

## AN ACT ADOPTING A NEW AGRICULTURE LAW

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

Section 1. Title 2 of the Liberian Code of Laws of 1956, known as the Agriculture Law, as amended through the Fourth Regular Session of the Forty-Sixth Legislature, is hereby repealed, and there is enacted in lieu thereof a new Agriculture Law, to be title 3 of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised.

### Chapter 1. PLANT AND ANIMAL QUARANTINE

- § 1.1. Short title.
- § 1.2. Purpose.
- § 1.3. Definitions.
- § 1.4. Authority and responsibilities of Minister of Agriculture.
- § 1.5. Penalty for violation of chapter provisions.

#### § 1.1. Short title.

This chapter may be cited as "The Plant and Animal Quarantine Act."

§ 2; Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:1; L. 1949, ch. XXXIX, § 2; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. I, § 1; L. 1937, ch. II, § 1.

#### § 1.2. Purpose.

It shall be the purpose of this chapter to prevent entry into Liberia of injurious plant and animal pests and diseases existing in foreign countries and to prevent the spread of such pests and diseases should they become established in Liberia.

§ 3; Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:2; L. 1949, ch. XXXIX, § 3; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. II, § 2.

#### § 1.3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, "plants" shall be construed to mean living plant material of every description and "animals" shall be construed to mean all non-human animal life, whether domesticated or wild.

§ 3; Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:3; L. 1949, ch. XXXIX, § 3; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. II, § 2; L. 1937, ch. II, § 2.

§ 1.4. Authority and responsibilities of Minister of Agriculture.

The Minister of Agriculture is authorized and directed to:

(a) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the inspection and control of the importation of living plants and animals of every description and in any form, as are necessary in his opinion to protect the agriculture and food supplies of the Republic from injurious plant and animal pests and diseases existing in foreign countries.

(b) Prohibit the importation into Liberia of plants or animals which are poisonous, noxious or which produce deleterious drugs, or which may be infested or infected by harmful pests or diseases or which shall have been exposed to such pests or diseases within sixty days next before their exportation; except that nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting the importation of such plants and animals for scientific, medical, experimental or educational purposes subject to such rules and regulations as the Minister may prescribe.

(c) Provide, when necessary, for the destruction of plants and animals refused entry for non-compliance with rules and regulations prescribed under the authority of this chapter.

(d) Establish domestic quarantines in defined areas when such action is deemed necessary in order to prevent the spread of any pest or disease potentially dangerous to plants and animals which may become established within the Republic, by regulating or prohibiting the movement into, through or

out of the quarantined areas of any plant or animal capable of spreading such pest or disease.

(e) Provide for the destruction of any plants or animals growing or living in Liberia which are found to be infested or infected by injurious pests or disease, the spread of which would seriously threaten the agriculture and food supplies of the Republic.

(f) Seize, quarantine, treat, or apply other remedial measures to destroy or otherwise dispose of in such reasonable manner as he deems appropriate, any product or article of any character whatever, or any means of conveyance, which is moving into or through Liberia and which he has reason to believe is infested or infected by or contains any injurious plant or animal pests or diseases or was infested or infected by or contained any such pests or diseases or was exposed to any such pests or diseases, taking into consideration the nature of the pests or diseases and the necessity of such action to protect the agriculture and food supplies of the Republic.

(g) Compensate the owners of any plants, animals, products, articles and means of conveyance destroyed pursuant to the provisions of subparagraphs (e) and (f) from funds made available out of the annual appropriations for the Ministry of Agriculture, provided that the presence of the injurious pests or diseases which gave rise to such destruction can be clearly established as not due to the carelessness or negligence of the owners. Such compensation shall be based upon the fair market value of any such

plants, animals, products, articles or means of conveyance at the time of the destruction thereof.

(h) Designate which of the ports of entry enumerated in the Revenue and Finance Law may be used for the importation of plants and animals.

(i) Appoint official plant and animal inspectors and any other inspectors considered necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

(j) Promulgate regulations requiring full registration with the Ministry of Agriculture of all scientists, scientific associations, corporations, companies, or agents as well as agents of foreign governments, entering Liberia for the purpose of collecting scientific data concerning plants and animals or plant and animal material and requiring them to file with the Ministry copies of all data obtained and samples of all plant material collected within the country.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:4; L. 1949, ch. XXXIX, § 4; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. II, § 3; L. 1937, ch. II, § 17.

§ 1.5. Penalty for violation of chapter provisions.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or who shall forge, counterfeit, alter, deface or destroy any application, permit or certificate provided for in the rules and regulations shall be subject to a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than one year. In construing and enforcing the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the act or omission of any officer, agent or other person acting for or employed by any corporation,

firm, company, society, association or other organized group shall in every case be deemed also to be the act or omission of the corporation, firm, company, society, association or other organized group, as well as that of the person.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:5; L. 1949, ch. XXXIX, §5; L. 1948-49, ch. IX, t. III, § 1; L. 1937, ch. II, §§ 15, 17 (5).

## Chapter 2. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- § 2.1. Establishment of National Livestock Bureau.
- § 2.2. National artificial insemination program.
- § 2.3. Policies and objectives of artificial insemination program.

### § 2.1. Establishment of National Livestock Bureau.

The President is hereby authorized to create and establish a bureau within the Ministry of Agriculture to be named "The National Livestock Bureau." Its function shall be to provide necessary administration and coordination to the development of the animal husbandry resources of the Republic.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:22; L. 1953-54, ch. XI, §3.

### §2.2. National artificial insemination program.

The Ministry of Agriculture is hereby authorized to institute a national campaign to increase livestock production by the use of artificial insemination techniques and practices, to be carried out by the National Livestock Bureau to the fullest extent within the means at its disposal. To that end, the Minister shall establish regional centers where animals will be serviced under the artificial insemination program herein authorized.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:20, 23 (1st sent.), 24; L. 1953-54, ch. XI, §§ 1, 4 (1st sent.), 5 (last sent.).

### § 2.3. Policies and objectives of artificial insemination program.

The initial policies and primary objectives of the artificial

ificial insemination program to be carried out by the National Livestock Bureau shall be as follows:

(a) Establishing contacts with institutions already familiar with artificial insemination practices in tropical countries;

(b) Development of a regional program which will lend itself to taking full advantage of the services of the scientist and utilization of semen when flown in under special refrigerated conditions;

(c) Enforcing such sanitary measures through the veterinarian service of the Ministry of Agriculture as may be found necessary to sustain maximum health of animals and safe execution of the program;

(d) Giving training in artificial insemination techniques and practices, offering technical assistance to those engaged in livestock production and disseminating knowledge and acceptance of the artificial insemination program throughout the country.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:23; L. 1953-54, ch.XI, § 4.

### Chapter 3. PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

#### § 3.1. Destruction of palm trees on public lands forbidden.

No person, except in accordance with regulations proscribed by the Ministry of Agriculture in respect to their preservation, shall unnecessarily remove from public lands, including land within tribal reserves, or cut down, injure or destroy, any palm tree growing thereon. Any person who violates this section or fails to comply with any regulation made pursuant thereto shall be subject to prosecution under the provisions of the Penal Law relating to the unlawful taking, injuring or destruction of Government property.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:40; OBB 133, Public Domain, art IV, § 4; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act to prevent destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1509; Acts 1841, Act to prevent the destroying of palm trees, 2 Hub. 1433.

Chapter 4. MISCELLANEOUS

- § 4.1. Boundary posts to be erected on farm lands.  
§ 4.2. Annual National Agricultural Fair and Commercial Fair.

§ 4.1. Boundary posts to be erected on farm lands.

Every owner of land devoted to agriculture shall keep erected at the boundary corners of such land, posts made of substantial and long lasting material, six inches square at the top, standing two feet above ground and planted eighteen inches deep or fashioned in accordance with such dimensional variations as shall be permitted under boundary marking rules promulgated by the Minister of Agriculture.

Prior legislation: 1956 Code 2:60; OBB 133, Public Domain, art. IV, § 6; 1841 Digest, pt. I, Act pertaining to lands and reservations, apportionments and improvements of the same, § 7, 2 Hub. 1463; Com. L. (Sept. 1824), 2 Hub 1344, 1349, 1st.

§ 4.2. Annual National Agricultural Fair and Commercial Fair.

The Minister of Agriculture, with the approval of the President, is hereby authorized and empowered to hold an annual National Agricultural Fair where exhibits may be made of farm machinery, insecticides, low-cost prefabricated farm housing and various agricultural products. Such fairs, with the consent of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Transportation upon approval by the President, may be held in conjunction with one held under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation and to be known as the annual National Agri-

cultural and Commercial Fair.

Prior legislation: 1957-58 Supp., 2:61; L. 1955-56,  
ch. IV, § 7.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in hand-bills.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.