

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Sunday Trading Proclamation 12 of 1919

Summary: This Proclamation (originally published in [OG 24](#)) regulates trading on Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday. It also provides exemptions from the general rules for some specific goods and services.

Amendments: The Proclamation was amended by the following:

- Proclamation 16/1919 ([OG 25](#))
- Sale of Motor Spirit and Accessories for Motor Vehicles and Water-raising Appliances (Removal of Restrictions) Ordinance 14 of 1928 ([OG 283](#))
- Ord 15/1935 ([OG 643](#))
- Proc. 24/1944 ([OG 1147](#))
- Ord. 10/1948 (sourced only in The Laws of South West Africa 1948)
- Proc. 50/1950 ([OG 1552](#))
- Conditions of Employment Act 12 of 1986 ([OG 5221](#)), which was brought into force by AG Proc. 26 of 1986 ([OG 5226](#)), by repealing the amendments in Proclamation 50 of 1950.

Note that the Conditions of Employment Act 12 of 1986 erroneously refers to Proclamation 50 of 1950 as the “Shop Hours and Shop Assistants Amendment Proclamation”. Its correct name is the “Sunday Trading Amendment Proclamation”.

Regulations: The Proclamation makes no provision for regulations.

Public Holidays Act 26 of 1990

Summary: This Act (originally published in [GG 125](#)), which came into force on 1 February 1991 (section 4), sets the following public holidays:

New Year’s Day (1 January)
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Independence Day (21 March)
Workers Day (1 May)
Cassinga Day (4 May)
Ascension Day
Africa Day (25 May)
Heroes Day (26 August)
International Human Rights Day (10 December)
Christmas Day (25 December)
Family Day (26 December).

It also authorises the President to declare additional public holidays in any particular year by Proclamation.

Repeals: The Act repeals the Public Holidays Act 7 of 1987 ([OG 5367](#)), which in turn replaced the South African *Public Holidays Act 5 of 1952*.

Amendments: Act 16/2004 ([GG 3348](#)) renames “International Human Rights Day” (10 December) as “Day of the Namibian Women and International Human Rights Day”.

Regulations: The Act makes no provision for regulations.

Notices: Additional public holidays were declared in particular years in Proc. 4/1990, Proc. 5/1994, Proc. 30/1994, Proc. 13/1995, Proc. 16/1997, Proc. 20/1998, Proc. 30/1999, Proc. 36/1999, Proc. 35/2014 ([GG 5609](#)), Proc. 38/2015 ([GG 5885](#)), Proc. 60/2020 ([GG 7394](#)), Proc. 7/2024 ([GG 8312](#)) and Proc. 29/2024 ([GG 8454](#)).

General Notice 250/2001 ([GG 2610](#)) proclaims 28 September as the Day of the Namibian Child, but this date is not made into a public holiday.

Proc.19/2020 ([GG 8373](#)) declares 28 May as a public holiday to be known as Genocide Remembrance Day with effect from 28 May 2025.⁴⁰¹

COMMISSIONS

Commission of Inquiry into Public Holidays (AG 32/1981).

⁴⁰¹ Section 1(3) of the Act states: “The President may by proclamation in the *Gazette* declare *any day in a particular year*, not being a public holiday in terms of subsection (1) or (2), to be a public holiday.” This suggests that the Act will require amendment if 28 May is intended to be a permanent public holiday.