

LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL COURTS

An LC court sitting with court members, the complainant and the accused as well as some community members



LANGUAGE OF COURT

The language widely spoken in the area

Interpretation for a person who does not understand the language

The court recordings should be in English

Principles of impartiality without fear or favor

Each party is given an opportunity to be heard



The nearest authorities most of us will turn to are the **LOCAL COUNCIL LEADERS**



As we return to the villages from the camps, small conflicts continue to exist amidst us, naturally.

The nearest authorities most of us will turn to are the Local Council leaders commonly referred to as LCs. The members of the LC courts are elected by the LCs.

WHO CAN BE AN LC COURT MEMBER?

A resident of the area of High moral character with Knowledge of the common local language * Not a member of parliament, LC or Statutory body and Not a member of another Local Council Court.

WHEN CAN THE LC COURTS SIT TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS?

* As often as a case comes up * With quorum which should be maintained throughout the case * In the presence of the Chairperson or the vice chairperson * At a designated place within the limits of its jurisdiction.

WHAT CASES CAN LC COURTS PRESIDE OVER?

* Debts * Contracts * Assaults or Assault and battery * Conversion * Damage to property * Trespass * Land disputes held under customary tenure * Disputes on marriage, marital status, separation, divorce or the parentage of children * Disputes in identity of a customary heir * Customary bailment * Infringement of bye-laws under the local Government Acts * Matters specified under the Children Act * Matters relating to land.



WHERE IS A CASE INSTITUTED?

Where the defendant actually resides at the time the suit starts. Where the cause of action arose. In case of a dispute over immovable property, where the property is situated.

WHAT POWERS DO THE LC COURTS HAVE?

Relief can be made in form of;
* Reconciliation
* Declaration * Compensation * Restitution * Costs * Apology * Attachment and sale * Fine, community service or other penalties in

case of infringement of a bye law.

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PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE

* Principles of impartiality without fear or favor; * Each party is given an opportunity to be heard * Notice of the proceedings and of the case against him/her.

APPEALS



* Given ample opportunity to call witnesses and to produce enough evidence to support his or her case.

LC court member to disqualify themselves in case of interest in the case.

An appeal can be lodged within 14 days from the date of judgment.

WHAT LC COURTS CANNOT DO

* Sit after dusk
* Deal with cases pending before another court.
* Order remand of a child appearing in court.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LC COURTS,

The Local Council representatives in your area * District Offices * LC V's Office * Look at the Local Council Court Act 2006.

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