

*Act*  
**THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE, 1963**

**No. 46 of 1963**

*Date of Assent: 9th December, 1963*

*Date of Commencement: 10th December, 1963*

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SCHEDULES.

<sup>Act</sup>  
An Ordinance to Declare the Law of Evidence

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya, as follows:—

CHAPTER I—PRELIMINARY

Short title.           1. This <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance may be cited as the Evidence Ordinance, 1963.

Application.           2. This <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance shall apply to all judicial proceedings in or before any court other than a Khadi's court or African court, but not to affidavits presented to any court officer nor to proceedings before an arbitrator.

Interpretation.       3. (1) In this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, except where the context otherwise requires—

“admissible” means admissible in evidence;

Cap. 16.               “advocate” has the meaning ascribed to that expression in the Advocates <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, and includes any person entitled, pursuant to section 9 of that <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, to act as an advocate, whilst so acting in connexion with the duties of his office;

“bank” means a person or company or other body of persons carrying on, whether on his or their own behalf or as agent for another, any banking <sup>Act</sup> business (as defined in section 2 of the Banking <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance), and includes—

Cap. 488.           (a) the Savings Bank constituted under the Post Office Savings Bank <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, and any branch thereof; and

Cap. 121.           (b) for the purposes of sections 176 and 177 of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, any person carrying on banking business in <sup>Tanganyika, Uganda or Zanzibar</sup> Tanganyika, Uganda or Zanzibar;

“banker's book” includes a ledger, day book, cash book, account book, and any other book used in the ordinary business of the bank;

“court” includes all judges and magistrates, and all persons, except arbitrators, legally authorized to take evidence;

“evidence” denotes the means by which an alleged matter of fact, the truth of which is submitted to investigation, is proved or disproved; and, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, includes statements by accused persons, admissions, and observation by the court in its judicial capacity;

“fact” includes—

- (a) any thing, state of things, or relation of things, capable of being perceived by the senses;
- (b) any mental condition of which any person is conscious;

“fact in issue” means any fact from which, either by self or in connexion with other facts, the existence, non-existence, nature or extent of any right, liability or disability, asserted or denied in any suit or proceeding, necessarily follows;

“Gazette” and “Government Printer” respectively include the Gazette and the Organization Printer as defined in the Interpretation Act of the High Commission, and the High Commission Printer as formerly so defined;

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“public officer”, except in section 80 of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, includes an officer in the service of the Organization.

(2) A fact is proved when, after considering the matters before it, the court either believes it to exist, or considers its existence so probable that a prudent man ought, in the circumstances of the particular case, to act upon the supposition that it exists.

(3) A fact is disproved when, after considering the matters before it, the court either believes that it does not exist, or considers its non-existence so probable that a prudent man ought, in the circumstances of the particular case, to act upon the supposition that it does not exist.

(4) A fact is not proved when it is neither proved nor disproved.

4. (1) Whenever it is provided by law that the court may presume a fact, it may either regard such fact as proved, unless and until it is disproved, or may call for proof of it.

Presumptions  
of fact.

(2) Whenever it is directed by law that the court shall presume a fact, it shall regard such fact as proved, unless and until it is disproved.



(3) When one fact is declared by law to be conclusive proof of another, the court shall, on proof of the one fact, regard the other as proved, and shall not allow evidence to be given for the purpose of disproving it.

## CHAPTER II—ADMISSIBILITY AND RELEVANCY

### Part I—General

General restriction on admissibility of evidence.

5. Subject to the provisions of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance and of any other law, no evidence shall be given in any suit or proceeding except evidence of the existence or non-existence of a fact in issue, and of any other fact declared by any provision of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance to be relevant.

Facts forming part of same transaction.

6. Facts which, though not in issue, are so connected with a fact in issue as to form part of the same transaction are relevant whether they occurred at the same time and place or at different times and places.

Facts causing or caused by other facts.

7. Facts which are the occasion, cause or effect, immediate or otherwise, of relevant facts or facts in issue, or which constitute the state of things under which they happened or which afforded an opportunity for their occurrence or transaction are relevant.

Facts relating to motive, preparation and conduct.

8. (1) Any fact is relevant which shows or constitutes a motive or preparation for any fact in issue or relevant fact.

(2) The conduct of any party, or of any agent of a party to any suit or proceeding, in reference to such suit or proceeding or in reference to any fact in issue therein or relevant thereto, and the conduct of any person an offence against whom is the subject of any proceeding, is relevant, if such conduct influences or is influenced by any fact in issue or relevant fact, and whether it was previous or subsequent thereto.

(3) When evidence of the conduct of a person is relevant any statement made to him, or in his presence and hearing, which affects such conduct, is relevant.

(4) The word “conduct” in this section does not include statements, unless those statements accompany and explain acts other than statements.

**9.** Facts necessary to explain or introduce a fact in issue or relevant fact, or which support or rebut an inference suggested by such a fact, or which establish the identity of any thing or person whose identity is relevant, or fix the time or place at which any fact in issue or relevant fact happened, or which show the relation of parties by whom any such fact was transacted, are relevant in so far as they are necessary for that purpose.

Explanatory and introductory facts, etc.

**10.** Where there is reasonable ground to believe that two or more persons have conspired together to commit an offence or an actionable wrong, anything said, done or written by any one of such persons in reference to their common intention, after the time when such intention was first entertained by any one of them, is a relevant fact as against each of the persons believed to be so conspiring, as well for the purpose of proving the existence of the conspiracy as for the purpose of showing that any such person was a party to it.

Statements and actions referring to common intention.

**11.** Facts not otherwise relevant are relevant—

- (a) if they are inconsistent with any fact in issue or relevant fact; or
- (b) if by themselves or in connexion with other facts they make the existence or non-existence of any fact in issue or relevant fact highly probable or improbable.

Facts inconsistent with, or affecting probability of, other facts.

**12.** In suits in which damages are claimed, any fact which will enable the court to determine the amount of damages which ought to be awarded is relevant.

Facts affecting quantum of damages.

**13.** Where the existence of any right or custom is in question, the following facts are relevant—

- (a) any transaction by which the right or custom in question was created, claimed, modified, recognized, asserted or denied, or which was inconsistent with its existence;
- (b) particular instances in which the right or custom was claimed, recognized or exercised, or in which its exercise was disputed, asserted or departed from.

Facts affecting existence of right or custom.

**14.** (1) Facts showing the existence of any state of mind, such as intention, knowledge, good faith, negligence, rashness, ill-will or good-will towards any particular person, or showing the existence of any state of body or bodily feeling, are relevant, when the existence of any such state of mind or body or bodily feeling is in issue or relevant.

Facts showing state of mind or feeling.

(2) A fact relevant within the meaning of subsection (1) of this section as showing the existence of a state of mind must show that the state of mind exists, not generally, but in reference to the particular matter in question.

(3) Where, upon the trial of a person accused of an offence, the previous commission by the accused of an offence is relevant within the meaning of subsection (1) of this section, the previous conviction of such person is also relevant.

Facts showing system.

**15.** When there is a question whether an act was accidental or intentional, or done with a particular knowledge or intention, the fact that such act formed part of a series of similar occurrences, in each of which the person doing the act was concerned, is relevant.

Facts showing course of business.

**16.** When there is a question whether a particular act was done, the existence of any course of business, according to which it naturally would have been done, is relevant.

### *Part II—Admissions*

Admissions defined generally.

**17.** An admission is a statement, oral or documentary, which suggests any inference as to a fact in issue or relevant fact, and which is made by any of the persons and in the circumstances hereinafter mentioned.

Statements by party to suit or agent or interested person.

**18.** (1) Statements made by a party to the proceeding, or by an agent to any such party, whom the court regards in the circumstances of the case as expressly or impliedly authorized by him to make them, are admissions.

(2) Statements made by parties to suits, suing or sued in a representative character, are not admissions unless they were made while the party making them held that character.

(3) Statements made by—

(a) persons who have any proprietary or pecuniary interest in the subject-matter of the proceeding, and who make the statement in the character of persons so interested; or

(b) persons from whom the parties to a suit have derived their interest in the subject-matter of the suit, are admissions if they are made during the continuance of interest of the persons making the statements.

**19.** Statements made by persons whose position or liability it is necessary to prove as against any party to a suit, are admissions if such statements would be admissible as against such persons in relation to such position or liability in a suit brought by or against them, and if they are made whilst the person making them occupies such position or is subject to such liability.

Statements by persons whose position or liability must be proved as against party to suit.

**20.** Statements made by persons to whom a party to the suit has expressly referred for information in reference to a matter in dispute are admissions.

Statements by persons expressly referred to by party to suit. Proof of admissions against persons making them, and by or on their behalf.

**21.** Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, an admission may be proved as against the person who makes or his representative in interest; but an admission cannot be proved by or on behalf of the person who makes it or by his representative in interest, except in the following cases—

(a) when it is of such a nature that, if the person making it were dead, it would be admissible as between third persons under section 33 of this Ordinance;

(b) when it consists of a statement of the existence of any state of mind or body, relevant or in issue, made at or about the time when such state of mind or body existed, and is accompanied by conduct rendering its falsehood improbable;

(c) if it is relevant otherwise than as an admission.

**22.** Oral admissions as to the contents of a document may not be proved unless and until the party proposing to prove them shows that he is entitled to give secondary evidence of the contents of such document under the provisions of this Ordinance or unless the genuineness of a document produced is in question.

Oral admissions as to contents of documents.

**23.** (1) In civil cases no admission may be proved if it is made either upon an express condition that evidence of it is not to be given or in circumstances from which the court can infer that the parties agreed together that evidence of it should not be given.

Admissions made without prejudice in civil cases.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall be taken to exempt any advocate from giving evidence of any matter of which he may be compelled to give evidence under section 134 of this Ordinance.

**24.** Admissions are not conclusive proof of the matters admitted, but they may operate as estoppels under the provisions hereinafter contained.

Effect of admissions.

## Part III—Confessions

Confession defined.

**25.** A confession comprises words or conduct, or a combination of words and conduct, from which, whether taken alone or in conjunction with other facts proved, an inference may reasonably be drawn that the person making it has committed an offence.

Confessions and admissions caused by inducement, threat or promise.

**26.** A confession or any admission of a fact tending to the proof of guilt made by an accused person is not admissible in a criminal proceeding if the making of the confession or admission appears to the court to have been caused by any inducement, threat or promise having reference to the charge against the accused person, proceeding from a person in authority and sufficient, in the opinion of the court, to give the accused person grounds which would appear to him reasonable for supposing that by making it he would gain any advantage or avoid any evil of a temporal nature in reference to the proceedings against him.

Confession made after removal of impression caused by inducement, threat or promise.

**27.** If such a confession as is referred to in section 26 of this Ordinance is made after the impression caused by any such inducement, threat or promise has, in the opinion of the court, been fully removed, it is admissible.

Confession of accused while in custody of police officer.

**28.** No confession made by any person whilst he is in the custody of a police officer shall be proved as against such person, unless it be made in the immediate presence of—

- (a) a magistrate empowered or appointed by or under the Courts Ordinance<sup>Act</sup> to hold a subordinate court of any class; or
- (b) a police officer of or above the rank of, or a rank equivalent to, sub-inspector.

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Confessions to police officers.

**29.** No confession made to a police officer shall be proved against a person accused of any offence unless such officer is—

- (a) of or above the rank of, or a rank equivalent to, sub-inspector; or
- (b) an administrative officer holding first or second class magisterial powers and acting in the capacity of a police officer.

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**30.** If a confession made by an accused person is otherwise admissible it does not cease to be so merely because it was made under a promise of secrecy, or in consequence of a deception practised on him for the purpose of obtaining it, or when he was drunk, or because it was made in answer to questions which he need not have answered, whatever may have been the form of those questions, or because he was not warned that he was not bound to make such confession and that evidence of it might be given.

Confession otherwise admissible not to become inadmissible because of promise of secrecy, etc.

**31.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 26, 28 and 29 of this Ordinance, when any fact is <sup>file</sup>deposed to as discovered in consequence of information received from a person accused of any offence, so much of such information, whether it amounts to a confession or not, as relates distinctly to the fact thereby discovered, may be proved.

Information from accused leading to discovery of facts.

**32.** (1) When more persons than one are being tried jointly for the same offence, and a confession made by one of such persons affecting himself and some other of such persons is proved, the court may take the confession into consideration as against such other person as well as against the person who made the confession.

Confession implicating co-accused.

(2) In this section "confession" means any words or conduct, or combination of words and conduct, which has the effect of admitting in terms either an offence or substantially all the facts which constitute an offence;

"offence" includes the abetment of, or an attempt to commit, the offence.

*Part IV—Statements by Persons who Cannot be Called as Witnesses*

**33.** Statements, written or oral, of admissible facts made by a person who is dead, or who cannot be found, or who has become incapable of giving evidence, or whose attendance cannot be procured without an amount of delay or expense which in the circumstances of the case appears to the court unreasonable, are themselves admissible in the following cases—

Statement by deceased person, etc., when—

(a) when the statement is made by a person as to the cause of his death, or as to any of the circumstances of the transaction which resulted in his death, in cases in which the cause of that person's death comes into question. Such statements are admissible whether the person who made them was or was not, at the time when they were made, under expectation

relating to cause of death

of death, and whatever may be the nature of the proceeding in which the cause of his death comes into question;

made in the course of business

(b) when the statement was made by such person in the ordinary course of business, and in particular when it consists of an entry or memorandum made by him in books or records kept in the ordinary course of business or in the discharge of professional duty; or of an acknowledgment written or signed by him of the receipt of money, goods, securities or property of any kind; or of a document used in commerce, written or signed by him; or of the date of a letter or other document usually dated, written or signed by him;

against the interest of maker

(c) when the statement is against the pecuniary or proprietary interest of the person making it, or when, if true, it would expose him or would have exposed him to a criminal prosecution or to a suit for damages;

an opinion as to public right or custom

(d) when the statement gives the opinion of any such person as to the existence of any public right or custom or matter of public or general interest, of the existence of which, if it existed, he would have been likely to be aware, and when such statement was made before any controversy as to such right, custom or matter had arisen;

relating to existence of relationship

(e) when the statement relates to the existence of any relationship by blood, marriage, or adoption between persons as to whose relationship by blood, marriage or adoption the person making the statement has special means of knowledge, and when the statement was made before the question in dispute was raised;

relating to family affairs

(f) when the statement relates to the existence of any relationship by blood, marriage or adoption between persons deceased, and is made in any will or deed relating to the affairs of the family to which any such deceased person belonged, or in any family pedigree or upon any tombstone, family portrait or other thing on which such statements are usually made, and when such statement was made before the question in dispute was raised;

relating to a transaction creating or asserting, etc., a custom.

(g) when the statement is contained in any deed or other document which relates to any such transaction as is mentioned in paragraph (a) of section 13 of this Ordinance;

(h) when the statement was made by a number of persons, and expressed feelings or impressions on their part relevant to the matter in question.

made by several persons and expressing feelings.

**34.** (1) Evidence given by a witness in a judicial proceeding is admissible in a subsequent judicial proceeding, or at a later stage in the same proceeding, for the purpose of proving the facts which it states, in the following circumstances—

Admissibility of evidence given in previous proceedings.

(a) where the witness is dead, or cannot be found, or is incapable of giving evidence, or is kept out of the way by the adverse party, or where his presence cannot be obtained without an amount of delay or expense which in the circumstances of the case the court considers unreasonable;

and where, in the case of a subsequent proceeding—

(b) the proceeding is between the same parties or their representatives in interest; and

(c) the adverse party in the first proceeding had the right and opportunity to cross-examine; and

(d) the questions in issue were substantially the same in the first as in the second proceeding.

(2) For the purposes of this section—

(a) the expression “judicial proceeding” shall be deemed to include any proceeding in which evidence is taken by a person authorized by law to take that evidence on oath.

(b) a criminal trial or inquiry shall be deemed to be a proceeding between the prosecutor and the accused.

*Part V—Statements in Documents Produced in Civil Proceedings*

**35.** (1) In any civil proceedings where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement made by a person in a document and tending to establish that fact shall, on production of the original document, be admissible as evidence of that fact if the following conditions are satisfied, that is to say—

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue.

(a) if the maker of the statement either—

(i) had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement; or



- (ii) where the document in question is or forms part of a record purporting to be a continuous record, made the statement (in so far as the matters dealt with thereby are not within his personal knowledge) in the performance of a duty to record information supplied to him by a person who had, or might reasonably be supposed to have, personal knowledge of those matters; and
- (b) if the maker of the statement is called as a witness in the proceedings:

Provided that the condition that the maker of the statement shall be called as a witness need not be satisfied if he is dead, or cannot be found, or is incapable of giving evidence, or if his attendance cannot be procured without an amount of delay or expense which in the circumstances of the case appears to the court unreasonable.

(2) In any civil proceedings, the court may at any stage of the proceedings, if having regard to all the circumstances of the case it is satisfied that undue delay or expense would otherwise be caused, order that such a statement as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall be admissible or may, without any such order having been made, admit such a statement in evidence—

- (a) notwithstanding that the maker of the statement is available but is not called as a witness;
- (b) notwithstanding that the original document is not produced, if in lieu thereof there is produced a copy of the original document or of the material part thereof certified to be a true copy in such manner as may be specified in the order or the court may approve, as the case may be.

(3) Nothing in this section shall render admissible any statement made by a person interested at a time when proceedings were pending or anticipated involving a dispute as to any fact which the statement might tend to establish.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a statement in a document shall not be deemed to have been made by a person unless the document or the material part thereof was written, made or produced by him with his own hand, or was signed or initialed by him or otherwise recognized by him in writing as one for the accuracy of which he is responsible.

(5) For the purpose of deciding whether or not a statement is admissible by virtue of this section, the court may draw any reasonable inference from the form or contents of the document in which the statement is contained, or from any other circumstances, and may, in deciding whether or not a person is fit to attend as a witness, act on a certificate purporting to be the certificate of a medical practitioner.

**36.** (1) In estimating the weight, if any, to be attached to a statement rendered admissible by section 35 of this Ordinance, regard shall be had to all the circumstances from which any inference can reasonably be drawn as to the curacy or otherwise of the statement, and in particular to the question whether or not the statement was made contemporaneously with the occurrence or existence of the facts stated, and to the question whether or not the maker of the statement had any incentive to conceal or misrepresent facts.

Weight to be attached to statement admissible under section 35.

(2) For the purpose of any rule of law or practice requiring evidence to be corroborated or regulating the manner in which uncorroborated evidence is to be treated, a statement rendered admissible by section 35 of this Ordinance shall not be treated as corroboration of evidence given by the maker of the statement.

#### *Part VI—Statements under Special Circumstances*

**37.** Entries in books of account regularly kept in the course of business are admissible whenever they refer to a matter into which the court has to inquire, but such statements shall not alone be sufficient evidence to charge any person with liability.

Entries in books of account.

**38.** An entry in any public or other official book, register or record, stating a fact in issue or a relevant fact, and made by a public servant in the discharge of his official duty, or by any other person in performance of a duty specially enjoined by the law of the country in which such book, register or record is kept, is itself admissible.

Entries in public records.

**39.** Statements and representations of facts in issue or relevant facts made in published maps or charts generally offered for public sale, or in maps or plans made under the authority of any Government in the Commonwealth, as to matters usually stated or represented in such maps, charts or plans, are themselves admissible.

Statements, etc., in maps, charts and plans.

Statement of fact contained in laws and official gazettes, etc.

**40.** When the court has to form an opinion as to the existence of any fact of a public nature, any statement of it shall be admissible which is made—

(a) in any written law of Kenya, or in any notice purporting to be made in pursuance of any such written law, where the law or notice (as the case may be) purports to be printed by the Government Printer; or

(b) in any written law in force in any country in the Commonwealth, or in any notice purporting to be made in pursuance of any such written law, where the law or notice (as the case may be) purports to be printed or published by or under the authority of the Government of that country.

Statements as to law contained in books.

**41.** When the court has to form an opinion as to a law of any country, any statement of such law contained in a book purporting to be printed or published under the authority of the Government of such country and to contain any such law, and any report of a ruling of the courts of such country contained in a book purporting to be a report of such rulings, is admissible.

*Part VII—Extent to which Statement is Admissible*

Extent of admissibility.

**42.** When any statement of which evidence is given forms part of a longer statement, or of a conversation, or of an isolated document, or is contained in a document which forms part of a book or of a connected series of letters, papers, evidence shall be given of so much and no more of such longer statement, or of such conversation, document, book or series, as the court considers necessary in the particular case to a full understanding of the nature and effect of the statement, and of the circumstances in which it was made.

*Part VIII—Judgments*

Judgments, etc., excluding jurisdiction.

**43.** The existence of any judgment, order or decree which by law prevents any court from taking cognizance of a suit or holding a trial, may be proved when the question is whether such court ought to take cognizance of such suit or to hold such trial.

Judgments  
in rem.

44. (1) A final judgment, order or decree of a competent court which confers upon or takes away from any person any legal character, or which declares any person to be entitled to any such character, or to be entitled to any specific thing, not as against any specified person but absolutely, is admissible when the existence of any such legal character, or the title of any such person to any such thing, is admissible.

(2) Such judgment, order or decree is conclusive proof—

(a) that any legal character which it confers accrued at the time when such judgment, order or decree came into operation;

(b) that any legal character to which it declares any such person to be entitled accrued to that person at the time when such judgment, order or decree declares it to have accrued to that person;

(c) that any legal character which it takes away from any such person ceased at the time from which such judgment, order or decree declared that it had ceased or should cease;

(d) that anything to which it declares any person to be so entitled was the property of that person at the time from which such judgment, order or decree declares that it had been or should be his property.

45. Judgments, orders or decrees, other than those mentioned in section 44 of this Ordinance, are admissible if they relate to matters of a public nature relevant to the inquiry, but such judgments, orders or decrees are not conclusive proof of that which they state.

Other judgments  
of a public  
nature.

46. Judgments, orders or decrees other than those mentioned in sections 43, 44 and 45 of this Ordinance are inadmissible except where the existence of such judgment, order or decree is a fact in issue or is relevant under some other provision of this Ordinance.

Inadmissible  
judgments.

47. Any party to a suit or other proceeding may show that any judgment, order or decree which is admissible under the provisions of this Ordinance and which has been proved by the adverse party, was delivered by a court not competent to deliver it, or was obtained by fraud or collusion.

Proof that  
judgment was  
incompetent or  
obtained by  
fraud or  
collusion.

*Part IX—Opinions*

Opinions of  
experts.

**48.** (1) When the court has to form an opinion upon a point of foreign law, or of science or art, or as to identity or genuineness of handwriting or finger or other impressions, opinions upon that point are admissible if made by persons specially skilled in such foreign law, science or art, or in questions as to identity or genuineness of handwriting or finger or other impressions.

(2) Such persons are called experts.

Facts bearing  
upon opinions  
of experts.

**49.** Facts not otherwise admissible are admissible if they support or are inconsistent with the opinions of experts, when such opinions are admissible.

Opinion as to  
handwriting.

**50.** (1) When the court has to form an opinion as to the person by whom any document was written or signed, the opinion of any person acquainted with the handwriting of the person by whom it is supposed to be written or signed that it was or was not written or signed by that person, is admissible.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, and without prejudice to any other means of determining the question, a person is said to be acquainted with the handwriting of another person when he has seen that person write, or when he has received documents purporting to be written by that person in answer to documents written by himself or under his authority and addressed to that person, or when in the ordinary course of business documents purporting to be written by that person have been habitually submitted to him.

Opinion relating  
to customs  
and rights.

**51.** (1) When the court has to form an opinion as to the existence of any general custom or right, the opinions as to the existence of such custom or right of persons who would be likely to know of its existence if it existed are admissible.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section the expression "general custom or right" includes customs or rights common to any considerable class of persons.

Opinions of  
persons with  
special  
knowledge.

**52.** When the court has to form an opinion as to—

(a) the usages and tenets of any association, body of men or family; or

(b) the constitution and government of any religious or charitable foundation; or

(c) the meaning of words or terms used in particular districts or by particular classes of people,

the opinions of persons having special means of knowledge thereon are admissible.

**53.** When the court has to form an opinion as to the relationship of one person to another, the opinion, expressed by conduct, as to the existence of such relationship of any person who, as a member of the family or otherwise, has special means of knowledge on the subject, is admissible:

Opinion on relationship.

Provided that such an opinion shall not be sufficient to prove a marriage in a prosecution for bigamy or in proceedings for a divorce, or in any proceedings for damages against an adulterer.

**54.** Whenever the opinion of any living person is admissible, the grounds on which such opinion is based are also admissible.

Grounds of opinion.

#### *Part X—Character*

**55.** (1) In civil cases, the fact that the character of any person concerned is such as to render probable or improbable any conduct imputed to him is inadmissible except in so far as such character appears from facts otherwise admissible.

Character in civil cases.

(2) In civil cases, the fact that the character of any person is such as to affect the amount of damages, is admissible.

**56.** In criminal proceedings, the fact that the person accused is of a good character is admissible.

Good character in criminal cases.

**57.** (1) In criminal proceedings the fact that the accused person has committed or been convicted of or charged with any offence other than that with which he is then charged, or is of bad character, is inadmissible unless—

Bad character in criminal cases.

(a) the proof that he has committed or been convicted of such other offence is admissible under section 14 or section 15 of this Ordinance to show that he is guilty of the offence with which he is then charged; or

(b) he has personally or by his advocate asked questions of a witness for the prosecution with a view to establishing his own character, or has given evidence of his own good character; or

(c) the nature or conduct of the defence is such as to involve imputations on the character of the complainant or of a witness for the prosecution; or

(d) he has given evidence against any other person charged with the same offence:

Provided that the court may, in its discretion, direct that specific evidence on the ground of the exception referred to in paragraph (c) of this subsection shall not be led if, in the opinion of the court, the prejudicial effect of such evidence upon the person accused will so outweigh the damage done by imputations on the character of the complainant or of any witness for the prosecution as to prevent a fair trial.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, evidence of previous conviction for an offence may be given in a criminal trial after conviction of the accused person, for the purpose of affecting the sentence to be awarded by the court.

Definition of "character".

**58.** In sections 55, 56 and 57 of this Ordinance the word "character" includes both reputation and disposition; but, except as provided in section 57, evidence may be given only of general reputation and general disposition, and not of particular acts by which reputation or disposition were shown.

### CHAPTER III—PROOF

#### *Part I—Facts Requiring No Proof*

Facts judicially noticed.

**59.** No fact of which the court shall take judicial notice need be proved.

Facts of which court shall take judicial notice.

**60.** (1) The courts shall take judicial notice of the following facts—

(a) all written laws, and all laws, rules and principles, written or unwritten, having the force of law, whether in force or having such force as aforesaid before, at or after the commencement of this Ordinance, in any part of Kenya;

(b) the general course of proceeding and privileges of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and of the legislatures of Kenya, but not the transactions in their journals;

- (c) Articles of War for ~~Her Majesty's Navy, Army or Air Force;~~
- (d) the ~~accession and the sign manual~~ of the Sovereign for the time being;
- (e) all ~~seals of which the English Courts take judicial notice;~~ the public seal of Kenya; the seals of all the courts of Kenya; and all seals which any person is authorized by any written law to use;
- (f) the accession to office, names, titles, functions and signatures of public officers, if the fact of their appointment is notified in the Gazette;
- (g) the existence, title and national flag of every State and Sovereign recognized by the ~~Crown;~~ <sup>Government</sup>
- (h) natural and artificial divisions of time, and geographical divisions of the world, and public holidays;
- (i) the extent of the territories comprised in the Commonwealth, ~~and of the territories under the dominion of the Crown;~~
- (j) the commencement, continuance and termination of hostilities between the ~~Crown~~ <sup>Kenya</sup> and any other State or body of persons;
- (k) the names of the members and officers of the court and of their deputies, subordinate officers and assistants, and of all officers acting in execution of its process, and also of all advocates and other persons authorized by law to appear or act before it;
- (l) the rule of the road on land or at sea or in the air;
- (m) the ordinary course of nature;
- (n) the meaning of English words;
- (o) all matters of general or local notoriety;
- (p) all other matters of which it is directed by any written law to take judicial notice.

(2) In all cases within subsection (1) of this section, and also on all matters of public history, literature, science or art, the court may resort for its aid to appropriate books or documents of reference.

(3) If the court is called upon by any person to take judicial notice of any fact, it may refuse to do so unless and until such person produces any such book or document as it considers necessary to enable it to do so.



Facts admitted  
in civil  
proceedings.

**61.** No fact need be proved in any civil proceeding which the parties thereto or their agents agree to admit at the hearing, or which before the hearing they agree, by writing under their hands, to admit, or which by any rule of pleading in force at the time they are deemed to have admitted by their pleadings:

Provided that the court may in its discretion require the facts admitted to be proved otherwise than by such admissions.

*Part II—Oral Evidence*

Oral evidence.

**62.** All facts, except the contents of documents, may be proved by oral evidence.

Oral evidence  
must be direct.

**63.** (1) Oral evidence must in all cases be direct evidence.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, “direct evidence” means—

- (a) with reference to a fact which could be seen, the evidence of a witness who says he saw it;
- (b) with reference to a fact which could be heard, the evidence of a witness who says he heard it;
- (c) with reference to a fact which could be perceived by any other sense or in any other manner, the evidence of a witness who says he perceived it by that sense or in that manner;
- (d) with reference to an opinion or to the grounds on which that opinion is held, the evidence of the person who holds that opinion or, as the case may be, who holds it on those grounds:

Provided that the opinion of an expert expressed in any treatise commonly offered for sale, and the grounds on which such opinion is held, may be proved by the production of such treatise if the author is dead or cannot be found, or has become incapable of giving evidence, or cannot be called as a witness without an amount of delay or expense which the court regards as unreasonable.

(3) If oral evidence refers to the existence or condition of any material thing, other than a document, the court may, if it thinks fit, require the production of such material thing for its inspection.

*Part III—Documentary Evidence*

**64.** The contents of documents may be proved either by primary or by secondary evidence.

Proof of contents of documents.

**65.** (1) Primary evidence means the document itself produced for the inspection of the court.

Primary evidence.

(2) Where a document is executed in several parts, each part is primary evidence of the document.

(3) Where a document is executed in counterpart, each counterpart being executed by one or some of the parties only, each counterpart is primary evidence as against the parties executing it.

(4) Where a number of documents are all made by one uniform process, as in the case of printing, lithography or photography, each is primary evidence of the contents of the rest; but where they are all copies of a common original they are not primary evidence of the contents of the original.

**66.** Secondary evidence includes—

Secondary evidence.

(a) certified copies given under the provisions hereinafter contained;

(b) copies made from the original by mechanical processes which in themselves ensure the accuracy of the copy, and copies compared with such copies;

(c) copies made from or compared with the original;

(d) counterparts of documents as against the parties who did not execute them;

(e) oral accounts of the contents of a document given by some person who has himself seen it.

**67.** Documents must be proved by primary evidence except in the cases hereinafter mentioned.

Proof of documents by primary evidence.

**68.** (1) Secondary evidence may be given of the existence, condition or contents of a document in the following cases—

Proof of documents by secondary evidence.

(a) when the original is shown or appears to be in the possession or power of—

(i) the person against whom the document is sought to be proved; or

(ii) a person out of reach of, or not subject to, the process of the court; or

(iii) any person legally bound to produce it, and when, after the notice required by section 69 of this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup> has been given, such person refuses or fails to produce it;

(b) when the existence, condition or contents of the original are proved to be admitted in writing by the person against whom it is proved, or by his representative in interest;

(c) when the original has been destroyed or lost, or when the party offering evidence of its contents cannot, for any other reason not arising from his own default or neglect, produce it in a reasonable time;

(d) when the original is of such a nature as not to be easily movable;

(e) when the original is a public document within the meaning of section 79 of this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup>;

(f) when the original is a document, of which a certified copy is permitted by this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup> or by any written law to be given in evidence;

(g) when the original consists of numerous accounts or other documents which cannot conveniently be examined in court, and the fact to be proved is the general result of the whole collection.

(2) (a) In the cases mentioned in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of this section, any secondary evidence of the contents of the document is admissible.

(b) In the case mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section, the written admission is admissible.

(c) In the cases mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (1) of this section, a certified copy of the document, but no other kind of secondary evidence, is admissible.

(d) In the case mentioned in paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of this section, evidence may be given as to the general result of the accounts or documents by any person who has examined them, and who is skilled in the examination of such accounts or documents.

**69.** Secondary evidence of the contents of the documents referred to in section 68 (1) (a) of this Ordinance<sup>1921</sup> shall not be given unless the party proposing to give such secondary evidence has previously given to the party in whose possession or power the document is, or to his advocate, such notice to produce it as is required by law or such notice as the court considers reasonable in the circumstances of the case:

Notice to produce a document.

Provided that such notice shall not be required in order to render secondary evidence admissible in any of the following cases—

- (i) when the document to be proved is itself a notice;
- (ii) when from the nature of the case, the adverse party must know that he will be required to produce it;
- (iii) when it appears or is proved that the adverse party has obtained possession of the original by fraud or force;
- (iv) when the adverse party or his agent has the original in court;
- (v) when the adverse party or his agent has admitted the loss of the document;
- (vi) when the person in possession of the document is out of reach of, or not subject to, the process of the court;
- (vii) in any other case in which the court thinks fit to dispense with the requirement.

**70.** If a document is alleged to be signed or to have been written wholly or in part by any person, the signature or the handwriting of so much of the document as is alleged to be in that person's handwriting must be proved to be in his handwriting.

Proof of allegation that persons signed or wrote a document.

**71.** If a document is required by law to be attested it shall not be used as evidence until one attesting witness at least has been called for the purpose of proving its execution, if there is an attesting witness alive and subject to the process of the court and capable of giving evidence:

Proof of execution of document required by law to be attested.

Provided that it shall not be necessary to call an attesting witness in proof of the execution of any document which has been registered in accordance with the provisions of any written law, unless its execution by the person by whom it purports to have been executed is specifically denied.

Proof where  
no attesting  
witness found.

**72.** Where evidence is required of a document which is required by law to be attested, and none of the attesting witnesses can be found, or where such witness is incapable of giving evidence or cannot be called as a witness without an amount of delay or expense which the court regards as unreasonable, it must be proved that the attestation of one attesting witness at least is in his handwriting, and that the signature of the person executing the document is in the handwriting of that person.

Admission of  
execution  
of attested  
document.

**73.** The admission of a party to an attested document, of its execution by himself, shall be sufficient proof of its execution as against him, though it be a document required by law to be attested.

Proof where  
attesting witness  
denies execution.

**74.** If the attesting witness denies or does not recollect the execution of a document, its execution may be proved by other evidence.

Proof of  
document not  
required to  
be attested.

**75.** An attested document not required by law to be attested may be proved as if it was unattested.

Comparison  
of signatures,  
seals, etc.

**76.** (1) In order to ascertain whether a signature, writing or seal is that of the person by whom it purports to have been written or made, any signature, writing or seal, admitted or proved to the satisfaction of the court to have been written or made by that person, may be compared by a witness or by the court with the one which is to be proved, although that signature, writing or seal has not been produced or proved for any other purpose.

(2) The court may direct any person present in court to write any words or figures for the purpose of enabling the court to compare the words or figures so written with any words or figures alleged to have been written by such person.

(3) This section applies with necessary modifications to finger impressions.

Reports by  
Government  
analysts and  
geologists.

**77.** (1) In criminal proceedings any document purporting to be a report under the hand of a Government analyst or of any geologist employed in the public service upon any matter or thing submitted to him for examination or analysis may be used in evidence.

(2) The court may presume that the signature to any such document is genuine and that the person signing it held the office and qualifications which he professed to hold at the time when he signed it.

(3) When any report is so used the court may, if it thinks fit, summon the analyst or geologist, as the case may be, and examine him as to the subject matter thereof.

**78.** (1) In criminal proceedings a certificate in the form in the First Schedule to this Ordinance, given under the hand of an officer appointed by order of the Minister for the purpose, who shall have prepared a photographic print or a photographic enlargement from exposed film submitted to him, shall be admissible, together with any photographic prints, photographic enlargements and any other annex referred to therein, and shall be evidence of all facts stated therein.

Photographic  
evidence—  
admissibility

(2) The court may presume that the signature to any such certificate is genuine.

(3) When a certificate is received in evidence under this section the court may, if it thinks fit, summon and examine the person who gave it.

#### Part IV—Public Documents

**79.** (1) The following documents are public documents—

(a) documents forming the acts or records of the acts—

(i) of the sovereign authority; or

(ii) of official bodies and tribunals; or

(iii) of public officers, legislative, judicial or executive, whether of Kenya or of any other country;

(b) public records kept in Kenya of private documents.

Distinction  
between public  
and private  
documents.

(2) All documents other than public documents are private.

**80.** (1) Every public officer having the custody of a public document which any person has a right to inspect shall give that person on demand a copy of it on payment of the legal fees therefor, together with a certificate written at the foot of such copy that it is a true copy of such document or

Certified copies  
of public  
documents.

part thereof, as the case may be, and such certificate shall be dated and subscribed by such officer with his name and his official title, and shall be sealed whenever such officer is authorized by law to make use of a seal, and such copies so certified shall be called certified copies.

(2) Any officer who by the ordinary course of official duty is authorized to deliver copies of public documents shall be deemed to have the custody of such documents within the meaning of this section.

Proof by  
certified copies.

**81.** Certified copies of public documents may be produced in proof of the contents of the documents or parts of the documents of which they purport to be copies.

Proof of  
certain public  
documents.

**82.** Without prejudice to any other mode of proof, prima facie evidence of the following public documents may be given in manner hereinafter shown, that is to say—

- (a) the journals of either House of Parliament, and Royal proclamations, by copies thereof purporting to be printed by the printers to the Crown or by the printers to either House of Parliament;
- (b) proclamations, orders, rules or regulations issued by Her Majesty or by the Privy Council, or issued by or under the authority of any department or officer of the government of the United Kingdom—
  - (i) by a copy thereof purporting to be published in the London Gazette or the Edinburgh Gazette, or to be printed under the superintendence or authority of the Queen's Printer or Her Majesty's Stationery Office; or
  - (ii) by a copy thereof purporting to be printed or published by the Government Printer, or by or under the authority of the High Commission or the Organization or of the government of any part of the Commonwealth;
- (c) proceedings of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, of the East Africa Central Legislative Assembly, or of the legislature of any country in the Commonwealth, by the journals thereof, or, in the case of such Assembly or legislature as aforesaid, by copies of such journals purporting to be printed or published by or under the authority of such Assembly or legislature, or by or under the authority of the government of any such country;

- (d) acts, orders or notifications of the executive government of Kenya, the High Commission or the Organization or any service thereof, or any local authority, or of a ministry or department of any of the foregoing—
- (i) by the records of the service, ministry or department certified by the head of the service or department, or, in the case of a ministry, by the permanent secretary thereof; or
  - (ii) by any document purporting to be printed or published by the Government Printer;
- (e) proceedings of any local authority, or of any corporate body created by Act or Ordinance, by a copy of the proceedings certified by the person having the lawful custody of the original thereof, or by a public document purporting to be printed or published by or by the authority of such authority or corporate body;
- (f) proclamations, treaties and other acts of state of any foreign country or of any part of the Commonwealth, and judgments, decrees, orders and other judicial proceedings of any court of justice in such country or part, and all affidavits, pleadings and other legal documents filed or deposited in any such court, by the procedure required by section 7 of the Evidence Act, 1851, of the United Kingdom.
- (g) public documents of any other class in a foreign country, by the original, or by a copy thereof bearing a certificate under the seal of a notary public or of a <sup>Kenya</sup> British Consular officer or diplomatic agent that the copy is duly certified by the officer having the lawful custody of the original thereof, and upon proof of the character of the document according to the law of the foreign country. L N. 22/1965

*Part V—Presumptions as to Documents*

**83.** (1) The court shall presume to be genuine every document purporting to be a certificate, certified copy or other document which is—

Certified documents.

- (a) declared by law to be admissible as evidence of any particular fact; and



(b) substantially in the form, and purporting to be executed in the manner, directed by law in that behalf; and

(c) purporting to be duly certified by a public officer.

(2) The court shall also presume that any officer by whom any such document purports to be signed or certified held, when he signed it, the official character which he claims in such document.

**84.** Whenever any document is produced before any court, purporting to be a record of memorandum of any evidence given in a judicial proceeding or before any officer authorized by law to take such evidence, and purporting to be signed by a judge or magistrate or any such officer as aforesaid, the court shall presume—

(a) that the document is genuine;

(b) that any statements as to the circumstances in which it was taken, purporting to be made by the person signing it, are true; and

(c) that such evidence was duly taken.

**85.** The production of a copy of any written law, or of a copy of the Gazette containing any written law or any notice purporting to be made in pursuance of a written law, where such law or notice (as the case may be) purports to be printed by the Government Printer, shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and for all purposes whatsoever of the due making and tenor of such written law or notice.

**86.** (1) The court shall presume the genuineness of every document purporting to be—

(a) the London Gazette, the Edinburgh Gazette, or the official Gazette of any country in the Commonwealth;

(b) a newspaper or journal;

(c) a document directed by any law to be kept by any person, if such document is kept substantially in the form required by law and is produced from proper custody.

(2) Documents are said to be in proper custody if they are in the place in which and under the care of the person with whom they would naturally be; but no custody is improper if it is proved to have had a legitimate origin, or if the circumstances of the particular case are such as to render such an origin probable.

Records of evidence.

Gazette, etc., to be prima facie evidence.

Gazettes, newspapers, and documents produced from proper custody.

**87.** Where any publication or part thereof indicates or purports to indicate the name of any person by or on behalf or under the sponsorship of whom, or the place at which or date on which, such publication or any part thereof was edited, printed or published or any part thereof was contributed, it shall, in any proceedings for an offence under any written law or for contempt of any court, be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that such publication or part thereof was edited, printed or published, or that such part thereof was contributed, by or on behalf or under the sponsorship of such person, or at such place or on such date, as the case may be.

Publications generally.

**88.** When any document is produced before any court, purporting to be a document which, by the law in force for the time being in England, would be admissible in proof of any particular in any Court of Justice in England, without proof of the seal or stamp or signature authenticating it, or of the judicial or official character claimed by the person by whom it purports to be signed—

Documents admissible in England.

- (a) the court shall presume that such seal, stamp or signature is genuine, and that the person signing it held, at the time when he signed it, the judicial or official character which he claims in such document; and
- (b) the document shall be admissible for the same purpose for which it would be admissible in England.

**89.** (1) The court shall presume that maps or plans purporting to be made or published by the authority of the Government, or any department of the Government, of any country in the Commonwealth were so made or published and are accurate.

Maps or plans.

(2) Maps or plans specially made for the purposes of any cause or other proceeding, civil or criminal, must be proved to be accurate.

**90.** The court shall presume the genuineness of every book purporting to be printed or published under the authority of the Government of any country and to contain any of the laws of that country, and of every book purporting to contain reports of decisions of the courts of any country.

Laws and judicial reports.

Powers of  
attorney

**91.** The court shall presume that every document purporting to be a power of attorney, and to have been executed before and authenticated by a notary public or commissioner for oaths or any court, judge, magistrate, or <sup>British</sup> consular officer or diplomatic agent, was so executed and authenticated.

Certified copies  
of foreign  
judicial records.

**92.** The court may presume that any document purporting to be a copy of a judgment or judicial record of any country not forming part of the Commonwealth is genuine and accurate, and that such judgment or record was pronounced or recorded by a court of competent jurisdiction, if the document purports to be certified in any manner which is certified by a <sup>British</sup> consular officer or diplomatic representative in or for such country to be the manner commonly in use in that country for the certification of copies of judgments or judicial records.

Books, maps  
and charts.

**93.** The court may presume that any book, to which it may refer for information on matters of public or general interest, and that any published map or chart, the statements of which are admissible facts and which is produced for its inspection, was written and published by the person and at the time and place by whom or at which it purports to have been written or published.

Telegraphic  
messages.

**94.** The court may presume that a message forwarded from a telegraph office to the person to whom such message purports to be addressed, corresponds with a message delivered for transmission at the office from which the message purports to be sent; but the court shall not make any presumption as to the person by whom such message was delivered for transmission.

Presumption  
as to due  
execution, etc.

**95.** The court shall presume that every document called for and not produced after notice to produce was attested, stamped and executed in the manner required by the law.

Documents  
twenty years  
old.

**96.** (1) Where any document purporting or proved to be not less than twenty years old is produced from any custody which the court in the particular case considers proper, the court may presume that the signature and every other part of such document, which purports to be in the handwriting of any particular person, is in that person's handwriting, and, in the case of a document executed or attested, that it was duly executed and attested by the persons by whom it purports to be executed and attested.

(2) Documents are said to be in proper custody if they are in the place in which and under the care of the person with whom they would naturally be; but no custody is improper if it is proved to have had a legitimate origin, or if the circumstances of the particular case are such as to render such an origin probable.

*Part VI—Exclusion of Oral by Documentary Evidence*

97. (1) When the terms of a contract, or of a grant, or of any other disposition of property, have been reduced to the form of a document, and in all cases in which any matter is required by law to be reduced to the form of a document, evidence shall be given in proof of the terms of such contract, grant or other disposition of property, or of such matter, except the document itself, or secondary evidence of its contents in cases in which secondary evidence is admissible under the provisions of this Ordinance.

Written  
contracts  
and grants.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section—

- (a) wills admitted to probate in Kenya may be proved by the probate;
- (b) when a public officer is required by law to be appointed in writing, and when it is shown that any particular person has acted as such officer, the writing by which he is appointed need not be proved.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section applies equally to cases in which contracts, grants or dispositions of property referred to are contained in one document, and to cases in which they are contained in more documents than one.

(4) Where there are more originals than one, one original only need be proved.

(5) The statement, in any document whatever, of a fact other than the facts referred to in subsection (1) of this section, shall not preclude the admission of oral evidence as to the same fact.

98. When the terms of any contract or grant or other disposition of property, or any matter required by law to be reduced to the form of a document, have been proved according to section 97 of this Ordinance, no evidence of any oral

Evidence of  
oral agreement.

agreement or statement shall be admitted as between the parties to any such instrument or their representatives in interest for the purpose of contradicting, varying, adding to or subtracting from its terms:

Provided that—

- (i) any fact may be proved which would invalidate any document, or which would entitle any person to any decree or order relating thereto; such as fraud, intimidation, illegality, want of due execution, want of capacity in any contracting party, want or failure of consideration, or mistake in fact or law;
- (ii) the existence of any separate oral agreement as to any matter on which a document is silent, and which is not inconsistent with its terms, may be proved, and in considering whether or not this paragraph of this proviso applies, the court shall have regard to the degree of formality of the document;
- (iii) the existence of any separate oral agreement constituting a condition precedent to the attaching of any obligation under any such contract, grant or disposition of property may be proved;
- (iv) the existence of any distinct subsequent oral agreement to rescind or modify any such contract, grant or disposition of property may be proved, except in cases in which such contract, grant or disposition of property is by law required to be in writing, or has been registered according to the law in force for the time being as to the registration of such documents;
- (v) any usage or custom by which incidents not expressly mentioned in any contract are usually annexed to contracts of that description may be proved, if the annexing of such incident would not be repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the express terms of the contract;
- (vi) any fact may be proved which shows in what manner the language of a document is related to existing facts.

**99.** When the language used in a document is on the face of it ambiguous or defective, evidence may not be given of facts which would show its meaning or supply its defects.

**100.** When language used in a document is plain, and when it applies accurately to existing facts, evidence may not be given to show that it was not meant to apply to such facts. Evidence to show inapplicability.

**101.** When language used in a document is plain, but is unmeaning in reference to existing facts, evidence may be given to show that it was used in a peculiar sense. Evidence to explain a latent ambiguity.

**102.** When the facts are such that the language used in a document might have been meant to apply to any one, and could not have been meant to apply to more than one of several persons or things, evidence may be given of facts which show to which of those persons or things it was intended apply. Evidence of application to one of several subjects.

**103.** When the language used in a document applies partly to one set of existing facts, and partly to another, but the whole of it does not apply correctly to either, evidence may be given to show to which of the two it was meant to apply. Evidence of application to one of several sets of facts.

**104.** Evidence may be given to show the meaning of illegible or not commonly intelligible characters, of foreign, obsolete, technical, local and provincial expressions, of abbreviations and of words used in a peculiar sense. Evidence to explain special words.

**105.** Persons who are not parties to a document, or their representatives in interest, may give evidence of any facts tending to show a contemporaneous agreement varying the terms of the document. Evidence of variation given by third parties.

**106.** Nothing in this Part of this Chapter shall affect the law relating to the interpretation and construction of wills or other testamentary dispositions. Wills.

#### CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND EFFECT OF EVIDENCE

##### *Part I—Burden of Proof*

**107.** (1) Whoever desires any court to give judgment as to any legal right or liability dependent on the existence of facts which he asserts must prove that those facts exist. Burden of proof.

(2) When a person is bound to prove the existence of any fact it is said that the burden of proof lies on that person.

**108.** The burden of proof in a suit or proceeding lies on that person who would fail if no evidence at all were given on either side. Incidence of burden.

Proof of  
particular fact.

**109.** The burden of proof as to any particular fact lies on the person who wishes the court to believe in its existence, unless it is provided by any law that the proof of that fact shall lie on any particular person.

Proof of  
admissibility.

**110.** The burden of proving any fact necessary to be proved in order to enable any person to give evidence of any other fact is on the person who wishes to give such evidence.

Burden on  
accused in  
certain cases.

**111.** (1) When a person is accused of any offence, the burden of proving the existence of circumstances bringing the case within any exception or exemption from, or qualification to, the operation of the law creating the offence with which he is charged and the burden of proving any fact especially within the knowledge of such person is upon him:

Provided that such burden shall be deemed to be discharged if the court is satisfied by evidence given by the prosecution, whether in cross-examination or otherwise, that such circumstances or facts exist:

Provided further that the person accused shall be entitled to be acquitted of the offence with which he is charged if the court is satisfied that the evidence given by either the prosecution or the defence creates a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused person in respect of that offence.

(2) Nothing in this section shall—

(a) prejudice or diminish in any respect the obligation to establish by evidence according to law any acts, omissions or intentions which are legally necessary to constitute the offence with which the person accused is charged; or

(b) impose on the prosecution the burden of proving that the circumstances or facts described in subsection (1) of this section do not exist; or

(c) affect the burden placed upon an accused person to prove a defence of intoxication or insanity.

Proof of special  
knowledge  
in civil  
proceedings.

**112.** In civil proceedings, when any fact is especially within the knowledge of any party to those proceedings, the burden of proving or disproving that fact is upon him.

Proof of death  
within thirty  
years.

**113.** When the question is whether a man is alive or dead, and it is shown that he was alive within thirty years, the burden of proving that he is dead is on the person who affirms it.

**114.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 113 of this Ordinance, when the question is whether a man is alive or dead, and it is proved that he has not been heard of for seven years by those who would naturally have heard of him if he had been alive, the burden of proving that he is alive is on the person who affirms it.

Burden of proving person is alive after seven years' absence.

**115.** When the question is whether persons are partners, landlord and tenant, or principal and agent, and it has been shown that they have been acting as such, the burden of proving that they do not stand, or have ceased to stand, to each other in those relationships respectively, is on the person who affirms it.

Disproving apparent special relationship.

**116.** When the question is whether any person is owner of anything of which he is shown to be in possession, the burden of proving that he is not the owner is on the person who affirms that he is not the owner.

Disproving ownership.

**117.** Where there is a question as to the good faith of a transaction between parties, one of whom stands to the other in a position of active confidence, the burden of proving the good faith of the transaction is on the party who is in a position of active confidence.

Proof of good faith.

**118.** The fact that any person was born during the continuance of a valid marriage between his mother and any man, or within two hundred and eighty days after its dissolution, the mother remaining unmarried, shall be conclusive proof that he is the legitimate son of that man, unless it can be shown that the parties to the marriage had no access to each other at any time when he could have been begotten.

Conclusive proof of legitimacy.

**119.** The court may presume the existence of any fact which it thinks likely to have happened, regard being had to the common course of natural events, human conduct and public and private business, in their relation to the facts of the particular case.

Presumption of likely facts.

### *Part II—Estoppel*

**120.** When one person has, by his declaration, act or omission, intentionally caused or permitted another person to believe a thing to be true and to act upon such belief, neither he nor his representative shall be allowed, in any suit or proceeding between himself and such person or his representative, to deny the truth of that thing.

General estoppel.



Estoppel of tenant or licensee.

**121.** No tenant of immovable property, or person claiming through such tenant, shall, during the continuance of the tenancy, be permitted to deny that the landlord of such tenant had at the beginning of the tenancy a title to such immovable property; and no person who came upon any immovable property by the licence of the person in possession thereof shall be permitted to deny that such person had a right to such possession at the time when the licence was given.

Estoppel of acceptor of a bill of exchange.

**122.** No acceptor of a bill of exchange shall be permitted to deny that the drawer had authority to draw such bill or to endorse it:

Provided that the acceptor of a bill of exchange may deny that the bill was in fact drawn or endorsed by the person whom it purports to have been drawn or endorsed.

Estoppel of a bailee, licensee or agent.

**123.** No bailee, agent or licensee shall be permitted to deny that the bailor, principal or licensor, by whom any goods were entrusted to any of them respectively, was entitled to those goods at the time when they were so entrusted:

Provided that any such bailee, agent or licensee may show that he was compelled to deliver up any such goods to some person who had a right to them as against his bailor, principal or licensor, or that his bailor, principal or licensor, wrongfully, and without notice to the bailee, agent or licensee, obtained the goods from a third person who has claimed them from such bailee, agent or licensee.

### *Part III—Evidence of Children*

Corroboration required in criminal cases. Cap. 15.

**124.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19 of the Oaths and Statutory Declarations Ordinance, where evidence of a child of tender years is admitted in accordance with that section on behalf of the prosecution in proceedings against any person for an offence, the accused shall not be liable to be convicted on such evidence unless it is corroborated by other material evidence in support thereof implicating him.

## CHAPTER V—WITNESSES

### *Part I—Competency of Witnesses*

Competency generally.

**125.** (1) All persons shall be competent to testify unless the court considers that they are prevented from understanding the questions put to them, or from giving rational answers to those questions, by tender years, extreme old age, disease (whether of body or mind) or any similar cause.

(2) A mentally disordered person or a lunatic is not incompetent to testify unless he is prevented by his condition from understanding the questions put to him and giving rational answers to them.

**126.** (1) A witness who is unable to speak may give his evidence in any other manner in which he can make it intelligible, as, for example, by writing or by signs; but such writing must be written, and the signs made, in open court.

Dumb witnesses.

(2) Evidence so given shall be deemed to be oral evidence.

**127.** (1) In civil proceedings the parties to the suit, and the husband or wife of any party to the suit, shall be competent witnesses.

Competency of parties and spouses.

(2) In criminal proceedings every person charged with an offence, and the wife or husband of the person charged, shall be a competent witness for the defence at every stage of the proceedings, whether such person is charged alone or jointly with any other person :

Provided that—

- (i) the person charged shall not be called as a witness except upon his own application;
- (ii) save as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the wife or husband of the person charged shall not be called as a witness except upon the application of the person charged;
- (iii) the failure of the person charged (or of the wife or husband of that person) to give evidence shall not be made the subject of any comment by the prosecution.

(3) In criminal proceedings the wife or husband of the person charged shall be a competent and compellable witness for the prosecution or defence without the consent of such person, in any case where such person is charged—

- (a) with the offence of bigamy; or
- (b) with an offence under Chapter XV of the Penal Code (which relates to certain offences against morality); or
- (c) in respect of an act or omission affecting the person or property of the wife or husband of such person or the children of either of them, and not otherwise.

Cap. 63.

(4) In this section “husband” and “wife” mean respectively the husband and wife of a marriage, whether or not monogamous, which is by law binding during the lifetime of both parties unless dissolved according to law, and includes a marriage under native or tribal custom.

*Part II—Compellability and Privileges of Witnesses*

Compellability  
of ordinary  
witnesses.

**128.** A witness shall not be excused from answering any question as to any matter relevant to the matter in issue in any suit or in any civil or criminal proceeding, upon the ground that the answer to such question will incriminate, or may tend directly or indirectly to incriminate, such witness, or that it will expose, or tend directly or indirectly to expose such witness to a penalty or forfeiture of any kind, but no such answer which a witness is compelled to give shall subject him to any arrest or prosecution, or be proved against him in any criminal proceeding, except a prosecution for giving false evidence by such answer.

Privilege of  
court.

**129.** No judge or magistrate shall, except upon the special order of some court to which he is subordinate, be compelled to answer any questions as to his own conduct in court as such judge or magistrate, or as to anything which came to his knowledge in court as such judge or magistrate, but he may be examined as to other matters which occurred in his presence whilst he was so acting.

Communications  
during marriage.

**130.** (1) No person shall be compelled to disclose any communication made to him or her during marriage, by the other spouse; nor shall a person be permitted to disclose such communication without the consent of the person who made it, or of his or her representative in interest, except in suits between the parties to the marriage or in any of the cases referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section 127 (3) of this Ordinance.

(2) In this section “marriage” means a marriage, whether or not monogamous, which is by law binding during the lifetime of the parties thereto unless dissolved according to law, and includes a marriage under native or tribal custom.

Privilege  
relating to  
official records.

**131.** Whenever it is stated on oath (whether by affidavit or otherwise) by a Minister, or by the Secretary-General of the Organization, that he has examined the contents of any document forming part of any unpublished official records,

the production of which document has been called for in any proceedings, and that he is of the opinion that such production would be prejudicial to the public service, either by reason of the content thereof or of the fact that it belongs to a class which, on grounds of public policy, should be withheld from such production, the document shall not be admissible.

**132.** No public officer shall be compelled to disclose communications made to him in the course of his duty, when he considers that the public interest would suffer by the disclosure.

Privilege of official communications.

**133.** (1) No judge, magistrate or police officer shall be compelled to say whence he got any information as to the commission of any offence, and no revenue officer shall be compelled to say whence he got any information as to the commission of any offence against the law relating to the public revenue or to income tax, customs or excise.

Privilege relating to information of commission of offences.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "revenue officer" means any officer employed in or about the business of any branch of the public revenue, including any branch of the income tax, customs or excise departments.

**134.** (1) No advocate shall at any time be permitted, unless with his client's express consent, to disclose any communication made to him in the course and for the purpose of his employment as such advocate, by or on behalf of his client, or to state the contents or condition of any document with which he has become acquainted in the course and for the purpose of his professional employment, or to disclose any advice given by him to his client in the course and for the purpose of such employment:

Privilege of advocates.

Provided that nothing in this section shall protect from disclosure—

- (a) any communication made in furtherance of any illegal purpose;
- (b) any fact observed by any advocate in the course of his employment as such, showing that any crime or fraud has been committed since the commencement of his employment, whether the attention of such advocate was or was not directed to the fact by or on behalf of his client.

(2) The protection given by subsection (1) of this section shall continue after the employment of the advocate has ceased.

**135.** The provisions of section 134 of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance shall apply to interpreters, and the clerks or servants of advocates.

**136.** (1) If any party to a suit or proceeding gives evidence therein at his own instance or otherwise, he shall not be deemed to have consented thereby to such disclosure as is mentioned in section 134 (1) of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance.

(2) If any party to a suit or proceeding calls any advocate, interpreter, clerk or servant as a witness, he shall be deemed to have consented to such disclosure as is mentioned in section 134 (1) of this <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance only if he questions such witness on matters which, but for such question, the witness would not be at liberty to disclose.

**137.** No one shall be compelled to disclose to the court any confidential communication which has taken place between him and his advocate unless he offers himself as a witness, in which case he may be compelled to disclose any such communications as may appear to the court necessary to be known in order to explain any evidence which he has given, but no others.

**138.** No witness who is not a party to the suit shall be compelled to produce his title deeds to any property, or any document in virtue of which he holds any property as pledgee or mortgagee, or any document the production of which might tend to incriminate him, unless he has agreed in writing with the person seeking the production of such deeds or document, or with some person through whom he claims, to produce them.

**139.** No one shall be compelled to produce documents in his possession, which any other person would be entitled to refuse to produce if they were in his possession, unless such other person consents to their production.

**140.** (1) A bank, or officer of a bank, shall not, in any legal proceedings to which the bank is not a party, be compelled to produce any banker's book the contents of which can be proved under the provisions of Chapter VII of this Ordinance.

Privilege of interpreters, and advocates' clerks and servants.

Waiving of privilege of advocates, etc.

Communications with an advocate.

Title deeds and incriminating documents in hands of third party.

Privileged document in possession of another.

Bankers' books.

(2) No bank or officer of a bank shall be summoned or called as a witness to prove any matters, transactions or accounts recorded in a banker's book except by order of a judge or magistrate made for special cause.

**141.** An accomplice shall be a competent witness against an accused person; and a conviction shall not be illegal merely because it proceeds upon the uncorroborated evidence of an accomplice.

Accomplices.

**142.** No person who is entitled to refuse to produce a document shall be compelled to give oral evidence of its contents.

Privileges to exclude oral evidence of documents.

**143.** No particular number of witnesses shall, in the absence of any provision of law to the contrary, be required for the proof of any fact.

Number of witnesses.

### *Part III—Examination of Witnesses*

**144.** (1) When either party proposes to give evidence of any fact, the court may ask the party proposing to give the evidence in what manner the alleged fact, if proved, would be admissible.

Court to decide as to the admissibility of evidence.

(2) The court shall admit the evidence of any fact if it thinks that the fact, if proved, would be admissible and not otherwise.

(3) If the fact proposed to be proved is one of which evidence is admissible only upon proof of some other fact, such last mentioned fact must be proved before evidence is given of the fact first mentioned, unless the party undertakes to give proof of such fact and the court is satisfied with such undertaking.

(4) If the admissibility of one alleged fact depends upon another alleged fact being first proved, the court may, in its discretion, either permit evidence of the first fact to be given before the second fact is proved, or require evidence to be given of the second fact before evidence is given of the first fact.

**145.** (1) The examination of a witness by the party who calls him shall be called his examination-in-chief.

Types of preliminary examination of witnesses.

(2) The examination of a witness by the adverse party shall be called his cross-examination.

(3) Where a witness has been cross-examined and is then examined by the party who called him, such examination shall be called his re-examination.

**146.** (1) Witnesses shall first be examined-in-chief, then, if the adverse party so desires, cross-examined, then, if the party calling them so desires, re-examined.

(2) Subject to the following provisions of this Ordinance, the examination-in-chief and cross-examination must relate to relevant facts, but the cross-examination need not be confined to the facts to which the witness testified in his examination-in-chief.

(3) The re-examination shall be directed to the explanation of matters referred to in cross-examination; and, if new matter is, by permission of the court, introduced in re-examination, the adverse party may further cross-examine upon that matter.

(4) The court may in all cases permit a witness to be recalled either for further examination-in-chief or for further cross-examination, and if it does so, the parties have the right of further cross-examination and re-examination respectively.

#### *Part IV—Questioning of Witnesses*

**147.** A person called to produce a document does not become a witness by the mere fact that he produces it, and cannot be cross-examined unless and until he is called as a witness.

**148.** A witness to character may be cross-examined and re-examined.

**149.** Any question suggesting the answer which the person putting it wishes or expects to receive, or suggesting a disputed fact as to which the witness is to testify, is a leading question.

**150.** (1) Leading questions must not, if objected to by the adverse party, be asked in an examination-in-chief or in a re-examination, except with the permission of the court.

Order and direction of examinations.

Person called to produce a document.

Witness to character.

Meaning of leading question.

Leading questions in examination-in-chief and re-examination.

(2) The court shall permit leading questions as to matters which are introductory or undisputed, or which have in its opinion been already sufficiently proved.

**151.** Leading questions may be asked in cross-examination.

Leading questions in cross-examination.

**152.** Any witness may be asked, whilst under examination, whether any contract or grant or other disposition of property as to which he is giving evidence was not contained in a document, but if he says that it was, or if he is about to make any statement as to the contents of any document which, in the opinion of the court, ought to be produced, the adverse party may object to such evidence being given until such document is produced, or until facts have been proved which entitle the party who called the witness to give secondary evidence of it.

Examination as to whether certain formal matters are contained in writing.

**153.** A witness may be cross-examined as to previous statements made by him in writing or reduced into writing, and relevant to matters in question, without such writing being shown to him or being proved, but if it is intended to contradict a witness by a previous written statement, his attention must, before the writing can be proved, be called to those parts of it which are to be used for the purpose of contradicting him.

Cross-examination as to previous written statements.

**154.** When a witness is cross-examined he may, in addition to the questions hereinbefore referred to, be asked any questions which tend—

Cross-examination as to credibility.

(a) to test his accuracy, veracity or credibility;

(b) to discover who he is and what is his position in life;

(c) to shake his credit, by injuring his character, although the answer to such questions might tend directly or indirectly to incriminate him or might expose or tend directly or indirectly to expose him to a penalty or forfeiture.

**155.** If any question asked under paragraph (c) of section 154 of this Ordinance for the purpose of affecting the credit of the witness relates to a matter relevant to the suit or proceeding, the provisions of section 128 of this Ordinance shall apply thereto.

Compulsion to answer questions as to credit.



Cross-examination of accused person.

**156.** A person charged with an offence and called as a witness for the defence may be asked any question in cross-examination notwithstanding that the answer may tend to incriminate him as to the offence charged.

Discretion of court to compel witness to answer questions as to credit.

**157.** (1) If any question asked relates to a matter not relevant to the suit or proceeding except in so far as it affects the credit of the witness by injuring his character, the court shall decide whether or not the witness shall be compelled to answer it, and may, if it does not so compel him, warn the witness that he is not obliged to answer.

(2) In exercising its discretion under this section, the court shall have regard to the following considerations—

(a) such questions are proper if they are of such a nature that the truth of the imputation conveyed by them would seriously affect the opinion of the court as to the credibility of the witness on the matter to which he testifies;

(b) such questions are improper if the imputation which they convey relates to matters so remote in time, or of such a character, that the truth of the imputation would not affect, or would affect in a slight degree, the opinion of the court as to the credibility of the witness on the matter to which he testifies;

(c) such questions are improper if there is a great disproportion between the importance of the imputation made against the witness's character and the importance of his evidence.

(3) The court may, if it sees fit, draw from the witness's refusal to answer, the inference that the answer, if given, would be unfavourable to the witness.

Necessity for grounds before attacking character.

**158.** No such question as is referred to in section 157 of this Ordinance ought to be asked unless the person asking it has reasonable grounds for thinking that the imputation which it conveys is well founded.

Indecent or scandalous questions.

**159.** The court may forbid any questions or inquiries which it regards as indecent or scandalous, although such questions or inquiries may have some bearing on the questions before the court, unless they relate to facts in issue or to matters necessary to be known in order to determine whether or not the facts in issue existed.

**160.** The court shall forbid any question which appears to it to be intended to insult or annoy, or which, though proper in itself, appears to the court needlessly offensive in form.

Insulting or annoying questions.

**161.** The court may, in its discretion, permit the person who calls a witness to put any questions to him which might be put in cross-examination by the adverse party.

Discretion to allow cross-examination of own witness.

**162.** When a witness has been asked and has answered any question which is relevant to the proceedings only in so far as it tends to shake his credit by injuring his character, no evidence shall be given to contradict him but if he answers falsely he may afterwards be charged with giving false evidence:

Exclusion of evidence to contradict a witness.

Provided that—

- (i) if a witness is asked whether he has been previously convicted of any crime and denies it, evidence may be given of his previous conviction;
- (ii) if a witness is asked any question tending to impeach his impartiality and answers it by denying the facts suggested, evidence may be given of the facts.

**163.** (1) The credit of a witness may be impeached in the following ways by the adverse party, or, with the consent of the court, by the party who calls him—

Evidence to impeach the credit of a witness.

- (a) by the evidence of persons who testify that they, from their knowledge of the witness, believe him to be unworthy of credit;
- (b) by proof that the witness has been bribed, or has accepted the offer of a bribe, or has received any other corrupt inducement to give his evidence;
- (c) by proof of former statements, whether written or oral, inconsistent with any part of his evidence which is liable to be contradicted;
- (d) when a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to commit rape, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character.

(2) A person who, called as a witness pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, declares another witness to be unworthy of credit may not, upon his examination-in-chief, give reasons for his belief, but he may be asked

his reasons in cross-examination and the answers which he gives cannot be contradicted, though, if they are false, he may afterwards be charged with giving false evidence.

**164.** When a witness the truthfulness of whose evidence it is intended to confirm gives evidence of any fact, he may be questioned as to any other circumstances which he observed at or near the time or place at which the fact occurred, if the court is of opinion that such circumstances, if proved, would tend to confirm the testimony of the witness as to the fact to which he testifies.

**165.** In order to show that the testimony of a witness is consistent any former statement made by such witness, whether written or oral, relating to the same fact at or about the time when the fact took place, or before any authority legally competent to investigate the fact, may be proved.

**166.** Whenever any statement admissible under section 33 or section 34 of this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup> is proved, all matters which might have been proved if that person had been called as a witness and had denied upon cross-examination the truth of the matter suggested, may be proved either to contradict or to show consistency, or in order to impeach or confirm the credit of the person by whom it was made.

#### *Part V—Refreshing of Memory and Production of Documents*

**167.** (1) A witness may, while under examination, refresh his memory by referring to any writing made by himself the time of the transaction concerning which he is questioned, or made so soon afterwards that the court considers it likely that the transaction was at that time fresh in his memory.

(2) A witness may, while under examination, refresh his memory by referring to any writing made by any other person and read by the witness within the time mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, if when he read it he knew it to be correct.

(3) Whenever a witness may refresh his memory by reference to any writing, he may, with the permission of the court, refer to a copy of such writing, if the court is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for the non-production of the original.

Circumstantial questions to confirm evidence.

Proof of consistency by former statements.

Evidence to test statement of person not available as witness.

Refreshing memory by reference to contemporaneous writing.

(4) An expert may refresh his memory by reference to professional treatises.

**168.** A witness may testify to facts mentioned in any such writing as is referred to in section 167 of this Ordinance although he has no specific recollection of the facts themselves, if he is sure that the facts were correctly recorded in the document.

Reference to accurate contemporaneous record though facts themselves not specifically recalled.

**169.** Any writing referred to in section 167 or section 168 of this Ordinance shall be produced and shown to the adverse party if he requires it, and such party may, if he chooses, cross-examine the witness thereupon.

Rights of adverse party as to contemporaneous writing.

**170.** (1) A witness summoned to produce a document shall, if it is in his possession or power, bring it to court notwithstanding any objection which there may be to its production or to its admissibility, but the validity of any such objection shall be tried by the court.

Production of documents of doubtful admissibility.

(2) (a) The court, if it sees fit, may inspect the document, unless it is a document to which the provisions of section 131 of this Ordinance are applied, or take other evidence to enable it to determine on its admissibility.

(b) If for such purpose it is necessary to cause any document to be translated, the court may, if it thinks fit, direct the translator to keep the contents secret, unless the document is to be given in evidence.

**171.** When a party calls for a document which he has given the other party notice to produce, and such document is produced and inspected by the party calling for its production, he is bound to give it as evidence if the party producing it requires him to do so and if it is admissible.

Document produced in answer to notice to be given as evidence if required.

**172.** When a party refuses to produce a document for which he has had notice to produce, he cannot afterwards use the document as evidence without the consent of the other party or the order of the court.

Consequence of refusal to produce document in answer to notice.

**173.** (1) A judge or magistrate may, in order to discover or to obtain proper evidence, ask any question he pleases, in any form, at any time, of any witness, or of the parties, about any fact whether or not it is otherwise admissible; and

Extended powers of court for purpose of obtaining proper evidence.

may order the production of any document or thing; and neither the parties nor their agents shall be entitled to object to any such question or order, nor, without leave of the court, to cross-examine the witness upon any answer given in reply to any such question:

Provided that judgment shall be based only upon facts which are otherwise admissible and which have been duly proved.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not authorize a judge or magistrate—

(a) to compel a witness to answer any question or produce any document which such witness would be entitled to refuse to answer or produce under the provisions of Part II of this Chapter, if the question were asked or the document was called for by the adverse party; nor

(b) to ask any question which it would be improper for any other person to ask under section 157 or 158 of this Ordinance; nor

(c) to dispense with the primary evidence of any document, except in the cases excepted by the provisions of this Ordinance.

#### *Part VI—Questions by Jury or Assessors*

**174.** In cases tried by jury or with assessors the jury assessors may put any questions to the witnesses, through or by leave of the judge or magistrate, which the judge or magistrate himself might put and which he considers proper.

#### CHAPTER VI—IMPROPER ADMISSION AND REJECTION OF EVIDENCE

**175.** The improper admission or rejection of evidence shall not of itself be ground for a new trial or for reversal of any decision in a case if it shall appear to the court before which the objection is taken that, independently of the evidence objected to and admitted, there was sufficient evidence to justify the decision, or that if the rejected evidence had been received it ought not to have varied the decision.

Questions by jury or assessors.

Effect of improper admission or rejection.

## CHAPTER VII—BANKERS' BOOKS

**176.** Subject to the provisions of this Chapter of this Ordinance, a copy of any entry in a banker's book shall in all legal proceedings be received as prima facie evidence of such entry, and of the matters, transactions and accounts therein recorded.

Mode of proof of entries in bankers' books.

**177.** (1) A copy of an entry in a banker's book shall not be received in evidence under the provisions of section 176 of this Ordinance unless it be first proved that—

Proof and verification of copy.

- (a) the book was, at the time of making the entry, one of the ordinary books of the bank; and
- (b) the book is in the custody and control of the bank; and
- (c) the entry was made in the usual and ordinary course of banking business; and
- (d) the copy has been examined with the original entry, and is correct.

(2) Such proof may be given by an officer of the bank, or, in the case of the proof required under paragraph (d) of subsection (1), by the person who has performed the examination, and may be given either orally or by an affidavit sworn before a commissioner for oaths or a person authorized to take affidavits.

**178.** A banker or officer of a bank shall not, in any proceedings to which the bank is not a party, be compellable to produce any banker's book the contents of which can be proved under this Chapter of this Ordinance, or to appear a witness to prove the matters, transactions and accounts unerein recorded, unless by order of the court made for special cause.

Restriction on compelling production of banker's book.

**179.** (1) On the application of any party to proceedings a court may order that such party be at liberty to inspect and take copies of any entries in a banker's book for any of the purposes of such proceedings.

Inspection of bankers' books.

(2) An order made under this section may be made either with or without summoning the bank or any other party, and shall be served on the bank three clear days before it is to be obeyed, unless the court otherwise directs.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "proceedings" includes any proceedings in Tanganyika, Uganda or Zanzibar.

24-27/1965

Warrant to  
investigate.

**180.** (1) Where it is proved on oath to a judge or magistrate that in fact, or according to reasonable suspicion, the inspection of any banker's book is necessary or desirable for the purpose of any investigation into the commission of an offence, the judge or magistrate may by warrant authorize a police officer or other person named therein to investigate the account of any specified person in any banker's book, and such warrant shall be sufficient authority for the production of any such banker's book as may be required for scrutiny by the officer or person named in the warrant, and such officer or person may take copies of any relevant entry or matter in such banker's book.

(2) Any person who fails to produce any such banker's book to the police officer or other person executing a warrant issued under this section or to permit such officer or person to scrutinize the book or to take copies of any relevant entry or matter therein shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding two thousand shillings or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Costs.

**181.** (1) The costs of any application to a court under or for the purposes of this Chapter of this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup>, and the costs of anything done or to be done under an order of a court made under or for the purposes of this Chapter, shall be in the discretion of the court, which may order them, or any part thereof, to be paid to any party by the bank where the costs were occasioned by any default or delay on the part of the bank.

(2) An order under subsection (1) of this section may be enforced as if the bank was a party to the proceedings.

#### CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS

**182.** Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Ordinance<sup>Act</sup>, nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to derogate from the provisions of any other written law which relate to matters of evidence.

**183.** (1) The Interpretation and General Provisions Ordinance<sup>Act</sup> is amended—

(a) in section 7 thereof, by deleting the words "and shall be judicially noticed as such";

(b) in section 27 thereof, by deleting the words "shall be judicially noticed".

Saving for  
other laws.

Amendment  
of laws.  
Cap. 2.

(2) Section 144 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code is amended by deleting the words "sections 123 and 124 of the Evidence Act, 1872, of India" and by substituting therefor the words "sections 131 and 132 of the Evidence Ordinance, 1963".

Cap. 75.

46 of 1963.

(3) Section 157 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code is amended by deleting the words "section 33 of the Evidence Act, 1872, of India", and by substituting therefor the words "section 34 of the Evidence Ordinance, 1963".

46 of 1963.

(4) Section 384 of the Criminal Procedure Code is amended by deleting the words "section 91 of the Evidence Act, 1872, of India" and by substituting therefor the words "section 97 of the Evidence Ordinance, 1963".

46 of 1963.

**184.** The enactments mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance are repealed to the extent therein specified.

Repeals.

**185.** (1) From and after the commencement of this Ordinance the Evidence Act, 1872, of India shall cease to extend or apply to Kenya.

Cessation of application of Indian Evidence Act.

(2) For the purposes of sections 21 and 23 of the Interpretation and General Provisions Ordinance, the Evidence Act, 1872, of India, as it applied to Kenya prior to the commencement of this Ordinance, shall be deemed to be a written law which has been repealed by, and re-enacted in, this Ordinance.

Cap. 2.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

(s. 78)

## CERTIFICATE AS TO PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT OR ENLARGEMENT

I, ..... of .....  
being an officer appointed by the .....  
under ..... (Gazette Notice No. ....  
of .....) hereby certify as follows:—

(1) On the ..... day of ....., 19....,  
at ..... I received in a sealed packet  
numbered ..... purporting to be signed  
by .....: exposed photographic  
film(s) under cover of a letter, No. .... dated .....,  
purporting to be sent by ....., requesting that I  
should process the said film(s) and prepare therefrom photographic  
print(s) and/or enlargement(s).

(2) The said letter and packet were each signed and dated  
by me and are attached hereto as annexes 1 and 2, respectively



## SCHEDULE—(Contd.)

(3) In pursuance of the said request (I processed) the said film(s) were processed under my supervision and (prepared) therefrom photographic print(s) and/or enlargement(s) (each of) were prepared which I have signed and now attach hereto as annex(es) .....

(4) The photographic print(s) and/or enlargement(s) attached hereto as annex(es) ..... is/are as nearly as may be (an) exact reproduction(s) from the exposed film(s) submitted to me as aforesaid and have in no way been retouched, altered or otherwise interfered with in the process of their preparation.

Given at ..... under my hand this ..... day of ....., 19....

(Signed) .....

## SECOND SCHEDULE

(s. 184)

## ENACTMENTS REPEALED

<i>Title</i>	<i>Extent of Repeal</i>
The Civil Procedure <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance (Cap. 5 (1948)).	Section 10.
The Evidence Act (Amendment) <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance (Cap. 12 (1948)).	The whole Ordinance.
The Evidence (Amendment) <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance, 1959 (49 of 1959).	The whole Ordinance.
The Interpretation, and General Provisions <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance (Cap. 2).	Section 74.
The Oaths and Statutory Declarations <sup>Act</sup> Ordinance (Cap. 15).	Section 19 (1), proviso only.
The Penal Code (Cap. 63).	Section 55.
The Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 75).	Sections 153, 159, 195 and 196, and the Fourth Schedule.
The Evidence (Bankers' Books) Ordinance (Cap. 81).	The whole Ordinance.