

PROCLAMATION No. 223 OF 1982  
A PROCLAMATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
CONSOLIDATION OF PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS

**"ETHIOPIA TIKDEM"**

WHEREAS, the establishment of peasant associations at every level, which is one of the victories gained by the Ethiopian People's Revolution, has greatly contributed to the liquidation and bringing under control of the enemies of the Revolution as well as to the defence of the sovereignty of the country;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to reorganize peasant associations by restructuring their present set-up in line with the present stage of development of the Revolution with a view to enhancing the productivity of the peasantry, augmenting agricultural production and expanding the basis for socialist relations of production and thereby lay down the foundation for the building of a strong democratic Ethiopia;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Article 5 (6) of the Redefinition of Powers and Responsibilities of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Council of Ministers Proclamation No. 110/1977, it is hereby proclaimed as follows :

CHAPTER ONE  
GENERAL

1. *Short Title*

This Proclamation may be cited as the "Peasant Associations Consolidation Proclamation No. 223/1982".

2. *Definitions*

In this Proclamation, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) "peasant association" means an association established or to be established in accordance with the Public Ownership of Rural Lands Proclamation or this Proc-

3. *Right to Organize*

- 1) All peasants shall have the right to join together and establish peasant associations and be members thereof.
- 2) The organization of peasant associations shall be in accordance with this Proclamation.

4. *Election and Removal of Members of Leading Organs*

- 1) The leading organs of peasant associations established or to be established at every level shall have members elected in accordance with this Proclamation.
- 2) Members of the leading organs of peasant associations may be removed by the organ electing them.

5. *Qualification for Election*

- 1) Any person to be elected as a member of the leading organ of any peasant association established at every level shall be a person who meets the following qualifications:
  - a) did not own more than ten (10) hectares of land and stands for agricultural producers' cooperatives;
  - b) has accepted the National Democratic Revolutionary Programme of Ethiopia;
  - c) is esteemed among his nearby dwellers for integrity and hard work;
  - d) has not been convicted of misuse or waste of government or public property or corrupt practices or breach of trust;
  - e) is not deprived of his civil rights by a court of law;
  - f) has no mental disease; is not addicted to alcohol and dangerous drugs;
  - g) is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age;
  - h) is an Ethiopian national.
- 2) Any person to be eligible for electing members of the leading organs of any peasant association established at any level shall be a person who:
  - a) has attained eighteen (18) years of age at the date of election;
  - b) has no mental disease;
  - c) is not deprived of his civil rights by a court of law.

CHAPTER TWO

OBJECTIVES AND POWERS AND DUTIES OF  
PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS

6. *Objectives of Peasant Associations*

Every peasant association formed at any level shall have the following objectives:

- 1) to enhance, assist and encourage the participation of the peasantry in the effort of Revolutionary Ethiopia in making for economic construction and in particular for the expansion of socialist production relations and the elimination of exploitation of man by man in rural areas;

- 2) to make the necessary effort for the fulfilment, stage by stage, of the peasantry's social needs; to make efforts to raise and coordinate the participation of the peasantry in social projects the Government undertakes from time to time;
- 3) to disseminate Marxism-Leninism among the peasantry and raise the political consciousness of same; to prepare the peasantry for the safe-guarding of the Revolution as well as the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country; to establish and consolidate unity of struggle between the peasantry and other working people;
- 4) to make the necessary effort to ally the peasantry with forces that struggle for freedom, justice, peace, democracy and socialism and to enable it to contribute its due share.

*Powers and Duties Common to Peasant Associations*

Every peasant association formed at any level shall have the powers and duties to:

- 1) agitate and coordinate the peasantry to properly implement and follow up the implementation of the Public Ownership of Rural Lands Proclamation No. 31/1975 and other proclamations and directives pertaining to rural areas issued or to be issued by the Revolutionary Government;
- 2) enable the peasantry of Revolutionary Ethiopia to struggle more actively for the liquidation of reactionary plots and for economic construction by uniting and coordinating its struggle with other mass organizations;
- 3) in cooperation with those concerned, agitate, educate, coordinate the peasantry and render the necessary assistance thereto with a view to expanding and strengthening agricultural producers' cooperatives which are the bases for socialist construction in rural areas;
- 4) agitate, educate and coordinate the peasantry, with a view to liberating it from backwardness, by establishing and strengthening agricultural service cooperatives, increasing production and expanding social services;
- 5) in cooperation with the appropriate government and mass organizations, coordinate the peasantry and make the necessary efforts for the betterment of the lives of peasants living in lands that are overpopulated or of poor productivity and that of nomads;
- 6) in cooperation with those concerned, coordinate the peasantry with a view to liberating it from archaic mode of production and backward practices and cultures by advancing its ideological outlook and developing its initiative and thereby enhance productivity; render the necessary assistance thereto;
- 7) follow-up and supervise the proper tilling and development of cultivable land and the augmentation of production;
- 8) in cooperation with those concerned, make the necessary participation in the effort to enable the peasantry to gain rapid progress in education, health, transport and similar social services;

- 9) implement properly directives issued by the appropriate government office concerning the conservation, protection and development of forest and wildlife; make the necessary protection to soil and water resources;
- 10) in cooperation with those concerned, agitate and coordinate its members and follow-up their participation in the effort to conserve and protect historical relics and antiquities of Ethiopia;
- 11) participate fully in the effort to satisfy the educational needs of the peasantry; implement plans devised to this effect by the Government from time to time.
- 12) devise methods by which sports may be popularized among the peasantry with a view to making peasants physically fit, healthier and more productive citizens;
- 13) make the necessary effort to consolidate further the alliance between the urban working masses and the peasantry;
- 14) make the necessary effort to secure women their due place in the production process with a view to increasing women's participation in the development of rural areas;
- 15) follow directives issued by the Government concerning the utilization of land.

### CHAPTER THREE ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF WORK OF PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS

#### 8. *General*

The organization and method of work of peasant associations shall follow the principle of democratic centralism.

#### 9. *Organization of Peasant Associations*

The organization of peasant associations shall be based on territorial principles and:

- 1) Kebele peasant associations, shall be established with in a minimum area of twenty (20) gashas each and their members shall join together and form the Woreda, Awraja, provincial and national associations;
- 2) For the purpose of this Proclamation, a settlement shall be regarded as a Kebele peasant association.

#### 10. *Method of Work of Peasant Associations*

The method of work of peasant associations shall follow the principle of democratic centralism and:

- 1) members of the leading organs of peasant associations at any level shall be elected democratically and be accountable to the organs that elected them;
- 2) lower organs shall have the duty to observe, implement directives, decisions and orders passed by higher organs;
- 3) operational reports shall be submitted from time to time by lower associations to higher associations well as by leading organs of associations to the organs that elected them and leading organs of higher associations;

- 4) decisions of leading organs at any level shall be made by majority vote and the minority shall be bound by the decisions passed by the majority;
- 5) the method of work of peasant associations at any level shall be based on collective leadership and individual responsibility.

#### CHAPTER FOUR

##### MEMBERSHIP IN PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS AND RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

###### 11. *Membership*

Any person (male or female) who lives by farming in an area of any Kebele peasant association may be a member of the Kebele peasant association in his area.

###### 12. *Rights of Members*

Every member of a peasant association shall have the following rights:

- 1) subject to Article 5, to elect members and be elected as a member to the leading organs of the association;
- 2) to participate in discussions held by the association; to give opinions and criticisms;
- 3) to vote on decisions to be passed by the association in accordance with the existing procedure;
- 4) to be present in discussions held by the leading organs to pass decision on a matter that relates to him;
- 5) to share in the benefits arising from membership.

###### 3. *Duties of Members*

Every member of a peasant association shall have the following duties:

- 1) to accept and implement the National Democratic Revolution Programme of Ethiopia; to observe and properly implement the internal regulations and directives of peasant associations as well as the decisions passed and the orders given by higher leading organs;
- 2) to pay membership fees to the association on time;
- 3) to make active participation in the activities of the association; to observe the procedural requirements of the association and accept constructive criticisms given by leading organs;
- 4) to observe and implement the laws and directives of the Government;
- 5) to be ready at all times to answer calls Revolutionary Ethiopia may make at any time and place; to fight against anti-revolutionary activities and to conserve and protect public property.



- 2) The Chairman of the Executive Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be the chairman of the General Assembly and the Kebele peasant association.
  - 3) The term of office of the members of the Executive Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be two years.
  - 4) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the Executive Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be prescribed in internal regulations and directives of peasant associations to be issued by AEPA.
19. *The Inspection Committee of Kebele Peasant Association*
- 1) The Inspection Committee of Kebele peasant association is a leading organ which shall have responsibility for ensuring the proper implementation of the powers and duties given to members and leading organs of the association hereunder and the proper management of the property of the association.
  - 2) Members of the Inspection Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be elected by the General Assembly of the Kebele peasant association.
  - 3) The term of office of the members of the Inspection Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be two years.
  - 4) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the Inspection Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be prescribed in directives to be issued by AEPA and in the directives of the Central Inspection Committee of AEPA.
20. *Judicial Tribunal of Kebele Peasant Association*
- 1) The Judicial Tribunal of Kebele peasant association is a leading organ elected by the General Assembly of the Kebele peasant association and shall discharge the judicial responsibilities given to the association hereunder.
  - 2) The Chairman of the Judicial Tribunal of Kebele peasant association shall be designated by the General Assembly from among its members.
  - 3) The term of office of the members of the Judicial Tribunal of Kebele peasant associations shall be two years.
  - 4) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the members of the Judicial Tribunal of Kebele peasant association shall be as prescribed in Chapter Eight of this Proclamation.

CHAPTER SIX  
PROVINCIAL, AWRAJA AND WOREDA  
PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS

21. *Establishment*  
Provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations are associations established in accordance with Article 9 of this Proclamation.
22. *Powers and Duties of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*  
In addition to the powers and duties given to peasant associations under Article 7 of this Proclamation, provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations shall have the following powers and duties:
- 1) in accordance with directives to be issued by the Government, to change the boundaries of associations within their jurisdictions so that peasants shall have, as far as possible, equal holdings;

- 2) to follow-up and supervise the proper tilling and development of cultivable land and the augmentation of production;
- 3) to coordinate, guide, and receive reports, as superior organs, on the activities of lower associations within their respective jurisdictions;
- 4) to coordinate peasant associations within their jurisdictions with a view to creating close relationships between them and other mass organizations and government offices;
- 5) to implement directives, decisions and orders transmitted from higher associations; and
- 6) to submit reports on their activities to higher associations at every level.

23. *Leading Organs of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*

Provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations shall have the following leading organs:

- 1) congresses;
- 2) committees;
- 3) executive committees;
- 4) inspection committees; and
- 5) judicial tribunals in the case of Awraja and Woreda peasant associations.

24. *Congresses of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*

- 1) The congresses of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations are the highest organs of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations.
- 2) The manner of delegation, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the congresses of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations shall be prescribed in internal regulations and directives to be issued by AEPA.

25. *Committees of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*

- 1) The committees of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations are leading organs of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations elected by provincial, Awraja and Woreda congresses from among their members and shall be responsible for the overall direction of the associations.
- 2) The term of office of the members of provincial, Awraja and Woreda committees shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of provincial, Awraja and Woreda committees shall be prescribed in directives to be issued by AEPA.

26. *The Executive Committees of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*

- 1) The executive committees of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations are leading organs elected by provincial, Awraja and Woreda committees and shall perform the day-to-day activities of the committees.
- 2) The chairmen of provincial, Awraja and Woreda executive committees shall be the chairmen of provincial, Awraja and Woreda committees, congresses and associations.

- 3) The term of office of the executive committees of provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations shall be two years.
- 4) The manner of election, number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of provincial, Awraja and Woreda executive committees shall be prescribed in the internal regulations and directives to be issued by AEPA.

27. *Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Inspection Committees*

- 1) Provincial, Awraja and Woreda inspection committees are leading organs elected by provincial, Awraja and Woreda congresses from among their members which shall have responsibility for ensuring the proper implementation of the powers and duties given to members and leading organs of the association hereunder and the proper management of the property of the association.
- 2) The term of office of the members of provincial, Awraja and Woreda inspection committees shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of provincial, Awraja and Woreda inspection committees shall be prescribed by internal regulations and directives of inspection committees to be issued by AEPA.

28. *Judicial Tribunals of Awraja and Woreda Peasant Associations*

- 1) Judicial tribunals of Awraja and Woreda peasant associations are leading organs elected by Awraja and Woreda congresses from among their members and shall discharge the judicial responsibilities given to the associations hereunder.
- 2) The term of office of the members of Awraja and Woreda judicial tribunals shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of Awraja and Woreda judicial tribunals shall be as prescribed in Chapter Eight of this Proclamation.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE ALL-ETHIOPIA PEASANT ASSOCIATION (AEPA)

29. *Establishment*

The All-Ethiopia Peasant Association (AEPA), shall be established in accordance with Article 9 of this Proclamation and shall give central guidance to all Ethiopian peasants and peasant associations as the only national peasant association in Ethiopia.

30. *Powers and Duties of the All-Ethiopia Peasant Association (AEPA)*

In addition to the powers and duties given to peasant associations under Article 7 of this Proclamation, the All-Ethiopia Peasant Association (AEPA) shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to give central guidance to peasant associations established at every level;
- 2) to devise, in cooperation with those concerned, methods by which institutions that promote the technical know-how and deepen the ideological outlook of the peasantry may be expanded; to make the necessary contribution to the implementation thereof;

- 3) to take part in the consideration of laws, regulations and directives concerning peasants; to follow up implementation by the peasantry after they are issued;
- 4) to take part in the preparation of the economic and social plans of the country; to follow up the implementation of the plans by the peasantry;
- 5) to make the necessary contribution in the struggle for peace, justice, freedom and democracy by maintaining close relationship with similar associations of peasants in other countries as well as regional and international revolutionary forces so that the peasantry of Revolutionary Ethiopia may discharge its obligations of proletarian internationalism;
- 6) to issue internal regulations and directives of peasant associations applicable to all peasant associations established at every level.

31. *Leading Organs of AEPA*

AEPA shall have the following leading organs:

- 1) General Congress;
- 2) Central Committee;
- 3) Executive Committee; and
- 4) Central Inspection Committee.

32. *The General Congress*

- 1) The General Congress shall be the highest organ of AEPA and shall meet every two years.
- 2) The manner of delegation, working procedure, detailed powers and duties of the General Congress shall be prescribed in internal regulations to be issued by AEPA.

33. *The Central Committee*

- 1) The Central Committee is a leading organ elected by the General Congress from among its members and shall be responsible, between sessions, for the guidance of the association.
- 2) The term of office of the members of the Central Committee shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members, working procedure, detailed powers and duties of the Central Committee shall be prescribed in internal regulations of peasant associations to be issued by AEPA.

34. *The Executive Committee*

- 1) The Executive Committee is a leading organ elected by the Central Committee from among its members and shall perform the day-to-day activities of the Central Committee.
- 2) The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the chairman of the Central Committee, the General Congress and of the association.
- 3) The term of office of the members of the Executive Committee shall be two years.
- 4) The manner of election, number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the Executive Committee shall be prescribed in internal regulations of peasant associations to be issued by AEPA.

35. *The Central Inspection Committee*

- 1) The Central Inspection Committee is a leading organ elected by the General Congress from among its members and shall have the responsibility for ensuring the proper implementation of the powers and duties given to the leading organs of the association hereunder and the proper management of the property of the association.
- 2) The term of office of the members of the Central Inspection Committee shall be two years
- 3) The number of members, working procedure and detailed powers and duties of the Central Inspection Committee shall be prescribed in internal regulations to be issued by AEPA.

CHAPTER EIGHT  
PART ONE

PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES COMMON TO  
JUDICIAL TRIBUNALS

36. *Scope of Application*

- 1) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to all judicial tribunals established at every level.
- 2) Any resident shall have the right to be present at any hearing of the judicial tribunal and forward his views and opinions on the case at hand, provided, however, that the judicial tribunal shall have the power and responsibility to render its own independent decision based on law and justice.

37. *Time and Place of Hearing*

Any judicial tribunal may hold meetings in the office of the association or in any other place and time which it deems suitable, provided, however, that the time of the hearing shall, as far as possible, be outside working hours.

38. *Working Procedure*

- 1) The judicial tribunal shall register:
  - a) the charges and evidence brought against the defendant; and
  - b) the defence and causes produced by the defendant;and shall give an equitable decision.
- 2) All decisions of the tribunal shall be given by majority vote.

39. *Option Not to Entertain Case*

Any judicial tribunal shall have the option not to entertain or decide a case where the following conditions obtain:

- a) the defendant, in good faith, pleads guilty and apologizes before the tribunal and makes good, on his own initiation, the damage he caused; or
- b) the plaintiff or the appellant withdraws his charge or appeal.

40. *Power to Impose Penalty and Render Judgement*

- 1) Where the judicial tribunal finds the defendant guilty in cases it hears in accordance with this Proclamation, it may impose, according to the gravity of the offence, any one of the following penalties:

- a) warn the offender;
  - b) order the offender to make an apology to the injured person or association;
  - c) order the offender to confess that his act is shameful;
  - d) impose fine ranging from Birr 1 to Birr 300 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 months;
  - e) impose compulsory labour not exceeding 15 days;
  - f) order the offender to compensate the injured person.
- 2) Where the tribunal finds the defendant liable in the cases it hears under this Proclamation, it may order the defendant to make an immediate payment of the money awarded, or to effect payment within a fixed period of time or to do or to refrain from doing a certain act.
  - 3) Where the tribunal ascertains that the plaintiff instituted the suit with intent to cause undue inconvenience to the defendant, it may order the plaintiff to pay appropriate damages to the defendant.

#### 41. Repeated Offences

The tribunal may impose more than one of the penalties referred to in Article 40 of this Proclamation where it finds that the defendant has committed repeated or concurrent offences.

#### 42. Transfer to Regular Courts and Concurrent Offences

- 1) Where, in the course of first instance or appeal proceedings, any judicial tribunal finds that it has no jurisdiction to hear a case, it shall order the transfer of the case to the competent regular court. The court to which any case has thus been transferred shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide such case.
- 2) The court to which a case has been transferred in accordance with sub-article 1 of this Article, shall, without prejudice to the penal provisions prescribed in this Proclamation, give decision on the case including on the charges instituted against the defendant which fall within the jurisdiction of the judicial tribunal.
- 3) Where a regular court gives decision pursuant to sub-article 2 of this Article and where it is satisfied that its decision will better be executed through the Kebele peasant association, it shall transfer the execution of its decision to the judicial tribunal of the Kebele peasant association of which the defendant is a resident.
- 4) Where the offences committed fall within the jurisdiction partly of the judicial tribunal and partly of the regular court, the regular court shall have jurisdiction to hear all of the offences together.

#### 43. Non-Compliance

If a person who is ordered to perform compulsory labour fails to comply with such order, the tribunal may convert the compulsory labour into imprisonment not exceeding 3 months or fine not exceeding Birr 300.

44. *Evidence*

- 1) The tribunal may hear witnesses and examine documents which are necessary for the disposition of the case at hand.
- 2) Any person or organization summoned pursuant to sub-art. (1) of this Article shall appear in person and produce the required documents in time.

45. *Appeal*

- 1) Any party may appeal within 15 days from the date of decision by the tribunal.
- 2) The tribunal shall give to the party appealing a copy of the decision and the evidence therefor.
- 3) No decision of a tribunal given on first instance may be executed before the period set forth in sub-article 1 of this Article expires.

46. *Execution of Decision*

- 1) Any judicial tribunal shall have its decision executed, through the executive committee, by the revolution defence committee or the local police.
- 2) Sentences of imprisonment passed by any judicial tribunal shall be executed only in government prisons.

47. *Application for Removal of Member*

- 1) Any party may apply for the removal of any member of a judicial tribunal where he can show cause why such member should not hear his case.
- 2) In the event of such application, the member against whom the objection is made shall leave his chair and the application shall be decided by the remaining members.
- 3) Where the tribunal decides in favour of the applicant, the member against whom the objection is made shall be replaced by another member until decision is made on the case.

48. *Ultra Vires Decisions*

- 1) No person who has exhausted his right of appeal to judicial tribunals at every level, may appeal to the regular courts from decisions of judicial tribunals hereunder.
- 2) Any party who has reason to show that any decision or order of any judicial tribunal is ultra vires may submit his case to the Minister.
- 3) Where the Minister is satisfied, from the submission made to him under sub-article 2 of this Article, that the decision or order challenged is ultra vires, he shall:
  - a) where the case relates to the implementation of this Proclamation, give final decision thereon; or
  - b) where the case does not relate to the implementation of this Proclamation, annul the decision or order and notify the party that he can refer his case to the regular courts.

49. *Contempt of Judicial Tribunal*

Any judicial tribunal may summarily punish with imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or with fine not exceeding Birr 200 any person who, in the course of its proceedings, obstructs its proceedings with insult, threats, ridicule or other similar acts of disturbance.

50. *Places Where Judicial Tribunals Are Not Established*

In rural areas where judicial tribunals are not established on the effective date hereof, civil and criminal cases falling within the jurisdiction of said tribunals hereunder shall be heard and decided by the regular courts and in accordance with the regular procedures; provided, however, that the regular courts shall, as of the day they are notified of the establishment of judicial tribunal in the area concerned, cease to entertain cases, other than those pending before them on the day of notification, which fall within the jurisdiction of judicial tribunals hereunder.

51. *Decision on Appeal*

- 1) Any appellate judicial tribunal to which a case is appealed may confirm, annul or vary the decision on appeal or remand the case with guidelines to the judicial tribunal which gave the decision appealed from.
- 2) Any appellate judicial tribunal may, for good cause, stay the execution of any decision given on first instance until decision is made on the appeal.

52. *Additional Evidence*

Any appellate judicial tribunal may, where it finds it necessary, admit additional evidence in the course of hearing the appeal.

PART TWO  
KEBELE, WOREDA AND AWRAJA  
JUDICIAL TRIBUNALS

53. *Members of Kebele Judicial Tribunal*

- 1) Any Kebele judicial tribunal shall have 3 regular and alternate members elected by the general assembly.
- 2) The general assembly shall designate the chairman of the tribunal.

54. *Civil Jurisdiction*

Kebele judicial tribunals shall have power to hear and decide the following:

- 1) With the exception of cases falling under the Labor Proclamation No. 64/1975, and excluding cases in which any government office or organization is a party, the tribunal shall have power to hear and decide the following:
  - a) any dispute involving pecuniary claims of up to Birr 500 or any disputes on property of a value of up to Birr 500;
  - b) any dispute involving garden plots, or, subject to Article 18 of the Civil Procedure Code, succession cases involving private property, situated within the Kebele peasant association;
  - c) any dispute involving the division of the common property of spouses within the Kebele peasant association where the divorce has been decided by the family arbitrators and pronounced by the court;

- 2) disputes between Kebele peasant associations within Woreda on first instance;
  - 3) a) disputes between service cooperatives and Kebele peasant associations within the Woreda;  
b) disputes between service cooperatives within Woreda.
59. *Members of Awraja Judicial Tribunal*
- 1) The Awraja judicial tribunal shall have 3 regular and 2 alternate members.
  - 2) The Congress shall designate the Chairman of the tribunal.
60. *Jurisdiction of Awraja Judicial Tribunal*
- 1) The Awraja judicial tribunal shall have power to hear and decide the following:
    - a) appeals against decisions of Woreda judicial tribunals given on first instance;
    - b) disputes between Woreda peasant associations within the Awraja.
  - 2) Decisions of the Awraja judicial tribunal shall be final.

#### CHAPTER NINE REVOLUTION DEFENCE COMMITTEE

61. *Establishment*  
Executive Committees of peasant associations to be established at every level shall have Revolution Defence Committees under them.
62. *Revolution Defence Committee of Kebele Peasant Association*
- 1) The members of Revolution Defence Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members.
  - 2) The term of office of the members of the Revolution Defence Committee of Kebele peasant association shall be two years.
  - 3) The number of members and the time and rules of procedure of the meetings of Revolution Defence Committee shall be prescribed in directives to be issued by the A.B.P.A.
63. *Powers and Duties of Kebele Revolution Defence Committee*
- 1) Subject to directives to be issued by the Government in the future concerning revolution defence committees, the members of Revolution Defence Committee shall be jointly and severally, the following powers and duties:
    - a) to follow-up and notify the executive committee of any conspiracies plotted against the Revolution, the unity and independence of Ethiopia; where he finds a person in *flagrante delicto* in connection with such offence or where he has satisfactory reason to believe that an offender of such offence is likely to disappear or to tamper with evidence or is likely to commit further offence, to arrest such offender and hand him over to the nearest police station and forthwith notify the executive committee of same;
    - b) in the case of other offences, arrest any person who is found committing any flagrant offence and hand him over forthwith to the executive committee of the peasant association if the offence falls within its jurisdiction, or to the appropriate police station, as the case may be;
    - c) to produce any wanted person in accordance with an order legally given by the executive committee or judicial tribunal of a peasant association;

- d) to enforce decisions and orders given by the judicial tribunal; to protect forests, mines, bridges, crops or other such public or government property within the area of its jurisdiction which need safeguarding from time to time;
  - e) to carry out the necessary defence and security activities according to the decision of the Government; and
  - f) to institute criminal proceedings under the jurisdiction of the judicial tribunal and enforce the decisions thereof.
- 2) The members of the executive committee of the association may themselves perform or, coordinate and cause the dwellers in the area of the Kebele peasant association, to perform the activities specified in sub-article 1 of this Article.

64. *Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees*

- 1) The members of provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees shall be elected from among the members of provincial, Awraja and Woreda Executive Committees by the Executive Committee.
- 2) The term of office of the members of provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members and the time and rules of procedure of the meetings of provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees shall be prescribed in directives to be issued by AEPA.

65. *Powers and Duties of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees*

Subject to directives to be issued in the future by the Government concerning revolution defence committees, provincial, Awraja and Woreda Revolution Defence Committees shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to guide and coordinate the activities of revolution defence committees in their areas;
- 2) to study and submit to their respective Executive Committees, the ways by which the activities of Revolution Defence Committees in their areas may be coordinated with those of neighbouring associations; and
- 3) to perform other duties prescribed for them in directives to be issued by AEPA.

66. *AEPA Revolution Defence Committee*

- 1) The members of the AEPA Revolution Defence Committee shall be elected from among the members of the AEPA Executive Committee by the AEPA Executive Committee.
- 2) The term of office of the members of the AEPA Revolution Defence Committee shall be two years.
- 3) The number of members and the time and rules of procedure of the meetings of the AEPA Revolution Defence Committee shall be prescribed in directives to be issued by AEPA.

67. *Powers and Duties of the AEPA Revolution Defence Committee*

Subject to directives to be issued in the future by the Government concerning revolution defence committees, the AEPA Revolution Defence Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to guide and coordinate the activities of provincial Revolution Defence Committees;
- 2) to study and submit recommendations of the AEPA Executive Committee on the ways by which the activities of provincial Revolution Defence Committees may be performed in a coordinated manner; and
- 3) to perform other activities prescribed for it in directives to be issued by AEPA.

CHAPTER TEN  
THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

68. *Establishment and Administration of the AEPA Permanent Secretariat*

- 1) The AEPA Permanent Secretariat shall be established in Addis Ababa or in its vicinity.
- 2) The Secretariat shall be administered by the Executive Committee of the Association.

69. *Assignment of Professionals in the AEPA Permanent Secretariat*

The Association may employ professionals and personnel necessary for the efficient functioning of the activities of the Association.

70. *Secretariats of Provincial, Awraja and Woreda Associations*

Provincial, Awraja and Woreda peasant associations shall have their own secretariats.

CHAPTER ELEVEN  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

71. *Source of Income of Peasant Associations*

- 1) The sources of income of peasant associations at every level shall be contributions made by members and assistance obtained from other sources.
- 2) The amount of contribution of individual members and the manner of payment shall be determined by AEPA.

72. *Internal Regulations of Peasant Associations*

- 1) Without prejudice to the peculiarities of every peasant association, peasant associations shall be administered by internal regulations to be issued by AEPA in accordance with Article 30 (6) of this Proclamation.
- 2) The conditions under which peasant associations issue detailed work directives shall be determined by the internal regulations referred to in sub-article 1 of this Article.

73. *Registration*

Every peasant association shall be registered by the Ministry upon its establishment.

74. *Legal Personality*

Every peasant association shall have legal personality upon its registration by the Ministry.

75. *Discipline*

- 1) Disciplinary measures may be taken against any leading organ or member of peasant association that violates the internal regulations of AEPA and directives and decisions issued thereunder.
- 2) AEPA may issue directives concerning disciplinary measures.

76. *Repeal*

The following are repealed and replaced by this Proclamation:

- 1) Articles 9, 10, 11, 12 (1) & (3) and 14 of the Public Ownership of Rural Lands Proclamation No. 31/1975;
- 2) Articles 4, 5, and 10-40 inclusive of the Peasant Associations Organization and Consolidation Proclamation No. 71/1975; and
- 3) the All-Ethiopia Peasant Association Establishment Proclamation No. 130/1977 as amended.

77. *Power to Issue Regulations*

The Minister may issue regulations necessary for the proper implementation of this Proclamation.

78. *Effective Date*

This Proclamation shall enter into force as of the 11th day of March, 1982.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 24th day of May, 1982

*THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL*