

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the impact of the State of Emergency in what was Her Majesty’s Kenya Colony

By order of H.R.H. Elizabeth Regina II, Queen of the United Kingdoms of England, Scotland, Wales and of Northern Ireland and Head of the British Commonwealth of Nations, this Royal Commission is hereby charged with inquiring into and ascertaining all relevant facts related to the background, conditions, and specific causes that led to the State of Emergency In Kenya in around the Central Highlands Province District that then spread out to affect the entirety of the Kenya Colony from October of 1952 until the establishment of the Lancaster House Conference on Kenyan Independence in January of 1960. The further charge to this Royal Commission is to make recommendations as to what, if any and in what form, reparations may be assessed and made out to victims of the events.

Whereas, beginning on 3 October 1952 and continuing throughout the period of the State of Emergency, certain members of the Kikuyu Tribe and their related sympathizers, known more commonly as members of “*Mau Mau”,* were charged with perpetrating a violent insurrection against the Colonial Government and law-abiding subjects of the Crown and that pursuant to efforts to reestablish law and order in the Colony, members of the British Government and its duly appointed representatives as well as various subjects of the Kenya Colony did commit certain acts of violence and engage in inhumane treatment of those colonial subjects associated with the insurrection. Whereas Her Majesty’s Government has acknowledged the need to investigate these events in order to establish a clear record of events, intentions and acts committed with a view to establishing and affixing responsibility this Royal Commission of Inquiry is charged to hear and take evidence from witnesses, perpetrators and victims in order to establish the causes and means of violence and the general disruption to the peaceful state of affairs that had hitherto prevailed in the colony. The Royal Commission is further charged with assessing and affixing responsibility for the violence and disruption with a view to redressing them as part of the final dispensation and settlements of current claims under legal review, to wit: Claimants for reparations allege that there was active participation by ministers, and senior officials of Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom and in Kenya that promoted through violence a policy of terror, intimidation, coercion by the Colonial Government and its agents and that Colonial officials, their agents and representatives did perpetrate illegal acts in violation of British and Colonial Law for which Her Majesty’s Government is fully responsible and liable

The Royal Commission will begin hearings in the following manner:

1. Witnesses, perpetrators, victims and observers will be allowed to present, for a period not to exceed five minutes, a statement as to the effect of their experience of and role in the events associated with the causes and conduct of rebellion and the State of the Emergency.
2. Where deemed appropriate and necessary, as H.R.H.s representative, the Chair of the Royal Commission may offer evidence, correct statements for the record, and interrogate anyone presenting before the Inquiry on an ad hoc basis.
3. Presenters before the Royal Commission will then be granted an opportunity for rebuttal of any evidence presented for a period not to exceed five minutes.
4. The Chair of the Commission will then call upon each presenter to make a final recommendation in writing to be read out by the Chair as to the disposition of the fellow presenters and the validity of any claims.

N.B. –Presenters, in delivering material, should be mindful of historical context and precedents, the need for clear and cogently argued points based on actual events, and the need to be respectful of fellow presenters.