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The Constitution of the Free Republic of Liberland draft

Last updated: 2015-05-10 09:19 CEST

Notice: this is NOT a final version of Constitution, it is just a draft!

We, the Citizens of the Free Republic of Liberland, in order to secure Life, Liberty, and Property, for ourselves and future generations, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the Free Republic of Liberland, attempting a harmonious consensus for the benefit of all those seeking their home in this place. Being aware of a long and shameful list of governments' trespasses to the Rights of the people, we hereby declare that the Public Authority governing the Free Republic of Liberland shall first and foremost respect the Bill of Rights and exercise only such functions as have been delegated to it under this Constitution. Therefore, drawing inspiration from the noble tradition of the Founding Fathers of the American Nation, we declare that whenever the Public Authority becomes an obstacle to, rather than a guarantor of, our Rights, it shall be our duty to alter or abolish such government, and to institute a new government for the restoration of the Rights which we consider inherent in all human beings.

Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights shall constitute the integral part of the Constitution and shall be binding upon all branches of the Public Administration. The following rights shall apply equally to all persons regardless of their citizenship, gender, ethnicity, opinions, religion, national origin, or peaceful lifestyle.

Article I: General Provisions

- **§I.1.** The enumeration in this Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the Citizens and other residents of the Free Republic of Liberland.
- **§I.2.** The powers not conferred upon the Public Administration by this Constitution, shall not be exercised by it.
- **§I.3.** Any person in public office who is convicted of intentional breach of this Constitution, shall be immediately removed from the office and shall not hold any other public office in the future.

Article II: Legislative Restrictions

- **§II.1.** No ex post facto law shall be passed.
- **§II.2.** No Bill of Attainder shall be passed.
- **§II.3.** No law shall abridge the right of persons to the control of their own bodies and property, nor interfere with voluntary consensual or contractual relations among adult persons, nor impinge on the right to form cooperative ventures of any kind, so long as no negative rights of others are infringed by force or fraud, or threat thereof, or unbeknown to them.
- **§II.4.** No law shall invade the privacy of peaceful persons by unreasonable searches, seizures, storage of personal information without consent of their rightful owners, including but not limited to, the use of digital means, freeze of assets of any natural and/or legal person, otherwise than in pursuit of a Warrant issued by a judge of appropriate court, and only to an extent which is necessary to attain the end; no Warrants shall be issued, but upon probable cause, supported by appropriate request, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized or put under surveillance.
- **§II.5.** No law shall allow for the private property be fully or partially taken for the public use without the consent of, and mutually agreeable compensation to, the owner.
- **§II.6.** No law shall create victimless and/or consensual crimes.
- **§II.7.** No law shall mandate any person to associate and/or transact with any other person; nor shall it prohibit it.
- **§II.8.** No law shall abridge the freedom of thought and feeling, or their peaceful expression or dissemination, as in speech, press and other media, artistic depiction, or religious practice; nor shall any law promote or hinder any religion, artistic culture, gender or specific community.
- **§II.9.** No law shall abridge the right to assemble peacefully where no rights of others are infringed.
- **§II.10.** No law shall establish the institution of slavery, conscription, indenture, or any other form of involuntary servitude, within the Free Republic of Liberia, or in any place subject to its jurisdiction.
- **§II.11.** No law shall abridge the right of any person to use or issue any commodity or item as currency; nor shall the Public Administration of the Free Republic of Liberia engage in any form of monetary regulation or currency issue; nor shall it establish any Central Bank.
- **§II.12.** No law shall propose, consent to, or request the incorporation of the Free Republic of Liberia, or any part thereof, to any other jurisdiction.
- **§II.13.** No law shall impose any obligations as to pursuing and/or obtaining any stage of education by any person; nor shall it regulate the content of any curriculum used by any school or any higher education institute at any stage of education.
- **§II.14.** No law shall establish and/or regulate the institution of marriage between persons of age.
- **§II.15.** No law shall oblige any person to acquire any form of insurance and/or pension scheme, nor shall it provide any incentive in that respect.
- **§II.16.** No law shall prohibit video and/or audio recording of any agent of the Public Administration in public space and whilst on duty.
- **§II.17.** No law shall abridge the right of self-defence and/or defence of one's property against initiators of aggression, including the agents of the Public Administration where acting unlawfully and/or in error.
- **§II.18.** No law shall institute price controls of goods and/or services, nor rent controls.
- **§II.19.** No law shall regulate the rules concerning uploading and/or transmitting any materials through the Internet and/or any other medium of exchange, where all parties of age involved consent; nor shall it regulate the rules concerning displaying and/or accessing such material.
- **§II.20.** No law shall exempt Assembly Representatives from its operation, nor deny to any person the equal protection of the laws.

Article III: Individual Rights

- **§III.1.** The Citizens of the Free Republic of Liberia shall have the access to information which relates to any aspect of the functioning of any body of any branch of the Public Administration which

is not classified, and no information shall be classified unless it is absolutely necessary for the purposes of national security.

- **§III.2.** No excessive bail shall be required, nor excessive fines imposed.
- **§III.3.** No torture or other cruel, unusual, or degrading treatment shall be inflicted on any person by any agent of any branch of the Public Administration or with consent or knowledge thereof; no person shall be subjected to experiments of any sort without his or her consent; any person whatsoever responsible shall be held personally accountable for such a crime against human dignity, regardless of any law, policy, command or suggestion which might have been authorising such conduct.
- **§III.4.** No person shall be convicted of an illegal disclosure of classified information if that piece of information proves or could be reasonably believed to be proving that any agent of any branch of the Public Administration has breached, remains in breach or intends to breach the law.
- **§III.5.** Any agent of the Public Administration shall be personally liable for any loss caused by him or her whilst acting in their official capacity but unlawfully and/or in error.
- **§III.6.** No Assembly Representative shall be precluded from taking part in any Assembly vote by virtue of being detained prior to his or her trial; no judge of any Court of the Free Republic of Liberia shall be detained on suspicion of any criminal offence unless with an express consent of at least three Justices of the Supreme Court.
- **§III.7.** In criminal cases, the defendant shall have the right to the following:
 - **§III.7(1)** to a speedy and public trial;
 - **§III.7(2)** to trial by an impartial jury composed of twelve Citizens;
 - **§III.7(3)** to be informed of criminal charges;
 - **§III.7(4)** to confront witnesses and to compel witnesses to appear in court;
 - **§III.7(5)** to the assistance of legal counsel free of charge where appropriate;
 - **§III.7(6)** to be presumed innocent until proven guilty;
 - **§III.7(7)** not to be compelled to be a witness against himself or herself.
- **§III.8.** No person shall be convicted, sentenced, or imprisoned without due process of law.
- **§III.9.** A person who has been arrested, detained, imprisoned, tried, or sentenced either illegally or in error shall receive fair restitution.
- **§III.10.** No person shall be detained without trial for more than twenty-four hours otherwise than in pursuit of a Warrant issued by a judge of the Criminal Court, and no Warrants shall be issued, but upon probable cause, supported by appropriate request and unless it is absolutely necessary for the protection of others; and no detention in pursuit of such a Warrant shall be longer than it is absolutely necessary to bring an accused to trial.
- **§III.11.** No person shall either before or after trial be held incommunicado.
- **§III.12.** An accused who does not speak the language in which the criminal proceedings are conducted shall be provided without expense with the services of an interpreter.
- **§III.13.** No person shall be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of a penalty.
- **§III.14.** No person shall be deprived of the right to own, manufacture, sell, transport, and bear arms unless declared otherwise by a court of law on mental health grounds, nor shall licensing be used to infringe upon this right.
- **§III.15.** No person shall be prevented from challenging an administrative decision given in his or her respect via the procedure of judicial review.
- **§III.16.** No person shall be tried for disobedience against an unlawful action of any agent of the Public Administration and/or against unconstitutional law.
- **§III.17.** No person shall be deprived of his or her citizenship otherwise than by a court of law.

Political Institutions

The Free Republic of Liberia shall be governed by the Public Authority in accordance with the Constitution. It shall exercise the legislative, executive and judicial functions which have been conferred upon it by this Part of the Constitution and not restricted under the Bill of Rights.

Article IV: The Legislative Power

- **§IV.1.** All legislative powers of the Free Republic of Liberland shall be vested in the Citizens of the Free Republic of Liberland and the Assembly of the Free Republic of Liberland, hereinafter, “the Assembly”, which shall exercise it on behalf of the Citizens.
- **§IV.2.** The Assembly shall consist of twenty Assembly Representatives elected by the Citizens in the General Election held every four years.
- **§IV.3.** No Assembly Representative shall hold the office for more than eight years.
- **§IV.4.** The Assembly shall elect the Chancellor of the Free Republic of Liberland, hereinafter, “the Chancellor”, who shall form the Cabinet of the Free Republic of Liberland, hereinafter, “the Cabinet”, with the majority of no fewer than eleven votes; all members of the Cabinet shall be drawn from citizenry.
- **§IV.5.** The Assembly shall have the power to withdraw confidence from the Chancellor along with his Cabinet by passing the constructive motion of no confidence with the majority of no fewer than eleven votes, only if there is a majority for a prospective successor; confidence from a single Member of the Cabinet can be withdrawn by passing the ordinary motion of no confidence with the majority of no fewer than eleven votes.
- **§IV.6.** If no Chancellor is elected in accordance with the procedure provided in §IV.4 for more than ninety days, the General Election must be held.
- **§IV.7.** The power to initiate a legislative procedure shall lie with the Cabinet only.
- **§IV.8.** An ordinary Bill shall be passed into law with the majority of no fewer than fifteen votes of the Assembly Representatives subject to the power of general veto by the Citizens as provided in §IV.13 and §IV.14.
- **§IV.9.** A Constitutional Bill proposing an Amendment to this Constitution shall be passed only with the unanimous vote with all Assembly Representatives present and participating in the vote, and shall be subject to the power of general veto by the Citizens as provided in §IV.15.
- **§IV.10.** The Financial Bill containing the provisions of the Annual Budget shall be passed with the majority of no fewer than eleven votes and shall be subject to the power of general veto by the Citizens as provided in §IV.15.
 - **§IV.10(1)** No provision of the Annual Budget shall provide for more spending than revenue; the budget shall not be with deficit;
 - **§IV.10(2)** No provision of the Annual Budget shall provide for any investment that would be designed mainly to boost the economy and/or create employment and/or maintain employment; nor for acquiring any property by any branch of the Public Authority for purposes other than recognised by this Constitution.
 - **§IV.10(3)** No provision of the Annual Budget shall provide for any form of direct and/or indirect bail out of any legal and/or natural person;
 - **§IV.10(4)** No provision of the Annual Budget shall provide for funding or partial funding of any political party;
 - **§IV.10(5)** No provision of the Annual Budget shall provide for funding or partial funding of any form of healthcare services and/or pension schemes;
 - **§IV.10(6)** Annual Budget shall constitute the only source of financial provisions for the Free Republic of Liberland.
- **§IV.11.** The Assembly shall regulate its own affairs, determine its own rules of procedure, and choose its own officers, including the Assembly Speaker who shall preside over the business of the Assembly, with the majority of no fewer than eleven votes.
- **§IV.12.** The powers of the Assembly shall be restricted to the following only:
 - **§IV.12(1)** to protect the rights of the people to their persons and property;
 - **§IV.12(2)** to conduct the financial affairs of the Public Administration;
 - **§IV.12(3)** to lay and collect tax on actual land and/or sales tax only, subject to the requirement of the mandatory referendum as provided in §IV.15, for one or more of the following purposes only:

- * §IV.12(3)(a) covering the expenses of the Public Administration;
- * §IV.12(3)(b) maintaining the internal security;
- * §IV.12(3)(c) providing for the system of Administration of Justice;
- * §IV.12(3)(d) securing and promoting the interests of the Free Republic of Liberia world-wide.
- §IV.12(4) to establish a militia to maintain the internal security;
- §IV.12(5) to vest the appointment of such officers whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for;
- §IV.12(6) to maintain the system of the Administration of Justice;
- §IV.12(7) to make such laws as shall be necessary for carrying into execution the powers vested by this Constitution in the Assembly provided that no law imposes greater restrictions on the people than absolutely necessary for the attainment of the end;
- §IV.12(8) to assent to the incorporation of any new territories to the Free Republic of Liberia.
- §IV.13. Any ordinary Bill passed by the Assembly under this Constitution shall be subject to the general right of veto by the Citizens as expressed in the referendum.
 - §IV.13(1) Any Bill vetoed by the Citizens in the referendum shall be considered void and shall not be revived for at least a year;
 - §IV.13(2) Where the Financial Bill is vetoed, the provisions of the Annual Budget adopted the previous year shall apply.
- §IV.14. The referendum provided for in §IV.13 shall be triggered by the request of no less than 3% of the overall number of Citizens, if submitted within ninety days after the Bill was passed by the Assembly, and shall be deemed to veto the legislative proposal if the majority of the Citizens taking part in that referendum vote ‘No’.
- §IV.15. Any Bill proposing taxation and/or taxation-like burdens, such as any form of duty, or any Constitutional Bill shall be subject to the mandatory referendum to take place within ninety days after the Bill was passed by the Assembly, and shall be deemed to be vetoed if the majority of the Citizens taking part in that referendum vote ‘No’.
- §IV.16. Any referendum in the Free Republic of Liberia shall be conducted online via the Internet.
- §IV.17. Any Bill proposed to the Assembly shall pertain to one matter only as expressed in its title; it shall contain rationale behind it and means of achieving thereof including precise calculations as to its potential impact on the budget; and shall specify under which power delegated by this Constitution to the Assembly it is proposed; such Bill shall be read aloud in entirety by the Assembly Speaker before it is passed.
- §IV.18. A Bill shall become ‘under consideration’ once it is passed by the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of this Article, and either 90 days have passed and no referendum was called in accordance with §IV.13 and §IV.14, or on the day the Bill obtained the assent of the Citizens in referendum.
- §IV.19. A Bill shall become the law of the Free Republic of Liberia, and shall be known as “Act” once it became ‘under consideration’ in accordance with the procedure provided for in §IV.18, and was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of the Free Republic of Liberia, hereinafter, “the Supreme Court”.
- §IV.20. The law of the Free Republic of Liberia shall enter into force on the day it is signed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or if unable, by any other Justice of the Supreme Court which must take place upon the declaration of constitutionality.

Article V: The Executive Power

- §V.1. The executive power of the Free Republic of Liberia shall be vested in the Cabinet.
- §V.2. The Cabinet shall be formed and presided over by the Chancellor, who is the Head of State.
- §V.3. The Chancellor, on behalf of the Cabinet, shall once a year publicly give to the Assembly information on the State of the Republic, and recommend to their consideration such measures as the

Cabinet shall judge necessary thereby initiating a legislative procedure in accordance with the provisions of Article I.

- **§V.4.** The powers of the Chancellor and the Cabinet shall be restricted to the following only:
 - **§V.4(1)** to run day-to-day state affairs;
 - **§V.4(2)** to initiate a legislative procedure;
 - **§V.4(3)** to protect and promote the interests of the Free Republic of Liberia worldwide;
 - **§V.4(4)** to make international treaties with the consent of no fewer than fifteen votes of the Assembly Representatives;
 - **§V.4(5)** to execute in good faith the laws passed by the Assembly;
 - **§V.4(6)** to produce byelaws in a form of Delegated Instruments under the powers expressly granted to it by Acts of the Assembly;
 - **§V.4(7)** to appoint the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and other Justices of the Supreme Court upon the recommendation of the Judicial Committee.
- **§V.5.** The Cabinet shall consist of the following Departments only:
 - **§V.5(1)** Department of Justice
 - **§V.5(2)** Department of Internal Affairs
 - **§V.5(3)** Department of Security
 - **§V.5(4)** Department of Foreign Affairs
 - **§V.5(5)** Department of Treasury
- **§V.6.** Each Department shall be headed by the Secretary of State for the respective Department who shall answer to the Chancellor and the Assembly.
- **§V.7.** It shall be the duty of the Cabinet to refuse to execute any laws passed by the Assembly in conflict with the Constitution.

Article VI: The Judicial Power

- **§VI.1.** The judicial power of the Free Republic of Liberia shall be vested in the Courts of the Free Republic of Liberia.
- **§VI.2.** The Courts of the Free Republic of Liberia shall consist of the Civil Court, Criminal Court and the Supreme Court.
- **§VI.3.** The judges of the Courts of the Free Republic of Liberia shall be independent and shall not be removable by any member of the other branches of the Public Administration; and shall regulate their own affairs within a non-departmental body.
- **§VI.4.** The Supreme Court shall be presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and shall be composed of him or her and four others judges called the Justices of the Supreme Court, appointed by the Chancellor for life, and shall reach its decisions by a majority of votes.
- **§VI.5.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or any Justice of the Supreme Court shall be only removed from their position by the Citizens with a simple majority in a referendum called by no less than 10% of population.
- **§VI.6.** The Supreme Court shall hear appeals from the Civil Court and the Criminal Court on the point of law where such appeal was permitted by the Supreme Court.
- **§VI.7.** The criminal offenses shall be prosecuted by the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Free Republic of Liberia, headed by the Chief Public Prosecutor, on behalf of the Citizens or with consent of the victim where appropriate.
- **§VI.8.** The criminal offenses shall be tried in the Criminal Court before a judge with a panel of Jury to give a verdict of ‘Guilty’ or ‘Not guilty’; acquittal by Jury shall be final. The Jury shall render the verdict according to the law under advice of the judge, and shall determine the facts, but retains the unequivocal right to acquit, and shall be informed of this right.
- **§VI.9.** The civil wrongs and administrative disputes shall be adjudicated in the Civil Court by a panel of three judges.

- **§VI.10.** The Supreme Court shall review the constitutionality of every Bill passed by the Assembly and no Bill shall become the law of the Free Republic of Liberia unless the Supreme Court, by a simple majority, declares the Bill to be constitutional.
 - **§VI.10(1)** Nothing in this paragraph precludes the Supreme Court of the Free Republic of Liberia from striking down any provision of any Act passed by the Assembly as unconstitutional at any later criminal or civil proceedings.