



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Index

Section	Page
PREAMBLE	7
ARTICLE I - SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION	8
§1. This Constitution to be Supreme Law.....	8
§2. Inconsistency with this Constitution.....	8
§3. Interpretation and Application of this Constitution.....	8
§4. Enforcement of this Constitution.....	9
ARTICLE II - BILL OF RIGHTS	9
§1. Freedom of Thought, Speech, Press, Religion, Assembly, Association, and Petition.....	9
§2. Slavery and Involuntary Servitude.....	10
§3. Unreasonable Search and Seizure.....	10
§4. Due Process and Fair Trial.....	11
§5. Just Compensation.....	12
§6. Cruel and Unusual Punishment.....	13
§7. Habeas Corpus.....	14
§8. Ex -Post Facto Laws and Bills of Attainder.....	15
§9. Quartering of Soldiers.....	15
§10. Imprisonment for Debt.....	15
§11. Conscription and Conscientious Objection.....	15
§12. Equal Protection and Freedom from Discrimination.....	15
§13. Personal Autonomy and Privacy.....	16
§14. Access to Judicial and Electoral Processes.....	16
§15. Health, Education, and Legal Services.....	16
§16. Ethical Government.....	16

§17.	Other Rights.....	17
§18.	Invoking Bill of Rights Provisions.....	17
ARTICLE III - MWEO IMON IROIJ		17
§1.	The Council of Iroj.	17
§2.	Functions of the Council of Iroj.	19
§3.	Requests for Reconsideration of Bills.....	19
§4.	Compensation of Members of the Council of Iroj.	20
§5.	The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Iroj.	20
§6.	Functions of the Chairman.	21
§7.	Procedure of the Council of Iroj.....	22
§8.	Vacancies in the Council of Iroj.	22
§9.	Deputies of Members of the Council of Iroj.....	22
§10.	Privileges of the Council of Iroj and its Members.....	23
§11.	Clerk of the Council of Iroj.....	23
ARTICLE IV - THE LEGISLATURE		24
§1.	Legislative Power Vested in the Nitijela.....	24
§2.	Membership of the Nitijela.....	24
§3.	Elections of Members of the Nitijela.	26
§4.	Qualifications of Candidates.....	26
§5.	Public Servants Who Become Candidates or Are Elected.....	27
§6.	Vacation of Seats by Members of the Nitijela.	27
§7.	The Speaker and the Vice-Speaker.	28
§8.	Functions of the Speaker.....	28
§9.	Determination on Questions of Membership of the Nitijela.	29
§10.	Sessions of the Nitijela.....	30
§11.	Special Provisions as to Termination of Sessions and Recesses of the Nitijela.	31
§12.	Dissolution of the Nitijela and General Election.	31
§13.	Special Provisions for Early Dissolution of the Nitijela and a General Election.....	32
§14.	Clerk of the Nitijela.....	32
§15.	Procedure of the Nitijela.	33
§16.	Privileges of the Nitijela and its Members.	34
§17.	Compensation of Members of the Nitijela.	35
§18.	Introduction of Bills in the Nitijela.....	35
§19.	Special Provisions with regard to Bills Prescribing Compensation.....	35
§20.	Special Provisions with Regard to Bills Prescribing the Qualifications of Judges.	36
§21.	When Bills Become Law.....	36
ARTICLE V - THE EXECUTIVE		37
§1.	Executive Authority and Collective Responsibility of the Cabinet.	37

§2.	Composition of the Cabinet.....	38
§3.	The President.....	39
§4.	Appointment of the Cabinet after Election of the President.....	39
§5.	Allocation of Portfolios.....	40
§6.	Appointment of Ministers and Allocation of Portfolios at Other Times.....	40
§7.	Vote of No Confidence in the Cabinet.....	41
§8.	Vacation of Office by Ministers.....	41
§9.	Acting President.....	42
§10.	Meetings of the Cabinet.....	42
§11.	Instruments and Other Decisions Made by the Cabinet.....	43
§12.	Clerk of the Cabinet.....	43

ARTICLE VI - THE JUDICIARY **44**

§1.	The Judicial Power.....	44
§2.	The Supreme Court.....	45
§3.	The High Court.....	46
§4.	The Traditional Rights Court.....	47
§5.	The Judicial Service Commission.....	48

ARTICLE VII - THE PUBLIC SERVICE **49**

§1.	The Public Service of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.....	49
§2.	The Chief Secretary.....	50
§3.	The Attorney-General.....	50
§4.	The Secretary of Finance.....	51
§5.	The Public Service Commission.....	51
§6.	Tenure of Office of Members of the Public Service Commission.....	52
§7.	Compensation of Members of the Public Service Commission.....	52
§8.	Procedure of the Public Service Commission.....	52
§9.	Functions and Powers of the Public Service Commission.....	52
§10.	Appointments within the Public Service.....	53
§11.	Conditions of Employment in the Public Service.....	53

ARTICLE VIII - FINANCE **54**

§1.	Legislative Control of Public Revenue and Expenditure.....	54
§2.	The Cabinet to Take Responsibility for Budgetary Matters.....	54
§3.	The General Fund.....	55
§4.	Withdrawals from the General Fund or other Public Account.....	55
§5.	The Cabinet to Supervise Expenditure and to Account to the Nitijela.....	55
§6.	The Annual Appropriation Bill.....	56
§7.	Anticipated and Reprogrammed Expenditure.....	57
§8.	Supplementary Appropriation Bills.....	57
§9.	Contingencies Fund.....	58

§10.	Lapse of Appropriations.....	58
§11.	Compensation of Certain Officers Charged on the General Fund.....	58
§12.	Public Debt Charged on the General Fund.....	59
§13.	The Auditor-General.....	59
§14.	Compensation of Auditor-General.....	60
§15.	Audit of Accounts.....	60
ARTICLE IX - LOCAL GOVERNMENT		61
§1.	Right to a System of Local Government.....	61
§2.	Power to Make Ordinances.....	61
ARTICLE X - TRADITIONAL RIGHTS		61
§1.	Traditional Rights of Land Tenure Preserved.....	61
§2.	Declaration of the Customary Law.....	62
ARTICLE XI - CITIZENSHIP		63
§1.	Persons Becoming Citizens.....	63
§2.	Persons Who May Be Registered as Citizens.....	63
§3.	Powers of the Nitijela regarding Citizenship.....	64
ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION		64
§1.	Power to Amend the Constitution.....	64
§2.	Classification of Amendments.....	64
§3.	Amendment by Action of the Nitijela and Referendum.....	65
§4.	Amendment by Constitutional Convention and Referendum.....	66
§5.	Certification by the Speaker.....	67
§6.	Duty to Report.....	68
ARTICLE XIII - TRANSITIONAL		68
§1.	Existing Law to Continue.....	68
§2.	Municipal Councils to be Local Governments.....	69
§3.	Transition to Government under this Constitution.....	69
§4.	Conformity with the Trusteeship Agreement.....	69
§5.	Provisions Made by the Marshall Islands Nitijela.....	69
§6.	Implementation of a Compact of Free Association with the United States.....	70
§7.	Residual Responsibility of the Constitutional Convention.....	70
ARTICLE XIV - GENERAL		70
§1.	Definitions.....	70
§2.	Persons Performing the Functions of an Office.....	72
§3.	Determination of Quorum and Right to Vote.....	72
§4.	Dates, Days and Periods of Time.....	72

§5. Authentic Text	73
§6. Effective Date of this Constitution.....	73
AMENDMENT NO. 1.	73
AMENDMENT NO. 2	74
AMENDMENT NO. 35	74
AMENDMENT NO. 40.	74