

Chapter 1 - The State and System of Government

Article 1

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is an independent sovereign Arab State. Its rule is indivisible and no part of it may be ceded. The people of Jordan are part of the Arab Nation. Jordan's system of government is a parliamentary hereditary monarchy.

Article 2

Islam is the religion of the State and Arabic is its official language.

Article 3

The city of Amman is the capital of the Kingdom, and it may be transferred to another place by a special law.

Article 4

The Jordanian flag shall be of the following form and dimensions: The length of the flag shall be twice its width. It shall be divided horizontally into three parallel and equal

stripes, the uppermost of which shall be black, the centre shall be white, and the lowest shall be green. At the end of the flagstaff, it shall have a red triangle, the base of which shall be equal to the flag's width and its height shall be equal to half of the flag's length. In the triangle there shall be a white seven-pointed star of such a size that may fit in a circle with a diameter equal to one-fourteenth of the flag's length. The star shall be so placed that its centre shall be at the intersection of the lines bisecting the angles of the triangle, and the axis running through one of its points shall be parallel to the base of the triangle.

Chapter 2 - Rights and Duties of Jordanian Males and Females

Article 5

Jordanian Nationality shall be defined by law.

Article 6

(1) Jordanians shall be equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them in rights and duties on grounds of race, language or religion.

(2) Defending the country, its land, its people's unity, and maintaining social peace are sacred duties of every Jordanian.

(3) The State shall, within the limits of its capabilities, guarantee labour and education, and shall guarantee a state of assurance and equal opportunities for all Jordanians.

(4) Family is the foundation of society. It is founded on religion, morals and patriotism. The law preserves its legal status, and strengthens its ties and values.

(5) The law shall protect the rights of persons with disabilities and enhance their participation and integration in various aspects of life, and the law shall protect motherhood, childhood, and the elderly; nurture the young; and prohibit abuse and exploitation.

(6) The State shall guarantee the empowerment and support of women to have an active role in building society in a way that ensures equal opportunities on the basis of justice and equity and shall protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination.

(7) The State shall guarantee the promotion of the values of citizenship, tolerance and the rule of law, and shall guarantee, within its capabilities, the empowerment of youth to contribute to political, economic, social and cultural life, develop their skills, and support their creativity and innovation.

Article 7

(1) Personal freedom shall be inviolable.

(2) All violations of rights and public freedoms or the sanctity of Jordanians' private life is a crime punishable by law.

Article 8

(1) No person may be arrested, detained, imprisoned or have their freedom restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law.

(2) Every person who is arrested, detained, imprisoned or whose freedom is restricted, must be treated in a way that preserves their human dignity. It is not permitted to torture that person, in any manner, or to abuse that person physically or mentally, and it is not permitted to detain that person in places other than those permitted by laws. Any statement made by a person under any torture, abuse or threat shall be disregarded.

Article 9

(1) No Jordanian may be deported from the territory of the Kingdom.

(2) No Jordanian may be prevented from residing in any place or from movement, or be compelled to reside in a specified place, except in the circumstances prescribed by law.

Article 10

Dwelling houses shall have a sanctity and shall not be entered except in the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law.

Article 11

No property of any person may be expropriated except for purposes of public utility and in consideration of a just compensation, as prescribed by law.

Article 12

Loans may not be forcibly imposed and property, movable or immovable, may not be confiscated except in accordance with the law.

Article 13

Compulsory labour may not be imposed on any person, yet any person may be required to work or render any service as prescribed by law:

(1) In a state of necessity, such as the state of war, the occurrence of a public danger, or fire, flood, famine, earthquake, serious epidemic among human beings or animals, or animal, insect or plant pests or any other similar pest, or in any other circumstances which might endanger the safety of the population, in whole or in part.

(2) As a result of the conviction of the person concerned by a court of law, provided that the work or service is rendered under the supervision of an official authority and provided that no convicted person shall be hired to, or be placed at the disposal of, any persons, companies, associations or public bodies.

Article 14

The State shall protect the free exercise of religious rites and creed-related practices in accordance with the customs

observed in the Kingdom, unless such violates public order or morals.

Article 15

The State shall guarantee freedom of opinion. Every Jordanian shall be free to express their opinion by speech, in writing, photography and other forms of expression, provided that such does not breach the limits of the law.

(1) The State shall guarantee freedom of scientific research. It shall also guarantee the freedom of literary, artistic, cultural and athletic creativity, provided that such does not violate the provisions of the law or public order and morals.

(2) The State shall guarantee freedom of press, printing, publications and mass media within the limits of the law.

(3) Newspapers and mass media shall not be suspended from publication nor shall their permits be revoked except by a judicial order in accordance with the provisions of the law.

(4) In the event of the declaration of martial law or a state of emergency, a limited censorship may be imposed by law on newspapers, bulletins, publications, mass media and

communication in matters relating to public safety and national defence.

(5) The law shall regulate the manner in which the resources of newspapers are monitored.

Article 16

(1) Jordanians shall have the right to assemble within the limits of the law.

(2) Jordanians are entitled to establish associations, unions and political parties provided that their objectives are legitimate, their methods are peaceful, and their bylaws are not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.

(3) The law shall regulate the manner under which associations, unions and political parties are to be established and the monitoring of their resources.

Article 17

Jordanians shall have the right to address the public authorities on personal matters or anything related to public affairs in the manner and conditions specified by law.

Article 18

All postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications and other means of communication shall be confidential and as such shall not be monitored or be subject to inspection, suspension or confiscation except by judicial order in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 19

Congregations shall have the right to establish and maintain their own schools for the education of their own members, provided that they comply with the general provisions of the law and be subject to the oversight of the Government in matters relating to their programs and orientation.

Article 20

Elementary education shall be compulsory for Jordanians and free of charge in public schools.

Article 21

Political refugees shall not be extradited on account of their political beliefs or for their defence of liberty.

(1) Extradition of ordinary criminals shall be regulated by international agreements and laws.

Article 22

(1) Every Jordanian has the right to be appointed to public positions under the conditions prescribed by law or regulations.

(2) Appointment to any public occupation whether permanent or temporary in the State, any administration belonging to it, and to municipalities shall be made on the basis of merit and qualifications.

Article 23

Work is the right of every citizen, and the State shall provide it to Jordanians by directing the national economy and advancing it.

(1) The State shall protect work and enact legislation based on the following principles:

(a) Every worker shall receive wages commensurate with the quantity and quality of their work.

- (b) The number of hours of work per week shall be defined. Workers shall be given weekly and annual days of paid rest.
- (c) Special compensation shall be given to breadwinners, and in cases of dismissal, illness, incapacity and emergencies arising out of work.
- (d) Special conditions for the work of women and juveniles.
- (e) Factories shall be subject to health safeguards.
- (f) Free trade unions may be organised within the limits of the law.

Chapter 3 - Authorities: General Provisions

Article 24

- (1) The Nation is the source of all authorities.
- (2) The Nation shall exercise its powers in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.

Article 25

The Legislative Authority shall be vested in Parliament and the King. Parliament shall consist of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Article 26

The Executive Authority shall be vested in the King, who shall exercise his powers through his Ministers in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 27

The Judicial Authority is independent and shall be exercised by the courts of law in their varying types and levels. All

judgements shall be issued in accordance with the law and in the name of the King.

Chapter 4 - The Executive Authority

Section I - The King and His Prerogatives

Article 28

The Throne of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is hereditary to the dynasty of King Abdullah bin Al Hussein in a direct line through his male heirs as provided hereinafter:

(a) The Royal title shall pass from the holder of the Throne to his eldest son, and to the eldest son of that son and in linear succession by a similar process thereafter. If the eldest son dies before the Throne devolves upon him, his eldest son shall inherit the Throne, even if the deceased has brothers. The King may, however, select one of his brothers as heir apparent. In this event, title to the Throne shall pass to him from the holder of the Throne.

(b) If the person entitled to the Throne dies without a male heir, the Throne shall pass to his eldest brother. In the event that the holder of the Throne has no brothers, the Throne shall pass to the eldest son of his eldest brother. Should his eldest brother have no son, the Throne shall pass to the eldest son of his other brothers according to their seniority in age.

(c) In the absence of any brothers or nephews, the Throne shall pass to the uncles and their descendants, according to the order prescribed in paragraph (b).

(d) If the last King dies without any heir in the manner prescribed above, the Throne shall devolve upon the person whom Parliament shall select from amongst the descendants of the founder of the Arab renaissance, the late King Hussein bin Ali.

(e) No person shall ascend the Throne unless he is a Muslim, mentally sound and born by a legitimate wife and of Muslim parents.

(f) No person shall ascend the Throne who has been excluded from succession by a Royal Decree on the ground of unsuitability. Such exclusion shall not include the descendants of such a person. The Royal Decree of exclusion shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister and by four Ministers at least; two of whom shall be the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice.

(g) The King attains his majority upon the completion of his eighteenth year according to the lunar calendar. If the Throne devolves upon a person who is below this age, the powers of

the King shall be exercised by a Regent or Council of Regency, who shall have been appointed by a Royal Decree by the reigning King. If the King dies without making such nomination, the Council of Ministers shall appoint the Regent or Council of Regency.

(h) Should the King become unable to exercise his powers on account of illness, his powers shall be exercised by a Regent or Council of Regency. The Regent or Council of Regency shall be appointed by Royal Decree. Should the King be unable to make such appointment, such shall be made by the Council of Ministers.

(i) Should the King wish to leave the country, he shall, before his departure and by a Royal Decree, appoint a Regent or a Council of Regents to exercise his powers during his absence. The Regent or Council of Regency shall observe any conditions that may be prescribed in the Royal Decree. If the absence of the King is extended to more than four months and Parliament is not in session, Parliament shall be summoned immediately to consider the matter.

(j) Before the Regent or a member of the Council of Regency assumes their office, they shall take an oath, as

prescribed in Article (29) of this Constitution before the Council of Ministers.

(k) In the event of the death of the Regent or member of the Council of Regency or should they become incapable of performing their duties, the Council of Ministers shall appoint a suitable person to replace them.

(l) A Regent or member of the Council of Regency shall not be less than thirty years of age according to the lunar calendar. However, any male relative of the King who has completed his eighteenth year of age according to the lunar calendar may be appointed.

(m) In the event of the King being incapacitated by any mental illness, the Council of Ministers, on confirmation of his illness, shall immediately convene Parliament. Should the illness be definitely confirmed, Parliament shall decide the end of the King's reign, whereupon title to the Throne shall devolve upon the person entitled thereto after him according to the provisions of this Constitution. If the House of Representatives stands dissolved at the time or if its term had expired and the new House had not been elected, the former House of Representatives shall be convened for this purpose.

Article 29

The King shall upon his succession to the Throne take an oath before Parliament, which shall be convened and presided over by the Senate President, to preserve the Constitution and be loyal to the Nation.

Article 30

The King is the Head of State and is immune from any liability and responsibility.

Article 31

The King ratifies the laws and promulgates them. He shall direct the enactment of regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of the laws, provided that such regulations do not violate the provisions of said laws.

Article 32

The King is the Supreme Commander of the Land, Naval and Air Forces.

Article 33

- (1) The King declares war, concludes peace and ratifies treaties and conventions.
- (2) Treaties and conventions that entail any expenditures to the Treasury or affect the public or private rights of Jordanians shall not be enforced unless approved by Parliament. In no circumstances shall any confidential terms included in any treaty or convention be contrary to their overt terms.

Article 34

- (1) The King issues orders for the holding of elections to the House of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- (2) The King convenes Parliament, inaugurates, adjourns, and prorogues it in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- (3) The King may dissolve the House of Representatives.
- (4) The King may dissolve the Senate or relieve any Senator of their membership.

Article 35

The King appoints the Prime Minister and may dismiss them and accept their resignation, and appoints the Ministers, dismisses them and accepts their resignation, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Article 36

The King appoints members of the Senate and appoints the Senate President from amongst them and accepts their resignation.

Article 37

(1) The King creates, grants and withdraws civil and military ranks, decorations and other honorific titles, and may delegate this authority to any other person by a special law.

(2) Currency shall be minted in the name of the King in pursuance of the law.

Article 38

The King has the right to grant a special pardon and commute a punishment, but any general pardon shall be determined by a special law.

Article 39

No death sentence shall be executed except after ratification by the King. Every sentence as such shall be placed before the King by the Council of Ministers accompanied by their opinion thereon.

Article 40

(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Article, the King shall exercise the powers vested in him by a Royal Decree, and the Royal Decree shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister and the Minister or Ministers concerned. The King expresses his concurrence by placing his signature above the mentioned signatures.

(2) The King shall exercise his powers by Royal Decree without the signature of the Prime Minister and the Minister or the Ministers concerned in the following events:

- (a) Selecting the Crown Prince.
- (b) Appointing the Regent.
- (c) Appointing the Senate President and the members thereof, dissolution of the Senate, accepting the resignation of

any member of the Senate or relieving any member of the Senate from their membership.

(d) Appointing the Head of the Judicial Council and accepting their resignation.

(e) Appointing the Head of the Constitutional Court and the members thereof and accepting their resignations.

(f) Appointing the Chief of Armed Forces, the Director of Intelligence, and the Director of Public Security, accepting their resignations and terminating their services.

(g) Appointing the Chief Islamic Justice and the Head of the Sharia Judicial Council, accepting their resignations and terminating their services.

(h) Appointing the Grand Mufti, accepting his resignation and terminating his services.

(i) Appointing the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the Minister of the Royal Hashemite Court, the King's advisers, accepting their resignations and terminating their services.

Section II

Ministers

Article 41

The Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister as its Head, and a number of Ministers as may be needed and as public interest may require.

Article 42

No person shall be appointed to a Ministry or that equivalent to it unless they are a Jordanian.

Article 43

The Prime Minister and Ministers shall, before assuming their duties, take the following oath before the King: "I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the King, preserve the Constitution, serve the Nation and perform the duties entrusted to me faithfully."

Article 44

No Minister during their tenure may purchase or rent any State-owned property even if offered in public auction, and

they shall not, during their tenure, become a member of the board of directors of any company or participate in any commercial or financial operation or receive a salary from any company.

Article 45

(1) The Council of Ministers shall be entrusted with the responsibility of administering all internal and external affairs of the State, with the exception of such matters as are or may be entrusted by this Constitution or by any other law to any other person or body.

(2) The authorities of the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Council of Ministers shall be specified by regulations set by the Council of Ministers and ratified by the King.

Article 46

Any Minister may be entrusted with the responsibility of one or more Ministries, as may be stated in the Decree of appointment.

Article 47

(1) The Minister shall be responsible for the administration of all matters pertaining to their Ministry and shall refer to the Prime Minister any matter not falling within their mandate.

(2) The Prime Minister shall handle all matters within their authority and mandate and shall refer other matters to the Council of Ministers to take the necessary decision in that regard.

Article 48

The Prime Minister and Ministers shall sign the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers, which shall be submitted to the King for ratification in all cases stipulated under this Constitution or any law or regulation enacted thereunder that requires such ratification. Such decisions shall be implemented by the Prime Minister and Ministers, each within the limits of their mandate.

Article 49

Verbal or written orders of the King shall not release the Ministers from their responsibilities.

Article 50

(1) Upon the resignation or dismissal of the Prime Minister, all Ministers shall be deemed to have resigned.

(2) In the event of the death of the Prime Minister, the Ministry shall continue to be headed by the Deputy Prime

Minister or the most senior Minister, as appropriate, until the formation of a new Government.

Article 51

The Prime Minister and Ministers shall be jointly responsible before the House of Representatives in respect of the public policy of the State, and each Minister shall be responsible before the House of Representatives in respect of the affairs of their Ministry.

Article 52

The Prime Minister, Minister, or their deputies shall have the right to speak at the Senate and the House of Representatives, and shall have the right to precede other members in addressing both Houses.

Article 53

(1) A session for the vote of no confidence in the Government or in any Minister therefrom shall either be held at the request of the Prime Minister or based on a request signed by a number not less than one quarter of the members of the House of Representatives.

(2) A vote of no confidence can be postponed once for a period that does not exceed ten days should the competent minister or the Government make such a request, in which period the House shall not be dissolved.

(3) Each formed Government shall submit its ministerial statement to the House of Representatives within one month as of the date of its formation, should the House be in session, and shall request a vote of no confidence based on such statement.

(4) Should the House of Representatives not be in session; it shall be called for an extraordinary session in which the Government shall submit its ministerial statement and request a vote of no confidence based on such statement within one month as of the date of its formation.

(5) Should the House of Representatives be dissolved; the Government must submit its ministerial statement and request a vote of no confidence based on such statement within one month as of the date of the convening of the new House.

(6) Every Government must submit its ministerial statement to any new House of Representatives elected during its tenure

and request confidence based on that statement within one month from the date of the convening of this House.

(7) For the purposes of Paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) and (6) hereof, confidence is granted if the Government secures an absolute majority vote from the members of the House of Representatives.

Article 54

(1) A vote of no confidence in the Government or in any Minister shall be made before the House of Representatives.

(2) Should the House of Representatives make a vote of no confidence by the absolute majority of the total number of its members, the Government must resign, and its head shall not be assigned to form the subsequent Government.

(3) Should the vote of no confidence be made against a Minister, such Minister shall step down from their position.

Article 55

Ministers shall be tried for crimes attributed to them in the course of the performance of their duties before the competent

Ordinary Courts in the Capital, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 56

The House of Representatives is entitled to refer Ministers to the Public Prosecution, by stating the reasons justifying such a referral. The referral's decision shall not be issued except by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives.

Article 57

A Minister indicted by the Public Prosecution shall be suspended from office upon the House of Representatives' issuance of the referral decision. The Minister's resignation shall not prevent legal proceedings against them, or the continuance of their trial.

Chapter 5 - The Constitutional Court

Article 58

(1) A Constitutional Court shall be established by a law, based in the Capital and be deemed an independent judicial body. It shall consist of at least nine members, including the president, all of whom shall be appointed by the King.

(2) The term of membership in the Constitutional Court shall be six years, and is unrenovable.

Article 59

(1) The Constitutional Court shall have the jurisdiction to monitor the constitutionality of laws and regulations in force and shall issue its judgements in the name of the King. Its judgements shall be final and binding on all authorities and all, shall be immediately effective unless another effective date is specified by the judgement, and shall be published in the Official Gazette within fifteen days from the date of issuance.

(2) The Constitutional Court shall have the right to interpret the provisions of the Constitution, if so requested, either by virtue of a decision of the Council of Ministers or by a decision

taken by either Houses of Parliament passed by a majority, and its interpretation decisions shall be effective upon publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 60

(1) The right to directly contest the constitutionality of enacted laws and regulations in force before the Constitutional Court shall be limited to:

(a) No less than one quarter of the members of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

(b) The Council of Ministers.

(2) In a claim that is being heard before courts, any party to the claim may bring forward an argument of unconstitutionality. In the event the court finds that the contestation has merit, it must refer the said contestation to the Constitutional Court in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 61

(1) A member of the Constitutional Court shall be required to:

(a) Be a Jordanian and not hold the nationality of another country.

(b) Be fifty years of age.

(c) Be among those who served as judges in the Court of Cassation or the High Administrative Court, or among law professors in universities who hold the rank of professor, or among lawyers who practiced law for a period of no less than twenty years, and among specialists who meet the requirements for membership of the Senate.

(2) The Head and members of the Constitutional Court must, before assuming their office, take the following oath before the King: "I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the King and to the Country, to preserve the Constitution, to serve the Nation and to perform the duties entrusted to me faithfully."

(3) The law shall set the work and administration methods of the Court, procedures for appealing before it, and all relevant matters in relation to it and to its procedures,

judgements and decisions. The Court shall exercise its role following the enactment of its law which shall state the rights and immunity of its members.

Chapter 6 - Legislative Authority - Parliament

Article 62

Parliament shall consist of two Houses: The Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section I

The Senate

Article 63

The Senate, including the President, shall consist of not more than half of the number of the members of the House of Representatives.

Article 64

In addition to the requirements prescribed in Article (75) of this Constitution, a Senator must have completed forty calendar years of age and must be among one of the following categories:

Former Prime Ministers and former Ministers, and those who have occupied leadership positions, Speakers of the House of

Representatives, Heads and judges of the Court of Cassation, the High Administrative Court, the High Sharia Court, the Head and members of the Constitutional Court, and retired officers from the rank of Major General and above, former members of the House of Representatives who were elected at least twice, and other similar personalities who gained the confidence of the people in view of the services rendered by them to the Nation and the Country.

Article 65

(1) The term of membership in the Senate shall be four years and the appointment of members shall be renewed every four years, and Senators whose term of office had expired may be reappointed.

(2) The term of office of the Senate President shall be two years and the President may be reappointed.

Article 66

(1) The Senate shall convene when the House of Representatives convenes and the convening of sessions shall be the same for both Houses.

(2) If the House of Representatives is dissolved, the sittings of the Senate shall be suspended.

Section II

The House of Representatives

Article 67

(1) The House of Representatives shall consist of members elected by secret ballot in a general direct election and in accordance with the provisions of an Election Law which shall ensure the following matters and principles:

(a) The right of candidates to supervise the election process.

(b) The punishment of any person who tampers with the will of voters.

(c) The integrity of the election process at all stages.

(2) An independent commission shall be established by a law with a mandate to:

(a) Administer parliamentary and municipal elections, as well as any other general elections in accordance with the provisions of the law, and the Council of Ministers may assign the independent commission to administer or supervise any

other elections at the request of the entity authorised by law to conduct such elections.

(b) Review applications to establish political parties and follow up on their affairs in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 68

(1) The term of the House of Representatives shall be four calendar years commencing from the date of the announcement of the results of the general elections in the Official Gazette. The King may, by a Royal Decree, extend the term of the House for a period not less than one year and not more than two years.

(2) Elections shall take place during the four months preceding the end of the term of the House. If the election has not taken place by the end of the term of the House or if such election is delayed for any reason, the House shall remain until the election of a new House.

Article 69

(1) The House of Representatives shall elect its Speaker at the beginning of the ordinary session for a period of one calendar year and the Speaker may be re-elected.

(2) If the House of Representatives convenes in a non-ordinary session and has no Speaker, the House shall elect a Speaker for a term that shall end at the beginning of the ordinary session.

(3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall lose their position in any of the following events:

(a) Resignation, which shall be effective from the date of its filing with the General Secretariat of the House.

(b) Death.

(c) Through a decision issued by two thirds of the members of the House.

(4) If the position of the Speaker of the House of Representatives becomes vacant due to any of the reasons mentioned in Paragraph (3) of this Article or for any other reason, the Deputy Speaker shall assume the speakership of the House until a new Speaker is elected within a period of two

weeks from the date the position becomes vacant. If the House of Representatives is not convened, the House shall convene in an extraordinary session to elect a Speaker to complete the remainder of the term of the speakership.

Article 70

In addition to the requirements prescribed in Article (75) of this Constitution, a member of the House must have completed twenty-five calendar years of age, and has met the requirements for candidacy stipulated in the Election Law.

Article 71

(1) The Court of Cassation shall have the jurisdiction to decide on the validity of the membership of the House of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law, provided that the appeal is submitted within fifteen days from the date of publishing the election results in the Official Gazette, and the Court shall issue its judgement within a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of registering the appeal.

(2) The Court shall either dismiss the appeal or accept it, in which case the Court shall declare the name of the winning member of the House.

(3) The House of Representatives shall declare the annulment of the membership of the member of the House whose membership has been annulled by the Court, and the name of the winning member of the House as of the date of the judgement.

(4) Actions taken by the member of the House prior to the annulment of their membership by the Court shall be deemed valid.

(5) Should the Court find, upon hearing the appeal made before it, that the election procedures in the district subject of the appeal are not in accordance with the provisions of the law, the Court shall annul the election in that district.

Article 72

Any member of the House of Representatives may resign by notifying the Speaker of the House of Representatives in writing and the resignation shall be effective from the date of its submission.

Article 73

(1) If the House of Representatives is dissolved, a general election shall be held, and the new House shall convene in a non-ordinary session no later than four months from the date of dissolution, and such a session shall be deemed to be an ordinary session in accordance with the provisions of Article (78) of this Constitution and shall be subject to the conditions prescribed therein in respect of prolongation or adjournment.

(2) If no elections have taken place by the end of the four months, the dissolved House shall regain its full constitutional powers and assemble forthwith as if its dissolution had not taken place and it shall remain in office until the election of a new House.

(3) Such non-ordinary session shall not in any event continue after the 30th day of September and shall be prorogued on that date so that the House may be able to hold its first ordinary session on the first day of the month of October. If the non-ordinary session is held during October and November, it shall be considered as the first ordinary session of the House of Representatives.

Article 74

- (1) If the House of Representatives is dissolved for any reason, the new House shall not be dissolved for the same reason.
- (2) The Government, during the tenure of which the House of Representatives is dissolved prior to the final four months of the House's term, shall resign within a week of the dissolution, and the head of that Government may not be assigned to form the subsequent Government.
- (3) A minister intending to run for elections must resign at least sixty days before the election date.

Section III

Provisions Governing Both Houses

Article 75

(1) No person shall be a member of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

- (a) Who is not a Jordanian.
- (b) Who was adjudged bankrupt and has not been legally discharged.
- (c) Who was interdicted and the interdiction has not been lifted.
- (d) Who was sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political offence and has not been pardoned.
- (e) Who does not have full legal capacity.
- (f) Who is related to the King within a degree of consanguinity to be prescribed by a special law.

(2) Every member of the Senate and House of Representatives during their tenure, shall refrain from entering into contracts directly or indirectly with the Government, official public institutions, public institutions, or with any

company owned or controlled by the Government, by official public institutions or by public institutions. They may not rent to, sell to or trade with these institutions any of their assets except for land or property lease contracts and if such member was a shareholder or partner in a company whereby their shareholding or partnership amounts to no more than 5%, and the member shall be prohibited from interfering in contracts entered by the company into with the entities mentioned in this paragraph.

(3) In the event any case of disqualification occurred based on Paragraph (1) of this Article, to any member of the Senate and the House of Representatives, during their term or after their election, or if they violate the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Article, their membership shall be deemed terminated and their position shall be vacant.

Article 76

(1) It is not permissible to combine the memberships of:

(a) The Senate or the House of Representatives and a Ministerial position.

(b) The Senate or the House of Representatives and a public position in which the holder receives any financial compensation from public funds, including the Amman Municipality, municipalities, and governorate councils.

(c) The Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) The members of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive allocations due to their membership as defined by law, and if the allocations were amended, the amendment shall not go into force until the next Senate or House of Representatives succeeding the House that approved the amendment.

Article 77

Without prejudice to the provisions of this Constitution relating to the dissolution of the House of Representatives, Parliament shall hold one ordinary session during each year of its term.

Article 78

(1) The King shall call on Parliament to convene in an ordinary session on the first day of October of each year and,

if that day was an official holiday, then the session shall commence on the following first day that is not an official holiday. The King may, by Royal Decree published in the Official Gazette, postpone the convening of Parliament to a date that shall be specified in the Royal Decree provided that the postponement does not exceed two months.

(2) If Parliament is not called to convene in accordance with the preceding paragraph, it shall meet on its own as if it was called upon.

(3) The ordinary session of Parliament shall begin on the date upon which it was called upon to convene in accordance with the two preceding paragraphs, and shall last for six months unless the House of Representatives is dissolved by the King before the expiration of that period. The session may be prolonged by the King for a further period not exceeding three months to complete pending matters. At the expiration of the first six months or any such prolongation thereof, the King shall prorogue the mentioned session.

Article 79

The King shall inaugurate the ordinary session of Parliament by a Speech from the Throne addressed to both Houses combined. He may deputise the Prime Minister or any of the Ministers to perform the inauguration ceremony and deliver the Speech from the Throne. Each of the two Houses shall submit a petition, which shall contain its Reply thereto.

Article 80

Every Senator and member of the House of Representative shall, before assuming their duties, take the following oath before their House: "I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the King and to the Country, preserve the Constitution, serve the Nation and perform the duties entrusted to me conscientiously."

Article 81

(1) The King may by Royal Decree postpone the sittings of Parliament for no more than three times, or two times only if he had postponed the convening of Parliament in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article (78), provided that during any

one ordinary session the period of such postponements shall not exceed two months in the aggregate, including the period of postponement, and the postponement periods shall not be calculated from the length of the session.

(2) The Senate and the House of Representatives may adjourn their sittings from time to time in conformity with their own Internal Bylaws

Article 82

(1) The King may whenever necessary call Parliament to convene in an extraordinary session for an unspecified period for the purpose of deciding on matters specified in the Royal Decree when the call is issued, and the extraordinary session shall be prorogued by a Royal Decree.

(2) The King may call on Parliament to convene in an extraordinary session at the request of an absolute majority of the House of Representatives, and such request shall be included in a signed petition specifying the matters intended to be discussed.

(3) Parliament shall not discuss in any extraordinary session except such matters that are specified in the Royal Decree convening the session.

Article 83

The Senate and the House of Representatives shall each set their Internal Bylaws to control and regulate their own procedures and shall submit such Bylaws to the King for ratification.

Article 84

(1) No sitting of either House shall be considered duly constituted unless attended by the absolute majority of members of either House, and shall continue to be duly constituted as long as this majority of the members of either House is present.

(2) Decisions by each of the two Houses shall be taken by a majority of votes of the members present, excluding the Speaker, except where it is otherwise provided in this Constitution, and in the case of a deadlock, the Speaker shall have a casting vote.

(3) Decisions of each of the two Houses shall be issued with the approval of two thirds of the votes of the members if the decision is related to the laws regulating elections, political parties, the judiciary, the Independent Commission, the Audit Bureau, Integrity and Anti-Corruption, Nationality and the Personal Status. The provisions of this Paragraph shall go into effect at the beginning of the term of Parliament that succeeds the Parliament that endorses its addition.

(4) If the voting is related to the Constitution or a vote of no confidence in the Government or in a particular Minister, the votes shall be taken by calling the names of members aloud.

Article 85

The sittings of both the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be public. Private sittings may be convened at the request of the Government or of five members. If such a request is made, the Senate or House of Representatives shall decide whether it should be accepted or rejected.

Article 86

(1) No Senator or member of the House may be detained or tried during the term of the sessions of Parliament unless the House to which they belong decides by an absolute majority that there is sufficient reason for their detention or trial or unless they were arrested *flagrante delicto*. In the event of their arrest in this manner, the House to which they belong shall be notified immediately.

(2) If a member is detained for any reason while Parliament is not in session, the Prime Minister shall notify the House to which that member belongs to when it reconvenes of the proceedings that were taken, coupled with the necessary clarification.

Article 87

Every Senator or member of the House shall have complete freedom of speech and expression of opinion within the limits of the Internal Bylaws of the House to which they belong, and shall not be answerable in respect to any vote cast or opinion expressed or speech made during the sittings of the House.

Article 88

If the seat of a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives becomes vacant by death, resignation or any other reason, with the exception of whoever a judicial ruling was issued annulling their membership in the House of Representatives, the vacant seat shall be filled through appointment by the King if it was a seat in the Senate. If the vacant seat is in the House of Representatives, the House shall notify the Independent Commission within thirty days from the vacancy, and the seat shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law within a period of sixty days from the date of the notification. The new member shall serve for the remainder of the House's term.

Article 89

(1) In addition to the circumstances under which the Senate and the House of Representatives may jointly meet as prescribed in Articles (29), (34), (79) and (92) of this Constitution, both Houses shall jointly meet at the request of the Prime Minister.

(2) When the Senate and the House of Representatives jointly meet, the Senate President shall preside.

(3) A joint sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall not be considered duly constituted unless an absolute majority of the members of each House is present and its decisions shall be taken by a majority of the present Senators and members of the House, except for the President who, in case of a deadlock, shall have a casting vote.

Article 90

It shall not be permitted to expel a Senator or member of the House except by a decision of the House to which they belong, provided that, other than the cases of combination of offices and disqualification as prescribed in this Constitution and in the Election Law, the decision to expel a Senator or member of the House must be taken by a two-thirds majority of the House. If the expulsion decision concerns a Senator, the decision must be submitted to the King for approval.

Article 91

The Prime Minister shall refer to the House of Representatives any draft law, and the House shall be entitled to accept, amend, or reject the draft law, but in all cases the House shall refer the draft law to the Senate. No law may be promulgated unless endorsed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and ratified by the King.

Article 92

(1) Should either House reject any draft law twice and the other House accept it, whether amended or not, both the Senate and the House of Representatives shall hold a joint sitting which is presided by the Senate President to discuss the articles in dispute, and the acceptance of the draft law shall be contingent upon the passing of a decision by a two-thirds majority of the members of both Houses present. If the draft law is rejected as described above, it shall not be placed again before the House during the same session.

(2) The Senate and the House of Representatives, in accordance with their respective Internal Bylaws, may form a joint committee to discuss the disputed articles of a draft law,

agree on a final draft, and submit its recommendations to both Houses.

Article 93

(1) Every draft law passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be submitted to the King for ratification.

(2) A law shall come into force after its promulgation by the King and the lapse of thirty days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette unless it is specifically provided in that law that it shall come into force on any other date.

(3) If the King does not see fit to ratify a law, He may, within six months from the date on which the law was submitted to him, refer it back to the House coupled with the reasons for withholding his ratification.

(4) If any draft law (other than the Constitution) is referred back within the period specified in the preceding paragraph and is passed for the second time by two-thirds of the members of each of the Senate and the House of Representatives, it shall be promulgated and if the law is not returned with the Royal ratification within the period prescribed in paragraph (3) of this

Article, it shall be considered as enacted and ratified. If the two-thirds majority could not be secured, it cannot be reconsidered during the same session, provided that Parliament may reconsider the draft during its next ordinary session.

Article 94

(1) When the House of Representatives is dissolved, the Council of Ministers has, with the approval of the King, the power to issue provisional laws to face the following emergencies:

- (a) General disasters.
- (b) State of war and emergencies.
- (c) The need for necessary and urgent expenditures that do not allow for postponement.

Such provisional laws, which shall not be contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, shall have the force of law, provided that they are presented to Parliament during the first meeting it holds, and Parliament must decide on them within two consecutive ordinary sessions from the date of their

referral. Parliament may approve, amend or reject such laws and in the event of the rejection of such provisional laws, or if the period specified in this paragraph passes and a decision was not made, the Council of Ministers shall, with the approval of the King, immediately declare them null, and from the date of such declaration these provisional laws shall cease to have force provided that this shall not affect any contracts or acquired rights.

(2) Provisional laws shall go into force in the same manner in which laws pursuant to Article 93 of this Constitution shall go into force.

Article 95

(1) Any ten or more Senators or members of the House of Representatives may propose any law. Such proposal shall be referred to the relevant committee in the House for its views and if the House is of the opinion that the proposal be accepted it shall refer it to the Government to draft it in the form of a draft law, and to submit it to the House either during the same session or at the following session.

(2) Every law proposed by Senators or members of the House of Representatives in accordance with the preceding paragraph and rejected by either House shall not be presented again during the same session.

Article 96

Any Senator or member of the House of Representatives may direct questions and interpellations to the Ministers concerning any public matter, in accordance with the provisions of the Internal Bylaws of the House to which the member belongs. No interpellation may be deliberated before the lapse of eight days from the date of its receipt by the Minister, unless the case is of an urgent nature and the Minister agrees to shorten this period.

Chapter 7 - The Judicial Authority

Article 97

Judges are independent, and in the exercise of their judicial functions, they are subject to no authority other than that of the law.

Article 98

(1) Judges of Ordinary and Sharia Courts shall be appointed and dismissed by a Royal Decree in accordance with the provisions of the law.

(2) A Judicial Council responsible for all matters pertaining to judges in Ordinary Courts shall be established by a law.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph (1) hereof, the Judicial Council shall have the sole right to appoint judges in Ordinary Courts as per the provisions of the law.

Article 99

The courts shall be divided into three types:

(1) Ordinary Courts.

(2) Religious Courts.

(3) Special Courts.

Article 100

All courts, their categories, their divisions, their jurisdiction and their administration shall be set by virtue of a special law, provided that such law stipulates for the establishment of an administrative judiciary that should be at two levels.

Article 101

(1) The courts shall be open to all and shall be free from any interference in their affairs.

(2) A civilian may not be tried in a criminal case before a court that is not entirely composed of civilian judges, with the exception of crimes of treason, espionage, terrorism, drugs and money counterfeiting.

(3) Courts' hearings shall be public unless the court decides that they should be private in the interest of public order or morals, and in all cases, the sentencing hearing is a public hearing.

(4) The accused is innocent until proven guilty by virtue of a final judgement.

Article 102

The Ordinary Courts in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall have jurisdiction over all persons in all civil and criminal matters, including cases brought by or against the Government, except those matters in respect of which the jurisdiction is vested in Religious or Special Courts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution or any other legislation in force.

Article 103

(1) The Ordinary Courts shall exercise their jurisdiction in respect of civil and criminal matters in accordance with the law in force in the Kingdom, provided that in matters affecting the personal status of foreigners or in matters of a civil or commercial nature where practice in international convention has deemed jurisdiction to be the law of other countries, such law shall be applied in the manner designated by the law.

(2) Matters of personal status are those which are defined by law and in accordance therewith fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts where the parties are Muslim.

Article 104

The Religious Courts shall be divided into:

- (1) The Sharia Courts.
- (2) The Councils of other Religious Communities.

Article 105

The Sharia Courts shall exclusively have jurisdiction, in accordance with their own special laws, over the following matters:

- (1) Matters of personal status of Muslims.
- (2) Cases concerning blood money (Diya) where the two parties are Muslims or where one of the parties is not a Muslim and the two parties consent to the jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts.
- (3) Matters pertaining to Islamic endowments.

Article 106

The Sharia Courts shall in the exercise of their jurisdiction apply provisions of Sharia.

Article 107

The organisation of the affairs of Islamic endowments and the administration of their financial matters, among other matters, shall be regulated by a special law.

Article 108

The Councils of Religious Communities are those for the non-Muslim religious denominations that have been or are recognised by the Government as established in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Article 109

(1) Councils of Religious Communities shall be established in conformity with the provisions of laws pertaining thereto, and such laws shall define the jurisdiction of such Councils in matters of personal status and endowments established for the benefit of the concerned community. As for matters of

personal status for such community, they shall be the same personal status matters for Muslims which fall within the jurisdiction of the Sharia courts.

(2) Councils of Religious Communities shall apply principles and provisions pertaining to personal status that are not considered matters of personal status of Muslims which fall within the jurisdiction of Sharia Courts, provided that the legislation of such Councils shall specify the appointment requirements of its judges and its rules of procedures.

Article 110

Special Courts shall exercise their jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of their respective laws.

Chapter 8 - Financial Matters

Article 111

No tax or duty may be imposed except by law and they do not include the types of fees which the Treasury receives in respect of services rendered to individuals by Government Departments or in return for benefitting from state property, and the Government must adopt the principle of progressive taxation, while achieving equality and social justice, provided that taxation shall not exceed the ability of tax-payers to pay and the State's need for funds.

Article 112

(1) The draft General Budget Law shall be submitted to Parliament, including the budgets of Governmental Units, at least one month before the beginning of the fiscal year for review in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Government shall submit the final financial statements at the end of a six-month period from the end of the previous fiscal year, provided that the provisions of this Article shall come into force starting from the next fiscal year.

(2) Voting on the budget shall take place on each chapter separately.

(3) No sum falling within the expenditure section of the General Budget may be transferred from one chapter to another except by law.

(4) Parliament, when deliberating the General Budget draft law or the provisional laws relating thereto, may reduce the expenditures under the chapters in accordance with what it considers to be in the public interest, and it shall not increase such expenditures either by amendment or by the submission of a separate proposal. However, Parliament may after concluding deliberations propose laws for the creation of new expenditures.

(5) During the deliberation of the General Budget, no proposal shall be accepted for repealing an existing tax or impose a new one or the amendment, whether by increase or reduction, of existing taxes which are prescribed by financial laws in force, and no proposal shall be accepted for amending expenditures or revenues fixed by contract.

(6) The national revenues and estimated expenditures for each financial year shall be approved by the General Budget Law, provided that said Law may allocate special sums for a period exceeding one year.

Article 113

If it is not possible to endorse the General Budget Law prior to the beginning of the new financial year, expenditures shall continue by monthly appropriations at the rate of 1/12 of each month of the previous year's budget.

Article 114

The Council of Ministers may, with the approval of the King, issue regulations for the monitoring of appropriations and expenditures of public funds and the organisation of Government storages.

Article 115

All receipts from taxes and other sources of Government revenue shall be paid to the Treasury and shall be included in the State budget unless otherwise stipulated by law and no part

of the funds of the Treasury may be appropriated or spent for whatever purpose except under a law.

Article 116

The Civil List of the King shall be paid from the General Revenue and shall be defined in the General Budget Law.

Article 117

Every concession granting a right for the exploitation of mines, minerals or public utilities shall be ratified by law.

Article 118

No person shall be exempt from the payment of taxes or duties in circumstances other than those prescribed by law.

Article 119

An Audit Bureau shall be established by a law to monitor the State's revenue, expenses and the ways of their expenditure:

(1) The Audit Bureau shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a general report including the

violations committed, the liability resultant therefrom, and its opinions and comments at the beginning of every ordinary session and whenever either House requests it to do so.

(2) The Senate and the House of Representatives shall discuss the Audit Bureau's report during the session in which the report is submitted, or the following ordinary session at the latest.

(3) The law shall stipulate the immunity of the Head of the Audit Bureau.

Chapter 9 - General Provisions

Article 120

The administrative divisions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the establishment of Government Departments, their levels, names, method of administration and the manner of the appointment, dismissal, and supervision of employees, and the limits of their powers and mandates shall be determined by regulations issued by the Council of Ministers with the approval of the King.

Article 121

Municipal and local councils' affairs shall be administered by municipal or local councils in accordance with special laws.

Article 122

(1) A National Security Council shall be established and shall consist of:

- (a) The Prime Minister.
- (b) The Minister of Defence.
- (c) The Minister of Foreign Affairs.

- (d) The Minister of Interior.
 - (e) The Chief of Armed Forces.
 - (f) The Director of Intelligence.
 - (g) The Director of Public Security.
 - (h) Two members appointed by the King in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (2) of Article (40) of this Constitution.
- (2) The Council is mandated with the higher affairs relating to security, defence and foreign policy, and shall convene when necessary by an invitation from the King and in his presence, or in the presence of whomever he delegates, and the Council's decisions shall be enforced upon its ratification by the King.
- (3) The Council's affairs shall be regulated pursuant to a regulation issued for this purpose.

Article 123

- (1) The Special Bureau may interpret the provisions of any law which have not been interpreted by the courts if so requested by the Prime Minister.

(2) The Special Bureau shall consist of the Head of the highest Ordinary Court as its President, two of its judges and one senior administrative official, who shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers as members, and a member delegated by the Minister from among the senior officials of the Ministry concerned with the requested interpretation.

(3) The Special Bureau shall take its decisions by a majority.

(4) Decisions issued by the Special Bureau and published in the Official Gazette shall have the force of law.

(5) All other matters concerning the interpretation of laws shall be decided as they arise by the courts of law in the usual course.

Article 124

If an event occurs that necessitates defending the Nation in case of an emergency, a law named the Defence Law shall be promulgated, which grants the power to the person specified therein to take necessary actions and measures, including the suspension of ordinary laws of the State, to ensure the defence of the Nation. The Defence Law shall come into force upon its

proclamation by a Royal Decree issued on the basis of a decision by the Council of Ministers.

Article 125

(1) In the event of the occurrence of a serious emergency that the action under the preceding Article of this Constitution will be deemed insufficient for the defence of the Kingdom, the King may by a Royal Decree, based on a decision of the Council of Ministers, declare martial law in all or any part of the Kingdom.

(2) When martial law is declared, the King may by a Royal Decree issue any instructions that may be necessary for the defence of the Kingdom notwithstanding the provisions of any law in force, and the persons charged with the implementation of such instructions shall continue to be subject to legal liability for all acts committed by them under the provisions of the laws until they are relieved of such responsibility by a special law to be enacted for that purpose.

Article 126

(1) The procedures prescribed in this Constitution with regard to draft laws shall apply to any draft to amend this Constitution, provided that the amendment is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members of each of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the event of a joint sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with Article 92 of this Constitution, the amendment shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of the members of both Houses, provided that in both cases the amendment shall not come into force unless ratified by the King.

(2) No amendment to the Constitution that affects the rights of the King and succession to the Throne may be made during the period of Regency.

Article 127

(1) The duties of the Armed Forces shall be confined to defending the Nation and its safety.

(2) The organisation of the armed forces, intelligence, public security, and the rights and duties of its personnel shall be defined by law.

Chapter 10 - Enforcement and Repealing of Laws

Article 128

(1) The laws issued by virtue of this Constitution to regulate the rights and freedoms shall not prejudice said rights or affect their fundamentals.

(2) All laws, regulations and other legislative acts in force in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan when this Constitution comes into force shall continue to be in force until they are repealed or amended by legislation issued thereunder.

Article 129

(1) The Constitution of Jordan issued on 7 December of 1946, together with all amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.

(2) The Palestine Constitution Decree for the Year 1922 and the amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

(3) The repeals referred to in the preceding two paragraphs shall not affect the validity of any law or regulation issued

thereunder or any act done by virtue thereof prior to the coming into force of the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 130

The provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 131

The Council of Ministers shall be charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this Constitution.