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**An Introduction to the Water Laws of Israel
together with parts of the Laws, including Chapter 1: Preliminary, and
Chapter 5: Organisation, including details of the Water Tribunal.**

Aloni, S 1970, *Introduction to the Water Laws*, State of Israel, Ministry of Agriculture – Water Commission, Hakirya, Tel Aviv.

Preface

When the State of Israel was established in 1948, it was faced with the problem of the absence of legislation relating to water, without which no far-reaching development of agriculture and industry could be achieved. The mandatory power, which preceded the State of Israel did not take the trouble to prepare such legislation, but contented itself with the existence of Ottoman legislation which was appropriate to an undeveloped agriculture.

The preparation of such legislation was amongst the first tasks which the State of Israel set itself, and as early as the beginning of the fifties, a committee of experts and public personalities was formed, and during the course of seven years they prepared a draft of water legislation which, in its final form, was adopted by the Knesset in August 1959.

In the course of the committee's preparative work, and having in mind the solution of a number of problems which were part of the total set-up, three laws were enacted which are still in force today, and, together with the Water Law, 1959, they constitute the water laws of the State. These laws are: The Water Drilling Control Law, 1956, Water Metering Law, 1955 and the Drainage and Flood Control Law, 1957.

Since the legislation of the said laws, the Knesset has introduced a significant number of amendments, in addition to dozens of regulations issued by the Minister of Agriculture for the purpose of implementation of the laws.

Institutions for the implementation of the water laws.

The Minister responsible for, and in charge of the implementation of the water laws is the *Minister for Agriculture* in the jurisdiction of whose Ministry water matters fall.

Within the framework of his authority, the Minister is entitled to issue regulations for the implementation of laws of which he is in charge, and in addition thereto, he is given other powers which are detailed throughout the water laws.

Conduct of water matters – Water Commissioner

As stated in clause 138 of the Water Law, the Government appoints a Water Commissioner to manage the water affairs of the State. The Water Commissioner's powers are detailed in the Water Laws, and within the framework of such powers, he has wide discretion in everything pertaining to water matters.

The Water Commissioner exercises his function as a manager of the water affairs in the State, through the intermediary of the apparatus of the *Water Commission*.

The Water Commission is divided into departments and sections as follows:

- (1) The Allocation and Licensing Department;
- (2) Department of Drainage;
- (3) Hydrological Service;

- (4) Department for the Efficient Use of Water;
 - (a) Section for municipal water and water metering;
 - (b) Use of water in agriculture and sewage water;
 - (c) Use of water in industry

- (5) Head Office
 - (a) Bureau of the Commissioner of Water;
 - (b) Economic Bureau;
 - (c) Legal Bureau;
 - (d) Treasurer and (clerk) in charge of the Adjustment Fund;
 - (e) Administrator;
 - (f) Quartermaster.

Water Commissioner's Advisory Committee

In his exercise of his powers and judgment, the Water Commissioner is assisted by the internal and semi-internal committees (in cooperation with other factors), whose task it is to *advise* and to submit an *opinion* to the Water Commissioner. This point must be noted emphatically because, as opposed to statutory committees established by force of law, such committees *have no legal standing* and their conclusions are submitted to the Water Commissioner in the form of *recommendations only*. The Water Commissioner alone is qualified to take binding decisions and even these must be within legal powers. As stated, the Committees are formed by the Water Commissioner in accordance with the needs and requirements of the work.

The Water Board and its Committees

One of the striking features of the water laws is *the participation on a large scale of the public* in the discussions and decisions connected with law relating to the formation of a Water Board and the activities thereof.

The Water Board, which has been in existence and has functioned since the Water Law was enacted, is appointed by the Government and the number of its members is between 27 and 39. Today, the Water Board consists of the maximum number of representatives as stated. The provisions of the law limit its representative composition, so that the number of government representatives on it will not exceed a third and the number of public representatives will not be less than two thirds.

The Board acts on two principal levels:

- (a) giving policy advice to the Minister of Agriculture in questions of water policy;
- (b) giving advice to the Minister of Agriculture in specific matters mentioned in the law, and particularly in all matters pertaining to the issue of rules and regulations which are important to the public. The duty to consult with the Water Board in these matters is prescribed by the Law, and in the absence of such consultation, the relevant decisions of the Minister have no legal standing.

As stated, the task of the Board is that of advising only, in the above two fields, and this fact should be remembered so as to avoid errors. The Water Board has no powers of decision other than the power to submit advice and recommendations which are tendered to the Minister of Agriculture. *In fact, no such recommendation has ever been rejected by the Minister.*

Ownership of water and right of use thereof

The water potential of the State of Israel is extremely limited, while development needs are very great. For this reason it is essential to place all the water resources in the country at the public's disposal, so as to ensure the normal operation and equitable distribution of water

amongst those needing them. One of the first steps was taken in this direction as early as the period of the Mandatory Government, when it was declared that the above-ground water resources would be **owned by the government**, but this declaration was not given practical effect during the Mandatory period. This conception found clear expression in the Water Law, in the first clause of which it is laid down that "The water resources in the State are public property, under the control of the State and intended for the needs of its residents and the development of the country".

Abrogation of the private ownership in the water resources renders the citizen the right to use only, and even this only in terms of the provisions of the law, one of which stipulates the purposes to which the right of use of the water is limited, namely: domestic needs, agriculture, industry, handicraft, trade and public purposes.

Exercise of the said right in theory and practice is done through the power given to the Water Commissioner by law, and, inter-alia, the power to issue a production license, without which the use of the water is prohibited. These licences are issued annually by the Water Commissioner, and they prescribe the quantities of water permitted to be produced, supplied and consumed, as well as the conditions binding those using the water on the basis of the license. The licenses are given to producers who dispose of water resources which they use themselves and to suppliers who are bound to supply to the consumers specified in their licenses the quantities of water detailed therein.

When the water law was enacted, this was not done in a vacuum, but rather having regard to the realities of water exploitation. This being so, the legislation had to take into consideration existing rights, and in fact there is included in the law a stipulation that those mentioned above should be entitled to continue to produce, supply or consume those quantities of water as at the time of enactment of the law, subject, however, to the other provisions of the law.

In addition to the necessity of receiving a license to produce for the purpose of exploiting water, and as an additional means of supervision of the use of water, the country was divided, under the powers given to the Minister for Agriculture, into *rationing areas*, in which *norms* are determined for the use of water. These norms, which prescribe consumption quantities in respect of each of the purposes of water consumption, as set out above, form the basis of the determination of the allocation of water in the production license.

The law also includes provisions enabling exercise of powers to ensure efficient and economical use of the water and to prevent its pollution. There is no doubt that where a shortage of water obtains, as is prevalent in the State of Israel, it is essential to ensure the exploitation of water to the greatest possible extent, both by developing *technological* systems and by the operation of an *administrative* system of supervision of the use of water. This has been done in Israel on both levels. *Whoever is interested* may collect detailed information on the activities initiated by the Water Commission for the purpose of saving water and ensuring efficient use of it. As to the prevention of pollution of water, despite the great importance to be attached to the problem in the situation prevailing in Israel, the provisions of the Water Law treating this subject are few and far between, and for this reason, the Water Commission is today handling the enactment of an additional section of the Law, which will treat in detail the subject of prevention of pollution.

The Price of Water and Water Charges Adjustment Fund

According to the provisions of the Water Law, the Minister of Agriculture is entitled to prescribe tariffs for water charges, and when such tariffs have been prescribed, water may be supplied only according thereof. Up till now, this clause has not been implemented, and in practice the determination of prices is subject to negotiation between the supplier and the consumer. In all cases of differences of opinion between them, they are entitled to apply to the Water Commissioner for a binding decision in the dispute. It should be pointed out that in

everything relating to local authorities, rates are determined by the bye-laws published by the authorities.

Since the State of Israel is noted for great climatic differences between various regions, and because it is a feature of Israel that the principal sources of water are concentrated in one part of the State, while other parts of the country are arid or semi-arid, a situation obtains in which there exist different costs of water in different regions, and as a result thereof, different water prices. Great differences in water charges create unethically competitive conditions particularly when settlement of the land in places which are distant from water resources and the development of agriculture and industry in such places are affected as part of the vital national interest. So as to minimise these differences to the extent possible, there has been established according to the provisions of the Water Law, a Water Charges Adjustment Fund, the purpose of which, as defined in the Law, is to 'reduce the differences between water charges in different parts of the country'. This is achieved as follows: in the regions of the country in which water charges are very cheap, the producers and suppliers pay into a fund a levy in an amount prescribed by the regulations, and in those regions in which they are very high, the fund pays the producers a grant in an amount fixed by the regulations; this grant makes possible a reduction in the price of water to the consumer. Obviously the levies paid do not provide for all the requirements of the grants, and so the Government participates directly in financing a large part of the requirements of the fund.

Water projects and recharging of water

The construction and expansion of water projects for the purpose of increasing the potential of the water resources on a large scale commenced immediately after the establishment of the State of Israel, and reached their peak with the completion of the National Water Project. In order to maintain a proper planning and executive set-up, it was necessary to prescribe legal provisions for the inspection and authorisation of plans for the establishment of water projects, and in fact, this subject gained its rightful place in the Water Law, which created a *legal and public framework* for effecting supervision of the establishment of the project. *Inter alia*, the Minister of Agriculture appointed a statutory committee, called the Planning Committee, the function of which was to inspect project schemes before they were approved by the Minister. In addition to the technical and professional inspection of the schemes and their adaption to the National Water Project, the said schemes are deposited for *public perusal* during the period fixed by the Law, and the public is given the opportunity of submitting its complaints and criticisms of the schemes and of indicating the extent of damage which they are likely to cause. Only after execution of all the legal procedures specified in the Law is the scheme submitted to the Minister for his approval.

Together with approval of the scheme, the Law requires the formation of a Water Authority for the operation of an approved water project and the supply of water there-from. A distinction must be made between the National Water Authority, the function of which is to operate the National Water Project, and to supply water there-from, and Regional Water Authorities, which have to be set up for each regional water project which has passed the stages of approval prescribed by the Law.

In 1965, the Knesset approved an amendment to the Water Law, which added to the Law a section dealing with water recharging. Much importance was attached to recharging of water for the purpose of artificial enrichment of underground water, particularly in those years in which there are heavy rains and in which there is no alternative to the storage of water. This process of enrichment of underground water basins enables the continued exploitation of the water resources, without the need to reduce the production quotas permitted, a need which results from excess pumping.

The said section contains the provisions relating to inspection of recharging schemes and their approval by the Water Commissioner and likewise, relating to relations between the

recharger and the person purchasing from him underground water. The experience gained in past years has taught us that this section requires many amendments so as to adapt it to reality, and much thought has been devoted in this direction.

Public participation and right of appeal

Because water is a vitally indispensable commodity, the use of which is widespread in all walks of life, the legislator found it necessary to oblige the administration handling water matters and responsible for the implementation of the law, *to involve the public in its activities as much as possible*. This finds expression both in the formation of public frameworks which advise those implementing the law, at the head of which is the Water Board, and by giving the widest opportunities to the public, insofar as it considers itself aggrieved by the decisions of the administration, to present its criticisms and to object to actions of the Board before committees whose members are elected from the public.

Although there is a certain clumsiness in the administration's work, it is calculated to *create maximum safeguards*, so that the decisions are subject to public examination.

The masterpiece of that approach finds expression in the Law by the formation of a special Water Tribunal which serves as a court for appeals brought by the public against the decisions of the Minister of Agriculture or the Water Commissioner.

The tribunal has the authority of a District Court and a judge of the District Court serves as its President, with two public representatives at his side.

There is a right of appeal against decisions of this tribunal to the High Court. It should be noted that the system detailed above of participation of the public in the work of the Administration *reduces considerably the need for application to the above Tribunal*.

Sanctions

As is customary in all other laws, the Water Law also contains a punitive clause which sets out the actions which constitute criminal contravention. But in addition to this routine provision, there is also a stipulation which is not routine, enabling the Water Commissioner to impose an administrative fine, called a 'Special Payment', in those cases in which there had been a deviation from the water allocations permitted by the Law.

Taking this kind of action is an alternative to bringing a criminal case, and there is no doubt that it is *more effective*. Imposition of a fine on each cubic metre of water extracted or supplied beyond the allocation, is calculated to make such deviation *unremunerative* from the economic point of view, and indirectly to bring about a *saving of water*.

Water Metering

As stated above, a law for the metering of water was enacted in 1956, in recognition of the importance of installing water meters as a means of preventing wastage of water. Today, more than ten years after the implementation of the Law, it may be noted that the system of metering by means of water meters is conducted throughout the country, and for all uses of water, whether domestic consumption (including metering for each flat) or for agriculture or industry. *It would be difficult to describe how the problems of fixing quantities of water and the price thereof would have been solved, were the system not conducted as it is.*

Drainage and Flood Control Law

In conformity with the modern conception of combined treatment of land and water, a drainage law finds its rightful place in the water legislation. This law, which was enacted in 1957 *despite the fact that drainage supposedly constitutes a field on its own*, forms an integral part of the water legislation of the State of Israel.

The treatment of drainage is also included in the field of activity of the Minister of Agriculture, and the implementation of the Law is entrusted to the Minister of Agriculture and the Water Commissioner.

Similarly to the existence of a Water Board, so too in drainage matters there exists a public council, called the Drainage Board, the function of which is to advise the Minister of Agriculture regarding:

- (1) declaration of a drainage area;
- (2) approval of drainage schemes submitted by the drainage authorities; and
- (3) any other matter of general policy involved in the implementation of the Law.

The Board, which is presided over by the Water Commissioner, and on which are represented the Government (in the minority) and representative agricultural organisations, appoints a committee of experts (Engineering Committee), the function of which is to examine drainage schemes from an engineering standpoint.

The execution of drainage works in the country is effected by means of Drainage Authorities, whose task, as defined in the Law, is 'to attend to the proper drainage of the area assigned to them in the establishing order and for that purpose to establish, alter, maintain and develop drainage projects in the area'. Up till now there have been established and there are functioning 25 Drainage Authorities, the areas of which cover the greater part of the surface of Israel.

As is the case in relation to water schemes, in terms of the provisions of the Water Law, so does the Drainage Law include provisions regarding the approval of drainage schemes submitted by the Drainage Authorities, *and the procedure for objection to them by anyone who considers himself aggrieved by these schemes.*

The drainage activities, executed on a large scale, are for the greater part financed by government grants and for the remaining part by Local Authorities who benefit from such activities or cause them.

Regarding the drainage activities recognized by the Drainage Law, there are also activities executed by the Drainage and Land Conservation Department in the field of soil conservation, and there is no doubt that in the near future, it will be necessary to give legal expression to the combination and coordination between drainage and soil conservation.

Explanatory Notes to 'The Water Laws of Israel'.

(A) This compilation includes all the water laws passed by the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) with their amendments and the most important secondary legislation enacted by the minister of Agriculture for their implementation. The Law is stated as at December 1969.

(B) The following terms are used in this compilation;

I.R. (Iton Rishmi) – the Official Gazette during the tenure of the provisional Council of State.

Reshumot: The Official Gazette since the inception of the Knesset.

Sefer Ha-Chukkim, Kovetz Ha-Takkanot, Hatza'ot Chok: The sections of Reshumot containing, respectively, principal legislation, subsidiary legislation, and Bills.

P.G. (Palestine Gazette) – the Official Gazette of the Mandatory Government.

LSI – Law of the State of Israel (The compilation of the authorised translation of the Laws of Israel).

WATER LAW, 5719 – 1959. (3760 BC - 1959 AD)
(Consolidated version)

Chapter One: Preliminary

Chapter Two: Regulation of use of water

- Article One: Preservation of water
- Article Two: Norms and Rules for the use of water.
- Article Three: Control of Production and supply of water
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Chapter Three: Water supply systems

- Article One: Water supply systems and authorities
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Signed: David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister
 Kadish Luz, Minister of Agriculture
 Yitzchak Ben-Zvi, President of the State

Chapter 1: Preliminary.

Water resources and purpose thereof

1. The water resources of the State are public property; they are subject to the control of the State and are intended for the use of its inhabitants and for the development of the country.

What are water resources?

2. For the purposes of the Law, ‘water resources’ means springs, streams, rivers, lakes and other currents and accumulations of water, whether above ground or under-ground, whether natural, regulated or man-made, and whether water rises, flows or stands at all times or intermittently, and includes drainage water and sewage water.

Private person’s right to water

3. Every person is entitled to receive and use water, subject to the provisions of this Law.

Relationship between land and water

4. A person’s right in any land does not confer on him a right to a water resource situated thereon or crossing it or abutting thereon; but the provision of this section shall not derogate from the right of any person under section 3.

Water resource must not be depleted

5. A person’s right to receive water from a water resource is valid so long as the receipt of water from that water resource does not lead to the salination or depletion thereof.

Linking of right to purpose

6. Every right to water is linked to one of the water purposes enumerated hereunder; the right to water ceases upon the cessation of the said purpose. The purposes are:

- (1) Domestic;
- (2) Agriculture;
- (3) Industry;
- (4) Handicraft, commerce and services;
- (5) Public services.

Applicability

7. For the purposes of this Law, it shall be immaterial whether a right to water was created by law – including this law – or by agreement or custom or by any other manner, or whether it was created before or after the effective date of this Law.

Chapter Two: Regulation of use of water

Article One: Preservation of water

Definitions

8. In this chapter – “depletion of water resources” includes the lowering of the level of water, whether above ground or underground, and the impairment of the practicability of raising water to the surface or of conveying water from place to place; “contamination of water” means whatever act makes water less fit for the purpose for which it is intended, and includes salination and deterioration of the properties of water.

Article Four: Rationing areas

37. (b), Regulations under sub-section (a) (1) shall – insofar as the hydrological system permits – ensure that the reduction of the quantities of water applies to the affected consumers in the area

proportionately, and with due regard to their water rights recognized by the competent authorities, whether or not those rights have yet been exercised.

Chapter Five: Organisation

Article One: The Water Board and Other Bodies

The Water Board

125. The Government shall appoint a national board to advise the Minister of Agriculture on questions of water policy and to carry out the functions assigned to it by this Law (the said board is in this Law referred to as 'the Water Board'); notice of the appointment and composition of, and of any change in the Board shall be published in Reshumot.

Composition of Water Board

126.

- (a) The Water Board shall consist of not less than 27 and not more than 39 members, including the Minister of Agriculture, who shall be the Chairman of the Board, the Water Commissioner, who shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Board, representatives of the public, representatives of the Government, and a representative of the World Zionist Organisation and its Institutions.
- (b) The number of representatives of the public on the Water Board shall be not less than two-thirds of the membership of the Board, and the number of representatives of the Government, together with the representative of the World Zionist Organisation, shall not exceed one third of the membership of the Board.
- (c) The representatives of the public shall include representatives of the consumers, appointed with reference to the volume of consumption for the various water purposes, and representatives of the suppliers; the number of the representatives of the consumers shall not be less than one-half of the total number of the members of the Board.

Tenure of members

127.

- (a) A member of the Water Board, other than the Minister of Agriculture and the Water Commissioner, shall be appointed for a period of three years and shall hold office until another member is appointed in his stead, and he may be re-appointed.
- (b) An act of the Water Board or any of its committee shall not be invalidated by reason only that at the time the act was done, the place of any of the members of the Board was vacant for any reason whatsoever.

Convening the Board

128.

- (a) The Minister of Agriculture shall convene the Water Board as may be necessary or upon the demand of one-third of its members, but at least once in two months, and during the first year for at least twelve meetings.
- (b) The Minister of Agriculture shall prescribe the agenda of the meetings of the Board, other than meetings convened by him on the demand of members.

Procedure

129. The Water Board shall itself prescribe its procedure and that of its committees, including the quorum at their meetings, insofar as such procedures have not been prescribed by regulations. Regulations under this section shall be made after consultation with the Water Board.

Committees

130.

(a) The Water Board may elect from its midst committees and may delegate powers to them; the Board shall not delegate powers relating to the following matters:

- (1) questions of water policy; under section 125;
- (2) the prescribing of norms and rules for the use of water, under section 21;
- (3) the declaration of rationing areas, under section 36;
- (4) the prescribing of rules and the rates of compensation payable in a rationing area, under section 44;
- (5) the approval of schemes, under section 67;
- (6) the approval of existing undertakings as water supply systems, under section 74;
- (7) the prescribing of rules for the calculation of compensation due from a water authority, under section 93;
- (8) the prescribing of rules for the calculation of water charges, under section 111;
- (9) the prescribing of tariffs for water charges, under section 112;
- (10) the imposition of adjustment tariffs, under section 118;
- (11) the prescribing of rules for subsidies from the Adjustment Fund, under section 124;
- (12) the making of regulations for the management of the Adjustment Fund, under section 124;
- (13) the definition of areas for the purpose of this Law, under section 155;
- (14) the preparation of the list of the representatives of the public on the Tribunal, under section 141;

(b) Notice of the election of committees of the Water Board and the powers delegated to them shall be published in Reshumot.

Regional Committees

131. The Board may, with the consent of the Minister of Agriculture, elect regional committees the members of which shall be members of the Board and non-members of the Board; the number of the former shall be greater than that of the latter. The Water Board shall not delegate to a regional committee powers other than may relate to matters affecting the area in question.

Supply Committees

132. The Board may, with the consent of the Minister of Agriculture and having regard to the bodies concerned with agriculture, appoint a water supply committee for agriculture, which shall deal with matters relating to the supply and use of water for agriculture, and shall appoint a supply committee for other water purposes, which shall deal with the supply and use of water for other purposes. A member of a supply committee may be a non-member of the Board.

Planning Commission

133

(a) The Minister of Agriculture shall appoint a commission of not more than eleven members to be a Planning Commission for the examination of supply schemes under the provisions of this Law, and such other schemes as have been designated in that behalf by the Minister of Agriculture or the Water Commissioner; notice of the appointment and composition of, and of any change in, the Commission shall be published in Reshumot.

(b) The Planning Commission shall itself prescribe its procedure, including the quorum at its meetings, insofar as such procedure has not been prescribed by regulations.

(c) An act of the Planning Commission shall not be invalidated by reason only that, at the time the act was done, the place of any member of the Commission was vacant for any reason whatsoever.

Representation of consumers before water authority

134.

(a) The Minister of Agriculture may by order in Reshumot, establish with a regional water authority, a board the function of which shall be to represent the consumers of the water authority before it and before the Water Board (a board under this section is hereinafter referred to as a ‘Representation of Consumers’).

(b) A representation of consumers may bring before the water authority contentions and proposals as to any matter relating to the development or enlargement of the water supply system or to the supply of water therefrom, and the water authority shall give representation of consumers an opportunity to voice contentions and proposals before it, prior to any decision concerning the development of the system or concerning a change in the conditions of the supply of water therefrom.

Representation of consumers before regional committee

135. Where a regional committee of the Water Board has been established for any area in accordance with section 131, the Minister of Agriculture may, by order in Reshumot, establish in that area a representation of consumers the function of which shall be to represent the consumers of the area before the said committee and before the Water Board.

Composition of representation of consumers

136. A representation of consumers shall consist of representatives of the local Authorities, other than those which have been empowered as water authorities, of representatives of corporations supplying water for a consideration and receiving water from the water authority, and of agricultural and industrial organisations. The Minister of Agriculture may add to a representation of consumers a representative of water consumers whose water purpose, in the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture, is not represented by the other members of the representation.

Composition and procedure of representation of consumers

137. The composition and procedure of a representation of consumers shall be prescribed by the order establishing such representation and the representation shall be convened by the Water Commissioner or by a person authorised by him in that behalf in writing to act on his behalf.

Article Three: Tribunal for Water Affairs

Establishment, area of jurisdiction and powers of the Tribunal

140.

(a) The Minister of Justice shall establish by order, a Tribunal, or Tribunals, for water affairs, and shall prescribe its or their place or places of sitting and area or areas of jurisdiction.

(b) In addition to the matters assigned to it by this Law, a Tribunal shall be competent to deal with all the matters assigned to the jurisdiction and determination of a Judicial Committee under the Drainage and Flood Control Law, 5718-1957¹.

¹ Sefer Ha-Chukkim No. 236 of 5718, p. 4.

Composition of Tribunal

141.

(a) A Tribunal for Water Affairs (in this Law referred to as a ‘Tribunal’) shall, at any sitting, consist of three members: a judge appointed by the Minister for Justice and two representatives of the public from a panel nominated by the Minister of Agriculture after consultation with the Water Board and with organisations of Local Authorities.

(b) The representatives of the public who shall sit in a particular matter shall be designated by the president of the district court in the area of jurisdiction in which the place of sitting of the Tribunal is situated.

(c) The judge shall be the presiding member of the Tribunal.

Power of presiding member

142.

(a) With the consent of the parties, the presiding member, sitting alone, may hear such parties and may give the force of a judgment to a compromise agreement between them.

(b) The presiding member, sitting alone, may make interim orders and restraining orders.

Powers of Tribunal

143 The Tribunal shall, within the scope of its competence, have the powers of a District Court in a civil case.

Evidence

144. The Tribunal may, for reason which it shall set forth in its decision, admit evidence even if such evidence would not be admissible in a court of law.

Decisions of the Tribunal

145. A Tribunal which deals with an objection may confirm, with or without variations, or annul, the decision or act objected to, and may also make interim orders.

Appeal and enforcement

146. A judgment or other decision of a Tribunal is enforceable in like manner as a judgment or other decision of a District Court in a civil case.

Mode of procedure of Tribunal

147. The Minister of Justice may make regulations concerning the procedure before the Tribunal, including the times for objection, insofar as it is not prescribed by this Law, the holding of sittings of the Tribunal outside its prescribed place of sitting, appeals against its decisions and the fees payable to the Tribunal, and he may also prescribe the remuneration payable to the representatives of the public on the Tribunal.