

Law 70 of Colombia (1993): In Recognition of the Right of Black Colombians to Collectively Own and Occupy their Ancestral Lands.

English Translation

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LAW 70 OF 1993

For Which Transitory Article 55 of the Political Constitution of Colombia was Developed

Decrees

Chapter I Objective and Definitions

Article 1. The object of the present Law is to recognize the right of the Black Communities that have been living on barren lands in rural areas along the rivers of the Pacific Basin, in accordance with their traditional production practices, to their collective property as specified and instructed in the articles that follow. Similarly, the purpose of the Law is to establish mechanisms for protecting the cultural identity and rights of the Black Communities of Colombia as an ethnic group and to foster their economic and social development, in order to guarantee that these communities have real equal opportunities before the rest of the Colombian society.

In Accordance with what has been stipulated in paragraph 1 Article 55 of the Political Constitution, this Law will also apply in the barren, rural, and riparian zones that have been occupied by Black Communities that have traditional practices of production in other areas of the country and abide by the requirements established in this Law.

Article 2. For the purposes of the present Law, it is understood that:

1. PACIFIC BASIN. Is the region defined by the following geographic limits: From the summit of the Chiles Volcano bordering the Republic of Ecuador, continuing along the division of the Western Mountain Range waters, and the Cumbal and Azufral Volcanoes, until the Hoz of Minamá; crossing it, just below the mouth of the Guáitara River continuing through the division of the waters of the Western Mountain Range, along the Munchique Mountain, the Farallones de Cali, the Tatamá, Caramanta and Concordia Mountains; from these mountains, continuing along the branching of the waters to the Nudo de Paramillo; continuing to the Northeast up to the high point of Carrizal, along the branching of the waters to Río Sucio and Caño Tumarandó, into Río León to a point of Bahía Colombia along the left margin of the mouth of the Surinque River in the Gulf. Continuing along the line that defines the Gulf Coast of Urabá to the international landmark in Cabo Tiburón, from this point continuing through the line of the international limit between the Republic of Panamá and Colombia, to the midpoint between Punta Ardita (Colombia), and Cocalito (Panamá), over the coast of the Pacific Ocean, continuing along the coast to the mouth of the Mataje River, continuing along the international limits with the Republic of Ecuador, to the top of the Chiles Volcano, point of departure.

2. RIVERS OF THE PACIFIC BASIN. Are the rivers of the Pacific region, which comprise:

a) the Pacific flow made up of superficial waters of rivers and brooks that drain directly into the Pacific Ocean and its subsidiaries, the basins of the rivers Mira, Rosario, Chajul, Patía, Curay, Sanquianga, Tola, Tapaje, Iscuandé, Guapi, Timbiquí, Buey, Saija, Micay, Naya, Yurumanguí, Tumba Grande, Tumbita, Cajambre, Mallorquín, Raposo, Anchicayá, Dagua, Bongo, San Juan, Ijua, Docampadó, Capiro, Ordó, Sivirú, Dotendó, Usaraga, Baudó, Piliza, Catrippe, Virudo, Coquí, Nuquí, Tribugá, Chori, El Valle, Huaca, Abega, Cupica, Changuera, Borojó, Curiche, Putumia, Juradó, and other smaller tributaries which drain directly into the Pacific Ocean; b) the basins of the Atrato, Acandí, and Toló Rivers, that flow into Caribbean.

3. RURAL RIPARIAN LANDS. Are the lands bordering the banks of the rivers mentioned in the preceding paragraph that are outside urban perimeters as defined by the Municipal Councils of the area municipalities in question in accordance with the provisions of Municipal Regulation Code (Decree 1333 of 1986), and any subsequent added laws that develop or amend it and in which the respective community is settled.

4. BARREN LANDS. Are the lands situated within the borders of the national territory belonging to the State and no other owner, and that, having been categorized as such, shall return to the domain of the State in accordance with article 56 of Law 110 of 1913, and any other regulations that augment, develop, or reform it.

5. BLACK COMMUNITY. It is the group of families of Afro-Colombian descent who possesses its own culture, shares a common history and has its own traditions and customs within a rural-urban setting and which reveals and preserves a consciousness of identity that distinguishes it from other ethnic groups.

6. COLLECTIVE SETTLEMENT. It is the historic and ancestral settling of Black Communities in lands for their collective use, lands that constitute their habitat, and where they currently develop their traditional practices of production.

7. TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF PRODUCTION. Are the technical, agricultural, mining, forestal extractions, grazing, hunting, fishing, and general harvesting activities of natural resources, customarily used by the Black Communities to guarantee the conservation of their lives and their self-sustaining development.

Chapter II Principles

Article 3. The present Law is based on the following principles:

- Recognition and protection of ethnic and cultural diversity, and equal rights for all cultures that compose the Colombian nationality.
- Respect for the integrity and dignity of the Black Communities' cultural life.

- Participation of the Black Communities and their organizations, without detriment to their autonomy, in decisions that affect them and in those that affect the entire nation in conformity with the law.
- The protection of the environment, emphasizing the relationships established by the Black Communities and nature.

Chapter III

Recognition of the Right to Collective Property

Article 4. The State will grant collective property to the Black Communities referred to in this Law, in areas that, according to the definitions in Article II, comprise barren lands located along the riverbanks in rural riparian areas of the Pacific Basin as well as those in areas specified in the second clause of Article 1 of the present Law: lands that they have been occupying in accordance with their traditional practices of production.

For all legal purposes the lands, for which collective property rights are established, will be called: The Lands of the Black Communities.

Article 5. In order to receive adjudicable lands as collective property, each community will form a Community Council as its internal administrative body whose functions will be determined by National Government ruling.

In addition to the functions determined by National Government ruling, other functions of the Community Councils are: to watch over the conservation and protection of the rights of collective property, the preservation of cultural identity, the use and conservation of natural resources; to identify a legal representative from the respective community as their legal entity, and to act as friendly conciliators in workable internal conflicts.

Article 6. Except for the grounds and the forests, collective grant lands under this Law do not include the following:

- Control over goods for public use.
- Urban areas of municipalities.
- Renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
- Legally constituted and protected indigenous territories.
- The subsoil and rural lands accredited as private property as per law 200 of 1936.
- Areas reserved for national security and defense.
- Areas of the national-park system.

Regarding the soils and forests included in the collective titling, ownership will be exercised as a social function with an inherent ecological function. Consequently, the use of these resources must take into account the following:

The use of the forest exercised under rules of law, as well as the exploitation of the forest for commercial purposes should guarantee the continuity of resources. In order to put

forward the continuity of resources, the authorization of a competent entity to handle forestal resources is needed.

Use of the resources should be done taking into account the ecological fragility of the Pacific Basin. Consequently, land grantees will develop conservation and handling practices that are compatible with ecological conditions. To this end, appropriate models of production should be developed, such as agrosilvopasture, agroforestry, and the like, designing suitable mechanisms to stimulate them and to discourage unsustainable environmental practices.

Article 7. In each community, the Black Community's portion of the land designated for collective use is non-transferable, imprescriptible, and non-mortgageable.

Only areas assigned to a family group can be transferred, whether through the dissolution of the group or any other cause indicated in the Law, but the preferential right to occupy or acquire the land can only fall to other members of the community, and, in their absence, to another member of the ethnic group, for the purpose of preserving the integrity of the lands and the cultural identity of the Black Communities

Article 8. For purposes of land adjudication, as stated in article 4, each community will present its respective request to the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA). This body can initiate the official land adjudicating process.

A commission made up of INCORA, The Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute and INDERENA, or their representatives, will develop, with prior information from the Community Council, a technical evaluation of the requests and will determine the boundaries of the area to be granted under collective property title.

Article 9. The following information should be attached to the petition:

- a. Physical description of the land to be titled.
- b. Ethno-historic antecedents.
- c. Demographic description of the territory.
- d. Traditional practices of production.

Article 10. Once the petition is filed, the respective regional general manager will order a visit to the interested Black Community; the visit should take place no later than sixty days from the day the petition is filed. Notice of the resolution to visit will be given to the interested Black group, to the respective organizations, and to the town's agrarian issues representative.

Once the visit is completed, a document with the following items should be drawn:

- Location of the land.
- Approximate size of the land.
- General land boundaries.

Number of black persons living on the land.

Name and number of foreigners who do not belong to the established community, indicating the approximate area of land they occupy.

A survey of the land to be titled.

Article 11. The Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform, (INCORA) in a non-extendable period of (60) days, will issue the administrative Minutes through which the collective property will be adjudicated to the communities referenced in the present Law. Proper notice of the administrative Minutes will be given to the representative of the respective community, and once the notice is properly filed, it will constitute sufficient proof of title and ownership.

Article 12. For purposes of complying more effectively with the rights recognized in the present Law, the administrative procedure of land titling determined by the government through special ruling will honor the principles of efficacy, economy, and expediency.

For issues or rulings not included under this Law, the nation's general legislation on barren lands will apply whenever these issues are compatible with the nature, purpose, and recognition of the rights of the Black Communities to property as referenced in this Law.

Article 13. Land grants will be subject to any easements necessary for the development of adjacent lands.

Similarly, bordering lands that are property of the State will be subject to the necessary easements for the benefit of the lands of the communities in accordance with the current legislation.

Article 14. The administrative document that grants collective land ownership will bear proof of the responsibility to observe norms on the conservation, protection, and rational utilization of the environment's natural and renewable resources.

Article 15. Occupation of the lands adjudicated collectively to the Black Communities by people not belonging to the ethnic Black group to which this Law refers, would give the occupant neither the right to obtain title nor the recognition for any improvements made, and for all legal purposes the occupant will be considered an illegal occupant.

Article 16. Services for collective titling on behalf of the Black Communities referenced in this Law as well as the registration and publication of granting resolutions issued by the Institute of Agrarian Reform will be issued free of charge.

Article 17. From the date this Law comes into force until collective title is properly granted to a Black Community occupying lands under the terms established by this Law, the lands occupied by the communities will not be adjudicated nor will authorization be given to anyone else to exploit their natural resources without permission from the Commission as established in Article 8.

Article 18. Land adjudications to the Black Communities referred to in this Law can only be granted to the Black Communities themselves.

Land adjudications in violation of the previous Article will be considered null. The act of nullification of the respective resolution can be undertaken by the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform, the Agrarian Officers, or any other person, before the corresponding Administrative Court, within two years following its execution, or from the publication date in the Official Newspaper, whichever the case may be.

Without prejudice against previous statements, the Colombian Institute for Agrarian Reform can directly revoke land adjudication resolutions that it issues and that violate the present Article. In such cases, the expressed written permission of the respective title holder is not necessary. For everything else, the process of revocation will be conducted in accordance with Administrative Contentious Code proceedings.

Chapter IV

Use of the Land and Protection of the Natural Resources and the Environment.

Article 19. The traditional practices exercised over the waters, the beaches, the riverbanks, the secondary fruits of the forest or over the fauna and the terrestrial and aquatic flora for alimentary purposes, or the use of natural renewable resources for construction or home repair, fences, canoes, and other domestic elements to be used by the people of the respective Black Communities, are considered to be legal practices and, consequently, do not require permits.

These practices should be exercised in a manner that the renewal of resources, in quantity as well as in quality, is guaranteed.

Hunting, fishing or the harvesting of products for subsistence will have preference over any other quasi-industrial, industrial, or sports interest.

In accordance with Article 58 of the Political Constitution, collective property of the areas referred to in this Law should be exercised in accordance with the social and ecological functions inherent in this Law. Consequently, title grantees must be responsible for protecting the environment and for the renewal of natural resources, and they must assist the authorities in protecting that patrimony.

Article 21. In accordance with what has been stipulated in the previous Article, Black Communities which are part of the groups receiving collective title will continue to maintain, preserve, and favor the renewal of the vegetation that protects the waters, and to guarantee, through adequate use, the preservation of particularly fragile ecosystems such as mangroves and wetlands, and to protect and preserve species of wild fauna and flora that are threatened or that are in danger of extinction.

Note. The National Government will provide the necessary funds in order that the communities can comply with what has been stipulated in the present Article.

Article 22. For families or persons from the Black Communities living in areas protected by the Natural and National Parks System prior to the area becoming part of the Natural and National Parks System, INDERENA, or its agent, will define, in a proposed management plan, the traditional practices of said communities that are compatible with the nature, objectives, and functions of the area in question. In such cases, the administrative entity of the National and Natural Parks System will promote consulting mechanisms that include the participation of these communities.

If the persons to whom this Article refers do not comply with the management plan issued by said entity, an agreement between these persons and the INCORA will allow them to relocate to other areas where collective titling can be exercised.

Article 23. INDERENA, or its agent, will design mechanisms that will allow Black Community members to participate in the development of the areas around the National and Natural Parks Systems by offering them training as recreation education park-guides, as well as in ecological tourism activities developed in such areas.

Article 24. The administrative entity of natural and renewable resources, in agreement with the Black Communities, will regulate the collective use of forestal areas referred to in the present Law for the preservation of the forest.

For purposes of the use, processing or commercialization of forestal products obtained during the development of forestal concessions, the community may partner with public or private entities.

The State, to ensure economic success and sustainable development for the members of the region, will guarantee and facilitate technical training for community members in practices adequate for each phase of the production process.

For purposes of land resource exploitation as stated in this Article, priority will be given to proposals from members of the Black Communities, according to Article 13 of the Constitution.

Article 25. Areas collectively adjudicated to the Black Communities where, in the future, environmental authorities deem necessary the protection of species, ecosystems, or life systems for ecological reasons, special natural reserve areas will be created in whose delimitation, conservation, and management, the Black Communities and the local authorities will participate. In addition, the dispositions in Article 51 of this Law will apply. The government will regulate what has been stated in the present Article.

Chapter V

Mining Resources

Article 26. The Ministry of Mines and Energy dutifully or by petition from the Black Communities to which this Law refers may choose to identify and delimit in lands adjudicated to the Black Communities, mining zones where the exploration and exploitation of non-renewable natural resources should be carried out under special technical conditions for their protection, and with the participation of the Black Communities for the purpose of preserving their particular economic and cultural characteristics, without prejudicing their acquired or constituted rights, in favor of third parties.

Article 27. The Black communities to which this Law refers will enjoy pre-emption rights so that the government, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, will issue a special license of exploration and exploitation in the mining zones of Black Communities over non renewable natural resources traditionally enjoyed by such communities. These special licenses could include other minerals with the exception of coal, radioactive minerals, salts, and hydrocarbons.

Article 28. If there were areas susceptible to be declared Indigenous mining zones and Black Communities' mining zones at the same time, the Ministry of Mines and Energy could declare said zones Joint Mining Zones, where the development of activities will be conducted with the understanding that the two ethnic groups will enjoy the same rights and responsibilities.

Article 29. Mining activities will be conducted taking into consideration prevention and control factors as well as the deterioration of the environment which may arise from these activities and that could be harmful to humans, to the hydro-biological resources, fauna, and other related natural renewable resources.

Article 30. The Black Communities, to which this Law refers, can resort to institutions and civilian mechanisms of vigilance and control of mining exploitation contracts under the terms mentioned in the public administration's general statute for contracts, the statutory law of mechanisms, institutions of civilian participation, and in the laws which modify or replace them.

Article 31. For the purpose of what has been stipulated in the aforementioned articles, the Government will regulate the requirements and other necessary conditions required for their effective application in accordance with current mining rules.

CHAPTER VI

Mechanisms for the Protection and the Development of Human Rights.

Article 32. The Colombian State recognizes and guarantees the Black Communities the right to an education in accordance with their needs and their ethnic and cultural aspirations.

A competent authority will take the necessary measures to ensure that the curricula adhere to this regulation at each educational level.

Article 33. The State will sanction and will prevent all acts of intimidation, segregation, discrimination or racism against Black Communities in all social spaces, at high decision making levels of public administration, and, in particular, in the mass communication media and in the educational system; the State will be vigilant in enforcing the principles of equality and respect for ethnic and cultural diversity.

To this end, the competent authorities will apply the corresponding sanctions in conformity with what has been established in the National Police Code, in laws regulating the mass media, in the educational system, and in other laws that may apply.

Article 34. The education of Black Communities must take into account their environment, productive process, and their entire social and cultural life. Consequently, the curricular programs will ensure and reflect the respect and fostering of their economic, natural, cultural and social patrimony, artistic values, means of communication and religious beliefs. The curricula should emanate from the Black Communities' culture in order to develop the different abilities and skills of the individual and the group that are necessary for growth within their social milieu.

Article 35. The State's education programs and services for the Black Communities must be developed and applied with their cooperation in order to respond to their particular needs, and these programs should encompass their history, knowledge, techniques, value systems, linguistic and dialectical forms, and all other social, economic, and cultural aspirations.

The State must recognize and guarantee the right of the Black Communities to create their own communication and educational institutions, as long as said institutions comply with the norms established by competent authorities.

Article 36. Education for the Black Communities must develop general knowledge and skills that will assist them in participating fully and equally in the activities of their local and national communities.

Article 37. The State should adopt measures to allow the Black Communities knowledge acquisition of their rights and obligations, in particular with respect to work, economic possibilities, education, health, social services, and rights that arise out of the Constitution and the Laws.

To this end, if necessary, they should have access to written translations and to the use of the media in their own languages.

Article 38. The members of the Black Communities must have access to means of technical, technological, and professional training that will place them on equal footing with other citizens.

The State must take measures to allow access to and to promote the Black Communities' participation in basic, general application of technological and professional programs.

These special training programs should be based on the economic environment, social and cultural conditions, as well as on the concrete needs of the Black Communities. The trainings should be conducted in cooperation with the Black Communities that must be consulted regarding the organization and operation of the programs. These communities will progressively assume the responsibility for the organization and the operation of said special training programs.

Article 39. In order to offer fair and equitable information about the society and culture of the Black Communities, the State shall be vigilant so that within the National Educational system the Black Communities' own cultural practices and contributions to the history and culture of Colombia are known and promoted.

In the social sciences area at all educational levels, the subject of Afro-Colombian Studies that conforms to the corresponding curricula should be included.

Article 40. The government will provide financial budgets to guarantee greater access to higher education opportunities within the Black Communities.

In addition, it will design mechanisms that will foster vocational, technological, and higher education training for the Black Communities at various levels. For this, a fund for scholarships will be created, administered by ICETEX, among others, for students from the Black Communities with few economic resources who excel academically.

Article 41. The State will support, by providing the necessary resources, the organizational processes of the Black Communities, in order to recover, preserve, and develop their cultural identity.

Article 42. The Ministry of Education will formulate and execute a policy of Ethno-education for the Black Communities, and will create a pedagogical commission to assess said policy with representation of the communities.

Article 43. In conformity with Ordinal 10 Article 150 of the Political Constitution, the President of the Republic is vested with extraordinary faculties so that, within exactly three (3) months from the enactment of the present Law, he may restructure the Colombian Institute of Anthropology- ICAN- Special Administrative Unit annexed to Colcultura, for the purpose of incorporating into its basic By-Laws, its functions, and its internal organization, basic necessary mechanisms to promote and carry out research programs on Afro-Colombian culture, in order that it can effectively contribute to the preservation and development of the Black Communities' cultural identity.

An Assessment Committee will be created to conceptualize a project decree to be undertaken by the government and which will be composed of three (3) House

Representatives and two (2) Senators chosen by their Directing Bodies and one (1) anthropologist nominated by the same Committee.

Article 44. As a protection mechanism for their cultural identity, the Black Communities will participate in the design, elaboration, and evaluation of studies of the environmental, socio-economic, and cultural impact of projects to be conducted in the areas referred to in this Law.

Article 45. To follow up on the dispositions of the present Law, the National Government will form a high-level Advisory Commission with participation from the Black Communities of Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Costa Atlántica and other regions of the country referred to in this Law, as well as the participation of the Raizales of San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina,

Article 46. The Community Councils may designate by consensus the representatives of the beneficiaries of this Law for the required purposes.

Chapter VII

Planning and Promoting Economic and Social Development

Article 47. The State will adopt measures to guarantee the Black Communities referred to in this Law their right to develop economically and socially, according to their autonomous and cultural elements.

Article 48. In the National Planning Council created by Article 34 of the National Constitution, The Black Communities to which this Law refers will be given one representative named by the Government from a list of three candidates presented by them. In addition, equitable representation will be given to the Black Communities to which this Law refers in the corresponding territorial Planning Councils according to procedures defined in the Organic Planning Law.

Article 49. The design, execution and coordination of the plans, programs and projects of economic and social development that the government and the Technical International Cooperation may put forward for the benefit of the Black Communities to which this Law refers should be carried out with the participation of the representatives of said communities, in order to respond to their particular needs, the preservation of the environment, the conservation and qualification of their traditional practices of production, the eradication of poverty and the respect and recognition of their social and cultural life. These plans, programs, and projects should reflect the aspirations of the Black Communities in areas of development.

Note. The investments carried out by the private sector in areas that may affect the Black Communities to which this Law refers should respect the environment, the social interest, and the cultural patrimony of the Nation.

Article 50. The Government will promote and finance research activities geared to the promotion of human resources and the study of the realities and potentialities of the Black Communities in order to facilitate their economic and social development. In addition, it will facilitate the participation of these communities in the planning processes, coordination, execution, and evaluation of such research activities.

Article 51. The State entities in agreement with the Black Communities will further research activities, training, promotion, extension and transfer of appropriate technologies for the utilization and economic sustainability of ecological, cultural, social, and natural resources, in order to strengthen the economic and cultural patrimony of the Black Communities.

Article 52. The National Government will design special financial and credit programs to allow Black Communities to develop associations and partnerships for the sustainable production and use of their resources and to allow them equal participation in entrepreneurial partnerships with other individuals. To calculate the value of this contribution and to guarantee financial credit, the value of the resources to be used can be taken into account.

Article 53. In arid areas of the National Park System located in zones that are the object of this Law, appropriate models of production establishing economic stimuli and special conditions to access credit and training will be developed in conjunction with the Black Communities.

In addition, local communities in coordination with their organizations will develop mechanisms to discourage the adoption or pursuit of unsustainable environmental practices.

Article 54. The National Government will design adequate mechanisms in order that the Black Communities or their members who develop vegetable varieties or knowledge about the medicinal, alimentary, handicraft, or industrial use of animals or plants from their natural environment, first, that they be recognized as the possessors of that knowledge and, second, that they obtain the economic benefits as have other individuals or legal entities who develop products for national or international markets.

Article 55. The Government will create credit programs and technical assistance for the particular socioeconomic and environmental conditions of the Black Communities referred to in this Law.

Article 56. The autonomous regional Corporations with jurisdiction over the areas where collective properties are granted to the Black Communities referred to in Transitory Article 55 of the Constitution will have one (1) representative from those communities on their Directive Councils under terms defined by rulings issued by the National Government.

Article 57. The National Government will create a commission to study and to formulate a developmental plan for the Black Communities. This commission will begin to operate once the President of the Republic is elected and with the approval of the National Development Plan CONPES. That plan will propose long-term policies and will become the frame of reference so that policies of the National Development Plan respect the ethnic diversity of the Nation and promote the sustainable development of those communities in accordance with their own vision. This will be a technical commission with ample knowledge of the realities of the Black Communities. And, in order to create it, the proposals of the Black Communities will be taken into account. The Department of National Planning will be responsible for financing the expenses for its proper functioning.

Article 58. In the State's social investment funds there will be a management project unit to support the Black Communities in the training, identification, formulation, execution, and evaluation processes of the projects. The beneficiaries of this Law will be consulted for the development of this management project.

Article 59. For the purposes of planning, use, and enjoyment of the natural resources in accordance with National Government regulations, the hydrographic basins where the Black Communities grantees of collective title settle will constitute land units.

Chapter VIII Final Dispositions

Article 60. The implementation of the present Law will take into consideration the recommendations of the Black Communities that will benefit from it through the consultative commission to which the present Law refers.

Article 61. The government will allocate the necessary resources for the execution of the present Law.

Article 62. Within a year following the implementation of the present Law, the National Government will assign the necessary budgetary proposals to begin operations of the functioning of the University of the Pacific, founded through Law 65 of December 14, 1988.

Article 63. Within the following two years from the enactment of this Law, the National Government will allot the necessary resources for the construction of the road that joins the States of Valle del Cauca and Huila, between the Cities of Palmira and Palermo. In addition, the necessary resources will be earmarked for the completion of the last stretch of the Panamerican Highway into the State of Chocó.

Article 64. The National Government may make budget transfers and may negotiate the necessary loans for the implementation of this Law.

Article 65. Within two years after the implementation of the present Law, the National Government will provide the necessary resources for the construction of a fluvial path from the Baudó River to Pizarro and a fluvial path from Buenaventura to Tumaco crossing Puerto Merizalde and Guapi, according to projects presented by Plaideicop.

Article 66. In accordance with Article 176 of the National Constitution, a special circumscription is established to elect two members from the country's Black Communities to participate in the House of Representatives.

Article 67. A Head Office for Black Community Affairs is created within the Ministry of Government, with permanence in the Council for Economic and Social Policies.

Article 68. The present Law is valid from the date of its promulgation and it supersedes contrary dispositions.

The Minister of Government, Fabio Villegas Ramirez, the Minister of Agriculture, Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Minister of Mines and Energy, Guido Nule Amin, the Minister of National Education, Maruja Pachón de Villamizar.

President of the Republic, César Gaviria Trujillo.

President of the Honorable Senate of the Republic, Tito Edmundo Rueda Guarín.

President of the Honorable House of Representatives César Pérez García.

Republic of Colombia National Government.

To be Published and Executed.

Issued in Quibdó on the 27th day of August 1993.