legislature of 🇱🇮 shall exercise its oversight responsibilities by requiring report from the AFL through the Ministry of National Defense on accountability and may asked questions on areas of defense concerns. This Legislative oversight shall be transparent and may .be available to the public but remain cognizant of the national security interest of the country.

Chapter 10: COMPENSATION AND PERQUISITES

Section 10.1: Salary for members of the armed forces

Members of the AFL shall be paid a monthly salary according to a schedule of compensation to be developed by the Minister of National Defense, in consultation with the Chief of Staff of the AFL, and approved by the National, budgetary process, based on rank, longevity of service, and whatever other factors as may be necessary for the determination of such compensations. Sufficient funds shall be appropriated annually through the national budgetary process to defray the cost of compensation for the AFL.

Section 10.2: Allowances and rations

(a) Provision of allowances and rations to members of the AFL shall be in accordance with annual budgetary appropriations for those purposes.

(b) Housing in government quarters shall be authorized to active duty service members of the AFL and based on availability, to their family members in accordance with administrative regulations developed by the Chief of Staff of the AFL subject to the approval of the Minister of National Defense.

(c) Separating members of the AFL who have completed a minimum of five (5) years of honorable service shall be furnished separation transition assistance in accordance with annual budgetary appropriations for those purposes. This assistance is intended to ease the transition of that service member in his or her return to civilian life. Accordingly, the ministry of National Defense shall promulgate administrative regulations that will define the transitional package Separating members are not entitled to remain in government quarters past their separation date.

Section 10.3: Pension for veterans of armed forces

(a) A service member in the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮, who honorably service the AFL up to retirement age shall be entitled to a monthly retirement pension based on the years of active service. The projected costs of annual pensions shall be submitted by the Ministry of National Defense in the annual defense budget for approval by the Legislature, provided that such cost shall not be less than 50% and not more than 60% of the personnel's last pay during active service.

(b) A service member who incurs a service-connected disability during his or her period of military service shall receive a monthly disability during his or her period of military service, a monthly disability pension; the amount to be determined by the Minister of National Defense, advised by the Chief of Staff of the AFL consistent with policy set the Ministry of National Defense and approved by the Legislature.

Section 10.4: Pensions for widows, widowers and minor children of members of Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 personnel who died in performance of duties

In the case of death of a member of the Armed Forces of 🇱🇮 in the course of the lawful discharge of official duties, the spouse and minor (under age 18 years) children of that member shall receive a monthly pension, the amount and duration to be determined by the Ministry of National Defense, advised by the Chief of Staff of the AFL, and approved by the Legislature,

with the provision that the total cost of such pensions shall be commensurate with the ability of the national budget to sustain the expense.

Section 10.5: Hospitalization and medical care

Hospitalization and medical care shall be provided when required to all service members of the AFL while serving on active duty, their spouses and natural born dependent children, not exceeding 18 years of age.

Section 10.6: Regulations for Compensation and Perquisites

The Minister of National Defense; advised by the Chief of Staff of the AFL, shall prescribe and promulgate the detailed regulations for all aspects of the compensation and perquisites of members of the AFL, including pay, allowances, pensions, separation assistance, medical care, housing benefits and related matters. Such regulations shall be made publicly available and shall be updated on a regular basis.

CHAPTER 11: ENTRY INTO FORCE

Section 11.1: This Act shall take effect immediately upon the publication into handbill.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING

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