

# **The Central Bank of Kenya Act**

## **CHAPTER 491**

### Note

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## **CHAPTER 491**

# **THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT**

### **ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

#### **PART I - PRELIMINARY**

**Section**

- 1 - Short title.
- 2 - Interpretation.

#### **PART II- ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS**

- 3 Establishment of Bank and legal status.
- 4 Principal object of the Bank
- 4A Other objects of the Bank
- 4B Monetary policy statements
- 4C Consultations on monetary policy
- 4D Monetary Policy Committee
- 5 Head office and branches.
- 6 Agents.
- 7 Exemption from tax.

#### **PART III-CAPITAL AND RESERVES**

- 8 Authorized capital of Bank.
- 9 General Reserve Fund.

#### **PART IV-MANAGEMENT**

**Section**

- 10 - Board of Directors
- 11 - The Board of Directors.

- 12 Meetings of Board.
- 12A Delegation by the Board.
- 13 Governor.
- 13A Common seal and power of attorney.
- 13B Deputy Governor
- 14 General disqualifications for all Board members.
- 15 Special disqualifications for Governor and Deputy Governor
- 16 Remuneration.
- 17 Preservation of secrecy.
- 18 Declaration of interest.

### **PART V-CURRENCY**

- 19 Currency of Kenya.
- 20 External value of the shilling.
- 21 Use of Kenya shilling.
- 22 Issue of notes and coins, legal tender, and withdrawal.
- 23 (Spent)
- 24 Exchange of mutilated notes and coins.
- 25 Bills of exchange, promissory notes, etc.

### **PART VI - EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

- 26 Reserve of external assets.
- 27 Dealings in gold and foreign exchange.
- 28 Institutions with which Bank may deal in foreign exchange.
- 29 Relations with foreign central banks, foreign banks and Foreign financial institutions.
- 30 (Repealed).
- 31 (Repealed).
- 32 Fiscal agent for Government's transactions with international financial institutions.
- 33 Depository.

---

## **PART VIA - REGULATIONS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALINGS**

- 33A Authorized dealers.
- 33B Licensing of authorized dealers.
- 33C Renewal of licence.
- 33D Revocation or suspension of licence.
- 33E Duties of authorized dealers.
- 33F Inspection of dealers.
- 33G Powers of Bank to advise and direct dealers.
- 33H Regulation of payments between residents and non-residents.
- 33I Imposition of restrictions to meet treaty obligations.
- 33J Permissions by the Bank.
- 33K Instructions or directions.
- 33L General Penalty.
- 33M Protection from liability
- 33N (Repealed).
- 33O Transitional and saving.

## **PART VII-RELATIONS WITH SPECIFIED BANKS.**

- 34 Banker to institutions.
- 35 (Repealed).
- 36 Loans.
- 37 (Repealed).
- 38 Reserve requirements.
- 39 (Repealed).
- 40 (Repealed).
- 41 (Repealed).
- 42 (Repealed).
- 43 Information to be furnished by specified banks etc.

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**PART VIII-RELATIONS WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES**

- 44 Fiscal agent and banker to public entities.
- 45 Functions as fiscal agent.
- 46 Direct advances to Government.
- 47 Open market operations.
- 48 (Repealed).
- 49 Prohibition of lending to public entities.
- 50 Adviser to Government.

**PART IX-MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- 51 Revaluation profits or losses.
- 52 Prohibited operations.
- 53 Financial year.
- 54 Annual reports.
- 55 Publication of reports, etc.
- 56 Audit by Controller and Auditor-General.
- 57 Regulations by the Bank.

**\* Commencement**

No. 15 of 1966  
 No. 56 of 1968  
 No. 13 of 1972  
 No. 13 of 1978  
 No. 10 of 1980  
 No. 12 of 1984  
 No. 9 of 1989  
 No. 9 of 1995  
 No. 10 of 1995  
 No. 13 of 1995  
 No. 9 of 1996  
 No. 15 of 2003  
 No. 8 of 2004  
 No. 10 of 2006  
 No. 9 of 2007  
 No. 8 of 2008

**An Act of Parliament to establish the Central Bank of Kenya and to provide for the operation thereof; to establish the currency of Kenya and for matters connected therewith and related thereto.**

**PART I - PRELIMINARY**

Short title. **1** This Act may be cited as the Central Bank of Kenya Act.

Interpretation. **2** In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires -

"authorized bank" means a specified bank licensed by the Bank under section 33B;

"authorized bureau" means a foreign exchange bureau licensed by the Bank under section 33B;

"authorized dealer" means an authorized bank or an authorized bureau licensed under section 33B;

"Bank" means the Central Bank of Kenya (or The Banki Kuu ya Kenya) established by section 3;

“bank” means a body corporate or other body of persons, carrying on, whether on their own behalf or as agent for another, banking business within the meaning of the Banking Act, whether in Kenya or elsewhere;

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Bank appointed under Part IV;

“convertible”, in relation to any exchange, means exchange which is freely negotiable and transferable in international exchange markets at exchange rate margins consistent with the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund;

“currency” means the currency of Kenya or foreign currency;

“currency of Kenya” means bank notes and coins issued by the Bank under section 22(1) and any right to receive such bank notes or coins in respect of any credit or balance at a bank or financial institution located within or outside Kenya;

“financial institution” means a body corporate or other body of persons, carrying on, whether on their own behalf or as agent for another, financial business within the meaning of the Banking Act, whether in Kenya or elsewhere.

“foreign currency” means bank notes or coins which are or have at any time been legal tender in any territory outside Kenya and any right to receive such bank notes or coins in respect of any credit or balance at a bank either within or outside Kenya.

“foreign exchange bureau” means a company incorporated in Kenya whose liability is limited by shares, with the main object of buying and selling foreign currency;

“foreign exchange business”:-

(a) in relation to a specified bank, means:-

(i) buying, selling, borrowing or lending foreign currency or any other business involving transactions in foreign currency;

(ii) settling payments to or from Kenya or in Kenya between residents and non-residents;

(b) in relation to a foreign exchange bureau means buying or selling foreign currency;

(c) in relation to any other person or body of persons specified by the Bank under section 33A, means such business transactions as the Bank may permit;

No. 9 of 1989

“non-resident” means a person or body of persons other than a resident;

“payment” means the transfer of currency for the purpose of discharging a liability, making a gift or donation or for creating a balance at a bank or financial institution which can be drawn upon;

“payment for current transaction” means a payment other than a payment for transferring capital and includes:-

(a) a payment due in connection with trade;

(b) a payment due as interest on a loan or as net income from other investment;

(c) a payment for amortization of a loan or for depreciation of direct investment; or



(d) a remittance for family living expenses.

“public entity” means the Government, a local authority, or any public body specified by the Minister, on the recommendation of the Bank, as a public entity for the purposes of this Act;

“resident” means:-

- (a) an individual who has been present in Kenya continuously for a period of at least one year or who has declared his intention to reside in Kenya for a period of at least one year to Kenyan immigration authorities;
- (b) the Government of Kenya or any accredited official of its diplomatic missions residing outside Kenya;
- (c) a company or other body of persons whose principal place of business is located in Kenya and branches of such company or body located in Kenya;
- (d) branches of a company or other body of persons carrying on business in Kenya whose principal place of business is located outside Kenya.

but excludes any foreign diplomatic mission or any of its accredited officials or any organization established in or outside Kenya by international treaty or any of its accredited officials.

Cap 488.

“specified bank” means a licensed bank within the meaning of the Banking Act which is specified by the Bank for the purposes of this Act;

“specified financial institution” means a financial institution specified by the Bank for the purposes of this Act.

## PART II - ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS

- Establish- **3.** (1) There is hereby established a bank which shall be known as  
ment of Bank the Central Bank of Kenya and which shall also be known  
and legal by the alternative corporate name of the Banki Kuu ya Kenya.  
status.
- No. 10 of 1995 (2) The Bank shall be a body corporate with perpetual suc-  
cession and a common seal, with power to acquire, own,  
possess and dispose of property, to contract, and to sue  
and to be sued in its own name.
- (3) The Bank shall exercise any type of central banking func-  
tion unless specifically excluded under this Act, and shall  
enjoy all the prerogatives of a central bank.
- (4) The Bank may make its own rules of conduct or proce-  
dure not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, for  
the good order and proper management of the Bank.
- Cap 486 (5) The Bank shall not be subject to the Companies Act or the  
Cap 488 Banking Act.
- Principal **4.** (1) The principal object of the Bank shall be to formulate and  
object of Bank implement monetary policy directed to achieving and  
No. 9 of 1996 s.2 maintaining stability in the general level of prices.
- (2) The Bank shall foster the liquidity, solvency and proper  
functioning of a stable market- based financial system.
- No. 9 of 2007 (3) Subject to subsections (1) and (2), the Bank shall support  
the economic policy of the Government, including its  
objectives for growth and employment.

- (4) The Minister may by notice in writing to the Bank, specify for purposes of this sections -
  - (a) the price stability targets of the government; and
  - (b) the economic policy to be taken by the Government.
- (5) The Minister shall specify at least in every period of 12 months, the price stability target in consultation with the Bank and economic policies to be taken by the Government; provided that the first such specification shall be made at the beginning of the financial year next following the commencement of this section.
- (6) Where the Minister gives notice under this section, the Minister shall:
  - (a) publish the notice in such a manner as the Minister considers fit; and
  - (b) lay a copy of the notice before the appropriate committee of the National Assembly.

Other **4A.** (1) Without prejudice to the generality of section 4 the Bank  
objects of shall:-  
the Bank

No. 9 of 1996 s.2

- (a) formulate and implement foreign exchange policy;
- (b) hold and manage its foreign exchange reserves;
- (c) license and supervise authorised dealers;

No. 15 of 2003  
s. 52

- (d) formulate and implement such policies as best promote the establishment, regulation and supervision of efficient and effective payment, clearing and settlement systems;

(e) act as banker and adviser to, and as fiscal agent of the Government; and

(f) issue currency notes and coins.

In subsection (1) (d).

"clearing" means the process of transmitting, reconciling and confirming payments prior to settlement, including the netting of payments and the establishment of net positions for settlement;

"Payment system" means a system of instruments, procedures and rules for the transfer of funds among system participants;

"Settlement" means an act that discharges financial obligations between two or more parties.

Monetary policy statements. **4B.**(1) The Bank shall at intervals of not more than six months, submit to the Minister a monetary policy statement for the next twelve months which shall:-

No. 9 of 1996 s.2 (a) specify the policies and the means by which the Bank intends to achieve the policy targets;

No. 9 of 1996 s.2 (b) state the reasons for adopting such policies and means;

(c) contain a review and assessment of the progress of the implementation by the Bank of monetary policy during the period to which the preceding policy statement relates.

(2) The Minister shall lay every statement submitted under sub-

section (1) before the appropriate committee of the National Assembly not later than the end of the subsequent session of Parliament after the statement is so submitted.

(3) The Bank shall:-

(a) cause-

(i) every monetary policy statement submitted under subsection (1); and

(ii) its monthly balance sheet to be published in the Gazette; and

(b) disseminate key financial data and information on monetary policy to the public.

(4) In subsection (2), the expression “appropriate committee” means the committee of the National Assembly appointed to investigate and inquire into matters relating to monetary policy.

Consult- **4C.** (1) There shall be regular consultations on monetary policy between the Minister and the Bank.

(2) Where in exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the Bank, the Minister is of the opinion that the monetary policy adopted by the Bank is inconsistent with the principal object of the Bank, the Minister may, upon resolution by Cabinet, direct the Bank in writing to adopt such monetary policy as the Minister may specify for a period of six months or for such shorter period as the Minister may specify, and the Bank shall, upon receipt of a directive under this section, adopt and implement the monetary policy so directed notwithstanding any other provision of this Act.

(3) The Minister shall cause every directive issued under sub-

section (2) to be published in the Gazette

Monetary **4D.** (1) There shall be a committee of the Bank, to be known as  
Policy the as the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank  
Committee of Kenya, which shall have the responsibility within the No.  
9 of 2007 Bank for formulating monetary policy.

(2) The Committee shall consist of the following members:-

- a) the Governor, who shall be the chairman;
- b) the Deputy Governor, who shall be the deputy chairman;
- No. 9 of 2007 c) two members appointed by the Governor from among the staff;
- No. 9 of 2007 d) four other members who have knowledge, experience and expertise in matters relating to finance, banking and fiscal and monetary policy, appointed by the Minister.
- No. 8 of 2008 e) the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, or his representative, who shall be a non-voting member

No. 9 of 2007 (2A) Of the two members appointed under subsection (2) (c)-

- (a) one shall be a person with executive responsibility within the Bank for monetary policy analyses; and
- (b) one shall be a person with responsibility within the Bank for monetary policy operations.

No. 8 of 2004 (3) At least two of the members appointed under subsection (2)(d) shall be women.

No. 8 of 2004 (4) Each member appointed under subsection (2)(d) shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible to be appointed for one additional term.

No.8 of 2004	(5)	The Chairman of the Committee shall convene a meeting of the Committee at least once every two months and shall convene an additional meeting if requested by at least four members in writing.
No.8 of 2004	(6)	At least once every six months the Committee shall submit a report to the Minister with respect to its activities and the Minister shall lay a copy of each report before the National Assembly.
No.8 of 2004	(7)	The quorum of the Committee shall be five members, one of whom must be the chairman or vice chairman.
No. 8 of 2004	(8)	The Bank shall provide staff to assist the Committee.
Head Office and Branches	5.	(1) The Bank shall have its head office in Nairobi, but during a time of national emergency the Bank may, unless the President otherwise directs, establish its head office temporarily or permanently in any other place within Kenya or elsewhere.
		(2) The Bank may establish or close branches in any place within Kenya and may, with the prior approval of the Minister, open or close branches outside Kenya.
	6.	The Bank may with the prior approval of the Minister, appoint, on such terms as it considers appropriate or cancel the appointment of, agents, both within and outside Kenya.
Exception from tax	7. (1)	The Bank shall not be liable to any transaction imposed by any law in respect of income or profits.
	(2)	No duty shall be chargeable under the Stamp Duty Act in respect of any instrument executed by or on behalf of or in favor of the Bank in any cases where,

but for this exemption, the Bank would be liable to pay such duty.

- (3) The Minister may, whether for the purpose of removing any doubt as to the extent of the foregoing provisions of this section or for the purpose of extending the immunities of the Bank, by order published in the Gazette specify any tax, duty, fee, rate, levy, cess or other impost as one to which the Bank shall not be liable, and the law relating thereto shall have effect accordingly.

Authorized capital of Bank. **8.** (1) The authorized capital of the Bank shall be five billion shillings which may be increased by such amount as shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the Minister.

No.9 of 1996 s.3 (2) The ownership of the entire paid up capital of the Bank shall be vested in the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

- (3) The Bank may, having regard to the amount by which the value of the assets of the Bank exceeds its liabilities, increase its paid up capital by such amount, payable out of the General Reserve Fund, as the Board shall direct.

- (4) The paid up capital of the Bank shall not be reduced.

General Reserve Fund. **9.** (1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a fund designated as the General Reserve Fund, to which shall be transferred at the end of each financial year at least ten per centum or any other amount as the Board, in consultation with the Minister, may determine, of the net annual profits of the Bank after allowing for the expenses of operation and after provision has been made for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in

No.9 of 1996 s.4



assets, contributions to staff benefit funds, and such other contingencies and accounting provisions as the Bank deems appropriate.

- (2) Subject to subsection (1) and section 51, the net annual profits of the Bank, calculated in accordance with this section, shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (3) The amount of any net losses of the Bank in any financial year which is in excess of the sums standing to the credit of the general reserve fund of the Bank shall be charged upon and paid out of the Consolidated Fund without further appropriation than this Act.

#### **PART IV-MANAGEMENT**

- No. 9 of 2007     **10.** There shall be a Board of Directors of the Bank, constituted as provided in section 11 which shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be responsible for –
- (a) determining the policy of the Bank, other than the formulation of monetary policy;
  - (b) determining the objectives of the Bank, including oversight for its financial management and strategy;
  - (c) keeping under constant review the performance of the Bank in carrying out its functions;
  - (d) keeping under constant review the performance of the Governor in discharging the responsibility of that office;
  - (e) keeping under constant review the performance of the Governor in ensuring that the Bank achieves its Objectives;

- (f) determining whether the policy statements made pursuant to section 4B are consistent with the Bank's primary function and policy objectives under section 4; and
- (g) keeping under constant review the use of Bank's resources.

The Board **11.** (1) The Board shall consist of -  
of Directors.

No. 9 of 1996  
s. 5

- (a) a Governor, who shall be the chairman;
- (b) a Deputy Governor who shall be the deputy chairman;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury or his representative who shall be a non-voting member;
- (d) five other non-executive directors.

No. 10 of 2006

- (2) The Governor, Deputy Governor and the directors appointed under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) shall be appointed by the President and shall hold office for terms of four years each but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Provided that no Governor, Deputy Governor or director shall hold office for more than two terms.

- (3) The members of the Board shall be appointed at different times so that the respective expiry dates of the members' terms of office shall fall at different times.
- (4) A member of the Board may resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President which resigna-

tion shall take effect one month from the date of receipt of the letter of resignation by the President.

- (5) If the Governor, Deputy Governor or a director dies or resigns or otherwise vacates office before the expiry of his term of office, the President shall appoint another person in his place.

No. 9 of 1996 (6) Where the Governor, the Deputy Governor or a director is unable to perform the functions of his office due to any temporary incapacity which is likely to be prolonged, the President may appoint a substitute for that member of the Board to act with the full powers of the member until such time as the President determines that his incapacity has ceased.

- (7) A person shall be eligible to be appointed a Director if he-

- (a) is a citizen of Kenya; and
- (b) is knowledgeable or experienced in monetary, financial, banking and economic matters or other disciplines relevant to the functions of the Bank.

Meetings of Board. No. 9 of 1996 s.6 **12.** (1) The Governor, as Chairman of the Bank, shall convene meetings of the Board not less than once in every two months, or whenever the business of the Bank so requires, or whenever he is so requested in writing by at least three directors.

- (2) A quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be the Governor or the Deputy Governor and three directors.
- (3) Decisions of the Board shall be adopted by a majority of the votes of those present at that meeting and in case of an equality of votes the chairman or deputy chairman

presiding at the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

- (4) The validity of any proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board, or by any defect in the appointment or disqualification of any member which is discovered subsequent to those proceedings.

No. 9 of 1996 (5) A Director who is interested in any matter involving the Bank, or in the exercise or proposed exercise by the Bank of a power, shall declare that interest at every meeting of the Board at which that matter or the exercise or proposed exercise of the power, is considered by the Board, and the director shall not be entitled to attend and vote, or be counted in a quorum present, at a meeting at which the matter or the exercise or proposed exercise of the power in which the Director has interest is considered.

No. 9 of 1996 (6) (Repealed).  
s.6

Delegat- **12A.** The Board may, by resolution either generally or in any  
-ion by the particular case, delegate to any committee of the Board,  
Board. or to any member thereof, or to any officer, employee or  
No. 9 of 1996 s.7 agent of the Bank the exercise of any of the powers or the  
performance of any of the functions or duties of the Board  
under this Act or any other written law.

Governor **13.** (1) The Governor shall be the chief executive officer of the Bank and, subject to the general policy decisions of the Board, shall be responsible for the management of the Bank, including the organization, appointment and dismissal of the staff in accordance with the general terms and conditions of service established by the Board, and the Governor shall have authority to incur expenditure for the Bank within the administrative budget approved by the Board.

- (2) The Governor shall be the principal representative of the Bank and shall, in that capacity have authority:-
- (a) to represent the Bank in its relations with other public entities, persons or bodies;
  - (b) to represent the Bank, either personally or through counsel, in any legal proceedings to which the Bank is a party;
  - (c) to sign individually or jointly with other persons contracts concluded by the Bank, notes and securities issued by the Bank, reports, balance sheets, and other financial statements, correspondence and other documents of the Bank.
- (3) The Deputy Governor shall act for the Governor and shall exercise all the powers and shall perform all of the functions conferred on the Governor under this Act whenever the Governor is temporarily absent, and shall perform such other functions as the Governor may from time to time assign to him.
- (4) The Governor may delegate any of his powers provided for in this section to other officers of the Bank.

**13A.** (1) The affixing of the common seal of the Bank, shall be authorized by the signature of the Governor and of some other person or persons authorized by the Governor in that behalf.

Common seal  
and power  
of attorney.

- (2) The Governor may, under the common seal of the Bank, empower any person to execute or authenticate on behalf of the Bank any documents on its behalf.

**13B.** There shall be a Deputy Governor who shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister and who shall hold office for a term of four years, but shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term.

Deputy  
Governor  
No.10 of 2006

- General 14. (1) No person shall be appointed as Governor, Deputy  
disqualifi- Governor or a director who is:-  
cations for all  
Board Members.  
No. 9 of 1996 s.8 (a) a member of the National Assembly or a member  
Cap 265. of a local authority established under the Local Government Act;
- (b) a salaried employee of any public entity (except on a  
secondment basis);
- (c) a director, officer, employee, partner in or shareholder  
of any specified bank or specified financial institution:

Provided that:-

- i) paragraph (b) shall not apply in the case of the  
representative of the Treasury; and
- ii) the President may in exceptional cases  
waive any of the above provisions with respect to  
any director (other than the Governor or Deputy  
Governor) if it is in the interests of the Bank and  
likely to promote the objects of the Bank under  
section 4.

- No. 9 of 1996 s.8 (2) The President shall terminate the appointment of a  
Governor, Deputy Governor or a director who:-
- (a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications de-  
scribed in subsection (1);
- (b) is adjudged bankrupt or enters into a composition or  
scheme of arrangement with his creditors;
- (c) is convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or  
fraud or moral turpitude;

- (d) is adjudged or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind;
- (e) is absent, without the leave of the Board from three consecutive meetings of the Board;
- (f) becomes, for any reason, incapable or incompetent of properly performing the functions of his office:

Provided that the appointment of the Governor, shall not be terminated under this paragraph until the question of his removal from office has been referred to a tribunal appointed under subsection (3) and the tribunal has recommended to the President that the Governor ought to be removed for incapability or incompetence as aforesaid.

No. 9 of 1996 (3) If the President considers that the question of terminating  
s.8 the appointment of the Governor under subsection (2)(f) ought to be investigated, then -

- (a) the President shall appoint a tribunal which shall consist of a chairman and two other members selected by the President from among persons -
  - (i) who hold or have held office as judges of the High Court or the Court of Appeal; or
  - (ii) who are qualified to be appointed as judges of the High Court under section 61(3) of the Constitution.
- (b) the tribunal shall inquire into the matter and report on the facts to the President and recommend to him

whether the Governor ought to be removed.

No. 9 of 1996 (4) Where the question of removing the Governor has been referred to the tribunal under this section, the President may suspend the Governor from the exercise of the functions of his office and any such suspension may at anytime be revoked by the President, and shall in any case cease to have effect if the tribunal recommends to the President that the Governor should not be removed.

Special 15. (1) The Governor and the Deputy Governor shall owe their  
disqualifications allegiance entirely to the Bank and shall not engage in any  
for Governor paid employment or business or professional activity  
and Deputy outside the duties of their respective offices:  
Governor.

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Governor or Deputy Governor from accepting or holding any academic office or position in an institution of higher learning or any advisory position or membership in any committee or commission with public responsibility, or from serving in any international financial institution of which Kenya is a member or with which Kenya is associated, or any specialized financial institution established by the Government.

(2) If the Governor or the Deputy Governor engages in any paid employment or business or professional activity outside the duties of his office contrary to subsection (1), the President shall terminate his appointment.

No. 9 of 1996 s.9 Provided that in the case of the Governor, the provisions of section 14 shall apply.

(3) The President may specifically exempt any transactions or activities from the restrictions of this section.



Remune- **16.** (1) The Governor, the Deputy Governor, and any substitute  
ration appointed under section 11 (4) shall be paid by the Bank such salaries and allowances as may be determined from time to time by the President, but those salaries and allowances shall not be altered to the detriment of any person during his term of office.

(2) The directors and any substitute appointed under section 11 (4) shall be paid by the Bank such allowances as may from time to time be determined by the President.

Preser- **17.** (1) Except for the purpose of the performance of his duties  
vation of or the exercise of his powers, the Governor, the Deputy  
secrecy Governor, any director or any other officer or employee of the Bank shall not disclose any information which he has acquired in the performance of his duties or the exercise of his powers.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both, in addition to any disciplinary action which may be taken by the Board.

Declaration **18.** The Governor, the Deputy Governor and any director shall  
of interest. declare his interest in any specific proposal being considered or to be considered by the Board.

## PART V-CURRENCY

Currency **19.** (1) The unit of currency of Kenya shall be the Kenya shilling,  
Of Kenya which shall be divided into one hundred cents.

(2) Twenty shillings shall equal one Kenya pound.

External value of Kenya shilling. **20.** The external value of the Kenya shilling shall be determined by the market.

No. 9 of  
1996 s.10

Use of Kenya shilling. **21.** All monetary obligations or transactions entered into or made in Kenya shall be deemed to be expressed and recorded, and shall be settled, in Kenya currency unless otherwise provided for by law or agreed upon between the parties.

Issue of notes and coins, legal tender and withdrawal. **22.** (1) The Bank shall have the sole right to issue notes and coins in Kenya and, subject to subsection (4), only those notes and coins shall be legal tender in Kenya:

Provided that coins of a denomination of fifty cents shall be legal tender only for payments up to twenty shillings, and coins of a denomination of less than fifty cents shall be legal tender only for payments up to five shillings.

No. 9 of 1996 s.11 (2) The denominations, inscriptions, forms, material and other characteristics of the notes and coins issued by the Bank shall be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Minister, and shall be notified in the Gazette and in other media of public information likely to bring them to the attention of the public.

(3) The Bank shall have power to withdraw any notes or coins issued by the Bank, and the procedure for and effect of withdrawal shall be as follows:-

(a) a notice published in the Gazette, and in such other manner as the Bank considers likely to bring that notice to the attention of the public, shall specify the is-

sues, and the denominations forming part of the issues, of notes or coins that are to be withdrawn, the places where those notes or coins may be taken for exchange, and the date on which those notes or coins shall cease to be legal tender;

- (b) the notice given under paragraph (a) may provide that, after such period as may be specified in the notice, the notes or coins to which the notice applies shall only be exchanged at the head office of the Bank;
- (c) the notes or coins specified in a notice given under paragraph (a) shall be exchanged at their face value for legal tender at the places and for the periods (which shall be of reasonable duration) specified in relation to those places in the notice, and shall cease to be legal tender on the date specified in the notice;
- (d) the Bank may, by notice published in the same manner as notice given under paragraph (a), specify a period during which notes or coins which have ceased to be legal tender may nevertheless be exchanged at the head office of the Bank, and after which those notes or coins shall no longer be exchanged.

### 23. (Spent)

Exchange of mutilated notes and coins. **24.** The Bank shall not be obliged to exchange any note or coin which is mutilated, defaced, soiled or otherwise defective, and the conditions subject to which the Bank may as a matter of grace exchange any such note or coin shall be within the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Bills of exchange, promissory **25. (1)** The Bank in consultation with the Minister may, by regulations published in the Gazette prohibit the issue by any person other than the Bank of any bill of exchange,

notes, etc.  
No. 9 of 1996  
s.12

promissory note or similar instrument for the payment of money to the bearer on demand, and any such regulations may make different provision for different cases or classes of case and may impose penalties for any offence under the regulations of a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both.

- (2) Subject to any regulations made under this section the issue of any bill, note or instrument referred to in subsection (1) shall not be deemed to contravene the sole right of the Bank to issue notes in Kenya.

## PART VI-EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Reserve **26.**  
of external  
assets.

- (1) The Bank shall at all times use its best endeavours to maintain a reserve of external assets at an aggregate amount of not less than the value of four months' imports as recorded and averaged for the last three preceding years; and subject to subsection (3) the reserve shall consist of any or all of the following:-

(a) gold;

(b) convertible foreign exchange in the form of:-

- (i) demand or time deposits with foreign central banks or with the Bank's agents or correspondents outside Kenya;
- (ii) documents and instruments customarily used for the making of payments or transfers in international transactions;
- (iii) notes or coins;

(c) convertible and marketable securities of, or guaranteed by, foreign governments or international financial institutions.

(2) The Bank shall from time to time determine the type and form of convertible foreign exchange and the kinds of securities which may be held in the reserve of external assets pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) The Bank may include in its reserve of external assets any liquid external asset not included in subsection (1), or any readily available international drawing facility, which the Bank, after consultation with the International Monetary Fund and with the approval of the Minister, considers suitable for inclusion in the reserve.

Deals in 27. (1) The Bank may buy, sell, import, export, hold or otherwise gold and deal in gold or foreign exchange under such terms and foreign exchange. conditions as it shall determine:

Provided that the buying and selling rates involved in those transactions shall be in accordance with international agreements to which Kenya is a party, or with which Kenya is associated.

No. 10 of 2006 (2) The Bank may hold balances, denominated in foreign currencies, with foreign central banks or with the Bank's agents or correspondents abroad and may invest those balances in marketable foreign securities denominated in convertible currencies.

Institutions 28. The Bank may engage in foreign exchange transactions with which Bank only with- may deal in foreign exchange. (a) authorized dealers; (b) public entities; (c) foreign central banks, foreign banks, or foreign financial institutions;

No. 9 of 1995 s.4 (d) foreign governments or agencies of foreign governments;

(e) international financial institutions.

Relations with **29.** The Bank may open accounts for and accept deposits from, foreign central collect money and other monetary claims for and on banks, foreign banks account of, foreign central banks, foreign banks and and foreign financial foreign financial institutions, and may generally act as banker institutions to those banks or institutions.

No. 10 of 1995 **30.** (Repealed)  
s 5

No. 8 of 2008. **31.** (Repealed)

Fiscal agent for **32.** The Bank shall be the fiscal agent for all of the Government's Government's transactions with international financial institutions of which Kenya is a member or with which international financial Kenya is associated.  
institutions Depository

**33.** The Bank shall act as depository for Kenya currency holdings owned by international financial institutions of which Kenya is a member or with which Kenya is associated.

## PART VIA-REGULATIONS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALINGS

No. 10 of 1995 **33A.**(1) Subject to sub-section (3), no person shall, in s.12 Kenya transact foreign exchange business except Authorized dealer an authorized dealer.

- (2) A person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) commits an offence and shall, on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Bank may permit such person or class of persons as it may specify, to transact foreign exchange business without a licence, subject to such conditions as it may impose.

Licensing  
of authorized

- 33B.** (1) A person proposing to transact foreign exchange business shall, before commencing such business, apply to the Bank for a licence.
- (2) An application under this section shall be made in the prescribed form and shall be forwarded to the Bank together with the prescribed fee.
  - (3) In considering an application for a licence, the Bank may require to be satisfied as to the financial condition and history of the applicant, the character of its management, the adequacy of its capital structure and the convenience and needs of the area to be served and the public interest which will be served by granting of the licence.
  - (4) The Bank may, subject to the payment of the prescribed fee and to such conditions as it may consider necessary, grant a licence to the applicant.
  - (5) Where a licence has been granted under this section, the Bank may add, vary, or substitute any conditions attached thereto.

- (6) A licence issued under this section shall, unless earlier revoked, be valid for twelve months next following the date of issue:

Provided that where an application for its renewal is made under section 33C, the licence shall be deemed to continue in force until the application for renewal is determined.

- Renewal of licence **33C.** (1) A licence issued under section 33B may on expiry be renewed for a further period of twelve months;

Provided that where an authorized dealer fails to commence business in Kenya within six months of the grant of a licence, the authorized dealer shall, if still intending to transact foreign exchange business in Kenya apply for a licence as though the first licence had never been granted.

- (2) An application for the renewal of a licence shall:-
- (a) be made in the prescribed form and forwarded to the Bank together with the prescribed fee;
  - (b) be lodged with the Bank at least two months prior to the expiry of the licence.
- (3) An application for renewal of a licence shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of section 33B.

- Revocation or suspension of licence **33D.** (1) Subject to sub-section (2) the Bank may, by notice in writing to an authorized dealer, revoke or suspend a licence for such period as it may specify, if the authorized dealer:-
- (a) ceases to carry on business in Kenya or goes into liquidation or is wound up, or is otherwise dissolved; or



(b) fails to comply with the provisions of this Act or any condition attached to a licence.

- (2) Before revoking or suspending a licence under this section, the Bank shall give an authorized dealer not less than fourteen days notice in writing and shall consider any representations made to it in writing by the authorized dealer within that period.

Duties of authorized dealers **33E.** (1) Every authorized dealer shall:-

- (a) maintain such books, accounts, records or other documents as the Bank may specify, and shall furnish the same to the Bank at such time and in such manner as the Bank may specify;
- (b) maintain such levels of foreign currency assets or liabilities as the Bank may specify;
- (c) comply with such requirements regarding the establishment, maintenance and operation of foreign currency accounts as the Bank may impose; and
- (d) comply with such measures to improve the management or its business methods as the Bank may impose.

Inspection of dealers. **33F.** (1) The Bank may, at any time and from time to time cause an inspection to be made by any person authorized by it in writing, of any authorized dealer and of its books, accounts and records.

- (2) Subject to sub-section (4), when an inspection is made under sub-section (1), the authorized dealer concerned and every officer or employee thereof shall produce and make available to the person making the inspection, all books, accounts, records and other documents of the authorized dealer and such correspondence, statement and informa-

tion relating to the authorized dealer, its business and the conduct thereof as the person making the inspection may require, within such period as he may specify in writing.

- (3) Any failure to produce any books, accounts, records, documents, correspondence, statement or information within the period specified in the relevant direction shall constitute an offence under this Part.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (2):-
  - (a) any books, accounts, records and other documents required to be produced under this section shall not, in the course of the inspection, be removed from the premises of the authorized dealer or other premises at which they are produced;
  - (b) the person making the inspection may make copies of any books, accounts and other documents required for the purposes of his report;
  - (c) all information obtained in the course of the inspection shall be treated as confidential and used solely for the purposes of this Part.
- (5) A person who makes an inspection shall submit a report of his findings to the Bank indicating:-
  - (a) any breach or failure to observe the requirements of this Part and any orders or directions made thereunder;
  - (b) any irregularity in the manner of conduct of the business of the authorized dealer inspected;
  - (c) any apparent mismanagement of business or lack of management skills in that authorized dealer;

- (d) any other matter revealed or discovered in the course of the inspection warranting, in the opinion of the person making the inspection, remedial action or further investigation.

Powers of Bank to advise and direct dealers **33G.** (1) If at any time or upon an inspection under section 33 F the Bank has reason to believe that the business of an authorized dealer is being conducted in a manner contrary to any of the requirements of this Part or any regulations made thereunder, or in a manner detrimental to or not in the best interests of the public, the Bank may:-

- (a) give advice and make recommendations to the authorized dealer with regard to the conduct of business generally;
  - (b) issue directions regarding measures to be taken to improve the management business methods of or the authorized dealer, or to secure compliance with the requirements of this Part or any other written law;
  - (c) appoint a person suitably qualified and competent in the opinion of the Bank, to advise and assist the authorized dealer generally, or for the purposes of implementing any directions issued under paragraph (b), and the advice of a person so appointed shall have the same force and effect as a direction issued under paragraph (b) and shall be deemed to be a direction of the Bank under this section.
- (2) No direction shall be issued under paragraph (b) or (c) of sub-section (1) unless the Bank has given the authorized dealer an opportunity to present its views.
- (3) An authorized dealer shall on receipt of any direction under this section, comply with the direction within such pe-

riod as may be specified in the direction, and if so required, produce evidence to the Bank that it has done so.

Regula- **33H.** (1) Except with the permission of the Bank, every payment  
tion of payments made:-  
between residents and  
non-residents.

(a) in Kenya, to or for the credit of a person outside  
Kenya; or

(b) outside Kenya, to or for the credit of a person in  
Kenya; or

(c) in Kenya (other than a payment for a current  
transaction) between a resident and non-resident;

shall be effected through an authorized bank.

(2) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this  
section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings  
or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years,  
or to both.

Imposition **33I.** The Bank may, in consultation with the Minister, impose  
of restrictions  
to meet treaty  
obligations. restrictions on payment for the purposes of enabling the  
Government of Kenya meet its obligations under any  
international treaty.

Permissions **33J.** Any permission granted by the Bank under this Part may  
by the Bank. be:-

(a) either general or special;

(b) revoked by the Bank at any time;

(c) absolute or conditional;

- (d) limited so as to expire on a specified date unless renewed;
- (e) published in such manner as is in the opinion of the Bank appropriate.

- Instructions or directions **33K.** (1) Subject to section 33G, the Bank may issue such instructions or directions to authorized dealers as it may consider necessary.
- (2) Any instruction or direction under this section may:-
- (a) be either general or special;
  - (b) be revoked or varied by subsequent instruction or direction;
  - (c) be given to such persons and in such manner as is in the opinion of the Bank appropriate.
- (3) A person who fails to comply with instruction or direction issued by the Bank under this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both.

General penalty. **33L.** A person convicted of an offence under this Part for which no penalty is provided shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand shillings, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both.

Protection from liability **33M.** Neither the Bank nor any officer or employee thereof nor any other person appointed by the Bank under the provisions of this Part shall be liable in respect of any act or omission done in good faith by such officer, employee or other person in the execution of the duties undertaken by him.

No. 9 of **33N.** (Repealed).

1996 s.13

Transitional **33O.** A person who, immediately before the commencement  
and saving. of this Part was authorized to transact foreign exchange  
Cap 113 business by virtue of the provisions of the Exchange  
Control Act (now repealed), shall, within ninety days of the  
commencement, apply for a licence in accordance with  
section 33B and shall, notwithstanding the provisions  
of that section, be deemed to be an authorized dealer  
for the purposes of this Part until such application is  
determined.

## PART VII - RELATIONS WITH SPECIFIED BANKS.

Banker to **34.** (1) The Bank shall open accounts for and accept deposits from,  
institutions. collect monetary claims for and on account of institutions  
No. 13 of 1995 and generally act as banker to institutions.

s.96

(2) The Bank may provide any additional services or facilities  
it considers desirable including facilities for clearing finan-  
cial instruments to institutions operating in Kenya.

(3) For the purposes of this section “institution” includes:-

(a) a specified bank;

(b) a specified financial institution;

(c) any other person or body of persons which the Minis-  
ter on the recommendation of the Bank may by no-  
tice in the Gazette prescribe.

No. 9 of 1996 **35.** (Repealed).

s.14

Loans. **36.**(1) The Bank may grant loans or advances for fixed periods

- No. 9 of 1996  
s.15
- not exceeding six months to specified banks which pledge treasury bills or other Government securities specified by the Bank.
- (2) Except as provided in this section the Bank shall not extend credit directly or indirectly to specified banks.
- (3) The Bank may determine the general terms and conditions under which it extends credit to specified banks, and in particular, the Bank shall determine and announce the rates of interest it shall charge for granting loans or advances to specified banks in accordance with this section and may determine different rates for different classes of transactions or maturities.
- No 8 of 2004
- (4) The Central Bank shall publish the lowest rate of interest it charges on loans to banks and that rate shall be known as the central bank rate.
- No 9 of 1996  
s.16
- 37.** (Repealed)
- Reserve  
requirement.  
No. 13 of 1995
- 38.**(1) The Bank may from time to time require institutions to maintain minimum cash balances on deposit with the Bank as reserves against their deposit and other liabilities.
- (2) The Bank may specify ratios for different types of liabilities and may further specify the method of computing the amount of the total liabilities of an institution but the ratios specified shall be the same for all institutions:
- Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the Bank from allowing an institution or group of institutions upon which the provisions of subsection (1) are applied for the first time, a period within which to comply with the cash reserve ratio requirements as may be prescribed by the Bank.
- (3) Any specification of, or increase in the minimum reserve

requirements under subsection (1) or subsection (2) shall take effect only after the expiration of thirty days' notice to the institution of the Bank's intention to take action.

- No 9 of 2007 (4) The Bank may impose on any institution which fails to maintain the sufficient minimum cash balances required under this section, a penalty interest charge not exceeding one percent per day on the amount of the deficiency or ten thousand shillings, whichever is the higher for each day during which the deficiency continues.
- (5) The Bank may, if in its opinion circumstances of an unusual nature render it desirable to do so, pay interest at such rates and subject to such qualifications as it may determine on minimum cash balances deposited with the Bank under this section.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, "institution" includes:-
- (a) a bank licensed under the Banking Act;
- Cap. 488. (b) a financial institution licensed under the Banking Act;
- (c) any other person or body of persons which the Minister, on the recommendation of the Bank may by notice in the Gazette prescribe.

No. 8 of 2004 **39.** (Deleted)

No. 8 of 2004 **39A** (Deleted)

No. 9 of 1996 **40.** (Repealed).  
s.17

No. 9 of 1996 **41.** (Repealed).  
s.17

No. 56 of 1968 **42.** (Repealed).  
s.33



- Information to be furnished by specified banks etc.
- 43.** (1) Every specified bank and specified financial institution shall furnish to the Bank, at such time and in such manner as the Bank may prescribe, any information and data the Bank may reasonably require for the proper discharge of its functions under this Act.
- (2) The Bank may publish in whole or in part, at such times and in such manner as it may decide, any information or data furnished under this section:

Provided that no such information shall be published which would disclose the financial affairs of any person or undertaking unless the prior consent in writing of that person or undertaking has first been obtained by the Bank.

## PART VIII-RELATIONS WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES

- Fiscal agent and banker to public entities.
- 44.** (1) The Bank shall act as fiscal agent of and banker to the Government.
- (2) The Bank may also perform the functions of fiscal agent and banker for any other public entity in accordance with, and within the scope determined by, any special arrangements made between the Bank and the public entity concerned.
- Functions as fiscal agent.
- 45.** The Bank in its capacity as fiscal agent and banker to any public entity may, subject to the instructions of that public entity:-
- (a) be the official depository of the public entity concerned and accept deposits and effect payments for the account of that public entity:

Provided that the Bank may, after consultation with the Minister, select any specified bank to act in its name and for its account as the official depository of that public entity in places where the Bank has no office or branch;

- (b) maintain and operate special official accounts in accordance with arrangements made between the Bank and the public entity concerned;
- (c) as an agent of the Government, administer the public debt including the issuance of, payment of interest on, and redemption of, bonds and other securities of the Government;
- (d) pay, remit, collect or accept for deposit or custody funds in Kenya or abroad;
- (e) purchase, sell, transfer or accept for custody cheques, bills of exchange and securities;
- (f) collect the proceeds, whether principal or interest, resulting from the sale for, or accruing to the interest of, a public entity of securities or other property;
- (g) purchase, sell, transfer or accept for custody gold or foreign exchange;

Direct **46.**  
advances to  
Government.  
No. 9 of 1996  
s.18

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Bank may make direct advances to the Government for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations between receipts from the budgeted revenue and payments of the Government.
- (2) Each advance made to the Government under this section shall:-
  - (a) be secured with negotiable securities issued by the Government which mature not later than twelve months;

(b) bear interest at market rate; and

(c) be made solely for the purpose of providing temporary accommodation to the Government.

(3) The total amount outstanding at any time of advances made under this section shall not exceed five per centum of the gross recurrent revenue of the Government as shown in the Appropriation Accounts for the latest year for which those Accounts have been audited by the Controller and Auditor-General.

Provided that this subsection shall not apply in respect of advances made by the Bank to the Government prior to the commencement of this section.

(4) Any advance made by the Bank to the Government which is outstanding at the commencement of this section shall be deemed to be a loan granted by the Bank to the Government on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Minister.

(5) Any advance deemed to be a loan under subsection (4) shall be secured with such Government securities as the Bank may specify.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (3), the recurrent revenue of the Government shall include revenue from taxes, customs, excise and other duties, fees, rents, profits and income from any investment or undertaking, but shall not include proceeds from grants, or loans or disposal of assets for purposes of privatization or any form of borrowing whether short-term or long-term.

Loans and **46A.**  
advances to

Subject to section 37 (1) of the Banking Act, the Bank may grant loans or advances for fixed periods, not exceed-

Deposit. ing three years, to the Deposit Protection Fund Board  
 Protection Fund on the security of Treasury Bills or other Government  
 Board Cap. 488 securities specified by the Bank.  
 No. 15 of 2003  
 s. 53

Open **47.**(1) For the purposes of regulating the money supply, the Bank  
 market may with the approval of the Board –  
 operations. (a) purchase, hold or sell negotiable securities of any maturity issued  
 No. 8 of 2008 by the Government or any other negotiable securities specified by  
 the Bank;  
 (b) issue or hold Central Bank of Kenya bills and purchase or sell  
 outright or by way of repurchase agreement, Central Bank of  
 Kenya Bills.  
 (c) accept money as deposit from commercial banks on such terms as  
 may be specified by the Bank.

(2) The total amount of securities held by the Bank at any time  
 under subsection (1) of this section shall be excluded in  
 the computation of the limit prescribed in subsection (3)  
 of section 46.

No. 9 of 1996 **48.** (Repealed).  
 s.20

Prohibition **49.** Except as provided in accordance with sections 36, 46 and  
 of lending to 46A, 47, the Bank shall not extend any credit directly or  
 public entities indirectly to any public entity.  
 No. 9 of 1996  
 s.21

Adviser to **50.** (1) It shall be the duty of the Bank to advise the Minister on  
 Government any matter which in its opinion is likely to affect the achieve-  
 ment of the principal objects of the Bank as specified in  
 section 4.

(2) The Bank may tender advice to the Minister on any matter  
 in which the Bank is concerned.

(3) The Minister may request the Bank to give its advice on  
 any particular measures, situations or transactions, or on  
 monetary, banking and credit conditions in or outside

Kenya, and the Bank shall give its advice accordingly.

## PART IX - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Revaluation profits or losses  
No. 9 of 1996  
s.22

**51.** (1) Profits or losses which are attributable to any revaluation of the Bank's net assets or liabilities in gold, foreign exchange or foreign securities, made as a result of any change in the value of any currency unit, shall be taken into account in the computation of the annual profits and losses of the Bank:

Provided that the accounts of the Bank shall distinguish the profits or losses arising from normal operations of the Bank and those resulting from profits or loss from exchange fluctuations.

(2) The balance outstanding in the Revaluation Account existing immediately before the commencement of this section shall be repaid from the net annual profits of the Bank by instalments of such amount as the Board, in consultation with the Minister, may determine.

Prohibited operations  
**52.**

The Bank shall not:-

(a) save as expressly authorized by this Act, engage in trade, or own or acquire any direct interest in any commercial, agricultural, industrial or similar undertaking, except in the course of obtaining satisfaction for any debt due to the Bank, and any such interest shall be disposed of at the earliest suitable opportunity;

(b) purchase, acquire or lease immovable property for commercial purposes or as an investment except for its own business requirements or for the use of its employees;

(c) draw or accept bills payable otherwise than on demand; or

(d) guarantee any loan, advance or investment.

**Financial year.** **53.** The financial year of the Bank shall be the same as the Government's financial year and the accounts of the Bank shall be closed at the end of each financial year.

**Annual reports.** **54.** Within three months after the close of each financial year the Bank shall submit to the Minister a report on the Bank's operations throughout that year, together with the balance sheet and the profit and loss account as certified by auditors appointed by the Bank and approved by the Minister.

**Publication of reports, etc** **55.** (1) After submission to the Minister the Bank shall publish the annual report referred to in section 54.

(2) The Bank may also issue such other publications as it considers to be in the public interest.

**Audit by Controller and Auditor-General** **56.** The Minister may, in addition to the audit carried out under section 54, if he thinks fit, require the Controller and Auditor-General to audit the accounts of the Bank.

**Regulations by the Bank.** **57.** (1) The Bank may make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act and generally for the better carrying out of the objects of the Bank under this Act.

No. 9 of 1996 s.23

**No.8 of 2008** (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Bank may, in regulations, prescribe penalties to be paid by authorized dealers who fail or refuse to comply with any guidelines or directions of the Central Bank under this Act, which penalties shall not exceed five hundred thousand shillings in the case of an authorized dealer or two hundred thousand shillings in the case of a natural person and may prescribe additional penalties not exceeding ten thousand shillings in each case for each day or part thereof during which such failure or refusal continues.

**Specified Banks under section 2**

African Banking Corporation Limited

Bank of Africa Kenya Limited

[Subsidiary]

Bank of Baroda Kenya Limited

Bank of India

Barclays Bank of Kenya Limited

CFC Stanbic Bank Limited

Chase Bank Kenya Limited

Charterhouse Bank Limited (under Statutory Management)

Citibank N.A. Kenya

City Finance Bank Limited

Commercial Bank of Africa Limited

Consolidated Bank of Kenya Limited

Co-operative Bank of Kenya Limited

Credit Bank Limited

Development Bank of Kenya Limited

Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Limited

Dubai Bank Kenya Limited

Ecobank Limited

Equatorial Commercial Bank Limited

Equity Bank Limited

Family Bank Limited

Fidelity Commercial Bank Limited

Fina Bank Limited

First Community Bank Limited

Guardian Bank Limited

Gulf African Bank Limited

Giro Commercial Bank Limited

Habib Bank A.G. Zurich

Habib Bank Limited  
Imperial Bank Limited  
I & M Bank Limited  
Kenya Commercial Bank Limited  
K-Rep Bank Limited  
Middle East Bank Kenya Limited  
National Bank of Kenya Limited  
National Industrial Credit Bank Limited  
Oriental Commercial Bank  
Paramount Universal Bank Limited  
Prime Bank Limited  
Southern Credit Banking Corporation Limited  
Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited  
Transnational Bank Limited  
Victoria Commercial Bank Limited

**Specified Financial Institutions Under Section 2**

Prime Capital and Credit Finance Limited

**Mortgage Companies**

Housing Finance Limited  
Savings & Loans Kenya Limited



L.N. 138/79. **Specified Public Entity under section 2**

The Industrial Development Bank Limited

L.N. 35/73. **Par value of Kenya shilling determined under section 20**

(Spent)

**Denominations, inscription, form, material and other characteristics of notes and coins determined under section 22(2)**

Details and description are not set out here. For that information reference should be made in case of notes to LNs 252/1966, 306/1974, 258/1979, 165/1980, 242/1986, 428/1988, 554/1988, 334/1989, 505/1990, 144/1994, 362/1995, 363/1995, 17/95, 59/1996, 300/1996, L.N. 13/2004 in the case of coins to GN 148/1967 and L.Ns 84/1969, 47/1970, 225/1973, 165/1980, 232/1985, 160/1994, 492/1994, 293/1995, 57/1996, 40/2005 and in the case of commemorative coins to LN259/1979, 543/1991, 209/2003 and 210/2003.

L.N. 160/71 **Instructions under section 41**

L.N. 50/73. (Spent)

## LEGAL NOTICE NO.148

THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT  
(Cap.491)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 57 of the Central Bank of Kenya makes the following Regulations:-

THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA (CURRENCY HANDLING)  
REGULATIONS, 2008

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Citation</i>                                     | 1. These Regulations may be cited as the Central Bank of Kenya (Currency Handling) Regulations, 2008.   |
| <i>Interpretation</i>                               | 2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires –<br><br>“coin” means Kenya currency minted coins of any denomination issued by the Bank for current use, and includes all coins previously issued by the Bank at any given time and from time to time; and<br><br>“note” means Kenya currency printed banknotes of any denomination issued by the Bank for current use, and includes all banknotes previously issued by the Bank at any given time and from time to time.   |
| <i>Use of currency notes and coins</i>              | 3. (1) No person shall make use of currency notes or coins, current or historical, for publication or promotional or other purposes other than as currency without the prior written approval of the Bank.<br><br>No person shall make use of images of currency notes or coins for publication or promotion or other purposes without prior written approval of the Bank.<br><br>(2) Any person desirous of making use of currency or images of currency notes or coins in any publication or for any other purpose shall apply in writing to the Bank for approval.<br><br>(3) An application made under paragraph (3) shall provide full information on the manner and purpose for which images of notes or coins are intended to be used including:-<br><br>(a) full names and address of the applicant;<br>(b) nationality of the applicant;-<br>(c) purpose for which the images are intended to be used;<br>(d) specimen of the works over which such use is intended;<br>(e) a declaration that the intended use would not infringe on the Bank’s copyright over the notes or coins..<br><br>(4) An application for authority to make use of images of notes or coins shall be considered by the Bank within fourteen days of the date of receipt of the application and the applicant shall then be notified of the Bank’s decision in writing.<br><br>(5) The Bank’s decision under paragraph (5) shall be final and the Bank shall not be obliged to render the reasons upon which any decision was reached. |
| <i>Licensing of cash defacement devices. Cap 63</i> | 4. (1) Notwithstanding section 367A of the Penal Code, a person may apply to the Bank in the manner set out in paragraph (2), for a licence to use or operate a cash defacement security device in the transit of notes and coins.<br><br>(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall be made in the form provided in the Schedule.  |

(3) The Bank shall, upon satisfaction that an applicant meets the criteria set out in the application form, and upon payment of the prescribed fee, register the applicant and grant a licence to use or operate a cash defacement security device.

(4) A licence granted under this regulation shall be renewable annually upon fulfilment of the conditions of grant and payment of the prescribed renewal fees.

(5) The Bank may, at any time during the currency of a licence, suspend the licence for breach of any of the terms of licensing.

*Exchange of defaced notes or coins*

5. (1) The Bank shall have the sole right and discretion to exchange notes or coins in the case of such notes or coins:-

- a) having become unserviceable owing to ordinary and natural wear and tear;
- b) having been mutilated, defaced or soiled accidentally and the Bank having, in its sole discretion, agreed to make an exchange based on the circumstances of the accident;
- c) having, in its sole discretion, agreed to make an exchange based on the circumstances of the accident;
- d) having been deliberately defaced by a person licensed to operate a cash defacement device under these Regulations.

(2) An Application for exchange of mutilated or defaced notes or coins shall be made to the Bank in writing at the nearest branch of the Bank and shall, in the minimum, require the following information to be provided:-

- a) number and total value of the mutilated or defaced notes or coins;
- b) denominations of the mutilated or defaced notes or coins;
- c) cause of the mutilation or defacement.

(3) Upon receipt of an application for exchange of mutilated or defaced currency under paragraph (2), the Bank shall either:-

- a) on the face of the information provided, agree to exchange the notes or coins;
- b) defer its decision to allow for a reasonable time within which to verify the information provided; or
- c) decline the application.

(4) An application deferred under paragraph (3) shall be considered by the Bank and decided upon within fourteen days from the date it was deferred and the Bank's decision shall be final.

*Exchange of money abroad*

6. The Bank shall, in its absolute discretion, consider applications for exchange of bank notes and coins defaced outside Kenya under the same criteria applying to locally defaced notes and coins.

*Proof of validity of notes and coins*

7. (1) The Bank shall, prior to consideration of any application for exchange of defaced notes and coins, verify and prove that the notes and coins were genuine currency before the event leading to their defacement.

(2) No application for replacement of defaced note or coins shall be allowed if the Bank proves that the affected currency was counterfeit.

*Keeping of records*

8. (1) A person licensed under regulation 4 shall keep proper records and accounts of any cash in notes or coins in transit at any given time, and shall, whenever required, produce for inspection by the Bank such records and accounts.

(2) In the event of any defacement of notes or coins in transit through trigger of cash defacement security devices, the Bank shall consider replacement of such defaced notes or coins as shall tally with the records held of the amounts of currency under transit at the time of trigger of defacement device used:

Provided that the Bank shall not consider for replacement any currency defaced without record back up.

## I

### *Insurance of cash in transit*

9. (1) A person licensed under these Regulations shall, in addition to any perils, take out an additional insurance cover to meet the replacement cost of any currency defaced through application of cash-in-transit security devices.

- (2) The Bank shall be designated as the beneficiary of the additional mandatory cover taken out under paragraph (1), and shall duly advise on the replacement sum payable on the occurrence of every incident of security triggered defacement of cash in transit.

### *Additional penalty*

10. (1) The Bank may, in addition to the penalty imposed under any law, recover as a civil debt from a person convicted of an offence under these Regulations, the replacement cost of notes or coins defaced or otherwise tampered with without authority.
- (2) A licensee under these Regulations in breach of any terms of the license shall, in addition to the penalty imposed under any law, be liable to daily surcharges for any breach that is not remedied on conviction or within the time notified for that purpose by the Bank, and the Bank shall assess and enforce such daily penalties.

## Kenya Subsidiary Legislation, 2008

**SCHEDULE**  
**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE**  
**THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT**  
**(Cap. 491)**

**APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO USE CASH DEFAACEMENT SECURITY DEVICES OF CASH**  
**IN TRANSIT OPERATIONS**

1. Name of Company.....
2. Physical and Postal address of head office:
  - (a) City/Town.....
  - (b) L.R.:No.....
  - (c) Street .....
  - (d) Building.....
  - (e) Postal address .....Code.....
3. Date and country of incorporation .....
4. Certificate of incorporation No.....
5. Licence application for the period: .....
6. Details of branch network and number of years each has conducted business:

Branch	No. of years in operation

## 7. Particulars of Directors:

Name	Nationality	ID/Passport No.	Date of appointment

## 8. Particulars of senior officers both in the head officers and branches:

Name	Nationality	ID/Passport No.	Date of appointment

## 9. Details of devices to be used.

Device type (Dye, Smoke, etc.) .....

Device model .....

Source of device .....

## 10. Declaration (By Chief Executive Officer):

I, the undersigned, hereby declare:

- (a) THAT the particulars set out herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief,
- (b) THAT if licensed, I shall use cash defacement security devices in accordance with the provision of the Central Bank of Kenya Act and of any regulations, guidelines or directive as may from time to time be issued by the Central Bank of Kenya

Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

**Note**

1. Please attach certified copies of:
  - a) Certificate of incorporation
  - b) Valid operating licence
2. Replacement of any of the senior operating officers must be notified to the Bank and particulars of new officers submitted to the Bank immediately.

**NJUGUNA NDUNG’U**  
**Governor,**  
**Central Bank of Kenya.**

Dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008.

L.N. 62 of 2007

**THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT**

(Cap. 491)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 57 of the Central Bank of Kenya Act, the Central Bank of Kenya makes the following Regulations:-

**THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA (FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS)  
REGULATIONS, 2007**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Citation                | 1. These Regulations may be cited as the Central Bank of Kenya (Foreign Exchange Business) Regulations, 2007.   |
| Application for licence | <p>2. (1) An application for the grant or renewal of a licence to transact foreign exchange business shall be in Form CBK/FXD/1 in the Schedule and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.</p> <p>(2) An applicant for a foreign exchange bureau licence shall in addition to other licensing requirements pay a non-refundable application fee of ten thousand shillings.</p> <p>(3) The application fee prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be payable only once by each applicant</p> <p>(4) The Bank may require the applicant to supply such additional information in support of the application as it may consider necessary.</p> <p>(5) A licence under this regulation shall be in Form CBK/FXD/2 in the Schedule and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.</p> |
| Minimum core capital    | <p>3 (1) A company applying for a foreign exchange bureau licence shall not be issued with a licence unless it has a minimum core capital of thirty thousand United States Dollars or its equivalent in Kenya Shillings.</p> <p>(2) The minimum core capital prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be maintained from the date of commencement of operations and at all times during the course of any business operations of a licensed foreign exchange bureau.</p>  |
| Grant of licence        | <p>4 (1) Within six months of receipt of an application, and subject to fulfillment of any other licensing criteria, the Central Bank of Kenya shall grant a foreign exchange licence to an applicant upon -</p> <p>(a) payment by the applicant of a licence fee of sixty five thousand shillings or such other amount as may be determined by the Central Bank of Kenya from time to time; and</p> <p>(b) remittance by the applicant of a non-interest bearing deposit of thirty thousand United States Dollars to a Central Bank of Kenya Dollar Account to be advised.</p> <p>(2) The annual licence fee referred to in sub regulation (1) shall be payable on or before the 31st December of the calendar year preceding the validity of the licence.</p>                                       |

- (3) Every foreign exchange bureau licensed prior to the commencement of these Regulations and which paid a non-interest bearing deposit of five thousand United States Dollars shall be required to increase the deposit paid to ten thousand United States Dollars within one year of the commencement of these Regulations.
- Permission for 5. (1) Any person who-  
certain enterprises
- (a) is licensed under the Tourist Industry Licensing Act to carry on any registered tourist enterprise: or
- (b) owns or operates a duty free shop; or
- (c) by the nature of his business, requires to transact regularly in foreign currency,
- may, pursuant to the provisions of section 33A (3) of the Act on application, be permitted to receive foreign currency which shall be deposited with an authorized bank or sold to an authorized dealer.
- (2) An application under paragraph (1) shall be in Form CBK/FXD/3 in the Schedule.
- (3) The Bank may require the applicant to supply such additional information in support of the application as it may consider necessary.
- (4) The Bank's permission under this regulation shall be in CBK/FXD/4 in the Schedule.
- Suspension or 6. (1) A foreign exchange bureau shall -  
revocation of  
licence.
- (a) submit, not later than three months after the end of its financial year, to the Central Bank of Kenya, its annual audited accounts and a copy of the auditor's report in the prescribed form;
- (b) furnish, at such time and manner as the Central Bank of Kenya may direct and require, any information in an accurate and complete manner to discharge its functions under the Act; and
- (c) comply with such guidelines as may be issued by Central Bank of Kenya through circulars.
- (2) The Central Bank may suspend or revoke the licence of a foreign exchange bureau which contravenes sub regulation (1).
- Payment of 7. (1) Any fees prescribed under these Regulations shall be payable to the Central  
fees Bank of Kenya.
- (2) Any fees paid to the Bank under these Regulations shall be non-refundable.
- Revocation of 8. The Central Bank of Kenya (Foreign Exchange Business Regulations, 1996 are  
L.N. 23 of 1996  
... revoked.
2. Physical and postal address of head office:
- (a) City/Town .....
- (b) L.R. No. ....
- (c) Street .....
- (d) Building .....
- (e) P.O. Box No. ....
3. Date and country of incorporation .....
4. Certificate of incorporation No. ....
5. Number and date of issue of previous foreign exchange licence .....
- .....
6. Current banking licence/ foreign exchange bureau licence number .....



7. Name of branch offices and the number of years each has been established and has conducted or carried on business as an authorized dealer:

**Branch****Years**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

8. Particulars of directors:

Name	Designation	Nationality

9. Particulars of chief foreign exchange operations officers in descending order of seniority:

Name	Designation	Nationality

10. Declaration (by Director/Secretary):

I, the undersigned, hereby declare:

(a) THAT the particulars set are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief;

(b) THAT if licenced, I shall transact foreign exchange business in accordance with the provisions of the Central Bank of Kenya Act and of any regulations, guidelines or directives as may from time to time be issued by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Dated .....

Name ..... Signature .....

*Note:*

1. Please attach copies of -

(a) Certificate of incorporation;  
 (b) Valid banking licence.

2. Please attach:

(a) Certified passport size photographs of all the chief foreign exchange operations officers; and

(b) Credentials and curricula vitae of all chief foreign exchange operations officers.

3. The Bank shall be required to present the chief foreign exchange operations officers for interview and registration by the Bank.

4. Replacement of any chief foreign exchange operations officer registered pursuant to paragraph 3 must be notified to the Bank and any prospective replacement presented to the Bank for interview and registration by the Bank before engagement.

5. All information provided in this form shall be treated as confidential.

**FORM CBK/FXD/2****(r. 2 (6))****THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT***(Cap. 491)***LICENCE TO TRANSACT FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS**

THIS LICENCE is granted to .....  
 .....(name of specified bank/foreign exchange bureau) of  
 ..... (address) and authorizes the said specified bank/foreign  
 exchange bureau to transact foreign exchange business in Kenya.

THIS LICENCE is subject to the provisions of the Central Bank of Kenya Act and  
 to the conditions endorsed hereon.

**CONDITIONS**

Date of issue .....

Date of expiry .....

Licence No. ....

.....  
 Governor,  
 Central Bank of Kenya

**FORM****(r.5(2))****CBK/FXD/3****THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT***(Cap. 491)***APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSACT FOREIGN  
EXCHANGE BUSINESS**

Please Use Block (Capital) Letters

1. Full name of applicant .....
2. Physical and postal address of head office:
  - (a) City/Town .....
  - (b) L.R. Number .....
  - (c) Street .....
  - (d) Building .....
  - (e) P.O. Box Number .....
  - (f) Telephone Number(s) .....
  - (g) Fax Number(s) .....
3. Full name and address of bankers .....

.....  
 .....

4. Date and country of incorporation/registration .....
- .....
5. Number of certificate of incorporation/registration .....
- .....
6. Particulars of senior officers in descending order of seniority:

Name	Designation	Nationality

7. Particulars of Directors:

Name	Designation	Nationality

8. Nature of foreign exchange transactions for which permission is being sought

.....

9. Declaration (*by Director/Secretary*)

I, the undersigned hereby declare:

- (a) THAT the particulars set out herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief;
- (b) THAT if licensed, I shall transact foreign exchange business in accordance with the provisions of the Central Bank of Kenya Act and of any regulations, guidelines or directives as may from time to time be issued by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Dated .....

Name ..... Signature .....

- i. Please attach copies of:

- (a) Certificate of incorporation/registration;
- (b) Memorandum and articles of association;
- (c) Valid trade licence.

- ii. Please attach:

- (a) Certified passport size photographs of each director;
- (b) An original certificate of financial position from your bankers

**FORM CBK/FXD/4****(R. 5 (4))****THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT****(Cap. 491)****PERMISSION TO TRANSACT FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS**

PERMISSION to transact foreign exchange business has been granted to:

Messrs: .....

.....

Address: .....

and is valid for the period ..... to .....

**CONDITIONS**

Date of Issue: .....

No.: .....

.....  
Governor,  
Central Bank of Kenya.

Dated the 24th April, 2007

NJUGUNA NDUNG'U  
GOVERNOR,  
CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA

Dated the 24th April, 2007

**L. N. 118****THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA ACT****(Cap. 491)**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by section 57 of the Central Bank of Kenya Act, the Central Bank of Kenya makes the following Regulations:-

**THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA (DECLARATION OF CURRENCY)  
REGULATIONS, 1998**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Central Bank of Kenya (Declaration of Currency) Regulations, 1998.
2. Any person leaving or entering Kenya may take out or bring into Kenya currency upto a maximum of five hundred thousand (500,000) shillings or the equivalent of five thousand United States dollars (US\$ 5,000) in foreign currency.
3. Any person in possession of currency exceeding the limits specified in regulation 2 shall declare the amount to the Customs Officer at the point of entry or departure.
4. The declaration of currency shall be in form CBK/C.D./1 set out in the Schedule.

**SCHEDULE**

FORM CBK/C.D./1

**CURRENCY DECLARATION**

NO. ....

This Declaration is to be completed in Duplicate by persons entering or leaving Kenya with more than the equivalent of US\$ 5,000 or Kshs. 500,000 in currency notes.

I, the undersigned hereby declare that I have the following foreign currency in my possession:

Description and type of Currency Notes	Amount of Currency Notes	
	In Figures	In Words

I am ordinary resident in ..... (Country)

Full Name .....

Passport No. ....

Address in Kenya .....

.....

.....

Signature ..... Date .....

**CUSTOMS STAMP  
DATE AND SIGNATURE**

**NOTES:**

1. This form should be presented at the point of entry/ exit to the Customs Officer who shall stamp both copies.
2. The Customs Office reserves the right to physically verify the amounts.
3. It is an offence not to declare the currency in your possession under the provisions of the Central Bank of Kenya Act.

Made on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1998

**MICAH CHESEREM  
GOVERNOR  
CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA**