

Malawi

General Interpretation Act

Chapter 1:01

Legislation as at 31 December 2014

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General Interpretation Act

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Assented to on 26 August 1966

Commenced on 29 August 1966

[This is the version of this document at 31 December 2014.]

[Note: This version of the Act was revised and consolidated in the Forth Revised Edition of the Laws of Malawi (L.R.O. 1/2015), by the Solicitor General and Secretary for Justice under the authority of the Revision of the Laws Act.]

An Act to make provision with regard to the construction, application and interpretation of written law, to make certain general provisions with regard to such law and other like purposes

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the General Interpretation Act.

2. Interpretation of words and expressions

- (1) In this Act and, subject to [section 57](#), in every other written law enacted, made or issued before or after the coming into operation of this Act, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent with such construction or unless it is therein otherwise provided—

"**act**" used with reference to an offence or civil wrong includes an omission and extends to a series of acts and omissions;

"**Act**" used with reference to legislation means an Act of Parliament, an Ordinance, and any applied Act;

"**administrative officer**" means a District Commissioner or an Assistant District Commissioner;

"**amendment**" includes repeal, addition, variation and substitution;

"**applied Act**" means any legislation not enacted by the legislature of Malawi which by virtue of the Republic of Malawi (Constitution) Act has the force of an Act of Parliament in Malawi;

"**Cabinet**" means the Cabinet constituted by or under the Constitution;

"**calendar year**" means the period from the 1st January to the 31st December in the same year including both those days;

"**Chief**" has the meaning ascribed thereto by section 2 of the Chiefs Act;

[23 of 1971]

[Cap. 22:03]

"**Chief Justice**" means the Chief Justice of the High Court;

"**cognizable to the police**" and "**cognizable**" used with reference to an offence means that a police officer may arrest without warrant a person whom he suspects upon reasonable grounds of having committed that offence;

"**commencement**" used with reference to a written law means the date on which that written law comes into operation;