

CHAPTER 10:21
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND PROHIBITION OF BUSINESS ACT

Acts 19/1969, 25/1970, 29/1979, 6/1980, 27/1989, 17/2001, 22/2001 (s. 4).

[Date of commencement: 14th March, 1969.]

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1.	Short title
2.	Public holidays
3.	Prohibition of business
Schedule	Public Holidays

AN ACT to establish public holidays in Zimbabwe; and to provide for the prohibition of business on particular days in the national interest.

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Act [*Chapter 10:21*].

2. Public holidays

- (1) The days specified in [the Schedule](#) shall be public holidays: Provided that -
- (i) when a public holiday falls on a Sunday, the Monday following shall be a public holiday;
 - (ii) when the 26th December falls on a Monday, the Tuesday following shall be a public holiday.
- (2) The President may, by statutory instrument, declare that any day shall be a public holiday.

3. Prohibition of business

(1) If at any time it appears to the President necessary or expedient in the interests of Zimbabwe, he may, by statutory instrument, declare that on any particular day or days -

- (a) no business or class of business shall be conducted or transacted;
- (b) any institution or premises or class of institution or premises shall not be open to members of the public for conducting or transacting business.

(2) In any statutory instrument referred to in [subsection \(1\)](#) the President may declare that the day or days mentioned in that notice shall be deemed to be a non-business day for the purposes of the Bills of Exchange Act [*Chapter 14:02*] and thereupon that Act and any other law shall apply as though the said day or days were non-business days for the purposes of that Act.

(3) It shall not be lawful to transact or conduct any business in contravention of any notice referred to in [sub-section \(1\)](#) and any business purported to be transacted or conducted in contravention of such notice shall be of no effect.

- (4) Any person who -
- (a) transacts or conducts any business; or
 - (b) opens any institution or premises;

in contravention of a notice referred to in [subsection \(1\)](#) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level five or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

[Subsection amended by section 4 of 22 of 2001]

Schedule
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

[\(Section 2\)](#)

1. New Year's Day.
2. Independence Day, being the 18th April.
3. Good Friday.
4. The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
5. Easter Monday.
6. Worker's Day, being the 1st May.
7. Africa Day, being the 25th May.
8. The second Monday in August and the day following, which shall be designated as Heroes' Day and Defence Forces National Day, respectively.
[Paragraph substituted by 17 of 2001]
9. National Unity Day, being the 22nd December.
[Paragraph substituted by 17 of 2001.]
10. Christmas Day and the day following.

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[S.I. 143 of 2017](#)

Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Notice

[G.N. 343 of 2018](#)

Public Holidays in 2019

S.I. 143 of 2017: Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Notice

HIS Excellency the President, in terms of section 2 (2) of the Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Act [Chapter 10:21], hereby makes the following notice -

1. This notice may be cited as the Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Notice, 2017.
2. It is hereby declared that the 21st of February every year henceforth, shall be a public holiday to be known as the Robert Gabriel Mugabe National Youth Day.

G.N. 343 of 2018: Public Holidays in 2019

IT is hereby declared that, in terms of section 2 (1) of the Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Act [Chapter 10:21], the days listed in [the Schedule](#) will be public holidays in 2019. This list does not include any days which the President may declare to be public holidays in terms of section 2 (2) of the Public Holidays and Prohibition of Business Act [Chapter 10:21].

HON. O. M. MPOFU (MP)
Minister of Home Affairs

1. New Year's Day	Tuesday 1st January, 2019
2. R. Mugabe National Youth Day	Thursday 21st February, 2019
3. Independence Day	Thursday 18th April, 2019
4. Good Friday	Friday 19th April, 2019
5. Easter Saturday	Saturday 20th April, 2019
6. Easter Sunday	Sunday 21st April, 2019
7. Easter Monday	Monday 22nd April, 2019
8. Workers' Day	Wednesday 1st May, 2019
9. Africa Day	Saturday 25th May, 2019
10. Heroes' Day	Monday 12th August, 2019
11. Defence Forces Day	Tuesday 13th August, 2019
12. National Unity Day	Sunday 22nd December, 2019
13. Public Holiday	Monday 23rd December, 2019
14. Christmas Day	Wednesday 25th December, 2019
15. Boxing Day	Thursday 26th December, 2019