

**WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION ACT
NO. 3 OF 1957**

[ASSENTED TO 19 FEBRUARY, 1957]
[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 22 FEBRUARY, 1957]

(English text signed by the Governor-General)

This Act has been updated to *Government Gazette* 18256 dated 5 September, 1997.

as amended by

Witchcraft Suppression Amendment Act, No. 50 of 1970

Abolition of Corporal Punishment Act, No. 33 of 1997

ACT

To provide for the suppression of the practice of witchcraft and similar practices.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. | Offences relating to the practice of witchcraft and similar practices |
| 2. | Presumption |
| 3. | Repeal of laws |
| 4. | Short title |
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1. Offences relating to the practice of witchcraft and similar practices.—Any person who—

1. Offences relating to the practice of witchcraft and similar practices.—Any person who—

- (a) imputes to any other person the causing, by supernatural means, of any disease in or injury or damage to any person or thing, or who names or indicates any other person as a wizard;
- (b) in circumstances indicating that he professes or pretends to use any supernatural power, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration, imputes the cause of death of, injury or grief to, disease in, damage to or disappearance of any person or thing to any other person;

- (c) employs or solicits any witchdoctor, witch-finder or any other person to name or indicate any person as a wizard;
- (d) professes a knowledge of witchcraft, or the use of charms, and advises any person how to bewitch, injure or damage any person or thing, or supplies any person with any pretended means of witchcraft;
- (e) on the advice of any witchdoctor, witch-finder or other person or on the ground of any pretended knowledge of witchcraft, uses or causes to be put into operation any means or process which, in accordance with such advice or his own belief, is calculated to injure or damage any person or thing;
- (f) for gain pretends to exercise or use any supernatural power, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration, or undertakes to tell fortunes, or pretends from his skill in or knowledge of any occult science to discover where and in what manner anything supposed to have been stolen or lost may be found,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction—

- (i) in the case of an offence referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) in consequence of which the person in respect of whom such offence was committed, has been killed, or where the accused has been proved to be by habit or repute a witchdoctor or witch-finder, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty years;

[Sub-para. (i) substituted by s. 2 of Act No. 33 of 1997.]

Wording of Sections

- (ii) in the case of any other offence referred to in the said paragraphs, to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years;

[Sub-para. (ii) substituted by s. 2 of Act No. 33 of 1997.]

Wording of Sections

- (iii) in the case of an offence referred to in paragraph (c), (d) or (e), to a fine not exceeding five hundred rand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment;

- (iv) in the case of an offence referred to in paragraph (f), to a fine not exceeding two hundred rand or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

[S. 1 substituted by s. 1 of Act No. 50 of 1970.]

Wording of Sections

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2. Presumption.—Where any person in respect of whom an offence referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of section 1 was committed, is killed, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that such person was killed in consequence of the commission of such offence.

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[S. 2 substituted by s. 2 of Act No. 50 of 1970.]

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3. Repeal of laws.—The laws mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent set out in the fourth column of that Schedule.

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Acts / Criminal Law / WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION ACT NO. 3 OF 1957 / 4. Short title.—This Act shall be called the Witchcraft Suppression Act, 1957.

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Acts / Criminal Law / WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION ACT NO. 3 OF 1957 / Schedule LAWS REPEALED

**Schedule
LAWS REPEALED**

| <i>Province or Territory</i> | <i>No. and Year of Law</i> | <i>Title or Subject of Law</i> | <i>Extent of Repeal</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Cape of Good Hope.. | Act No. 24 of 1886 | The Black Territories' Penal Code | Chapter XI |
| " | Act No. 2 of 1895 | The Witchcraft Suppression Act, 1895 | The whole |
| Natal..... | Law No. 19 of 1891 | Natal Code of Black Law | Section <i>one hundred and twenty-nine</i> of the Schedule as substituted by Union Proclamation No. 168 of 1932 |
| Transvaal... | Ordinance No. 26 of 1904 | The Crimes Ordinance, 1904 | Sections <i>twenty-nine</i> to <i>thirty-four</i> inclusive |
| Zululand..... | Proclamation No. 11 of 1887 | Laws and Regulations for the Government of Zululand | Regulations <i>nine</i> and <i>ten</i> |

Acts / Criminal Law / WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION AMENDMENT ACT NO. 50 OF 1970

WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION AMENDMENT ACT

NO. 50 OF 1970

[ASSENTED TO 11 SEPTEMBER, 1970]
[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 18 SEPTEMBER, 1970]

(English text signed by the State President)

This Act was published in *Government Gazette* 2821 dated 18 September, 1970.

ACT

To amend the Witchcraft Suppression Act, 1957, so as to make it an offence for a person who pretends to exercise supernatural powers, to impute the cause of certain occurrences to another person; and to provide for incidental matters.

Acts / Criminal Law / WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION AMENDMENT ACT NO. 50 OF 1970 / 1 and 2. Substitute respectively sections 1 and 2 of the Witchcraft Suppression Act, No. 3 of 1957.

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Acts / Criminal Law / WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION AMENDMENT ACT NO. 50 OF 1970 / 3. Short title.—This Act shall be called the Witchcraft Suppression Amendment Act, 1970.

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