

GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

**ACT**

No. 16 of 2008

Date of Assent: 24th September, 2008

**An Act to amend the Local Courts Act.**

[ 26th September, 2008

ENACTED by the Parliament of Zambia.

Enactment

1. This Act may be cited as the Local Courts (Amendment) Act, 2008, and shall be read as one with the Local Courts Act, in this Act referred to as the principal Act.

Short title  
Cap. 29

2. Section *four* of the principal Act is amended in subsections (1) and (3) by the deletion of the word "Minister" and the substitution therefor of the words "Chief Justice".

Amendment  
of section 4

3. The principal Act is amended by the repeal of section *six* and the substitution therefor of the following new section:

Repeal and  
replacement  
of section 6

6. (1) A local court shall consist of a presiding local court magistrate sitting alone or with such number of local court magistrates as may be prescribed by the Chief Justice in the court warrant:

Constitution  
of local  
courts and  
appointment  
of local  
court  
magistrates

Provided that a single local court magistrate shall constitute the court in the absence of the presiding local

court magistrate.

(2) The presiding local court magistrate and other local court magistrates shall be appointed by the Commission for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) A person shall not sit as a local court magistrate in the adjudication of any matter in which the person is a party or in which the person has a pecuniary or personal interest:

Provided that if any doubt arises as to whether a local court magistrate is a party to a matter before a local court or has any pecuniary or personal interest in such matter, the local court shall refer the matter to an authorised officer who shall issue such directions as the officer may consider appropriate.