

BILLS SUPPLEMENT

to the Uganda Gazette No. 67 Volume XCVIX dated 17th November, 2006.

Printed by UPPC, Entebbe by Order of the Government.

Bill No. 22 *Law Revision (Fines and other Financial
Amounts in Criminal Matters) Bill* **2006**

**THE LAW REVISION (FINES AND OTHER FINANCIAL
AMOUNTS IN CRIMINAL MATTERS) BILL, 2006.**

MEMORANDUM.

1. The object of this Bill is to—

- (a) revise and rationalise fines and other financial amounts stated in existing written laws in criminal matters with a view to raising them to realistic levels having regard to the change in value of the Uganda shilling over the years and in the value of those amounts owing to inflation and other causes;
- (b) standardise the ratio of fines in relation to corresponding periods of imprisonment in written laws;
- (c) convert fines in written laws into currency points at the rate of one currency point being equal to twenty thousand shillings;
- (d) provide for other matters relating to the foregoing.

2. Finally, references in the Bill to Acts and sections of Acts in existence before the year 2001 which are now contained in the Revised Edition of the Laws of Uganda 2000 are now adapted to read as references to the corresponding sections and chapters as contained in the Revised Edition.

HON. (DR.) E. KHIDDU-MAKUBUYA (MP),
Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

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A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE LAW REVISION (FINES AND OTHER FINANCIAL
AMOUNTS IN CRIMINAL MATTERS) ACT, 2006**

An Act to provide for the revision of fines and other financial amounts prescribed in written laws relating to criminal matters in order to cater for the fall in the value of the Uganda currency over the years owing to inflation and other causes; to provide for a standardised ratio between fines and related terms of imprisonment; to convert fines and other financial amounts in written laws in criminal matters into currency points at a prescribed value; to empower the Minister to vary the value of a currency point; and to provide for other matters related to the foregoing.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

1. Application

This Act applies to any written law relating to criminal matters which makes provision for fines and other financial amounts.

2. Interpretation

In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

(2) Where any written law which came into force after the 15th day of May, 1987 but before the 1st day of January, 1990 prescribes any amount as compensation or other financial amount not being a fine, the amount shall be multiplied by a factor of one hundred and converted into currency points at the value of currency point specified in the Schedule to this Act.

6. Application of ratio of fines and imprisonment to specific enactments

(1) Section 180 of the Magistrates Courts Act shall have effect as if there were substituted for the financial amounts and periods of imprisonment prescribed in paragraph (d) the following—

“Amount	Maximum Period
Not exceeding 0.5 of a currency point	7 days
Exceeding 0.5 of a currency point but not exceeding one currency point	14 days
Exceeding one currency point but not exceeding two currency points	1 month
Exceeding two currency points but not exceeding three currency points	6 weeks
Exceeding three currency points but not exceeding six currency points	3 months
Exceeding six currency points	12 months.”

(2) Section 110 of the Trial on Indictments Act relating to imprisonment for non-payment of fines shall have effect with the substitution for the fines and periods of imprisonment specified in paragraph (d) of the following—

(b) for the purpose of removing any doubt in the application of the provisions of this Act;

(c) for the purpose of removing any injustice or inconsistency arising out of the application of the principles stated in this Act.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, the Minister may, under this section, for easy application of any amount converted under this Act into currency points, cause the amount to be rounded upwards or downwards to the nearest whole amount higher or lower.

8. Attorney-General to cause Penal Code to be reprinted

(1) The Attorney-General shall as soon as practicable after the coming into force of this Act cause the Penal Code Act to be reprinted in the exercise of the powers of the Attorney-General under section 18 of the Acts of Parliament Act.

(2) The reprint made under this section shall reflect the amendments arising out of the application of this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in the Acts of Parliament Act the Attorney-General may, in the reprint, make such adjustments in the application of the principles in this Act as appear to the Attorney-General to be practical and just for the purpose of clarifying the effect of the Penal Code Act and for avoiding injustice or inconsistency.

SCHEDULE

CURRENCY POINT

A currency point is equal to twenty thousand shillings.

Where the amount in shillings does not translate exactly into a currency point the amount shall be expressed as a fraction of a currency point.

Thus 10,000 shillings is equal to 0.5 currency point.

Also 75,000 shillings is equivalent to 3.75 currency points.

Cross References

Acts of Parliament Act, Cap. 2.

Magistrates Courts Act, Cap. 16.

Penal Code Act, Cap. 120.

Trial on Indictments Act, Cap. 23.