



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Law No. 9/2016

the 8 of July

Law of Sucos¹

Sucos have had throughout history a determinant role in our cultural identity and in the mobilization of our local communities for the collective effort of national reconstruction.

Besides the aforementioned important functions, Sucos currently play a determinant role in the mobilization of our local communities for the achievement of projects of collective interest, in the preservation of peace and social stability, in the mediation of disputes and controversies that oppose individuals, families or village and contribute in an indelible way for the improvement of the life conditions of the populations and the socioeconomic progress of the country.

The central importance of Sucos in our national life cannot go without recognition and affirmation, namely through the development of a legal framework that can allow the community organizations to respond to the expectation that are deposited on them and, in this way, contribute to the appreciation of the authority functions that are traditionally associated to them.

Given that the State is preparing to establish the Local Government, equipped with material, human and financial means, as well as its own democratic legitimacy, it appears necessary to redefine the role of the Sucos, namely through an exercise of clarification of its legal responsibilities and their adequacy to its administrative capability and the reinforcement of its legitimacy and authority, namely through the introduction of changes to the procedure for nomination of the community members

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organs and the introduction of guarantees for greater transparency in the activities that these organs exercise for the communal good in their respective communities.

Therefore, the National Parliament, pursuant to the provisions in Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic, decrees the following to be enacted as law:

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 1

Object

This law establishes the norms of organization, competences and functioning of the Sucos.

Article 2

Territorial scope

This law applies to all national territory.

Article 3

Definition of Suco

1. Sucos are legal persons governed by public law, of an associative character, created on the basis of historical, cultural and traditional circumstances, whose members are connected by family or traditional links, in a given space.
2. The Sucos in cities are legal persons governed by public law, of an associative character, created on the basis of social and historic processes marked by the migration of different ethnical groups, throughout colonization periods, that decomposed the familiar nature of the previously existent links, in a given space.

Article 4

Legal Nature

Sucos have the legal nature of public associations.

CHAPTER II

Powers and competences

Article 5

Duties

1. Pursuant to the terms of the present law, the following are duties of the Sucos:
 - a) Contribute to the cohesion of the community members and to the national union;
 - b) Guarantee the peace and social harmony in the community;
 - c) Promote a solution to litigation occurring within the community or between the Aldeias of the Suco;
 - d) Defend, ensure and promote the traditional customs and practices of the community;
 - e) Defend and represent the general interests of the community;
 - f) Promote the wellbeing and full human development of the community members.
 - g) Collaborate with the Public Administration bodies and services in the pursuit of the public interest in the sphere of the community.
 - h) Promote the socioeconomic development of the community, taking into consideration gender equality;
 - i) Ensure the efficient management of the community assets.
2. Notwithstanding the duties specified in the preceding paragraph, the community organizations pursue, additionally, duties that may be delegated on them by organs of the State Central Administration or Local Government, through inter-administrative contracts of delegation of duties.

Article 6

Competences

1. In the pursuit of the respective duties, the Sucos exercise the following competences:
 - a) Promote the resolution of conflicts that arise between the community members or between Aldeias, in accordance with the traditions and practices of the community and the respect for the principle of equality;
 - b) Promote and defence the ***Knua*** as fundamental elements of the cultural identity of the Timorese People;
 - c) Preserve the existence of the ***uma-lulik*** or ***uma-lisan*** in the community;
 - d) Collaborate in the organization of festivities, ceremonies, rituals and other activities for the affirmation of the traditions, practices and customs that form the identity of the community, without prejudice to the demands that are proper of the social and economic development of the community;
 - e) Promote the holding of activities for the inter-generational transmission of practices, traditions and customs of the local community;
 - f) Disseminate the laws, regulations, deliberations and decisions produced by the organs of the State, as well as the customary law rules, that are of interest to the community;
 - g) Promote the adoption of healthier life styles amongst the community members and sensitize them to the need to prevent diseases such as cholera, meningitis, diarrhoea, malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis and dengue fever;
 - h) Sensitize and mobilize the community members to the importance of the maternal and child health and the participation in vaccination campaigns;

- i) Sensitize and mobilize the community members to the eradication of domestic violence within the community;
 - j) Sensitize the community members to the importance of schooling for children and mobilize the community to the fight against early school withdrawal;
 - k) Inform the Municipal Administration about the existence of underage children at risk in the community, as well as individuals in social exclusion or vulnerability situations.
 - l) Disseminate and stimulate the participation of community members in solidarity and social protection programmes set by the State and the Municipalities;
 - m) Inform the registry services, the social services and the electoral registration services about the deaths occurred in the Aldeias of the Suco;
 - n) Identify the community members, namely by filling the “family form” and inform the Local Administration services of the results obtained;
 - o) Certify that the community members have habitual residence in one of the Aldeias of the Suco;
 - p) Certify the personal integrity of the community members;
 - q) Sensitize and mobilize the community members for the adoption of good hygiene and food confection practices;
 - r) Sensitize and mobilize the community members for compliance with food safety rules;
 - s) Mobilize the community members to participate in civic education activities, electoral education and in the elections and referenda;
 - t) Mobilize the community members for the practice of sports and participation and sporting events;
 - u) Sensitize the community members for compliance with their tax obligations;
 - v) Sensitize and mobilize the community members for the maintenance of hygiene, salubriousness, conservation and quality of public spaces;
 - w) In collaboration with the Local Administration services, carry out the agricultural and livestock census;
 - x) Sensitize and mobilize the community members for the importance of environment protection;
 - y) Support the activities of the Community Policing Council of the TLNP;
 - z) Support the activities of the cadastral services;
 - aa) Promote the creation of community cooperatives.
2. The Government shall regulate by decree law the exercise of the competences set in the preceding paragraph.
 3. Without prejudice to the competences set in paragraph 1, the Sucos shall also exercise any competences that are delegated on them by the Local Administration bodies, through inter-administrative contracts for delegation of competences.
 4. The competences set in paragraph 1 shall not be exercised to the detriment of programmes and national plans approved by Central or Local Administration bodies.

Article 7

Inter-administrative contracts

The Government approves by decree-law the juridical regime of the inter-administrative contracts for delegation of duties and competences.

CHAPTER III

Organs of the Suco

Section I

General provisions

Article 8

Organs of the Suco

1. The sucos pursue the duties and exercise the competences set in this law and other legislation, through their own organs.
2. The organs of the Suco shall be:
 - a. The Suco Council;
 - b. The Suco Chief;
 - c. The Aldeia Assembly;
 - d. The Aldeia Chief.

Section II

The Suco Council

Article 9

Definition

The Suco Council is the Suco's deliberative organ.

Article 10

Composition

1. The Suco Council shall be made of:
 - a. The Suco Chief;

- b. The Aldeia Chiefs of the Suco;
 - c. A female delegate from each Suco's Aldeias;
 - d. A male delegate from each Suco's Aldeias;
 - e. A female youth representative from the Suco;
 - f. A male youth representative from the Suco;
 - g. A *lian-na'in*.
2. The Suco Council members referred to in subparagraphs a) and b) of the preceding paragraph are part of the Council by virtue of their office and shall cease their participation in the Council of Suco as soon as their office as Suco Chief or Aldeia Chief is terminated.
 3. The Suco council members referred to in subparagraphs c) to g) of paragraph 1 shall exercise their functions for periods of seven years.
 4. The exercise of Suco Council member role is restricted to Timorese citizens, who are seventeen years old or older and are registered with the electoral roll of the geographic unit electoral registration where the headquarters of the Suco is based.
 5. The Suco council members referred to in subparagraphs e) and f) of paragraph 1, in addition to meeting the criteria set in the preceding paragraph may not be older than thirty years of age.

Article 11

Commencement and cessation of service

1. The Suco Council members start their tenure with the inauguration before the Government representative of the administrative area where the headquarters of the Suco is based.
2. The tenure of the Suco Council members shall cease in the following circumstances:
 - a. Death or permanent incapacity;
 - b. Custodial sentence, by final judgment, for commission of an intentional crime.
 - c. Resignation from office;
 - d. No longer having habitual residence, for a period over three consecutive months, in the Suco;
 - e. Dissolution of the Suco Council or loss of mandate following an administrative supervisory procedure;
 - f. Expiry of the term of tenure.
3. The legal nature of the cessation of tenure provided for in subparagraph b) of the preceding paragraph is that of an ancillary penalty.

Article 12

Competences

It shall be the competence of the Suco Council to:

- a) Elect the *lian-na'in* taking part in the Suco Council;

- b) Elect a female and a male representative of the Suco youth;
- c) Nominate the substitute of the Suco Chief for periods of absence or impediment that are longer than thirty consecutive days;
- d) Approve the Community Development Plan, as proposed by the Suco Chief;
- e) Give its opinion on the proposals for public investment to be made by the State or Municipality, for the benefit of their respective community, as proposed by the Suco Chief;
- f) Approve the project proposals to be subsidised by the State or Municipality and to be carried out for the benefit of their respective community;
- g) Discuss and approve the report of the physical and financial evolution and execution of the Community Development Plan;
- h) Approve the recommendations to the Suco Chief and Aldeia Chiefs concerning the best strategies or measures to adopt for the defence and promotion of the traditions, practices and customs of the community;
- i) Approve the recommendations to the Suco Chief and Aldeia Chiefs regarding the strategies they should adopt to carry out the activities they propose within the scope of their respective competences;
- j) Approve recommendations to the Suco Chief regarding the best allocation of the Suco's material, human and financial resources or those made available by the State or Municipality for the activities to be developed by the Suco Chief within the scope of his or her competences;
- k) Approve the recommendation to the Suco Chief for the improvement of the Suco services;
- l) Exercise any other competencies that may be conferred by law or regulation.

Article 13

First meeting

1. The Suco Council shall meet up to the tenth day following the final tabulation of the results of the election of the Suco Chief.
2. The meeting shall be convened by the elected Suco Chief and shall comply with the rules provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the subsequent article.
3. Whenever the Suco Chief fails to convene the first meeting of the Suco Council within the time limit set in paragraph 1, it shall be the duty of the eldest Aldeia Chief to convene the meeting within the terms set in the preceding paragraph.
4. The election of the *lian-na'in* and youth representatives of this organ shall be a mandatory item on the agenda of the first meeting.
5. The election of the *lian-na'in* shall precede the election of the youth representatives.

Article 14

Functioning

1. The Suco Council meets ordinarily once a semester and extraordinarily whenever convened by the Suco Chief, of its own motion or petitioned by a third of the members of that organ.

2. The notice of the Suco Council meetings shall mandatorily include:
 - a) The meeting date;
 - b) The meeting location;
 - c) The meeting starting time;
 - d) The meeting agenda.
3. The notice of the Suco Council meeting shall be sent to the members of this organ and displayed on the notice board of the Suco headquarters, at least forty eight hours in advance.
4. The Suco Council meetings are public and shall include a period, of no less than thirty minutes, for the community members to raise questions or make recommendations to the Suco Council members.

Article 15

Quorum

The Suco Council may only meet and deliberate whenever the majority of its members in full exercise of their office are present.

Article 16

Resolutions

1. Unless otherwise provided by legal provisions, the resolutions of the Suco Council are approved with the favourable voting of the majority of the present members of this organ.
2. The resolutions approved by the Suco Council do not create obligations for the State or the Municipality.
3. The Suco Council may not approve resolutions proposing to create a burden or expenses over movable or immovable property of the State or Municipality.
4. Resolutions of the Suco Council in breach of the provisions in the preceding paragraph shall be void.

Article 17

Neutrality and impartiality

Suco Council members shall not be permitted to participate in the discussion or voting of a proposal submitted to this organ whenever there is a direct patrimonial advantage for themselves, their relatives or kin in the direct ascending line or up to the second degree in the collateral line.

Article 18

Meeting minutes

1. Every Suco Council meeting shall be recorded in minutes with a summary of all of the most important occurrences therein.
2. In the minutes of the Suco Council it shall mandatorily be included the most important resolutions that have been approved in this organ.
3. The minutes of the Suco Council are public and may be consulted by any community member at the Suco headquarters.

Section III

Suco Chief

Article 19

Definition

The Suco Chief is the executive organ of the Suco.

Article 20

Mandate

1. The Suco Chief is elected for terms of seven years.
2. The mandate of the Suco Chief may be renewed more than once.

Article 21

Commencement and cessation of service

1. The Suco Chief starts tenure with the inauguration before the Government representative of the administrative area where the headquarters of the Suco is based.
2. The tenure of the Suco Council members shall cease in the following circumstances:
 - a. Death or permanent incapacity;
 - b. Custodial sentence, by final judgment, for commission of an intentional crime.
 - c. Resignation from office;
 - d. No longer having habitual residence, for a period over three consecutive months, in the Suco;
 - e. Loss of mandate following an administrative supervisory procedure;
 - f. Dismissal by the Suco Council;
 - g. Expiry of the term of tenure.
3. The legal nature of the cessation of tenure provided for in subparagraph b) of the preceding paragraph is that of an ancillary penalty.

4. Dismissal by the Suco Council, referred to in subparagraph f) of paragraph 2, approved by favourable vote of two thirds of members in effective functions, must be founded on the refusal or incapacity to carry out the Community Development Plan.
5. The eldest Aldeia Chief, in the Suco Council, shall convene this organ to meet extraordinarily, between the fifth and fifteenth day following the verification of any of the facts referred to in paragraph 2.
6. The new Suco Chief shall exercise the office for the remainder of the term.

Article 22

Absence and impediments

1. The Suco Chief shall be replaced in his or her absence and impediments:
 - a) By the Suco officer, for mere day to day business, if the duration of the absence or impediment does not go beyond fifteen consecutive days;
 - b) By the Aldeia Chief he or she nominates for this purposes, if the duration of the absence or impediment does not go beyond thirty consecutive days;
 - c) By a Suco Council member nominated by this organ for this purposes by an absolute majority of its members in full exercise of their office, when the duration of the absence or impediment is greater than thirty consecutive days.
2. In the situations provided for in Article 17, the Suco Chief is substituted by the eldest Aldeia Chief present in the Suco Council meeting.

Article 23

Competences

1. It shall be the competence of the Suco Chief to:
 - a) Represent the Suco in court and outside court before the sovereign organs;
 - b) Ensure compliance with Constitution and legislation, by the organs of the Suco;
 - c) Convene and chair the Suco meetings, without prejudice to the provisions in paragraph 1 of Article 57;
 - d) Promote community consultations regarding matters of its general interest, namely in the field of planning and community development;
 - e) Elaborate and carry out a Community Development Plan;
 - f) Prepare trimestral and annual reports on the progress of the physical and financial execution of the Community Development Plan;
 - g) Chair the Suco Council;
 - h) Manage the Suco services;
 - i) Promote revenue collection and expenses payment by the Sucos, pursuant to the law;
 - j) Sign the certificates of personal integrity of the Suco members at their request;
 - k) Sign the certificates of habitual residence of the Suco members at their request;
 - l) Collaborate with the Local Administration organs and services in the development of activities that have an impact on the Suco;

- m) Collaborate with the Local Administration organs and services in the creation of mechanisms for the prevention of domestic violence;
- n) Support initiatives that aim the protection and support of domestic violence victims and the eradication of domestic violence episodes in the community;
- o) Inform the Timor Leste National Police of facts constituting criminal action or administrative offence (misdemeanour);
- p) Intervene, whenever requested, in the mediation of conflicts or disputes that involve community members;
- q) Intervene in the settlement of disputes between the Suco's Aldeias;
- r) Request the intervention of the Timor Leste National Police whenever there is an occurrence of conflicts or disturbances that jeopardise public order and the safety of the Suco members and whenever those cannot be resolved through peaceful means;
- s) Certify the residence and personal integrity of the members of his or her community;
- t) Nominate, manage and supervise the Suco administrative officers;
- u) Nominate his or her substitute for the situations of absence or impediment during a period of time no longer than thirty consecutive days;
- v) Carry out activities to promote the adoption of healthier life styles amongst the Suco members and sensitize them to the need to prevent diseases such as cholera, meningitis, diarrhoea, malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis and dengue fever;
- w) Carry out activities to sensitize and mobilize the community members to the importance of the maternal and child health and the participation in vaccination campaigns;
- x) Carry out activities to sensitize and mobilize the Suco members to the eradication of domestic violence within the community;
- y) Carry out activities to sensitize the Suco members to the importance of schooling for children and mobilize the community to the fight against early school withdrawal;
- z) Carry out awareness campaigns to disseminate and stimulate the participation of Suco members in solidarity and social protection programmes set by the State and the Municipalities;
- aa) Carry out activities to sensitize and mobilize the Suco members for the adoption of good hygiene and food preparation practices;
- bb) Carry out activities to mobilize the Suco members to participate in civic education activities, electoral education and in the elections and referenda;
- cc) Carry out activities to mobilize the Suco members for the practice of sports and participation and sporting events;
- dd) Carry out census activities to identify the Suco members, namely by filling the "family form", and informing the Local Administration services of the results obtained;
- ee) Inform the registry services, the social services and the electoral registration services about the deaths occurred in the Aldeias of the Suco;
- ff) Carry out activities to sensitize the Suco members for compliance with their tax obligations;
- gg) Carry out activities to sensitize and mobilize the Suco members for the maintenance of hygiene, health, conservation and quality of public spaces;
- hh) In collaboration with the Local Administration services, carry out the agricultural and livestock census;

- ii) Plan, organise and carry out activities for civic environmental education and campaigns for collecting rubbish and clearing beaches, parks and forests;
 - jj) Collaborate with the State Administration in activities to plant trees;
 - kk) Communicate to the competent authorities the existence of environmental problems, namely the existence of polluted areas, soil erosion areas and cutting of trees;
 - ll) Exercise any other competences conferred by law or regulations.
2. The revenue collection and expenses payment shall be included in a report to be presented by the Suco Chief, which after discussion, is sent to the Municipality executive organ.
 3. The acts practiced by the Suco Chief do not create obligations for the State or the Municipality.
 4. The Suco Chief may not practice acts that aim to create a burden or expense over movable or immovable property of the State or the Municipality.
 5. The acts practiced in breach of the provisions in the preceding paragraph are void.

Section IV

Aldeia Assembly

Article 24

Definition

1. The Aldeia Assembly is the deliberative organ of the Aldeia.
2. For the purposes of this law it shall be considered an Aldeia:
 - a) The population cluster united by family links, traditions or cultures and historically linked to a Suco in a rural area;
 - b) The population cluster formed through social and historical processes marked by the migration of different ethnical groups and historically linked to a Suco in the city.

Article 25

Composition

The Aldeia Assembly is made of all Timorese citizens, over the age of seventeen years who are registered with the electoral roll of the geographic unit electoral registration where the headquarters of the Suco is based and who are recognised as such by the other Aldeia members.

Article 26

Competences

It shall be competence of the Aldeia Assembly the following:

- a) Choose the Aldeia Chief;
- b) Choose a female and a male delegate to the Suco Council;

- c) Nominate a substitute for the Aldeia Chief in situations of his or her absence or impediments that have a duration of a period no longer than thirty consecutive days;
- d) Give its opinion on the activities to be prioritised with a view to promote the wellbeing and improvement of the Aldeia's socioeconomic conditions;
- e) Propose to the Suco Council the priority public investments to make in the Aldeia with a view to promote the wellbeing and improvement of the Aldeia socioeconomic conditions;
- f) Propose to the Suco Council works to be carried out for construction, repair or conservation of buildings and other public collective equipment with a view to promote the Aldeia's socioeconomic development;
- g) Give its opinion on the quality of the activities and strategies to carry out with a view to defend and promote the traditions, practices and customs of the Aldeia and the Suco;
- h) Give its opinion on the quality of the works carried out by the State or the Municipality for the benefit of the socioeconomic development of the Aldeia or the Suco;
- i) Give its opinion on the impact of public policies and the governmental and municipal programs on the Aldeia development process;
- j) Give its opinion on all questions the Aldeia Chief may submit, on his or her own initiative or by petition from the Suco Chief;
- k) Give its opinion on all questions that are submitted by the Suco Chief within the scope of the elaboration of consultation processes promoted by the State or Local Authority organs.

Article 27

Functioning

1. The Aldeia Assembly shall meet ordinarily once a year and extraordinarily whenever convened by the Aldeia Chief, of its own motion or by request of a third of the Aldeia voters.
2. The notice of the Aldeia Assembly meetings shall mandatorily include:
 - a) The meeting date;
 - b) The meeting location;
 - c) The meeting starting time;
 - d) The meeting agenda.
3. The notice of the Aldeia Assembly meeting shall be displayed in the Aldeia characteristic places, forty eight hours in advance.
4. The Aldeia Assembly meetings are chaired by the Aldeia Chief, without prejudice to the provisions in paragraph 1 of Articles 36 and 45.

Article 28

Quorum

The Aldeia Assembly shall meet and deliberate when there are present more than half the Aldeia voters or, one hour after the forecasted start time for the meeting, with any number of Aldeia voters present therein.

Article 29

Resolutions

1. Unless otherwise provided by legal provisions, the resolutions of the Aldeia Assembly are approved with the favourable voting of the majority of the present members.
2. The resolutions approved by the Aldeia Assembly do not create obligations for the State or the Municipality.
3. The Aldeia Assembly may not approve resolutions proposing to create a burden or expenses over movable or immovable property of the State or Municipality.
4. Resolutions of the Aldeia Assembly in breach of the provisions in the preceding paragraph shall be void.

Section V

Aldeia Chief

Article 30

Definition

The Aldeia Chief is the executive organ of the Suco in the Aldeia.

Article 31

Mandate

1. The Aldeia Chief is elected for terms of seven years.
2. The mandate of the Aldeia Chief may be renewed more than once.

Article 32

Commencement and cessation of service

1. The Aldeia Chief starts tenure with the inauguration before the Government representative of the administrative area where the headquarters of the Suco is based.
2. The tenure of the Aldeia Chief shall cease in the following circumstances:
 - a) Death or permanent incapacity;
 - b) Custodial sentence, by final judgment, for commission of an intentional crime.
 - c) Resignation from office;
 - d) No longer having habitual residence, for a period over three consecutive months, in one of the Aldeias that constitute the Suco;
 - e) Loss of mandate following an administrative supervisory procedure;

- f) Expiry of the term of tenure.
- 3. The legal nature of the cessation of tenure provided for in subparagraph b) of the preceding paragraph is that of an ancillary penalty.
- 4. The eldest Aldeia member shall convene the Aldeia Assembly to meet extraordinarily, between the fifth and fifteenth day following the verification of any of the facts referred to in subparagraphs a) to e) of paragraph 2.
- 5. The Aldeia Chief elected at the meeting convened under the preceding paragraph shall exercise the office for the remainder of the term.

Article 33

Competence

- 1. It shall be the competence of the Aldeia Chief:
 - a) Promote compliance with the legislation by the Aldeia members, the peace and social stability;
 - b) Convene and chair the Aldeia Assembly meetings, without prejudice to the provisions in paragraph 1 of Articles 36 and 45;
 - c) Actively participate in the Suco Council meetings;
 - d) Disseminate legislation, regulations, public policies and State and Municipality programmes that are of interest to the Aldeia members;
 - e) Carry out the resolutions of the Suco Council at the Aldeia level, under the guidance of the Suco Chief;
 - f) Provide the Suco Chief with the information and documents he or she may request;
 - g) Support the creation of the foundation structures for the resolution of minor conflicts or disputes that involve Aldeia members;
 - h) Support the elaboration of strategies and activities that aim at the promotion of gender equality, as well as the prevention and eradication of the occurrence of domestic violence episodes amongst Aldeia members;
 - i) Support the creation of mechanisms for protection of domestic violence victims;
 - j) Identify situations of extreme poverty and social exclusion affecting Aldeia members and inform the Suco Chief of these situations;
 - k) Identify situations of underage persons at risk and inform the Suco Chief of these situations;
 - l) Carry out, under the guidance of the Suco Chief, activities to promote the adoption of healthier life styles amongst the Aldeia members and sensitize them to the need to prevent diseases such as cholera, meningitis, diarrhoea, malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis and dengue fever;
 - m) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize and mobilize the Aldeia members to the importance of the maternal and child health and the participation in vaccination campaigns;
 - n) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize and mobilize the Aldeia members to the eradication of domestic violence within the community;

- o) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize the Aldeia members to the importance of schooling for children and mobilize the Aldeia to the fight against early school withdrawal;
 - p) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, disseminate and stimulate the participation of Aldeia members in solidarity and social protection programmes set by the State and the Municipalities;
 - q) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize and mobilize the Aldeia members for the adoption of good hygiene and food preparation practices;
 - r) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, mobilize the Aldeia members to participate in civic education activities, electoral education and in the elections and referenda;
 - s) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, mobilize the Aldeia members for the practice of sports and participation and sporting events;
 - t) Support the Suco Chief in identifying the Aldeia members, namely by filling the “family form”;
 - u) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize the Aldeia members for compliance with their tax obligations;
 - v) Under the guidance of the Suco Chief, sensitize and mobilize the Aldeia members for the maintenance of hygiene, health, conservation and quality of public spaces;
 - w) Collaborate with the Suco Chief in the agricultural and livestock census carried out in the Aldeia;
 - x) Carry out any other tasks that are provided for by law, in regulations or that are determined by the Suco Council or Suco Chief.
2. The acts practiced by the Aldeia Chief do not create obligations for the State or the Municipality;
 3. The Aldeia Chief may not practice acts proposing to create a burden or expenses over movable or immovable property of the State or Municipality.
 4. Acts practiced in breach of the provisions in the preceding paragraph shall be void.

CHAPTER IV

Nomination of the members of the Suco organs

Section I

Election of the Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council

Article 34

Competences

It shall be the competence of the Aldeia Assembly to elect a female delegate and a male delegate to the Suco Council.

Article 35

Applications submissions

1. The applications for Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council shall be submitted to the electoral committee at the start of the Aldeia Assembly meeting convened to carry out the election of the Aldeia female and male delegates to the Suco Council.
2. Timorese citizens may be apply to be Aldeia female or male delegates to the Suco Council:
 - a) Who are of the age of seventeen years old or older;
 - b) Who are registered with the electoral roll of the electoral registration geographic unit that covers the Suco to which deliberative organ they are applying; and
 - c) Who are members of the Aldeia they propose to represent at the Suco Council.
3. It is mandatory that the application for Aldeia female or male delegates to the Suco Council is proposed by at least 1% of the Aldeia voters.
4. The applications for Aldeia female or male delegates to the Suco Council shall contain the following documents:
 - a) Declaration of acceptance of application signed by the candidate;
 - b) Photocopy of the candidate's voter registration card;
 - c) Individual or collective declaration of support of the proposed application, containing the voter registration number of the proponents.
5. The electoral committee shall reject any candidates who do not meet the criteria set in Paragraph 2 as well as the applications that do not contain the documents specified in the preceding paragraph.

Article 36

Aldeia Assembly electoral committee

1. The Aldeia Assembly meeting that has included in its agenda selecting the delegates to the Suco Council shall be convened and chaired by the Aldeia Chief in office.
2. The electoral committee shall be made up of three members selected by the Aldeia Assembly for this purposes, being one, mandatorily of the female gender.
3. It shall be the electoral committee competences:
 - a) Receive the applications and verify they are in accordance with the applicable legal provisions;
 - b) Accept or reject the applications submitted;
 - c) Grant the candidates, whose applications have been accepted, a period of at least fifteen minutes to allow them to present before the Aldeia Assembly their reasons for the applications as well as their proposals;
 - d) Design, produce and distribute the ballots to the Aldeia Assembly members;
 - e) Control the insertion of the votes in the ballot box;
 - f) Count the votes, establish and announce the results of the voting;
 - g) Receive and resolve the complaints submitted during the processes of voting, voting counting, establishment and announcing of the results;

- h) Submit for a vote by the the Aldeia Assembly, appeals by the proponents of applications, the candidate or any other Aldeia member regarding its decisions;
- i) Announce the Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council;
- j) Record the minutes of the electoral operations.

Article 37

Ballots

1. The committee drafts, produces and distributes the ballots for the selection of the Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council.
2. The ballots include the names of the candidates accepted by the electoral committee, divided in two columns, one for the female candidates and another for the male candidates, in alphabetical order, in front of which there shall be a square space where the voters mark their choice.

Article 38

Voting rights

All Aldeia Assembly members have voting rights in the election for the Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council.

Article 39

Voting

1. To carry out the voting for the election of the Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council each Aldeia Assembly member shall be handed a ballot.
2. The Aldeia Assembly members shall manifest their voting choice through the perforation or placement of a sign in the square included in the ballotballot for such purposes.
3. Each ballotballot, once the voter has marked his or her voting choice, shall be inserted in a ballot box.
4. Whenever the electoral committee has only admitted one female candidate or one male candidate to the delegate role, the Aldeia Assembly may waive the voting process and proclaim those candidates as the Aldeia's elected delegates to the Suco Council.

Article 40

Counting and establishing the results

1. For the purposes of counting:

- a) The votes that express in a clear and unequivocal way the voting choice of the voter without, however, revealing his or her personal identity shall be considered valid;
 - b) The votes from which either the voting choice of the voter cannot be understood or that enable his or her identity to be revealed shall be considered null;
 - c) The ballots that are deposited in the ballot box without having a mark thereon shall be considered blank.
2. The tasks of counting, announcing and recording in the electoral minutes the number of valid votes obtained for each candidate accepted for the election, the number of null votes and the number of blank votes is incumbent on the electoral committee.
 3. The counting of votes and establishment of the results shall be done before the Aldeia Assembly members.

Article 41

Allocation of seats

The elected Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council shall be:

- a) The female candidate for Aldeia delegate to the Suco Council who has obtained the greatest number of valid votes;

The male candidate for Aldeia delegate to the Suco Council who has obtained the greatest number of valid votes;

Article 42

Electoral minutes

1. The electoral committee shall record and include in electoral minutes:
 - a) The date, time and place the Aldeia Assembly took place;
 - b) The name of the electoral committee members and their respective voter registration number;
 - c) The name and voter registration number of the candidates accepted for the election;
 - d) The name and voter registration number of the candidates rejected for the election, as well as the respective reasons for exclusion;
 - e) The number of Aldeia Assembly members;
 - f) The number of Aldeia Assembly members who have voted or an indication of the approval of decision as provided in paragraph 4 of Article 39.
 - g) The number of valid votes for each candidate;
 - h) The number of null votes;
 - i) The number of blank votes;
 - j) The identification of the candidates for Aldeia delegates to the Suco Council who were elected.
2. The electoral minutes shall be signed by the electoral committee members and sent to the Suco Chief alongside the submitted applications.

3. The Suco Chief shall send to the Government representative of the administrative area where the Suco headquarters is based the electoral minutes concerning the elections of the Aldeias female and male delegates to the Suco Council.

Section II

Election of the Aldeia Chief

Article 43

Competences and election mode

The Aldeia Chief shall be elected in the Aldeia Assembly, by universal, free, direct, secret and personal suffrage.

Article 44

Applications submissions

1. The applications for Aldeia Chief shall be submitted to the electoral committee at the start of the Aldeia Assembly meeting convened to carry out the election of the Aldeia Chief.
2. There must be a minimum of one female application for Aldeia Chief.
3. If there is no female application, the Aldeia Assembly Electoral Committee, having heard the women's organisations, shall declare fundamentally the fact and determine the continuation of the electoral process.
4. Timorese citizens may be apply to be Aldeia Chief:
 - a) Who are of the age of seventeen years old or older;
 - b) Who are registered with the electoral roll of the geographic unit electoral registration that covers the Suco to which deliberative organ they are applying for; and
 - c) Who are members of the Aldeia they are applying to become the Chief of.
5. It is mandatory that the application for Aldeia Chief is proposed by at least 1% of the Aldeia voters.
6. The applications for Aldeia Chief shall contain the following documents:
 - a) Declaration of acceptance of application signed by the candidate;
 - b) Photocopy of the candidate's voter registration card;
 - c) Individual or collective declaration of support of the proposed application, containing the voter registration number of the proponents.

7. The electoral committee shall reject any candidates who do not meet the criteria set in Paragraph 2² as well as the applications that do not contain the documents specified in the preceding paragraph.

Article 45

Aldeia Assembly electoral committee

1. The Aldeia Assembly meeting that has included in its agenda the election of the Aldeia Chief shall be convened and chaired by the Aldeia Chief in office.
2. The electoral committee is made of three members selected by the Aldeia Assembly for this purpose, with one, mandatorily of the female gender.
3. It shall be the electoral committee competences to:
 - a) Receive the applications and verify they are in accordance with the applicable legal provisions;
 - b) Accept or reject the applications submitted;
 - c) Grant the candidates, whose applications have been accepted, a period of at least fifteen minutes to allow them to present before the Aldeia Assembly their reasons for the applications as well as their proposals;
 - d) Design, produce and distribute the ballot to the Aldeia Assembly members;
 - e) Control the insertion of the votes in the ballot box;
 - f) Count the votes, establish and announce the results of the voting;
 - g) Receive and resolve the complaints submitted during the processes of voting, vote counting, establishing and announcing the results;
 - h) Submit for a vote by the Aldeia Assembly, appeals by the proponents of applications, the candidates or any other Aldeia member regarding its decisions;
 - i) Announce the elected Aldeia Chief;
 - j) Record the minutes of the electoral operations.
 - k) Count the votes and proceed with the initial establishment, at the Aldeia level, of the election for Suco Chief;
 - l) Send the Suco Electoral Committee, for the purposes of finally establishing at the Suco level and proclamation of results, the minutes of the electoral operations concerning the election for Suco Chief.

Article 46

Ballots

The ballots include the names of the candidates accepted by the electoral committee, in alphabetical order, in front of which there shall be a square space where the voters mark their choice.

² Note from Translator: This should say paragraph 4, but the official Portuguese version wrongly indicates paragraph 2.

Article 47

Voting rights

All Aldeia Assembly members have voting rights in the election for the Aldeia Chief.

Article 48

Voting

1. To carry out the voting for the election of the Aldeia Chief each Aldeia Assembly member shall be handed a ballot.
2. The Aldeia Assembly members shall manifest their voting choice through the perforation or placement of a sign in the square included in the ballot for such purposes.
3. Each ballot, once the voter has marked his or her voting choice, shall be inserted in a ballot box.
4. Whenever the electoral committee has only admitted one candidate to the Aldeia Chief office, the Aldeia Assembly may waive the voting process and proclaim that candidate as elected Aldeia Chief.

Article 49

Counting and establishing the results

1. For the purposes of counting:
 - a) The votes that express in a clear and unequivocal way the voting choice of the voter without, however, revealing his or her personal identity, shall be considered valid;
 - b) The votes from which either the voting choice of the voter cannot be understood or that enable his or her identity to be revealed, shall be considered null;
 - c) The ballots that are deposited in the ballot box without having a mark therein, shall be considered blank
2. The tasks of counting, announcing and recording in the electoral minutes the number of valid votes obtained for each candidate accepted for the election, the number of null votes and the number of blank votes is incumbent on the electoral committee.
3. The votes counting and establishment of results shall be done before the Aldeia Assembly members.

Article 50

Allocation of seats

1. The candidate who has obtained in the voting over half the validly expressed votes, not including the blank votes for such purpose, shall be elected Aldeia Chief.
2. If none of the candidates has obtained the number of votes set in the preceding paragraph, a second round of voting shall take place immediately, being subject to such suffrage only the two candidates with the greater number of votes in the first round of voting.

Article 51

Electoral minutes

1. The electoral committee shall record and include in electoral minutes:
 - a) The date, time and place the Aldeia Assembly took place;
 - b) The name of the electoral committee members and their respective voter registration number;
 - c) The name and voter registration number of the candidates accepted for the election;
 - d) The name and voter registration number of the candidates rejected for the election, as well as the respective reasons for exclusion;
 - e) The number of Aldeia Assembly members;
 - f) The number of Aldeia Assembly members who have voted or the indication of the approval of decision as provided in paragraph 4 or Article 48.
 - g) The number of valid votes for each candidate;
 - h) The number of null votes;
 - i) The number of blank votes;
 - j) The identification of the elected Aldeia Chief.
2. The electoral minutes shall be signed by the electoral committee members and sent to the Suco Chief alongside the submitted applications.
3. The Suco Chief shall send to the Government representative of the administrative area where the Suco headquarters is based the electoral minutes concerning the election of the Aldeia Chief.

Section III

Election of the *lian-na'in*

Article 52

Competences

It shall be the competence of the Suco Council to elect the *lian-na'in*.

Article 53

Election process

The election of *lian-na'in* for the Suco Council shall be carried out in accordance with the tradition, the practices or the customs of the Suco.

Article 54

***Lian-na'in* election minutes**

The election of the *lian-na'in* by the Suco Council shall be recorded in minutes that shall be sent by the Suco Chief to the Government representative of the administrative area of the Suco headquarters.

Section IV

Election of the youth representatives

Article 55

Competences

It shall be the competence of the Suco Council to elect a youth female representative and a youth male representative to this organ.

Article 56

Applications submissions

1. The applications for youth representatives shall be submitted to the electoral committee in accordance with the agenda set for the first meeting of the Suco Council.
2. Timorese citizens may be apply to be youth representatives to the Suco Council:
 - a. Who are of the age of seventeen years old or older and who are not older than thirty years of age;
 - b. Who are registered with the electoral roll of the geographic unit electoral registration that covers the Suco they are applying for; and
 - c. Who are members of the Suco of which Suco Council they are applying for.
3. It is mandatory that the application for youth representative to the Suco Council is proposed by at least 1% of the Suco voters.
4. The applications for youth representatives to the Suco Council shall contain the following documents:
 - a. Declaration of acceptance of application signed by the candidate;

- b. Photocopy of the candidate's voter registration card;
 - c. Individual or collective declaration of support of the proposed application, containing the voter registration number of the proponents.
5. The electoral committee shall reject any candidates who do not meet the criteria set in Paragraph 2 as well as the applications that do not contain the documents specified in the preceding paragraph.

Article 57

Suco Council Electoral Committee

1. The Suco Council meeting that has included in its agenda the election of the youth representatives to the Suco Council shall be convened by the Suco Chief but it shall be chaired by an *ad hoc* electoral committee.
2. The electoral committee shall be made of the following elements:
 - a) An Aldeia Chief, selected for this purpose by the Suco Council;
 - b) An Aldeia female delegate to the Suco Council, selected for this purpose by the Suco Council;
 - c) The *lian-na'in* elected to be part of the Suco Council.
3. It shall be the electoral committee competences to:
 - a) Receive the applications and verify they are in accordance with the applicable legal provisions;
 - b) Accept or reject the applications submitted;
 - c) Grant the candidates, whose applications have been accepted, a period of at least fifteen minutes to allow them to present before the Suco Council their reasons for their applications as well as their proposals;
 - d) Design, produce and distribute the ballot to the Suco members;
 - e) Control the insertion of the votes in the ballot box;
 - f) Count the votes, establish and announce the results of the voting;
 - g) Receive and resolve the complaints submitted during the processes of voting, vote counting, establishing and announcing of the results;
 - h) Submit for a vote by the Suco Council, appeals petitioned by the proponents of applications, the candidates or any other Suco member regarding its decisions;
 - i) Announce the elected youth female and male representatives to the Suco Council;
 - j) Record the minutes of the electoral operations.
4. The electoral committee shall be chaired by the eldest member.

Article 58

Ballots

1. The committee drafts, produces and distributes the ballots for the election of the youth representatives to the Suco Council.

2. The ballots include the names of the candidates accepted by the electoral committee, in alphabetical order, in front of which there shall be a square space where the voters mark their choice.

Article 59

Voting rights

All Suco Council members have the right to vote in the election for the youth representatives.

Article 60

Voting

1. To carry out the voting for the election of the youth representatives to the Suco Council each member of this organ shall be handed a ballot.
2. The Suco Council members shall manifest their voting choice through the perforation or placement of a sign in the square included in the ballot for such purposes.
3. Each ballot, once the voter has marked his or her voting choice, shall be inserted in a ballot box.
4. Whenever the electoral committee has only admitted one candidate of each gender for youth representative, the Suco Council may waive the voting process through resolution approved by an absolute majority of its members in full exercise of their office, and proclaim those candidates as youth representatives.

Article 61

Counting and establishing the results

1. For the purposes of the vote counting:
 - a) The votes that express in a clear and unequivocal way the voting choice of the voter without, however, revealing his or her personal identity, shall be considered valid;
 - b) The votes from which either the voting choice of the voter cannot be understood or that enable his or her identity to be revealed, shall be considered null;
 - c) The ballots that are deposited in the ballot box without having a mark therein, shall be considered blank.
2. The tasks of counting, announcing and recording in the electoral minutes the number of valid votes obtained for each candidate accepted for the election, the number of null votes and the number of blank votes is incumbent upon the electoral committee.
3. The votes counting and establishment of results shall be done before the Suco Council members.

Article 62

Allocation of seats

The candidate, of each gender, who has obtained in the voting the greater number of valid votes shall be elected as youth representative to the Suco Council.

Article 63

Electoral minutes

1. The electoral committee shall record and include in electoral minutes:
 - a) The date, time and place the Suco Council took place;
 - b) The name of the electoral committee members and their respective voter registration number;
 - c) The name and voter registration number of the candidates accepted for the election;
 - d) The name and voter registration number of the candidates rejected for the election, as well as the respective reasons for exclusion;
 - e) The number of Suco Council members;
 - f) The number of Suco Council members who have voted or the indication of the approval of resolution as provided in paragraph 4 or Article 60.
 - g) The number of valid votes for each candidate;
 - h) The number of null votes;
 - i) The number of blank votes;
 - j) The identification of the elected youth representatives to the Suco Council.
2. The electoral minutes shall be signed by the electoral committee members.
3. The Suco Chief shall send to the Government representative of the administrative area where the Suco headquarters is based the electoral minutes concerning the elections of the youth representatives to the Suco Council.

Section V

Election of the Suco Chief

Article 64

Election mode

The Suco Chief is elected by universal, free, direct, secret and personal suffrage.

Article 65

Applications submissions

1. The applications for Suco Chief shall be submitted to the Suco electoral committee up to fifteen days prior to the scheduled date for the election.
2. There must be a minimum of two applications for Suco Chief, with one being a female candidate.
3. If there is no female application, the Suco Electoral Committee, having heard the women's organisations, shall declare fundamentally the fact and determine the continuation of the electoral process.
4. Timorese citizens may be apply to be Suco Chief:
 - a. Who are of the age of seventeen years old or older;
 - b. Who are registered with the electoral roll of the geographic unit electoral registration where the Suco headquarters is located;
 - c. Who are members of the Suco they are applying to become the Chief of.
5. It is mandatory that the application for Suco Chief is proposed by at least 1% of the Suco voters.
6. The applications for Suco Chief shall contain the following documents:
 - a. Declaration of acceptance of application signed by the candidate;
 - b. Photocopy of the candidate's voter registration card;
 - c. Individual or collective declaration of support of the proposed application, containing the voter registration number of the proponents.
7. The electoral committee shall reject any candidates who do not meet the criteria set in Paragraph 4, that do not contain the documents specified in the preceding paragraph or that are submitted outside of the deadline.

Article 66

Suco electoral committee

1. The outgoing Suco Council shall promote the constitution of the Suco electoral committee, which shall be made of:
 - a) A Aldeia Chief, selected by the Suco Council;
 - b) A Suco Council female member, selected by the Suco Council;
 - c) The *lian-na'in* member of the Suco Council.
2. It shall be the competence of the electoral committee to:
 - a) Receive the applications and verify they are in accordance with the applicable legal provisions;
 - b) Accept or reject the applications submitted;
 - c) Design, produce and distribute the ballot to the Aldeia Assembly Electoral Committees;
 - d) Establish the final counting and announce the results of the voting;
 - e) Receive and resolve the complaints submitted during the processes of voting, vote counting, establishing and announcing the results;

- f) Submit to the Suco Council for voting, the appeals petitioned by the proponents of the applications, the candidates or any other Suco member regarding its decisions;
 - g) Announce the elected Suco Chief;
 - h) Record and approve the minutes of the establishment of the final results of the election for Suco Chief;
3. The electoral committee shall be chaired by the eldest member.

Article 67

Ballots

The ballots include the names of the candidates accepted by the electoral committee, in alphabetical order, in front of which there shall be a square space where the voters mark their choice.

Article 68

Voting rights

The voters registered in the electoral roll of the electoral register geographic unit where the Suco is located have voting rights in the election for Suco Chief.

Article 69

Voting

1. The voting for the Suco Chief election is carried out at the Aldeia Assemblies, which shall take place simultaneously throughout the Suco.
2. To carry out the voting for the election of the Suco Chief each voter shall be handed a ballot.
3. The voters shall manifest their voting choice through the perforation or placement of a sign in the square included in the ballot for such purposes.
4. Once the voter has marked his or her voting choice, each ballot shall be inserted in a ballot box.

Article 70

Counting and establishing the results

1. For the purposes of vote counting:
 - a) The votes that express in a clear and unequivocal way the voting choice of the voter without, however, revealing his or her personal identity, shall be considered valid;
 - b) The votes from which either the voting choice of the voter cannot be understood or that enable his or her identity to be revealed, shall be considered null;

- c) The ballots that are deposited in the ballot box without having a mark therein, shall be considered blank.
2. The tasks of counting, announcing and recording in the electoral minutes the number of valid votes obtained for each candidate accepted for the election, the number of null votes and the number of blank votes, is incumbent on the electoral committee.
3. The votes counting and establishment of results shall be done by the Suco electoral committee before the Suco Council.

Article 71

Allocation of seats

1. The candidate who has obtained in the voting over half the validly expressed votes, not considering the blank votes for such purpose, shall be elected Suco Chief.
2. If none of the candidates has obtained the number of votes set in the preceding paragraph, a second round of voting shall take place, within a time limit of no less than fifteen days, with only the two candidates with the greatest number of votes in the first round of voting being subject to such suffrage.

Article 72

Electoral minutes

1. The Suco electoral committee shall record and include in electoral minutes:
 - a) The date and time of the election;
 - b) The name of the electoral committee members and their respective voter registration number;
 - c) The name and voter registration number of the candidates accepted for the election;
 - d) The name and voter registration number of the candidates rejected for the election, as well as the respective reasons for exclusion;
 - e) The number of registered voters;
 - f) The numbers of voters who have voted;
 - g) The number of valid votes for each candidate;
 - h) The number of null votes;
 - i) The number of blank votes;
 - j) The identification of the elected Suco Chief.
2. The electoral minutes shall be signed by the electoral committee members.
3. The outgoing Suco Chief shall send to the Government representative of the administrative area where the Suco headquarters is located the electoral minutes concerning the election of the Suco Chief.

Section VI

Ineligibilities

Article 73

Ineligibilities

The Suco organs members whom have been removed by the Suco Council, or whom have lost their mandate following a supervisory process or due to being convicted to a custodial sentence for the commission of an intentional crime , shall be prevented from applying for elections that are taking place immediately after their removal or loss of mandate.

CHAPTER V

Incompatibilities

Article 74

General incompatibilities

1. The performance of the functions of Suco Council member, Suco Chief or Aldeia Chief, shall be incompatible with the following functions:
 - a) President of the Republic;
 - b) President of the National Parliament;
 - c) Prime-Minister;
 - d) President of the Supreme Court of Justice or the Supreme Administrative, Fiscal and Court of Auditors;
 - e) Member of the National Parliament;
 - f) Member of the Government;
 - g) Judicial magistrate;
 - h) Public prosecutor magistrate;
 - i) Human Rights and Justice Ombudsman;
 - j) Member of the National Electoral Committee;
 - k) Member of the Anti-Corruption Committee;
 - l) Member of the Public Service Committee;
 - m) Serving member of the FALINTIL – Defence Forces of Timor-Leste;
 - n) Serving member of the Timor-Leste National Police;
2. The Suco Council members in situations of incompatibility shall resign from office as member of the Suco Council, Suco Chief or Aldeia Chief or the position or office with which this is incompatible with.

Article 75

Suco Chief Incompatibilities

1. Without prejudice to the exceptional situation provided for in Article 22, subparagraph b), it shall be incompatible to hold simultaneously office as Suco Chief and Aldeia Chief, Aldeia Delegate, Youth Representative and *lian-na'in* at the Suco Council.
2. Should the incompatibility provided for in the preceding paragraph occur the Suco Chief shall renounce one of the mandates.

CHAPTER VI

Rights of the Suco Council members, Aldeia Chiefs and Suco Chiefs

Article 76

Rights of the Suco Council members

1. The Suco Council members shall have the right to:
 - a) Receive beforehand the notices for the Suco Council meetings, alongside a copy of the documents that are to be submitted for discussion and deliberation by that organ;
 - b) Request leave to speak and intervene at the Suco Council meetings and ask for information and request clarification from the members of that organ;
 - c) Vote in the proposals submitted to the Suco Council for deliberation;
 - d) Be excused from performing their professional duties, without loss of remuneration or other rights, for the necessary period of time to take part in the Suco Council meetings;
 - e) Receive an attendance slip for each Suco Council meeting they attend;
 - f) Receive compensation for the accidents they suffer whilst performing their functions;
 - g) Attend training designed for the Suco Council members.
2. The rights provided for in subparagraphs e) and f) of the preceding paragraph are regulated by Government Decree.

Article 77

Rights of the Aldeia Chiefs

1. The Aldeia Chief shall have the right to:
 - a) Receive a document identifying their Aldeia Chief capacity;
 - b) Receive beforehand the notices for the Suco Council meetings, alongside a copy of the documents that are to be submitted for discussion and deliberation by that organ;
 - c) Request leave to speak and intervene at the Suco Council meetings and ask for information and request clarification from the members of that organ;

- d) Vote in the proposals submitted to the Suco Council for deliberation;
 - e) Be excused from performing their professional duties, without loss of remuneration or other rights, for the necessary period of time to take part in the Suco Council meetings;
 - f) Receive a monthly compensatory subsidy for their performance of the role of Aldeia Chief;
 - g) Receive an attendance slip for each Suco Council meeting they attend;
 - h) Receive compensation for the accidents they suffer whilst performing their functions;
 - i) Attend training designed for the Suco Council members or the Aldeia Chiefs.
2. The rights provided for in subparagraphs f), g) and h) of the preceding paragraph are regulated by Government Decree.

Article 78

Rights of the Suco Chiefs

3. The Suco Chief shall have the right to:
- a) Receive a document identifying their Suco Chief capacity;
 - b) Vote for the proposals submitted to the Suco Council for deliberation;
 - c) Be excused from performing their professional duties, without loss of remuneration or other rights, for the necessary period of time to take part in the Suco Council meetings;
 - d) Receive a monthly compensatory subsidy for their performance of the role of Suco Chief;
 - e) Receive an attendance slip for each Suco Council meeting they attend;
 - f) Receive compensation for the accidents they suffer whilst performing their functions;
 - g) Attend training designed for the Suco Council members or the Suco Chiefs.
4. The rights provided for in subparagraphs d), e) and f) of the preceding paragraph are regulated by Government Decree.

CHAPTER VII

Finances

Article 79

Financial support scheme for the Sucos

The Government approves by appropriate legal decree the financial support schemes to grant to Sucos by the State and the Municipalities.

Article 80

Revenue collection

The Sucos may only collect revenue as expressly provided by law.

CHAPTER VIII

Human resources

Article 81

1. The Sucos have a personnel chart approved by the Suco Council, under a proposal from the Suco Chief;
2. The general employment law shall apply to the Sucos' personnel;
3. The contracts of employment celebrated between the Sucos and their staff do not create any kind of employment bond between them and the organs or services of the Direct or Indirect State Administration or the organs or services of the Municipality.
4. The expenses occurring from the celebration of employment contracts between the Suco and their staff shall be supported by the Suco financial resources and not by the State Budget.

CHAPTER IX

Supervision

Article 82

Scope and object of the supervision

1. The Sucos shall be subject to the administrative supervision set out in this law.
2. The administrative supervision shall consist of the verification of compliance with the law and regulations by the Suco organs.

Article 83

Substance

1. The administrative supervision shall be exercised through inspections, investigations and inquiries.
2. For the purposes of this decree:
 - a) An inspection shall consist of the verification of the conformity of the acts and contracts of the Sucos with the law;

- b) The investigation shall consist of the verification of the legality of the acts and contracts, in particular, of the Sucos organs, as a result of whistleblowing by any natural or legal person or resultant from inspection procedures.
- c) The inquiry shall consist of questioning the functioning of the Sucos whenever there are serious signs of illegality that, given their volume and severity, cannot be ascertained in the scope of an investigation.

Article 84

Duties of information and cooperation

The Sucos organs that are the object of administrative supervision shall be bound by the duties of information and cooperation.

Article 85

Title of the supervision powers

The administrative supervision is a competence of the Government, ensured in an articulated manner by the inspection services of the Ministry responsible for assuring the operationalization of the mechanisms for support and collaboration with the Suco organs.

Article 86

Undertaking Inspections

1. The inspections shall be undertaken regularly by the competent services, in accordance with the annual plan approved by the Government member responsible for assuring the operationalization of the mechanisms for support and collaboration with the Suco organs.
2. The investigations and inquiries are determined by the Government member the preceding paragraph refers to, whenever the prerequisites for its implementation are present.
3. The inspection reports shall be presented to the Government member referred to in paragraph 1 for a decision, whom shall if there are any signs of illicit criminal practices, forward it to the Public Prosecutor.
4. Because there are situations in question which are susceptible of founding the dissolution of the Suco Council or loss of mandate any of its members, the Aldeia Chief or the Suco Chief, the Government member referred to in paragraph 1 must provide notification to those concerned within fifteen days, submitting the applicable allegations in writing and attaching the documents considered relevant.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions in the preceding paragraph, whenever the loss of mandate by a Suco Chief is in question, the opinion of the Suco Council shall also be requested, which must be given within fifteen days.

6. Once the allegations are submitted or the opinion given referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5, or the timeline for such effect has expired, the Government member referred to in paragraph 1 shall forward, within thirty days, to the Council of Ministers the proposed decision of dissolution, loss of mandate or archiving, for deliberation within a maximum of fifteen days.
7. The Anti-Corruption Commission and the Public Prosecutor shall be notified of the Government decision.

Article 87

Sanctions

The practice, by actions or omissions, of illegalities within the scope of the Sucos' activity may determine, in accordance with the provisions of this law, the loss of the respective mandate if these have been practiced individually by members of the organs, or the dissolution of the organ, if these are the result of its action or omission.

Article 88

Dissolution of organs

1. The Suco Council may be dissolved when:
 - a) Without legitimate reason, it does not fulfil final judicial rulings;
 - b) It obstructs the realization of investigations, inspections and inquiries, refused to provide information or clarifications and refuses to facilitate the examination and review of requested documents within the scope of the administrative supervision procedure;
 - c) It incurs by intentional action or omission, in serious illegality, for the purposes of attaining purposes that are outside the interest of the Suco.
2. The dissolution of the Suco Council in the hundred and twenty days that precede the end of its members' mandate shall be prohibited.

Article 89

Loss of mandate

1. A Suco Council member, Aldeia Chief or Suco Chief whom in the exercise of their functions, or due to these, intervenes in a procedure, act or contract governed by public or private law, in relation to which a legal impediment is verified, with the aim of obtaining patrimonial advantage for themselves or a third party, shall lose their mandate.
2. A Suco Council member, Aldeia Chief or Suco Chief whom in the exercise of their functions, or due to these, intervenes in a procedure, act or contract governed by public or private law which, without authorization from the organ or service of the State or Municipality whichever

the case, has as its object movable or immovable property of the State or Municipality, shall lose their mandate;

3. The loss of mandate by the Suco Council member, Aldeia Chief or Suco Chief in the hundred and twenty days that precede the end of their respective mandate shall be prohibited.

Article 90

Effects of the dissolution and loss of mandate

1. The final decision for the dissolution of the Suco Council or loss of mandate by any of its members requires the holding of new electoral acts to select the new Suco Council members, Aldeia Chief or Suco Chief.
2. Members of the dissolved organ or those who have lost their mandate following supervisory actions shall be prevented from applying for the electoral acts provided for in the preceding paragraph.

CHAPTER X

Final and transitory provisions

Article 91

Recognition of Sucos

The Government member responsible for the operationalization of the mechanisms for support and collaboration with the Sucos organs recognizes by ministerial decree the Sucos and Aldeias.

Article 92

Aldeia Assemblies and Suco Council meetings with electoral aim

1. The Aldeia Assemblies convened for holding the election for the Aldeia female and male delegates to the Suco Council, the Aldeia Chief and the Suco Chief shall all take place simultaneously on a date named by Government Decree for such effect.
2. The Suco Councils convened with the aim of constituting the electoral committees and monitoring the results of the elections for Suco Chief, shall all meet simultaneously on a date named by Government Decree for such effect.
3. The Suco Councils convened to hold the election of the *lian-na'in* and the youth representatives to the Suco Council, shall all meet simultaneously on a date named by Government Decree for such effect.
4. Before scheduling the dates for holding the meetings provided for in the preceding paragraphs, the Government shall consult the Electoral Administration organs.

Article 93

Transitory exercise of competences of the executive organ of the Municipality

Until such time the organs representative of the Local Power are installed, the competences provided for in this law for those organs shall be exercised by the Government representative of the administrative area where the Suco is located.

Article 94

Regulation

The regulation of this law shall be approved by Government normative act within a timeframe of ninety days starting from the date of its entry into force.

Article 95

Suco organs members training plan

The Ministry responsible for the operationalization of the mechanisms for support and collaboration with the Suco organs designs and presents to the National Parliament a training plan for the Suco organs members, within a time limit of one hundred and twenty days.

Article 96

Electoral Administration Organs

The Electoral Administration Organs shall support the Aldeia Assemblies and the Suco Councils in the organization of the electoral acts provided for in the present law.

Article 97

Revocation

Law Nr 3/2009, of 8 July, which makes provisions on Community Leadership and its election, shall be revoked.

Article 98

Entry into force

The present law shall enter into force on the day after its publication.

Approved on 24 May 2016

The President of National Parliament

Adérito Hugo da Costa

Enacted on 5 July 2016

To be published.

The President of the Republic

Taur Matan Ruak