THE CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Constitution - the fundamental Law on June 28, 1996. The day of its adoption is a state holiday - the Day of the Constitution of Ukraine. The Constitution establishes the country's political system, assures rights, freedoms and duties of citizens, and is that basis for its laws. The Constitution of Ukraine consists of 15 chapters, 161 articles.

It asserts that Ukraine is a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, legal state. It is a Unitarian state with single citizenship. Ukraine is republic. The people are the only source of power.

The capital of Ukraine is Kyiv. The Constitution defines the territorial structure of Ukraine. It is composed of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 24 oblasts, rayon’s, cities, rayons in cities, settlements and villages. Cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol have a special status determined by law.

The state language in Ukraine is Ukrainian. The state symbols of Ukraine are the State Rag, the State Emblem and the State Anthem of Ukraine.

The Constitution states that every person has the right to the free development of his/her personality, and has obligations before society where free and full development of the personality is guaranteed. Citizens have equal Constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law. There are no privileges or restrictions based upon characteristics of person.

The articles of the Constitution guarantee the rights to life, personal inviolability and the inviolability of dwelling, noninterference in private and family life, free choice of residence, work, rest, education, social security, housing, health protection, medical care and medical insurance, legal assistance, a safe and healthy environment.

The Constitution defines the structure of the national government and specifies its powers and duties. Under the Constitution the powers of the government are divided into the three branches - the legislative which consists of the Verkhovna Rada, the executive, headed by the President, and the judicial, which is led by the Supreme Court.

The parliament - the Verkhovna Rada is the only body of the legislative power in Ukraine. There are 450 people’s deputies who are elected for a term of four years. The Verkhovna Rada's main function is making laws and adopting the State Budget for the period from January 1 to December 31 and controlling the execution of it. The monetary unit of Ukraine is the Hryvna.

The President of Ukraine is the head of the state and speaks on behalf of it. He is elected directly by the voters for a term of five years with no more than two full terms.

The highest body of the executive power is the Cabinet of Ministers. It is responsible to the President and is accountable to the Verkhovna Rada.

Justice in Ukraine is exercised entirely by courts. It is administered by the Constitutional Court and by courts of general jurisdiction. The Supreme Court of Ukraine is the highest juridical body of general jurisdiction.