

# WITCHCRAFT SUPPRESSION ACT NO. 3 OF 1957

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

*(English text signed by the Governor-General)*

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

## as amended by

Witchcraft Suppression Amendment Act, No. 50 of 1970

Abolition of Corporal Punishment Act, No. 33 of 1997

## ACT

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

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Offences relating to the practice of witchcraft and similar practices
2. Presumption
3. Repeal of laws
4. Short title
- Schedule. Laws repealed

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

- (a) imputes to any other person the causing, by supernatural means, of any disease in or injury or damage to any person or thing, or who names or indicates any other person as a wizard;
- (b) in circumstances indicating that he professes or pretends to use any supernatural power, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration, imputes the cause of death of, injury or grief to, disease in, damage to or disappearance of any person or thing to any other person;
- (c) employs or solicits any witchdoctor, witch-finder or any other person to name or indicate any person as a wizard;
- (d) professes a knowledge of witchcraft, or the use of charms, and advises any person how to bewitch, injure or damage any person or thing, or supplies any person with any pretended means of witchcraft;
- (e) on the advice of any witchdoctor, witch-finder or other person or on the ground of any pretended knowledge of witchcraft, uses or causes to be put into operation any means or process which, in accordance with such advice or his own belief, is calculated to injure or damage any person or thing;
- (f) for gain pretends to exercise or use any supernatural power, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration, or undertakes to tell fortunes, or pretends from his skill in or knowledge of any occult science to discover

where and in what manner anything supposed to have been stolen or lost may be found,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**4. Short title.**—This Act shall be called the Witchcraft Suppression Act, 1957.

**Schedule**  
**LAWS REPEALED**

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



®

LexisNexis®