

ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENT

to The Uganda Gazette No. 52 Volume CII dated 23rd October, 2009

Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

Ordinance 4 *Local Governments (Tororo District) (Regulation
of the Exchange of Bridal Gifts) Ordinance* **2009**

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (TORORO DISTRICT) (REGULATION OF
THE EXCHANGE OF BRIDAL GIFTS) ORDINANCE, 2009.

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**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (TORORO DISTRICT)
REGULATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF BRIDAL GIFTS)
ORDINANCE, 2009.**

enacted under Sections 38, and 40 of the Local Governments Act Cap. 243)

**Enacted to provide for the regulation of the giving and receiving of
bridal gifts.**

Enacted by the Council of Tororo District as follows:

Short title
This Ordinance may be cited as the Local Governments (Tororo District)
(Regulation of the exchange of Bridal Gifts) Ordinance, 2009.

Application of the Ordinance
This Ordinance shall apply to all persons within the jurisdiction of Tororo
District.

Interpretation
In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires—

“**bride price**” also commonly referred to as bridal gift, dowry, or bridal
wealth, means marriage gifts including but not limited to *nywom*,
welo mweha or *mich ma nywom* in *Jophadhola* and *Iboro lu*
emanyit or *Ainakineta nu edukone* in *Ateso* and such other names
used to describe a gift in cash or kind demanded by the parents of
the bride as a condition precedent for the marriage from the
groom or his family;

“**cohabitation**” means a man and woman living together as husband
and wife;

“**Council**” means Tororo District Council;

“**currency point**” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to the
Local Governments Act Cap. 243;

“**customary marriage**” means a customary marriage celebrated ac-
cording to the rites of an African community and one of the parties to
it is a member of that community within the meaning of the
Customary Marriages (Registration) Act, Cap. 248;

“**family**” includes nuclear family, extended family, and clan mem-
bers as well as any relative, in-law and interested party to a
marriage;

“**gift**” means a grant or transfer of property not made for mone-
y consideration or something given or received freely whether in
cash or in kind;

“**L.C**” means Local Council; and

“**person of authority**” includes but is not limited to any mem-
ber of the executive committee from L.C. I to L.C. V, a parish chief,
a village officer, a probation and social welfare officer, and a court o-
fficer.

4. Recognition of certain cultural practices

This Ordinance shall recognize good cultural practices, which do not
prevent any person from making an offer of bridal gifts to the parents of the bride
of his free will and consent and which does not contravene the Constitution.

5. Bridal gifts not refundable

(1) A person shall not demand for the refund of bridal gifts as a
condition precedent to the dissolution of a marriage.

(2) A person who demands for the refund of bridal gifts as a condition
precedent to the dissolution of a marriage commits an offence.

6. Requirement for signing a document before marriage

A person who demands for “a contract” or “an agreement” or an
instrument of documentation to be signed upon receiving bridal gifts, commits an offence.

7. Demand for payment of bridal gifts at the demise of the woman

(1) A person shall not demand for bridal gifts to be paid as a condition precedent to the burial of a deceased woman who at the time of her death was cohabiting with a man who had not paid bridal gifts.

(2) A person who demands that bridal gifts be paid as a condition precedent to the burial of a deceased woman who at the time of her death was cohabiting with a man who had not paid bridal gifts commits an offence.

8. Registration

(1) A customary marriage and dissolution of a customary marriage shall be registered at the sub-county headquarters under the authority of the sub-county chief.

(2) Registration under Subsection (1) shall be concluded with the issuance of a marriage certificate or dissolution of a marriage certificate which will be witnessed by the parents of the parties to the marriage or other person that the parties to the marriage may name.

9. Penalties

A person who contravenes sections 5, 6, or 7 of this Ordinance, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to fine not exceeding two currency points or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or both.

Passed by Tororo District Council on the 17th day of September, 2008.

I hereby signify my hand this 19th day of October, 2009.

EMMANUEL OSUNA,
Chairperson Tororo District Council.