

THE TRELAWNY TOWN MAROONS **OF THE** **SOVEREIGN STATE OF ACCOMPONG**



Territory:

Trelawny Town, Accompong Town, The Cockpits, and 1500 acres NW of Trelawny Town

Mailing Location:

In Care of: Sovereign State of Accompong,
Bethsalem Postal Agency, in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, West Indies
Non Domestic via Registered Mail

Ratified:

21st, March 2022 A.D. Gregorian Calendar

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THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ACCOMPONG

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INTRODUCTION

The first draft of this Constitution was presented to the then Chief Meredie Rowe, in 1998, but was not presented to the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong for Adoption into Law.

The second draft of this Constitution was done on January 9th, 2004 by the Constitution Committee which was appointed at a Special Meeting held at the Accompong Community Center on January 7th, 2004.

The Constitution was finalized and presented to the Chief for Adoption into law on Friday, February 16th, 2004. Due to issues with the signatories during the signing the Constitution, the Maroons merely adopted terms of the Constitution but the document was never officially Ratified.

An Election which was overdue was called in January 2021 in which Chief Richard Currie was victorious at the ballots and won the Maroon Elections on February 18th, 2021, and sworn into Office on the February 24th, 2021. It was agreed that the newly elected Chief who won the elections would call for Constitutional Amendments to secure the integrity and sovereignty of the Maroon State.

After numerous revisions of the Constitution to incorporate the views of the community a number of Public Meetings were held throughout the Districts with members of the community to finalize the Constitution for Ratification. The Constitution was finalized and presented to the Chief and the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong for **RATIFICATION** on Sunday, March 20th, 2022 and **SIGNED** by the parties on March 21, 2021.

THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT COMMITTEE:

Chief, Richard Currie
Deputy Chief, Chase Rowe
Acting Chairman, Suckera Genas
Council Secretary, Ramone Green
Attorney General, Chevauné Moore-Minott
Minister of Justice, Alex Moore-Minott
Plenipotentiary, Anu Tafari Zion El

The Constitution Amendment Committee wishes to thank each and every single Maroon who stepped up to declare their birthright by supporting the Amendments and Ratification of this Constitution.

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MAROON HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

A Brief Chronology of the Maroons of Cockpit Country

1509	Beginning of Spanish government in Jamaica with the arrival of Governor Esquivel
1655	British Invasion of Jamaica and staging of war between Britain and Spain in Jamaica
1659	Scouting missions discover an independent town governed by Juan de Bolas who later becomes the first Maroon Chief recognized by the British
1663	Juan de Bolas aids the English, leading them to several other independent towns and waging war against them on behalf of the English
1664	Juan de Bolas is extinguished by Juan de Serras the Chief of another independent town who then goes deep into Jamaica's interior
1670	Treaty of Madrid ends British and Spanish hostilities and cedes Spain's interests in Jamaica to the British
1690-1700	Cudjoe and Accompong begin their resistance in Carpenter's Mountains
1730	Accompong becomes Chief of a town in the South of Cockpit Country
1730-1735	Cudjoe goes deeper into the heart of Cockpit Country
1738	British surrender and sign Treaty with Cudjoe and Accompong, and recognize them as Chiefs
1795	Second Maroon War begins
1796	Second Maroon War ends and Trelawny Town Maroons exiled, leaving Accompong to succeed the 1738 Treaty
1834	Slavery is abolished in Jamaica
1842	Maroons resist Land Allotment Act
1865	Dissolution of Parliament
1956	Accompong invaded and the Secretary of the Maroons arrested
1962	New Parliament established in Jamaica within British Commonwealth

© 2022 Figure above prepared by Alex and Chevauné Moore-Minott

Preamble

Guided by the purposes and principles of our ancestors, and good faith in the fulfillment of the obligations assumed by Captain Cudjoe in the 1738 Maroon Treaty with the British Empire (Crown),

Affirming that indigenous peoples identified as Maroons are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Recognizing our age-old roots, descending from the first peoples of this continent, and domiciling on the archipelago now called Jamaica,

Acknowledging the first Maroons to be the native first peoples of Jamaica of whom we are descended from,

Honouring nature, the earth, of which we are a part and which is vital to our existence,

Invoking our birthright to remain in a perfect state of freedom and liberty, and recognizing that we shall enjoy and possess, for ourselves and posterity forever, all the lands situate and lying between Trelawney Town and the Cockpits, including 1500 acres North West of Trelawny Town,

Solemnly Proclaim our sovereignty as affirmed in the 1738 Maroon Treaty; We the People, in order to form a more perfect, just and equitable society, maintain our ancient customs and traditions, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the fortune and Providence of the Most High, Creator of all things seen and unseen to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution to govern our independent Nation.

Article 1: Maroon Government

Section 1: Legislative Power

All Legislative power herein granted shall be vested in the Chief in conjunction with the Full Maroon Council. Also the Council shall appoint a Maroon Council of Elders as Advisors. The Chief will be responsible to appoint his or her Executive Council.

Section 2: The Full Maroon Council

The Full Maroon Council shall be composed of members chosen every seven (7) years by the Maroon People of the Sovereign State of Accompong including those that reside outside of the boundaries of Accompong who are blood related, and who shall return to Accompong Town to cast their vote for General Assembly's and Council meetings. The Comptroller for the Sovereign State of Accompong is also apart of the Full Maroon Council.

No person shall be a Full Council Member unless they have attained the age of eighteen (18), and must be a Maroon citizen domiciled within the Maroon territory. Foreigners living in Maroon territory for a period of ten (10) years minimum can become a Council member but not Chief.

The Full Maroon Council shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole power of removal or impeachment of the Chief, Deputy Chief or any Council Member. The Executive Council shall meet once per month and not less than ten (10) times per calendar year as required by this Constitution.

In the event of impeachment, or removal of the Chief, Deputy Chief, and any of the Council members, they will be tried by the Executive Council. The findings of the Executive Council will be brought to the Full Maroon Council for review.

If the individual is found guilty, a meeting of the Full Maroon Council will be called with the Maroon citizens of the Sovereign State of Accompong to reveal the findings. A vote will be taken by written ballots for the removal or impeachment of the Chief, the Deputy Chief or any Council Member(s).

Section 3: Composition of the Maroon Council

A Special Meeting is to be convened by the Chief together with his Executive Council who will summon all members of the community who are interested and reached the age of eighteen (18) to be nominated to the Council or written ballots to be circulated with the names of individuals who are interested and of age.

The Maroon Council of the Trelawny Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be composed of a maximum of two (2) Council members from each Council District, chosen by the people for seven (7) years. Each Council member shall have one (1) vote. In the event the votes are tied, the Chief's vote will be the deciding vote.

The Maroon Council shall be made up of elected representatives (who will be called Council Members) from the various districts within Accompong which will include but not limited to: River Hole, Pond Side, Monument Square, Hill Top Road, Hill Top, River Pond, Over Yonder, Guinea Grass, Grave Wood, Quarry Bottom, Gipson, Middle Ground, Force Hill, Parade and Cedar Valley.

In addition, other Council Members shall be chosen from the Trelawney Town Maroons living in Windsor, Aberdeen, Whitehall, Retirement, Garlands, Cedar Spring, Eldersley, Cooks Bottom, Quick Step, Bagdale Mountain, Flagstaff, Kingston and Montego Bay and where-ever true Maroons are to be found on the island.

Section 4: Special Meeting

Special meetings of the Members may be called for any date, time and place by the Chairperson of the Council upon written demand of ten percent of the members, or by majority of the Executive Council.

Written notice stating the date, time, place and purpose for which the meeting is called shall be given not less than seven (7) days before the date of the Special meeting except in case of Emergency Meetings.

The Full Maroon Council shall assemble at least ten (10) times per year prior to and after the January 6 Celebration. Other meetings shall be convened as determined by the Chief and the Executive Council.

Section 5: Compensation

The Chief shall receive ten percent (10%) compensation for his services once per year, from the proceeds of the January 6 Celebration, after all expenses have been paid.

The Deputy Chief shall receive five percent (5%) once per year, from the proceeds of the January 6 Celebration, after all expenses have been paid if funds are available.

Responsible budgets that do not burden the State shall be created to ensure adequate compensation for all Government officials where possible.

Section 6: Bills To Carry Out Law

Bills presented by the Chief must be passed by the Full Maroon Council before they become law. If a bill is presented and there are objections, the objections should be reconsidered.

The objections shall be entered on the Journal. Upon approval by two thirds of the Council or the Full Maroon Council the bill shall be returned to the Chief for his signature and entered into law.

If any bill is not returned by the Chief within ten business (10) days after it was presented to the Chief, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Full Maroon Council by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Section 7: Duties

The Chief and the Full Maroon Council shall have the power to collect duties to pay the debts and should provide for the general welfare of the State as follows:

1. To make rules and regulations of the land and naval force in collaboration with the Chief;
2. To borrow money on the credit of the Sovereign State of Accompong;
3. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures, and implement Digital Currencies or assets to represent a unit of coin or Value thereof in commerce.
4. To establish an uniform Rule of Immigration and Naturalization;
5. Establish and implement an Immigration Office;
6. To establish post office, roads, and financial institutions;
7. To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writing and discoveries;
8. To define and punish piracies and felonies committed against the laws of the State;
9. To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases over such Districts as may, by cession of particular districts, by the acceptance of the Full Maroon Council; become the seat of the Government of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong, and to exercise authority over all Maroon territories, by all powers vested by this Constitution in the Government for the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong;
10. Establish a Landmark Commission;
11. Approve Executive Council Appointments;
12. Approve Judges for the Maroon Supreme Court and inferior Courts;
13. Implement National Identification for all Maroons;
14. Define the territorial borders of the State and annex additional lands when applicable by using the Maroon Map attached to this Constitution in Schedule A to determine and protect the Maroon boundaries, and preside over the 74,726 hectares of Cockpit Country.

Section 8: Amendments

The Chief and the Full Maroon Council, whenever two thirds of the Council shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislature through a ballot shall propose with majority approval by either case to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution.

Section 9: Agents and Representatives of the State

The Chief in conjunction with the Full Maroon Council may appoint agents and or representatives and empower them to perform such acts or duties on behalf of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong as the Full Maroon Council may see fit, so far as may be consistent with this Constitution and to the extent authorized or permitted by Maroon Law.

Section 10: Overseas Maroons

There shall be appointed six (6) overseas State Ambassadors as follows: two (2) members residing in England; two (2) members residing in Canada and two (2) members residing in the United States of America.

These individuals shall fall under the Executive Council through the Foreign Affairs Ministry. No other foreign agent(s) or agency(ies) is authorized to represent in these said territories on behalf of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong unless they receive approval from the Chief and the Full Maroon Council.

Section 11: Executive Power

The Executive Power vested in the Chief of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall not at any time be used maliciously or discriminatorily against any member of the Maroon Community.

The Chief and Deputy Chief shall reside solely in Accompong Town.

The Chief shall hold the Office of the Chief in the highest regard during the term of his/her five year reign, and, together with the Deputy Chief, collaborate with the Full Maroon Council on all matters pertaining to the governance of the State.

The Chief-elect and his Executive Council shall work in harmony with the Full Maroon Council at all times.

Section 12: The Executive Council

The Chief is responsible for appointing his staff which will consist of at minimum six (6) members including the Deputy Chief who will form his Executive Committee upon approval of the Maroon Council. The Full Maroon Council shall assist the Chief in carrying out his or her duties.

The Executive Council shall include but not limited to the Secretary of State, Personal Secretary, Officer of Agriculture, Officer of Information, Officer of Health, Officer of Education and Culture, Officer of Foreign Affairs, Officer of Transportation and Works, Officer of Housing, Officer of Security and Justice, Officer of Youth and Officer of Environment and Community Development, Captains and Majors.

Section 13: Seal

The Chief shall maintain a seal for the Office of the Chief in whatever form and design is desired. The Chief's seal must be peacefully transferred to his/her successor.

The Full Maroon Council shall maintain a seal for The Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong in whatever form and design is desired.

Section 14: Offices

The principal and only office of the Maroon People of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be in Accompong Town, which is situated between Trelawney Town and the Cockpits.

Any ex-officer(s) found in unlawful acts against the State will be disciplined under Maroon law and or fined by the Full Maroon Council.

Section 15: Appointment of Officers

The officers of the Full Maroon Council shall be a Chairperson, one (1) or more Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Comptroller and a Public Relations Officer. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same individual, except the office of the Chairperson and the Council Secretary.

Section 16: Terms of Office

The offices of the Full Maroon Council, other than the Chairperson, shall be elected from among the members of each Council Districts by a vote of the majority of the members present and voting at the annual meeting of the Full Maroon Council at which a Quorum exists, provided that the initial officers of the Full Maroon Council shall be so elected at the first meeting of the Full Maroon Council to serve until the next meeting of the Council.

The terms of office of such officers shall expire at the end of seven (7) years. Each officer(s) shall serve until successor(s) is elected, or upon the officer's death, resignation or removal. The Full Maroon Council shall hold bi-monthly meetings or meetings at the discretion of the Chairperson in the event of an Emergency or at the request of the Chief.

The Chief shall attend all Council meetings.

Section 17: Duties of the Chief

The Chief is responsible for the Executive and Administrative operation of the Town. The Chief shall provide reports to the Full Maroon Council upon request.

All negotiations on behalf of the Town by the Chief must be approved by the Full Council before it is enacted.

The Chief and his Executive Council shall hold monthly meetings and shall provide minutes of the meetings once available to the Full Maroon Council upon request.

Section 18: Duties of the Chairperson

The Full Maroon Council shall appoint a Chairperson who shall serve at the discretion of the Full Maroon Council; the Chairperson shall have general charge of the day-to-day activities of the Full Maroon Council.

The Chairperson shall perform all duties which may be assigned to him/her by the Chief through the Full Maroon Council.

Section 19: Duties of the Council Secretary

The Council Secretary shall have charge for such books, documents, resolutions and all papers as the Full Maroon Council may determine, and shall have custody of the State Seal, if any exists.

Minutes of all meetings held pertaining to Maroon business must be filed with the Council Secretary.

Section 20: Duties of the Comptroller

The Comptroller shall have the custody of all funds, property and securities of the Maroon Council.

The Comptroller's signature along with two (2) other Council Members must always be on all monetary transactions conducted on behalf of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

The Comptroller shall keep or cause to be kept complete and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects of the Maroons, in the name and to the credit of the Maroons in such banks or depositories as designated.

The Comptroller or the Deputy Comptroller must be present at all Finance Committee Meetings. The Comptroller must make a report of the Town finances at all monthly meetings.

The Finances of the Town shall be audited on a quarterly basis.

Section 21: Removal of Officers

Any officer(s) of the Full Maroon Council can be removed with a cause, by two thirds of the Council at any meeting of the Full Maroon Council at which a quorum exists and for which written notice of the proposed removal action has been given in keeping with the Constitution.

Section 22: Public Entities

All public entities shall be under the jurisdiction of the Full Maroon Council which shall include but not limited to: the Community Center, Bickle Village, Development Center, Library, Museum, Monument, Peace Cave, Kindah Grounds, Old Town, and all other public entities.

The Full Maroon Council shall have sole jurisdiction on these entities at all times.

Section 23: Foreign Entities

All foreign entities that seek do business under this Constitution must receive a Letter of Permission from the Chief under seal, which is then presented to the Full Maroon Council for final Approval with a Letter of Compliance issued the foreign entity under seal.

Article 2: Maroon Supreme Court

Section 1: Supreme Court

The judicial Power of the Sovereign State of Accompong, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Full Maroon Council may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and

inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2: Judicial Power

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the Sovereign State of Accompong, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under Maroon Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be a Party;--to Controversies between two or more Districts;--between Accompong Town and Maroons of another District;--between Maroons of different Districts;--between Maroons claiming Lands under Grants and Titles, and between the Sovereign State of Accompong or the Maroon Citizens thereof, and foreign States, their Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases mentioned in this Constitution, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Full Maroon Council shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment; shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in Accompong Town; but when the crime has not been committed within Accompong Town, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Full Maroon Council may by Law have directed.

Section 3: Treason

Treason against the Sovereign State of Accompong, shall consist only in levying War against the State, or in adhering to our Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Full Maroon Council shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article 3: Crimes and Punishments

Section 1: Crimes

The accused will be tried in a public forum overseen by a Judge with delegated authority from the Full Maroon Council. In the event of a heinous crime as murder, the accused murderer will be brought before any justice of the peace, who shall order proceedings on their trial equal to those of other free Maroons. The accused shall have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Section 2: Punishments

The Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall have the right to detain unlawful and unruly citizens, and visitors.

Detainment of unruly and unlawful citizens can lead to punishment or being held in a reenforced section within a secure building.

Any person(s) who is not authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Trelawney Town Maroons in the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be punished by law as prescribed by the Full Maroon Council.

Section 3: Dangerous Weapons

Any person(s) found with any dangerous weapon(s) including unlawful knives, unlicensed firearms, ammunition, or any other form of explosive in the Sovereign State of Accompong is guilty of a crime and shall be punished by the Council under Maroon customs and law.

The Council shall detain and impose community service or a fine.

The Council may also refer a matter to the Maroon Court(s).

Article 4: Transactions

Section 1: Permission from the Full Maroon Council

Neither the Chief, Deputy Chief nor Council-members shall enter into any binding transaction regarding Land Issues, Tourism, and January 6 Activities, or any business matter pertaining to the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong without consultation of the Executive Council and without the approval of the Full Maroon Council. Any such transaction shall be null and void.

The Chief shall not solely enter into any transaction or agreement on behalf of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong without the approval of the Full Maroon Council.

The Chief, the Maroon Council and the Council of Elders are to be involved in all matters of business concerning the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

Section 2: Outside Agencies

No outside agency(ies) and or individual(s) shall come into Maroon territories to do any form of business including gaming, investing, contracting or to carry out any search research or experiments without the permission of the Full Maroon Council.

Article 5: Land

Section 1: Sale or Lease of Land

No Maroon lands shall be sold. No Maroon lands shall be leased without the permission of the Full Maroon Council.

No lodgings shall be constructed without the permission of the Full Maroon Council. No Maroon dwellings or forestry shall be demolished or destroyed without approval of the Full Maroon Council.

Section 2: Destruction of Property

Malicious destruction of property is a punishable crime and persons found guilty of such crime will be fined by the Full Council.

Land disputes shall be addressed by the Chief and final decision by the Full Council.

Section 3: Supreme Law of the Land

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the Sovereign State of Accompong under this Constitution, as under the 1738 Maroon Treaty.

This Constitution, and the laws of the Sovereign State of Accompong which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any District to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Council Members and Representatives mentioned, and the members of the legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers of The Sovereign State of Accompong, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the Sovereign State of Accompong.

Article 6: Elections

Section 1: The Holding of Elections

Elections are handled by the Electoral Office of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

The Holding of Elections for the Office of the Chief, shall be every five years, on February 18th unless it falls on a weekend at which the next possible date would be February 20th or for unforeseen circumstances such as, natural disaster or national crisis.

No election may be delayed longer than 3-months beyond the due date, It is the duty of the Chief to call elections. If the chief fails to call elections within the time specified in the previous paragraph, a date shall be set by the Maroon Council based on a 2/3 majority vote.

The electors shall cast their vote by secret ballot every five (5) years for the Chief, who at liberty shall appoint his Deputy Chief in the Sovereign State of Accompong Town. The Deputy Chief shall act as Chief in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the Chief.

They shall name in their distinct ballots the person to be voted for as Chief .

The Chief in the presence of the Maroon Electoral Office and the Executive Council shall open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for Chief shall be the Chief.

Section 2: Elections

The Electoral Committee in conjunction with the Electoral Office of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall have the sole responsibility of Enumeration and Elections.

The Election Committee shall convene six months prior to the five (5) year period and shall inform the Electoral Office of the proceedings.

The Electoral Office shall undertake and oversee the Enumeration and Election process to facilitate the Election.

Upon completion of the Enumeration process the Electoral Office shall inform the Electoral Committee when the review of the Enumeration process shall take place.

Upon review and completion of the list, the Election Committee shall inform the Full Council. The Full Council shall review and approve the list. The Election Committee shall inform the Electoral Office of the Council's approval at which time a date shall be set for the Elections.

Section 3: Candidates for the Office of Chief

Person(s) aspiring to become Chief must be a resident in Accompong for at least three (3) years prior to Election and must be a Maroon by birth.

Candidates for the Office of Chief shall let their intentions be known by sending their Application for Chief to the Full Council one (1) year prior to the Election. Applications can be obtained through the Office of the Maroon Council.

Candidates must present his or her deputy with their application to the Full Council.

Section 4: Enumeration

Each prospective candidate shall appoint two (2) persons to work in the Election process one indoor and the other outdoor. Each prospective candidate shall appoint one observer to oversee the Enumeration process.

The Elections shall be comprised of an Officer and a Polling Clerk upon agreement by all prospective candidates.

Section 5: Voting

In order for a person to vote in the Maroon Elections he or she must be eighteen (18) years of age and a citizen residing in any district of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

Section 6: Naturalization

In order to become a naturalized citizen, the person must live in a Maroon District for a minimum of ten (10) years. Non-Maroons and naturalized citizens shall not be Chief or Deputy-Chief. A person who resides in Accompong for over ten (10) years in good standing can become a naturalized Maroon citizen. Citizenship can be obtained by marriage or naturalization. For a citizen to become eligible to be a Council Member, he or she must have resided in the Maroon territory for a minimum of three (3) years prior and is in good standing.

Section 7: Polling Station

Official Polling Stations shall be placed in specified Maroon districts as required by the Maroon Electoral Office

The official Polling Stations shall be open from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. immediate cut off time.

Article 7: Limitations

Section 1: Activities

No member(s) or representative(s) of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall take any action or carry on any activities by or on behalf of the Council, which is not permitted to be taken or carried out without the approval of the Full Maroon Council. Any such action is a punishable crime.

Section 2: Approval for Annual Earnings

No person(s) connected with the Full Maroon Council or any other private individual shall receive at any time net earnings or financial profit from the operations of the Maroon Council without the approval of the Full Maroon Council.

Article 8: Assets

Section 1: Assets

The assets of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of the Accompong Maroons after all debts have been satisfied shall remain in the hands of the Full Maroon Council and shall be distributed, transferred and paid over in such amounts to members of the community as the Full Maroon Council shall determine or may be determined by a Maroon Court of competent jurisdiction upon the application of the Full Maroon Council.

Section 2: Treasures

In the event that Treasures are found on Maroon territories such Treasures shall be the property of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

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Article 9: Bill of Rights

Section 1:

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Everyone has the right to water, food and sustenance. Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood. All indigenous people are entitled to the rights and freedoms set forth in this Constitution. The Full Maroon Council shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Section 2:

A well regulated Militia authorized by the Full Maroon Council, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Section 3:

No Trelawny Town Maroon of the Sovereign State of Accompong shall be extradited to a foreign jurisdiction to face criminal charges, rather the Full Maroon Council shall apply Maroon customary laws after consulting with claimants so justice can be executed in Maroon territory against the accused.

Section 4:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Section 5:

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Section 6:

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Section 7:

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars equivalent in gold or silver, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in the Maroon Court(s), than according to the rules of the common law.

Section 8:

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 9:

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 10:

The powers not delegated to the Sovereign State of Accompong, nor prohibited by it to the Maroon Districts, are reserved to the Maroon Districts respectively, or to the people.

Article 10: Signatories

In Amending the adopted 2004 Constitutional document, the present Chief who won the democratic elections and serves as Commander-in-Chief, with all rights vested in him will attached his signature for the **RATIFICATION** of this Constitution that has been Amended again between March 1st, 2021 to March 1st, 2022.

WHEREAS, the people present constitute a representative body of the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong, Cockpit Country.

AND WHEREAS, the people present and absent are in agreement with this Constitution.

THEREFORE, I, **Chief Richard Currie** affix my signature before these witnesses and hereby adopt and approve **RATIFICATION** of this Constitution on the 21st day of **MARCH**, 2022 A.D. Gregorian Calendar.

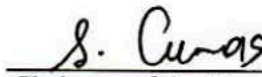
 21/03/2022
Chief, Richard Currie Date
Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong

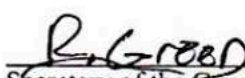


WITNESSED:

By virtue of the power invested in members of the Full Maroon Council serving the indigenous Maroon people of the Sovereign State of Accompong we hereby affix our signatures on this document witnessing the lawful **RATIFICATION** of the Constitution of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

 21/03/2022
Deputy Chief - Witness Date

 21/03/2022
Chairman of the Maroon Council - Witness Date

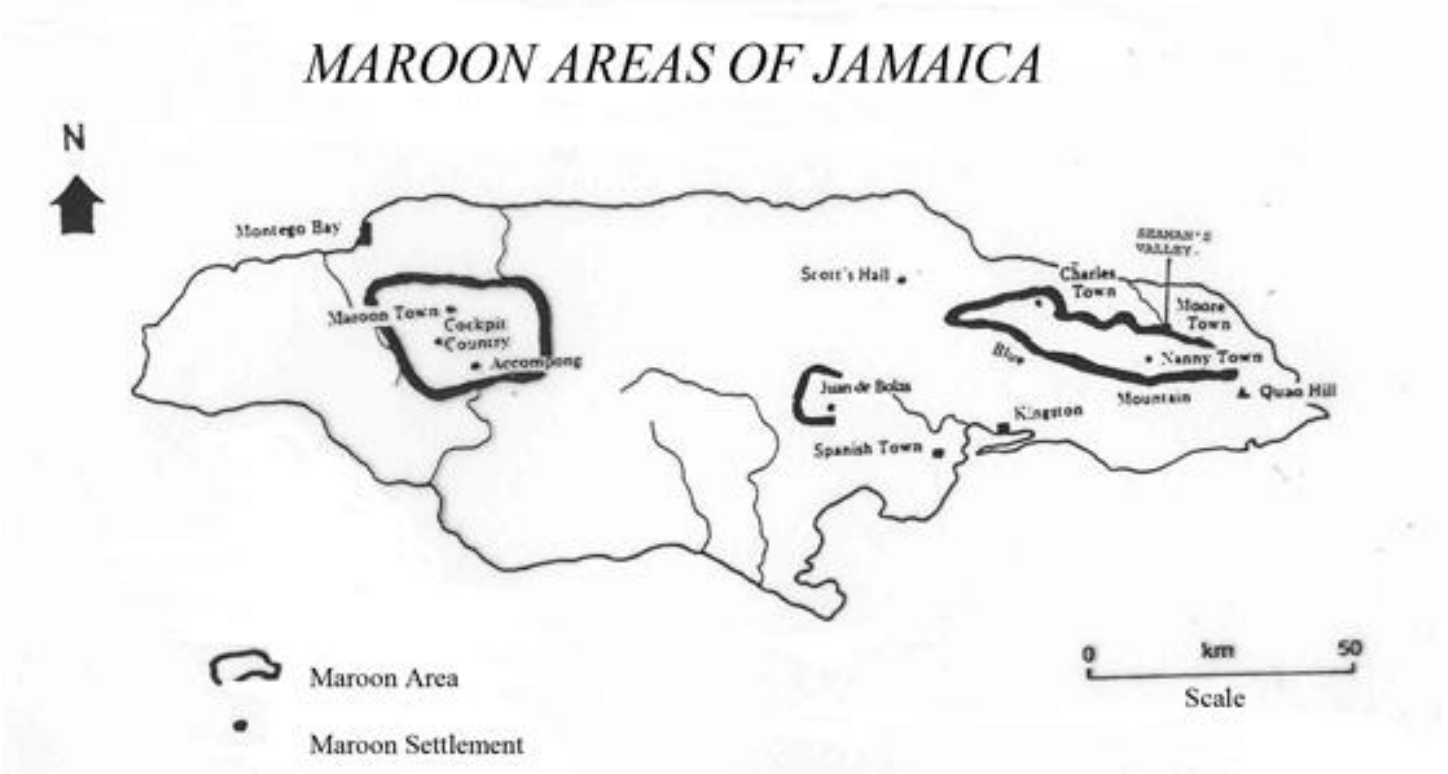
 21/03/2022
Secretary of the Council - Witness Date



*A foreign Justice of the Peace was not needed as a witness to this Sovereign act by the people. *See*, Schedule B.

SCHEDULE A.

Map Illustrating Maroon Territories on the Archipelago now called "Jamaica"



NOTE: This Map is not a representation of the Cockpit Country Boundaries. The Cockpits are under the direct control and protection of the successors and heirs to the 1738 Maroon Treaty, as expressed in Clause 3 of said Treaty.

SCHEDULE B.

Over 850 Maroons supported and witnessed with their signatures the Amendments and Ratification of the Constitution for the Trelawney Town Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong.

Signatures are attached via Amendment and Ratification forms that were circulated throughout the Maroon Districts.