Namibia

Riotous Assemblies Act, 1956
Act 17 of 1956

Legislation as at 11 November 1977
FRBR URI: /akn/na/act/1956/17/eng@1977-11-11

There may have been updates since this file was created.

PDF created on 30 August 2022 at 07:40.
Collection last checked for updates: 25 August 2022.

About this collection
The legislation in this collection has been reproduced as it was originally printed in the Government Gazette, with improved formatting and with minor typographical errors corrected. All amendments have been applied directly to the text and annotated. A scan of the original gazette of each piece of legislation (including amendments) is available for reference.

This is a free download from the Laws.Africa Legislation Commons, a collection of African legislation that is digitised by Laws.Africa and made available for free.

www.laws.africa
info@laws.africa

There is no copyright on the legislative content of this document.
This PDF copy is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License (CC BY 4.0). Share widely and freely.
Riotous Assemblies Act, 1956

Contents

16. Special precautions in the interest of public safety as regards explosives ................................................................. 2

Chapter III – Amendment of the Criminal Law .................................................................................................................. 2

17. Acts or conduct which constitute an incitement to public violence ........................................................................ 2

18. Attempt, conspiracy and inducing another person to commit offence ................................................................. 3

Chapter IV – Supplementary Provisions ............................................................................................................................ 3

Section 19A. .......................................................................................................................................................................... 3

20. Repeal of laws ................................................................................................................................................................. 3

21. Short title ........................................................................................................................................................................ 4

Schedule ............................................................................................................................................................................. 4
Riotous Assemblies Act, 1956
Act 17 of 1956

Published in South African Government Gazette no. 5651 on 16 March 1956

Assented to on 8 March 1956

Commenced on 16 June 1976

[This is the version of this document from 11 November 1977 and includes any amendments published up to 25 August 2022.]

[Amended by Riotous Assemblies Amendment Proclamation, 1977.(Proclamation AG10 of 1977) on 11 November 1977]

[APPLICABILITY TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Section 19A, inserted by Act 79 of 1976, states “This Act and any amendment thereof shall apply also in the territory of South West Africa, including the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel.”]

[TRANSFER TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA: The administration of this Act was transferred to South West Africa by the Executive Powers (Justice) Transfer Proclamation, AG 33 of 1979, dated 12 November 1979. After the date of transfer, much of the Act was repealed by the South African Intimidation Act 72 of 1982, which was made expressly applicable to South West Africa by virtue of the Security Matters Proclamation, AG 29 of 1985 (OG 5059). However, other portions of the Act were repealed in South Africa by the Internal Security Act 74 of 1982 (RSA GG 8232), which did not apply to South West Africa because it was not made expressly so applicable. Act 17 of 1956 thus applied to South West Africa as it stood in South Africa after Act 72 of 1982, but before Act 74 of 1982.]

[Section 3(1)(f) of the transfer proclamation excluded the term “Republic” from the provisions of section 3(1)(c) of the Executive Powers Transfer (General Provisions) Proclamation, AG 7 of 1977, except where it occurred for the second and third times in section 5 of the Act (which was repealed in 1989). Thus, in the remainder of the Act, prior to Namibian independence, “Republic” continued to refer only to South Africa even after the transfer.]

which came into force on the date of publication (21 July 1989), repealed sections 1, 3, 5 and
7-9. Thus, the only remaining sections of the Act are sections 16, 17, 18, 19A, 20 and 21.]

ACT

To consolidate the laws relating to riotous assemblies and the prohibition of the engendering of feelings
of grievous enmity between various sections of the inhabitants of the territory of South West Africa and
matters incidental thereto, and the laws relating to certain offences.

[The long title is amended by Act 30 of 1974 and by AG 10 of 1977. The only remaining sections of
the Act concern power to regulate the transportation of explosives and the criminal offences of
incitement to public violence, conspiracy, attempted crimes, and inducement to commit crimes.]

(Afrikaans text signed by the Governor-General)

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of
South Africa, as follows:-

[AG 10 of 1977 makes the following substitutions throughout the Act (except in sections 1, 5 and 16):
[* “Administrator-General” for “State President” and “Minister”;
[* “territory” for “Republic”; and
[* “Official Gazette” for “Gazette”.

16. Special precautions in the interest of public safety as regards explosives

(1) Whenever the State President deems it necessary to take special precautions to maintain public
order or to protect life and property he may, by proclamation in the Gazette, prohibit for such
period as he may think fit the transportation of explosives from anyone place to any other place
in the Republic, except under such safeguards and conditions as are prescribed by regulation,
and may make regulations, to be in force for such limited period as he may think fit, as to the
transportation of explosives to and from particular areas, or as to the storage, removal, possession
or use of explosives within any particular area by all persons or by persons of specified occupations
or callings, and may limit or vary the conditions of any licences or permits held or to be issued
under the Explosives Act, 1956 (Act No. 26 of 1956), or the regulations made thereunder.

[subsection (1) substituted by Act 30 of 1974]

(2) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of any proclamation or
regulation issued under sub-section (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the
penalties mentioned in section fifteen.

[AG 10 of 1977 directs generally that the word "Administrator-General" is to be
substituted for "State President", "territory" for "Republic" and "Official Gazette" for
"Gazette" throughout the Act, but it excludes section 16 from these substitutions.]

[Section 3(1)(f) of the Executive Powers (Justice) Transfer Proclamation, AG 33 of 1979,
excluded the term "Republic" in this section from the provisions of section 3(1)(c) of the
Executive Powers Transfer (General Provisions) Proclamation, AG 7 of 1977. Therefore, prior
to Namibian independence, "Republic" in this section continued to refer only to South Africa.]

Chapter III
Amendment of the Criminal Law

17. Acts or conduct which constitute an incitement to public violence

[The verb "constitute" in the heading should be "constitutes" to be grammatically correct.]
A person shall be deemed to have committed the common law offence of incitement to public violence if, in any place whatever, he has acted or conducted himself in such a manner, or has spoken or published such words, that it might reasonably be expected that the natural and probable consequences of his act, conduct, speech or publication would, under the circumstances, be the commission of public violence by members of the public generally or by persons in whose presence the act or conduct took place or to whom the speech or publication was addressed.

18. Attempt, conspiracy and inducing another person to commit offence

(1) Any person who attempts to commit any offence against a statute or a statutory regulation shall be guilty of an offence and, if no punishment is expressly provided thereby for such an attempt, be liable on conviction to the punishment to which a person convicted of actually committing that offence would be liable.

(2) Any person who -

(a) conspires with any other person to aid or procure the commission of or to commit; or

(b) incites, instigates, commands, or procures any other person to commit, any offence, whether at common law or against a statute or statutory regulation, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the punishment to which a person convicted of actually committing that offence would be liable.

Chapter IV
Supplementary Provisions

19A. This Act and any amendment thereof shall apply also in the territory of South West Africa, including the Eastern Caprivi Zipfel.

[section 19A, without a heading, inserted by Act 79 of 1976]

20. Repeal of laws

(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (4), the laws specified in the Schedule are hereby repealed to the extent set out in the third column of the Schedule.

(2) So much of the common law as renders illegal any gathering of persons in the open air without the consent of the authorities shall cease to be in operation in the territory.

[Subsection (2) is amended by Act 30 of 1974 to substitute “Republic” for “Union”, and by the global substitutions in AG 10 of 1977 to substitute “territory” for “Republic”.]

(3) In the event of any conflict between the provisions of any law, or bye-law or regulation made under a law, and the provisions of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall prevail, but, save as herein provided, the provisions of any such law, bye-law, or regulation shall be of the same force and effect as if this Act had not been passed.

(4) Any proclamation, regulation, notice, order, prohibition, authority, permission, information or document issued, made, promulgated, given or granted and any other action taken under any provision of a law repealed by sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have been issued, made, promulgated, given, granted or taken under the corresponding provision of this Act.
21. **Short title**

This Act shall be called the Riotous Assemblies Act, 1956.

**Schedule**

**Laws Repealed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. and Year of Law</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Extent of Repeal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act No. 27 of 1914</td>
<td>Riotous Assemblies and Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1914.</td>
<td>So much as is unrepealed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act No. 19 of 1950</td>
<td>Riotous Assemblies (Amendment) Act, 1930.</td>
<td>The whole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act No. 15 of 1954</td>
<td>Riotous Assemblies and Suppression of Communism Amendment Act, 1954.</td>
<td>Section two [full stop missing in Gazette]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>