

COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

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PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HEALTH SERVICES  
AND THE DEPARTMENTS OF LANDS AND MINES

1. In paragraph 26 of Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1945 it was stated that it was the Government's intention to propose later in the year that the central control of Local Government (native and non-native) should be the responsibility of a Local Government Board whose Chairman would have a seat on Executive Council.

2. A careful study of the situation has made it clear that the administration of public health is inseparable from that of local government and that, indeed, local government with its intimate concern for the environment of the population as regards housing, water supplies, sanitation and the prevention of disease is the agency by means of which a large part of the health services can best be made available. It is proposed, therefore, to place the health services maintained by Government and those maintained by Local Authorities within the sphere of the Member for Health and Local Government, who will represent them on both Executive Council and Legislative Council. The method by which the various health services are to be co-ordinated will be a matter for determination by the Member in consultation with the Director of Medical Services and local authorities. The duties and responsibilities which will be allotted to the Central Board of Health under the new arrangements will be a subject for examination in the course of the proposed review.

3. The two existing Standing Committees for Local Government (one for Rural Areas and the other for Municipalities) will for the time being continue to function. In addition, the Standing Advisory Committee on Local Native Councils will be reconstituted with expert advisers under the Chairmanship of the Chief Native Commissioner as an African Local Government Board; this Board will in effect be a committee of the Local Government Board. By this means African local government will be developed and given greater executive powers.

Major questions of policy will be dealt with by the Local Government Board. The Member will be Chairman of the Board, which will consist of representative members of the Standing Committees and will include Asian, Arab and African members. The Board will in the early stages consider and advise upon the functions of the various committees and the best organization for achieving the objects in view.

4. It is proposed to appoint Mr. C.E. Mortimer, C.B.E., on his retirement from his departmental duties as Commissioner for Local Government, Lands and Settlement at the end of this year to be Member for Health and Local Government with a seat upon Executive Council and in due course with a seat in the Legislative Council within the nominated official membership.

5. The transfer of the administration of Settlement to the organization under the wing of the Member for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Natural Resources opens the way for other departmental changes, and the following proposals are made with the approval of Executive Council and the Standing Finance Committee.

6. It is proposed that a new department should be formed with effect from the 1st of January to combine the functions of the Lands, Survey and Registration Divisions in the existing department of Local Government, Lands and Settlement with those of the existing Mining and Geological Department. The organization of this new department is set out in the diagram attached to this Sessional Paper.



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A new Geological Survey Organization has been set up by the Secretary of State on a regional basis under which highly qualified specialists will be available for the East African territories, and to this organization the Commissioner will be able to turn for specialist advice and for any additional assistance that he may require.

For advice on major technical mining problems in this Colony arrangements have been made that, in addition to the permanent technical staff of the Mines Department, the services of a Mining Consultant, who is to be employed by the Government of Tanganyika will be available where required.

It is proposed that the new department which will remain within the sphere of the Deputy Chief Secretary, will be established as from the 1st of January, 1946.

THE SECRETARIAT, NAIROBI.

6th November, 1945.

COMMISSIONER FOR LANDS, MINES AND SURVEYS

