ONE47

NATIONAL CIVIC EDUCATION MANUAL SERIES

VOLUME II

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VOLUME II

OFFICIAL FLAG PROTOCOL, ETIQUETTE AND CEREMONIAL MANUAL

First Edition

Nairobi, Kenya | 2027

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The ONE47 National Flag and related official flag standards are presented in this volume as civic-education and implementation proposals. The existing official National Flag of Kenya remains legally controlling unless and until the relevant constitutional, legislative and administrative processes give formal legal effect to any proposed change.

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FOREWORD

National symbols gain lasting meaning when citizens understand not only what they represent, but also how they are to be used, protected and respected. Volume II of the ONE47 National Civic Education Manual Series turns that principle into an implementation framework for institutions, educators, counties, public officers and citizens.

This volume moves from guiding principles into practical protocol: official flags of the Republic, respect for the National Flag, precedence, indoor and outdoor display, half-mast observance, institutional responsibilities, military and diplomatic practice, ceremonial standards, manufacture, quality assurance, compliance and public education.

The central purpose is consistency. A national symbol should be handled with the same dignity in a county office, school, courtroom, military installation, diplomatic mission or national ceremony. Clear implementation standards help translate constitutional values into everyday civic practice.

This volume should therefore be read as a practical civic-education and institutional reference: a framework for informed implementation, lawful administration, professional protocol and national unity.

PREFACE

Volume II: Official Flag Protocol, Etiquette and Ceremonial Manual builds on the ONE47 civic-education approach by focusing on the operational standards required for consistent treatment of the National Flag and the wider official flag system.

The chapters are arranged progressively. They begin with guiding principles and the official flag system, then address respect, precedence and display. Later chapters provide institution-specific guidance for government, counties, schools, the Kenya Defence Forces and diplomatic missions, before concluding with ceremonial standards, manufacture, quality assurance, enforcement, compliance and public education.

The framework is intended to support citizens and institutions in understanding how constitutional symbolism is translated into practical conduct. It should be applied together with the Constitution of Kenya and applicable law. Where any proposal in this volume has not acquired legal force, the existing legal framework remains controlling.

The reader is invited to use this manual as both a reference and a civic-learning resource: understand the standards, apply them consistently, and preserve the dignity of national symbols through informed practice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This volume draws on constitutional, legislative, protocol, technical and comparative sources identified in the References section. Their availability provides a foundation for examining national symbols within a broader framework of public law, civic education and institutional practice.

ONE47 acknowledges the role of citizens, educators, students, civic-education practitioners, public institutions, county governments, professionals and readers whose engagement gives implementation guidance its practical value.

Particular recognition is given to public institutions, standards bodies and international organizations whose published materials provide reference points for the constitutional, diplomatic, ceremonial and technical discussions contained in this volume.

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CHAPTER 1: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Foundational Principles for the Implementation of the ONE47 National Flag and Official Flag System (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

1.1 Constitutional Supremacy

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 remains the supreme law of the Republic and provides the foundation for any framework concerning national symbols. Accordingly, every stage of implementing the ONE47 National Flag should be undertaken in full compliance with constitutional requirements and the rule of law.

(Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Constitutional supremacy requires that:

- All implementation measures derive their authority from law.
- No administrative action should exceed the powers granted by legislation.
- Constitutional rights and freedoms must be respected throughout the implementation process.
- Institutional responsibilities should be exercised within their constitutional mandates.

By anchoring implementation in the Constitution, the reform process gains legitimacy, predictability and public confidence.

1.2 Sovereignty of the People

Article 1 of the Constitution declares that all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya.

National symbols derive their meaning from the people they represent rather than from government institutions alone. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) Implementation should therefore recognize that:

- Citizens are the ultimate custodians of national symbols.
- Public opinion is an essential component of national identity.
- National ownership is achieved through participation rather than imposition.
- Every Kenyan has an equal stake in the success of the reform.

The ONE47 initiative seeks to strengthen this principle by promoting a flag that visually represents every county as an equal partner within one sovereign Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

1.3 Public Participation

Meaningful public participation is one of the defining features of Kenya's constitutional democracy.

Because national symbols belong to all citizens, any implementation process should encourage widespread consultation, dialogue and civic engagement. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) Public participation should be:

- Inclusive.
- Accessible.
- Transparent.
- Well-publicized.
- Responsive to public views.
- Conducted in good faith.

Engaging citizens throughout implementation promotes legitimacy, reduces misunderstanding and encourages national ownership of the reform process.

1.4 National Unity

The central purpose of the ONE47 National Flag is to strengthen national unity while recognizing Kenya's diversity. Every implementation decision should therefore reinforce cohesion rather than division.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) National unity requires that implementation:

- Avoid regional bias.
- Promote equal recognition of all counties.
- Encourage shared national identity.
- Foster mutual respect among communities.
- Emphasize common constitutional values.

The implementation process should communicate that diversity enriches rather than weakens the Republic.

1.5 Respect for Diversity

Kenya is a nation of many cultures, languages, religions and traditions. The implementation of national symbols should acknowledge this diversity while affirming the equality of all citizens.

Respect for diversity requires:

- Inclusive communication strategies.
- Representation of different communities in consultations.
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Sensitivity to cultural and linguistic differences.
- Equal treatment of all counties and communities.

Implementation should reflect the constitutional commitment to inclusiveness and non- discrimination.

1.6 Equality and Equity

Every county, institution and citizen should be treated fairly throughout the implementation process.

Equality requires:

- Uniform technical standards.
- Consistent administrative procedures.
- Equal access to official information.
- Fair distribution of implementation resources.

Equity recognizes that different institutions may require different forms of support to achieve successful implementation while maintaining equal outcomes.

1.7 Transparency

Implementation should be conducted openly and honestly. Public confidence depends upon access to accurate information regarding objectives, procedures, timelines and institutional responsibilities.

Transparency includes:

- Publication of implementation plans.
- Public access to technical standards.
- Regular progress reports.
- Open procurement processes.
- Clear communication of decisions.

Transparent implementation strengthens accountability and reduces uncertainty.

1.8 Accountability

Institutions entrusted with implementation should be accountable for their decisions and performance.

Accountability requires:

- Clearly defined responsibilities.
- Measurable performance indicators.
- Effective oversight mechanisms.
- Financial accountability.
- Regular reporting.

Each institution should understand both its responsibilities and the standards against which its performance will be assessed.

1.9 Professionalism

The implementation of national symbols requires high standards of technical competence and administrative integrity.

Professionalism includes:

- Qualified personnel.
- Evidence-based decision-making.
- Compliance with technical standards.
- Ethical conduct.
- Continuous capacity building.

Professional implementation enhances the credibility of the reform.

1.10 Technical Accuracy

The symbolic integrity of the ONE47 National Flag depends upon consistent reproduction. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) All official reproductions should comply with:

- Approved dimensions.
- Official colour specifications. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Construction grids. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Manufacturing standards.
- Digital artwork.
- Quality assurance procedures.

Technical consistency preserves the dignity and recognizability of the national symbol.

1.11 Historical Continuity

The implementation framework recognizes that the ONE47 framework builds upon Kenya's historical heritage rather than replacing it.

Historical continuity requires:

- Preservation of Kenya's historic colours.
- Respect for independence traditions.
- Recognition of national heroes.
- Appreciation of constitutional evolution.

Implementation should communicate continuity rather than discontinuity.

1.12 Peaceful National Dialogue

National symbols evoke strong emotions and differing opinions. Implementation should therefore encourage respectful dialogue and constructive engagement.

This principle promotes:

- Listening to diverse perspectives.
- Respectful debate.
- Evidence-based discussion.
- Consensus-building where possible.

Peaceful dialogue strengthens democratic culture and public trust.

1.13 Institutional Collaboration

Successful implementation depends upon cooperation among numerous institutions.

These include:

- Parliament.
- National Government.
- County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- Educational institutions.
- Civil society organizations.

Institutional collaboration promotes consistency and efficiency.

1.14 Sustainability

Implementation should be designed with long-term sustainability in mind.

This includes:

- Durable manufacturing standards.
- Long-term civic education.
- Continuous technical review.
- Digital preservation.
- Institutional memory.

Sustainable implementation ensures that national symbols remain relevant for future generations.

1.15 Civic Education

Implementation should be accompanied by comprehensive public education.

Citizens should understand:

- The symbolism of the flag.
- Proper display.
- Constitutional significance.
- Historical background.
- Official protocols.

An informed public is more likely to respect and preserve national symbols.

1.16 Cost-Effectiveness

Cost-effective implementation involves:

- Phased replacement of existing flags.
- Efficient procurement.
- Standardized production.
- Coordination among institutions.
- Avoidance of unnecessary duplication.

Fiscal responsibility strengthens public confidence in the reform process.

1.17 Innovation and Modernization

While respecting history, implementation should embrace modern technology and contemporary best practices.

Innovation may include:

- Digital repositories.
- Online technical manuals.
- Electronic procurement.
- Digital certification.
- Modern manufacturing techniques.

Modernization improves efficiency without compromising tradition.

1.18 International Compatibility

The ONE47 National Flag should comply with internationally recognized standards relating to flag manufacture, diplomatic display and technical specifications. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) International compatibility facilitates:

- Diplomatic representation. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- International sporting events.
- Maritime practice.
- Aviation standards.
- Global recognition.

1.19 Continuous Monitoring and

Improvement Implementation should not end with adoption.

Institutions should periodically evaluate:

- Technical compliance.
- Public understanding.
- Manufacturing quality.
- Administrative performance.
- Educational effectiveness.

Continuous improvement allows the implementation framework to evolve in response to experience.

1.20 National Ownership

Ultimately, the success of any national symbol depends upon the people.

The implementation framework should therefore foster a sense that:

- The flag belongs to every Kenyan.
- Every county is represented equally.
- Every citizen shares responsibility for protecting national symbols.

National ownership transforms a flag from a legal emblem into a living symbol of the Republic.

National Flag design and emblem Within the proposed ONE47 design, the central handshake shall depict two hands in prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades, representing human diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation among the people of Kenya. The two shades form an integral part of the approved emblem, distinguish the hands and preserve the recognisable appearance and intended symbolism.

They are prescribed emblem-specific colours, not additional official national colours, and do not alter the five official national colours of black, white, red, green and gold (yellow). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Presidential Standard The Presidential Standard features the Kenyan Shield and crossed spears centrally on a deep ceremonial gold field. The Kenyan Shield is the principal and non-derogable presidential heraldic symbol, distinct from the Coat of Arms representing the Government.

CHAPTER 2: OFFICIAL FLAGS OF THE REPUBLIC

Establishing the Official Flag System of the Republic of Kenya (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) National flags are among the most visible and enduring symbols of statehood. They represent the sovereignty of a nation, the authority of its constitutional institutions, and the collective identity of its people.

Throughout the world, modern constitutional democracies employ structured systems of official flags to distinguish the functions of various state institutions while maintaining the National Flag as the supreme emblem of the Republic.

The ONE47 Official Flag System is founded upon this internationally recognized practice. Rather than relying on a single flag for every official purpose, the system establishes distinct flags for specific constitutional offices and institutions while preserving the ONE47 National Flag as the principal symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The objective of this chapter is to introduce each category of official flag, explain its constitutional significance, identify its authorized users, and establish the principles governing its display. Together, these flags form a coherent visual system that reflects Kenya's constitutional order, democratic governance and commitment to unity in diversity.

The Official Flag System is intended to achieve four principal objectives: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- To preserve the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic.
- To distinguish the constitutional roles of major state institutions.
- To promote uniformity in official ceremonies and public administration.
- To strengthen civic understanding of Kenya's constitutional structure.

Each official flag has a distinct legal identity, ceremonial purpose and protocol. None is intended to replace or diminish the authority of the National Flag. Instead, they complement it by providing appropriate symbols for different constitutional functions while reinforcing the unity of the Republic.

2.2 The National Flag

2.2.1 Status

The ONE47 National Flag shall remain the supreme flag of the Republic of Kenya. It is the foremost symbol of the nation's sovereignty, constitutional order and collective identity. Every other official flag derives its legitimacy from, and is subordinate to, the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whenever displayed, the National Flag shall receive the highest position of honour in accordance with the prescribed order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

2.2.2 Symbolism

The ONE47 National Flag preserves the historic colours of Kenya while incorporating new design elements that reflect the constitutional evolution of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its principal symbolic elements include:

- Black - representing the people of Kenya.
- Red - symbolizing the sacrifices made in securing freedom and defending the nation.
- Green - reflecting Kenya's natural resources, agricultural heritage and environmental

stewardship.

- White fimbriations - representing peace, integrity and national harmony.

counties within one sovereign Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Central Handshake Symbol - representing dialogue, cooperation, reconciliation, peace

and shared national responsibility. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (The central handshake depicts two hands in the prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades. These emblem-specific colours distinguish the hands and preserve the recognisable handshake design; they do not form part of the five official national colours of black, white, red, green and gold (yellow).

Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Together, these elements communicate the central philosophy of ONE47: One Nation, Forty-Seven Counties, One Shared Future.

(Republic of Kenya, 2010)

2.2.3 Official Use

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At Parliament.
- At the Office of the President.
- At all Ministries and State Departments.
- At County Government headquarters.
- At courts of law.
- At public educational institutions.
- At diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- At military installations.
- During national celebrations.
- During official ceremonies.
- At international events representing the Republic. (United Nations, 2020)

Private citizens are encouraged to display the National Flag respectfully during national holidays, civic events and other appropriate occasions as an expression of patriotism.

2.2.4 Position of Honour

The National Flag shall always occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly:

- No other official flag shall be placed above it.
- No institutional flag shall equal or exceed its prominence.
- During multi-flag displays, it shall occupy the principal position as prescribed by protocol.
- It shall be accorded precedence in all state ceremonies.

This position reflects its status as the primary symbol of the Republic rather than any individual institution or office.

2.2.5 Responsibilities of Citizens

Respect for the National Flag is a shared civic responsibility. Citizens are encouraged to:

- Display the flag with dignity.
- Protect it from misuse.
- Learn its symbolism.
- Teach younger generations its significance.
- Observe official protocols during ceremonies.

Through these practices, the National Flag becomes not only a legal emblem but also a living symbol of national unity and constitutional citizenship.

2.3 The Presidential Standard

2.3.1 Purpose

The Presidential Standard is the official personal flag of the President of the Republic of Kenya in his or her capacity as Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It signifies the constitutional authority of the Presidency rather than the individual occupying the office.

2.3.2 Constitutional Significance

The Presidential Standard centres the Kenyan Shield and crossed spears on a deep ceremonial gold field.

The Shield remains the principal and non-derogable presidential heraldic symbol. Any authorised personal, ceremonial or decorative variation must remain subordinate to the core design, must not replace national symbols and must not change the standard's proportions, geometry or layout. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidency represents the unity of the Republic and the continuity of constitutional government.

The Presidential Standard therefore symbolizes: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- National leadership.
- Constitutional authority.
- Unity of the Republic.
- Protection of the Constitution.
- Service to the people.

Its display indicates the official presence of the President at a particular location, vehicle or event.

2.3.3 Authorized Display

The Presidential Standard may be displayed:

- At State House.
- At the President's official offices.
- On the President's official motor vehicle.
- On presidential aircraft.
- On presidential vessels where applicable.
- During state ceremonies attended by the President.
- During official state visits.

It shall not be displayed when the President is absent unless specifically authorized by law or official protocol.

2.3.4 Relationship to the National Flag

The Presidential Standard does not replace the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whenever both flags are displayed:

- The National Flag retains its status as the supreme national symbol.
- The Presidential Standard identifies the constitutional office of the President. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Both flags shall be displayed in accordance with the official order of precedence. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This distinction reinforces the principle that constitutional offices derive their authority from the Republic rather than superseding it.

2.4 The State Flag

2.4.1 Purpose

The State Flag is the official flag representing the Government of the Republic in its institutional capacity. It distinguishes government property, facilities and official activities from those of the Presidency or other constitutional offices. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its adoption promotes administrative clarity by providing a dedicated symbol for government institutions while preserving the National Flag as the supreme emblem of the nation.

2.4.2 Official Use

The State Flag may be displayed:

- At Ministries and State Departments.
- At government agencies.
- At state corporations where authorized.
- On official government buildings.
- On designated government vehicles.
- During official government functions.

Its use shall be limited to authorized public institutions and shall not extend to political parties, private organizations or individuals.

2.4.3 Symbolic Role

The State Flag is based on the national framework and places the Coat of Arms within the central segmented ring. A black canton at the upper hoist contains a miniature national flag, and the formal version carries gold fringe. This visually separates governmental institutional identity from the Presidency while retaining a common national design language. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The State Flag represents:

- Public administration.
- Service delivery.
- Institutional continuity.
- National governance.
- Accountability to the people.

It reminds public officers that governmental authority is exercised on behalf of the people in accordance with the Constitution.

2.4.4 Protocol

The State Flag shall always be displayed together with the National Flag during official government ceremonies. Where both are present, the National Flag shall occupy the superior position in accordance with the established order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.5 Parliamentary Ceremonial Protocol

2.5.1 Constitutional Identity

Parliament is the legislative authority of the Republic and represents the sovereign will of the people through their elected representatives. A dedicated parliamentary ceremonial protocol provides a distinctive symbol for the institution while affirming its constitutional role within the framework of separation of powers.

2.5.2 Purpose

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol identifies the official presence of Parliament and symbolizes:

- Representative democracy.
- Law-making authority.
- Public accountability.
- National dialogue.
- Democratic governance.

It reflects Parliament's constitutional role while keeping the National Flag as the principal symbol of the Republic.

2.5.3 Authorized Display

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol may be displayed:

- At Parliament Buildings.
- During parliamentary ceremonies.
- At official parliamentary events.
- On parliamentary vehicles where authorized.
- At international parliamentary conferences.
- During official visits undertaken on behalf of Parliament.

Its display shall be governed by parliamentary standing orders and official protocol.

2.5.4 Relationship with the National Flag

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol is an institutional flag and does not replace the National Flag.

Whenever displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol shall identify the legislative institution.
- All displays shall preserve the supremacy, dignity and visibility of the National Flag.

The Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards of the Republic

2.6 Judicial Ceremonial Protocol

2.6.1 Constitutional Identity

The Judiciary is one of the three independent arms of the Government established under the Constitution of Kenya. It exercises judicial authority on behalf of the people and safeguards the Constitution, the rule of law and the administration of justice. The establishment of an official judicial ceremonial protocol recognizes the constitutional independence of the judicial branch while maintaining its place within the broader national flag system.

The judicial ceremonial protocol is not intended to create a separate national symbol. Rather, it serves as an institutional standard that identifies judicial authority wherever courts officially sit or where the Judiciary performs constitutional functions.

2.6.2 Symbolic Meaning

The judicial ceremonial protocol represents the enduring principles upon which justice is administered.

It symbolizes:

- The supremacy of the Constitution.
- Judicial independence.
- Equality before the law.

- Integrity in the administration of justice.
- Protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Public confidence in the rule of law.

Its display reminds both judicial officers and the public that justice must be administered without fear, favour, prejudice or improper influence.

2.6.3 Authorized Display

The judicial ceremonial protocol may be displayed at:

- The Supreme Court.
- The Court of Appeal.
- The High Court.
- Magistrates' Courts.
- Kadhi's Courts.
- Specialized Courts and Tribunals.
- The Office of the Chief Justice.
- Judicial Training Institute.
- Official judicial conferences.
- International judicial forums.

Where displayed, it shall complement rather than replace the National Flag.

2.6.4 Protocol

In judicial settings:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names

Act, 2027)

- The judicial ceremonial protocol shall identify the institution exercising judicial authority.
- No political flag or partisan emblem shall be displayed within a courtroom or judicial

chamber.

This arrangement reinforces judicial independence while preserving the unity of the Republic.

2.7 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s

2.7.1 Purpose

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) are entrusted with defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic. While the National Flag represents the nation as a whole, individual service ensigns identify the specific branches of the Defence Forces and their unique traditions, responsibilities and operational roles.

The ONE47 Official Flag System recognizes the following military flags: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- Army Ensign.
- Air Force Ensign.
- Naval Ensign.

These flags are institutional standards and shall always be subordinate to the National Flag.

2.7.2 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign

The joint Defence Forces ensign uses a tricolour field of blue tones and red with the combined service emblem incorporating anchor, wings and crossed weapons. A black upper-hoist canton contains a miniature national flag, linking the joint military identity directly to the national standard.

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign represents the unified command of the Kenya Defence Forces under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief.

It symbolizes:

- National defence.
- Joint operations.
- Military professionalism.
- Constitutional service.
- National security.

It may be displayed at Defence Headquarters and during official joint military ceremonies.

2.7.3 Army Ensign

The Army ensign uses a green field, a central crossed-swords device within the segmented ring, a laurel- type service insignia toward the fly and a black upper-hoist canton containing a miniature national flag.

The Army Ensign represents the land forces responsible for defending the territorial integrity of the Republic.

Its symbolism includes:

- Courage.
- Discipline.
- Readiness.
- Professional excellence.
- Service before self.

The Army Flag may be displayed:

- At Army Headquarters.
- During military parades.
- At training institutions.
- At official Army ceremonies.
- At military installations under Army command.

2.7.4 Air Force Ensign

The Air Force ensign uses a light-blue field, a central crossed-swords device within the segmented ring, an eagle-type service insignia toward the fly and a black upper-hoist canton containing a miniature national flag.

The Air Force Ensign represents the Republic's air defence capability.

It symbolizes:

- Vigilance.
- Precision.
- Technological excellence.
- National protection.
- Air superiority.

It shall be displayed at Air Force bases, aviation commands and official Air Force functions.

2.7.5 Naval Ensign

The Naval ensign uses a white field, a central crossed-swords device within the segmented ring, an anchor toward the fly and a black upper-hoist canton containing a miniature national flag.

The Naval Ensign represents the maritime defence of the Republic.

Its symbolism includes:

- Maritime security.
- Protection of territorial waters.
- Freedom of navigation.
- Coastal defence.
- Professional seamanship.

It may be displayed:

- At naval bases.
- On commissioned naval vessels.
- During naval ceremonies.
- At maritime command headquarters.

2.7.6 Military Protocol

During military ceremonies:

- The National Flag shall remain the supreme symbol of the Republic. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Service flags identify the participating military branch.
- Military honours shall always be rendered first to the National Flag.

This preserves the constitutional principle that the Defence Forces serve the Republic and its people.

2.8 County Flags

2.8.1 Constitutional Basis

The Constitution establishes forty-seven counties as the units of devolved government. Each county possesses its own constitutional identity while remaining an integral part of the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) County Flags provide visual identification for county governments and promote civic pride within the framework of national unity.

2.8.2 Purpose

County Flags are intended to:

- Represent county governments.
- Promote local identity.
- Reflect county heritage.
- Encourage responsible devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- Support official county ceremonies.

County Flags shall not compete with or replace the National Flag.

2.8.3 Design Principles

The common county standard uses the National Flag base with the central handshake enclosed by the forty-seven-segment ring. The handshake retains the approved vector geometry and the prescribed light-brown and dark-brown emblem-specific shades, which distinguish the two hands without changing the five official

expresses equal county participation without creating a hierarchy among counties. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every County Flag should:

- Reflect the county's unique identity.
- Respect national constitutional values.
- Avoid political symbolism.
- Maintain simplicity and dignity.
- Conform to national technical standards.

County flags should be approved through legislation and registered with the appropriate national authority.

2.8.4 Authorized Display

County Flags may be displayed:

- At County Headquarters.
- At County Assembly buildings.
- At Governor's offices.
- During official county events.
- At county public institutions.
- During inter-county conferences.

Whenever displayed together with the National Flag, the National Flag shall occupy the superior position.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.8.5 Relationship with the National Flag

County Flags symbolize devolved governance, not sovereignty.

Accordingly:

- Counties remain part of one sovereign Republic.
- County Flags shall never replace the National Flag.
- National unity shall always take precedence over regional identity.
- County Flags shall reinforce rather than diminish the Republic's constitutional integrity.

2.9 Ceremonial Flag Standard

2.9.1 Purpose

The Ceremonial Flag Standard is a distinguished version of the National Flag prepared specifically for formal occasions requiring enhanced ceremonial dignity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Unlike ceremonial and institutional display standards, the Ceremonial Flag Standard represents the Republic during occasions of exceptional national significance. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.9.2 Characteristics

The ceremonial standard uses a white field, a central handshake enclosed within the forty-seven-segment ring, a compulsory gold fringe and no canton. The handshake retains its prescribed light-brown and dark-brown emblem-specific shades and approved geometry. These shades are not additional official national colours. The standard is used in designated ceremonial and special-event contexts, including appropriate civic and non-state ceremonial use. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Ceremonial Flag Standard may include:

- Premium ceremonial fabric.
- Gold fringe. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Embroidered emblem.
- Decorative cord and tassels.

- Reinforced ceremonial pole fittings.

These enhancements are ceremonial only and do not alter the official design of the National Flag.

2.9.3 Authorized Ceremonial Use

The Ceremonial Flag Standard may be used during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- State Opening of Parliament.
- Presidential inaugurations.
- National holidays.
- Military parades.
- State funerals.
- National awards ceremonies.
- Diplomatic credential ceremonies.
- Official county celebrations.
- International state occasions.

2.9.4 Preservation

Because of its ceremonial significance, the Ceremonial Flag Standard shall receive special care. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutions responsible for ceremonial standards should maintain:

- Proper storage.
- Routine inspection.
- Professional cleaning.
- Secure transportation.
- Detailed inventory records.

2.10 Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards

2.10.1 Purpose

Beyond the principal constitutional institutions, numerous public bodies perform important national functions. Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards provide official visual identification for such organizations while maintaining consistency with the National Flag System.

Examples include:

- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- State Corporations.
- Public Universities.
- National Museums.
- National Research Institutions.
- Accredited National Training Academies.

2.10.2 Principles

Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards should:

- Reflect institutional identity.
- Respect the National Flag.
- Use approved design standards.
- Avoid excessive complexity.
- Promote institutional dignity.

2.10.3 Approval

No public institution shall introduce an official institutional flag without authorization under the applicable legal and administrative framework.

Approval should ensure:

- Compliance with technical standards.
- Consistency with the Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Absence of duplication.
- Constitutional compatibility.

2.10.4 Authorized Display

Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards may be displayed:

- At headquarters.
- During official ceremonies.
- At conferences.
- During graduations.
- During institutional anniversaries.
- At international events where the institution officially represents Kenya. (United Nations,

2020) Whenever displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names

Act, 2027)

- Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards shall identify the respective organizations.
- Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards shall not be flown above or in a position that

diminishes the dignity of the National Flag.

Legal Recognition, Technical Standards and Authorized Use of Official Flags

2.11 Legal Status of Official Flags

The authority of every official flag of the Republic originates not from tradition alone but from the Constitution and the laws enacted by Parliament. National symbols derive their legitimacy through legal recognition, ensuring that they are protected, respected and used consistently throughout the Republic.

The ONE47 Official Flag System establishes a comprehensive legal framework that clearly distinguishes between the National Flag and other official flags authorized for constitutional institutions.

Each flag has a defined legal identity, prescribed purpose and recognized protocol. Together, they form an integrated system that supports constitutional governance while preserving the National Flag as the supreme emblem of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.11.2 Constitutional Foundation

The Official Flag System shall operate within the framework of: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Constitution of Kenya.
- The National Flag, Emblems and Names Act (as amended). (Republic of Kenya, 1963/2023)
- Regulations made under the Act.
- Official Government Protocol.
- International diplomatic customs where applicable.

No official flag may exist outside this legal framework.

2.11.3 Categories of Official Flags

For purposes of legal recognition, official flags shall be classified into the following categories: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Category I - National Symbol

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027) Category II - State and Constitutional Standards

- Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Category III - Defence Forces Ensigns
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

Army Ensign.

- Air Force Ensign.
- Naval Ensign.
- Category IV - County Flags
- Official County Government Flags.

Category V - Ceremonial Standard

- Ceremonial Flag Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

This classification promotes consistency and eliminates uncertainty concerning official status.

2.11.4 Official Recognition

Only flags officially prescribed by legislation or authorized regulations shall enjoy legal recognition as official flags of the Republic.

Accordingly:

- Political party flags are not official flags.
- Commercial logos are not official flags.
- Organizational banners are not official flags unless expressly authorized.
- Private commemorative flags shall not enjoy official status.

2.11.5 Legal Protection

Official flags shall be protected against:

- Unauthorized reproduction.
- Defacement.
- Commercial misuse.
- Fraudulent representation.
- Unauthorized alteration.
- Improper display.

Such protection preserves the dignity and integrity of national symbols.

2.12 Official Flag Specifications

2.12.1 Purpose

Uniformity is essential to maintaining the dignity and recognizability of official flags. Technical specifications ensure that every authorized flag is reproduced accurately regardless of location, manufacturer or intended use.

These specifications are intended to eliminate inconsistencies that may diminish the symbolic value of

2.12.2 Standard Dimensions

Flag size	Dimensions
Indoor Desk Flag	150 × 225 mm
Office Flag	900 × 1350 mm
Government Building	1200 × 1800 mm
Parade Flag	1800 × 2700 mm
Monument Flag	2400 × 3600 mm

Unless otherwise authorized, official flags shall conform to approved dimensions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Examples include the sizes in the table above. All official flags shall maintain the approved 2:3 aspect ratio unless legislation provides otherwise. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.12.3 Colour Standards

Official colours shall conform to the National Colour Chart contained in the Technical Construction Manual.

Manufacturers shall use:

- Approved Pantone references.
- Official CMYK values.
- Standard RGB values.
- Official HEX codes.
- Approved textile dye specifications.

No unauthorized colour substitutions shall be permitted.

2.12.4 Construction Standards

Every official flag shall comply with:

- Approved engineering drawings.
- Official construction grid. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Standard emblem proportions.
- Correct stitching requirements.
- Approved fabric specifications.

Only approved master artwork shall be used during production.

2.12.5 Digital Standards

Digital reproductions shall use:

- Official vector artwork.
- Approved file formats.
- Authorized colour profiles.
- Standardized naming conventions.

This ensures consistency across both printed and digital media.

2.13 Authority for Approval and Manufacture

2.13.1 National Authority

To preserve consistency and authenticity, the Government may designate a competent authority to oversee the implementation of the Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Such an authority may be responsible for:

- Maintaining master specifications.
- Certifying manufacturers.
- Issuing technical guidance.
- Conducting inspections.
- Updating standards where necessary.

2.13.2 Approved Manufacturers

Only manufacturers meeting prescribed technical standards should be authorized to produce official flags for government institutions.

Approval criteria may include:

- Technical capability.
- Quality assurance systems.
- Appropriate production facilities.
- Skilled personnel.
- Compliance with environmental and labour standards.

Certification enhances public confidence in the authenticity and quality of official flags.

2.13.3 Procurement Standards

Public procurement of official flags should comply with applicable procurement laws while ensuring adherence to approved technical specifications.

Procurement documents should reference:

- Official colour standards.
- Construction manual.
- Approved dimensions.
- Inspection requirements.
- Delivery standards.

2.13.4 Quality Assurance

Every production batch should undergo inspection before acceptance.

Inspection should verify:

- Dimensions.
- Colours.
- Stitching.
- Fabric quality.
- Emblem accuracy.
- Packaging.

Only compliant products should be accepted for official use.

2.14 Registration and Protection

2.14.1 National Register of Official Flags

A National Register of Official Flags should be maintained to preserve the integrity of the Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The register may include:

- Official title.
- Legal authority.
- Technical specifications.

- Current revision.
- Authorized users.

Such a register provides an authoritative reference for all government institutions.

2.14.2 Master Artwork Repository

The Government should maintain secure master copies of:

- Vector artwork.
- Engineering drawings.
- Colour specifications.
- Manufacturing standards.
- Digital templates.

Access should be restricted to authorized users to prevent unauthorized modification.

2.14.3 Protection of Official Designs

Official flag designs should not be altered without lawful authority.

Unauthorized acts may include:

- Changing colours.
- Distorting proportions.
- Removing official emblems. (WIPO, n.d.)
- Adding commercial logos.
- Creating misleading replicas.

These measures protect the integrity of national symbols while allowing legitimate educational and informational use.

2.14.4 Intellectual Property Considerations

While national flags are public symbols rather than private property, the Government may protect official artwork and technical drawings against unauthorized commercial exploitation.

Such protection promotes:

- Authentic reproduction.
- Quality control.
- Prevention of counterfeit products.
- Preservation of official standards.

2.15 Display Rights and Authorized Users

2.15.1 General Principle

The National Flag belongs to all the people of Kenya and may be displayed respectfully by citizens in accordance with law and official protocol. ceremonial and institutional display standards, however, represent specific constitutional offices or public institutions and therefore require authorization for official display.

2.15.2 Authorized Users

Authorized users include:

- The Presidency.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.

- County Governments.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Public educational institutions.
- Other public bodies authorized by law.

Each institution shall use only the flag appropriate to its constitutional or statutory functions.

2.15.3 Civic Display

Citizens are encouraged to display the National Flag:

- During national celebrations.
- On national holidays.
- During civic events.
- During sporting competitions.
- During official commemorations.

Such display should always reflect respect for the dignity of the Republic.

2.15.4 Educational Use

Educational institutions may display:

- The National Flag.
- Approved educational illustrations of ceremonial and institutional display standards.
- Technical construction diagrams for instructional purposes.

This promotes civic education while maintaining official standards.

2.15.5 Restrictions

ceremonial and institutional display standards shall not be:

- Used for political campaigning.
- Displayed as commercial trademarks. (WIPO, n.d.)
- Altered for promotional purposes.
- Used in a misleading manner.
- Displayed by unauthorized organizations in a manner suggesting official status.

These restrictions preserve public confidence in official national symbols.

Standardization, Identification, Transition and International Practice

2.16 Standard Dimensions and Official Variants

Uniformity in the manufacture and display of official flags is essential to preserving the dignity and recognizability of the Republic's national symbols. Throughout the world, governments prescribe standard dimensions for official flags to ensure consistency across public institutions, diplomatic missions, military establishments and ceremonial occasions. (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 Official Flag System adopts standardized dimensions that are appropriate for different environments while maintaining the official 2:3 aspect ratio for all principal flags of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Standardization ensures that every flag, regardless of size or manufacturer, retains identical proportions, colours and symbolic integrity.

2.16.2 Official Aspect Ratio

Unless expressly provided otherwise by law, all official flags shall maintain an aspect ratio of: (National Flag,

- The National Flag.
- Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flags.
- Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards.

Maintaining a uniform aspect ratio contributes to visual consistency throughout the Republic.

2.16.3 Standard Sizes

To accommodate different applications, the following standard sizes are recommended.

Category	Dimensions
Table Flag	150 × 225 mm
Office Flag	450 × 675 mm
Indoor Ceremonial Flag	900 × 1350 mm
Government Building Flag	1200 × 1800 mm
Parade Flag	1800 × 2700 mm
Monument Flag	2400 × 3600 mm
Stadium Flag	3600 × 5400 mm

Special sizes may be authorized where operational requirements justify deviation from these standards.

2.16.4 Official Variants

The Official Flag System recognizes several approved variants, including: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Outdoor National Flag.
- Indoor National Flag.
- Ceremonial Flag Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Desk Flag.
- Vehicle Flag.
- Maritime Flag.
- Diplomatic Flag.
- Parade Flag.

Each variant preserves the official design while adapting its construction to specific functional requirements.

2.16.5 Ceremonial Enhancements

Only ceremonial versions may incorporate:

- Gold fringe. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Decorative cords.
- Tassels.
- Embroidered edging.
- Ceremonial flagpoles.

These additions are decorative only and shall not alter the official design of the flag.

2.17 Official Flag Identification System

2.17.1 Purpose

As the Official Flag System expands to include multiple constitutional and ceremonial and institutional

procurement, inventory management and public education. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) An Official Flag Identification System provides every authorized flag with a unique designation while ensuring consistency throughout government.

2.17.2 Official Coding

Each flag should receive an official identification code.

Code	Official flag
NF-01	National Flag
PS-01	Presidential Standard
SF-01	State Flag
KDF-01	Kenya Defence Forces Ensign
AE-01	Army Ensign
AFE-01	Air Force Ensign
NE-01	Naval Ensign
CF-01	County Flag
CS-01	Ceremonial Flag Standard

Illustrative examples are provided in the table above.

2.17.3 Identification Labels

- Manufacturer.
- Date of manufacture.
- Batch number.
- Inspection certificate.
- Official approval code.

These markings should remain concealed during normal display.

2.17.4 Digital Identification

Every official digital file should contain metadata including:

- Version number.
- Date of issue.
- Technical revision.
- Colour profile.
- File integrity verification.

Digital authentication helps prevent unauthorized modification or distribution of official artwork.

The introduction of a new Official Flag System requires careful planning to ensure institutional continuity, fiscal responsibility and public confidence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Transition should be gradual, transparent and coordinated across all levels of government.

The objective is not merely to replace existing flags but to establish a sustainable system that supports constitutional governance and national identity.

Implementation may proceed through the following phases: Phase One - Legislative Approval

- Enactment of enabling legislation.
- Publication of regulations.
- Adoption of technical standards.

Phase Two - Institutional Preparation

- Training of government officers.
- Certification of manufacturers.
- Development of procurement guidelines.

Phase Three - Public Education

- National awareness campaigns.
- Civic education in schools.
- Media engagement.
- Publication of educational materials.

Phase Four - Institutional Rollout

- Replacement of official flags.
- Distribution to public institutions.
- Installation at government facilities.
- Diplomatic implementation.

Phase Five - Monitoring and Review

- National inspections.
- Public feedback.
- Technical evaluation.
- Revision where necessary.

During transition:

- Existing official functions should continue uninterrupted.
- Public services should remain unaffected.
- Institutional dignity should be maintained.
- Transitional arrangements should be clearly communicated.

The transition process should reinforce confidence in public institutions rather than create uncertainty.

Successful implementation depends upon informed citizens.

Accordingly, public education should include:

- Television programmes.
- Radio broadcasts.
- Newspapers.
- Social media.
- Educational posters.
- School curriculum materials.
- Civic education workshops.

Understanding promotes acceptance and respect for national symbols.

2.19 Comparative International Practice

Many constitutional democracies distinguish between the National Flag and other official flags used by constitutional offices, government institutions and the armed forces. These systems demonstrate that a structured approach to official flags is compatible with democratic governance and international protocol.

The ONE47 Official Flag System draws upon these broadly recognized practices while remaining tailored to Kenya's constitutional framework. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.19.2 Common International Practices

Across many jurisdictions, official flag systems commonly include: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- A National Flag.
- A Head of State's Standard.
- Military service ensigns.
- Naval ensigns.
- State flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Parliamentary standards.
- Ceremonial standards.
- ceremonial and institutional display standards.

These distinctions improve administrative clarity while preserving the National Flag as the principal emblem of the state.

2.19.3 Lessons for Kenya

International experience suggests that effective flag systems are characterized by:

- Clear legal authority.
- Simple and recognizable designs.
- Uniform technical standards.
- Public education.
- Consistent protocol.
- Professional manufacturing.
- Respect for historical traditions.

These principles have informed the development of the ONE47 Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2.19.4 International Representation

Official flags also serve an important diplomatic function.

Kenya's diplomatic missions require standardized flags that accurately represent the Republic during:

(United Nations, 2020)

- State visits.
- International conferences.
- Sporting events.
- Peacekeeping missions.
- Cultural exchanges.
- Multilateral meetings.

A consistent official flag system enhances Kenya's international image and strengthens recognition of its constitutional institutions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter has established the ONE47 Official Flag System of the Republic of Kenya as a comprehensive framework for the identification, use and protection of national and ceremonial and institutional display standards. It has demonstrated that a modern constitutional democracy benefits from a structured system that distinguishes the functions of its principal institutions while preserving the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter began by introducing the National Flag, the Presidential Standard, the State Flag and the parliamentary ceremonial protocol, explaining their constitutional roles and the principles governing their display. It then expanded the framework to include the judicial ceremonial protocol, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s, County Flags, the Ceremonial Flag Standard and other authorized ceremonial and institutional display standards, emphasizing that each serves a specific public purpose within the broader constitutional order. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) official recognition, technical specifications, manufacturing approval, registration and protection. It also clarified the distinction between the civic right to display the National Flag and the regulated use of ceremonial and institutional display standards by authorized constitutional bodies.

This concluding part has addressed the practical mechanisms necessary for maintaining a coherent national system. Standard dimensions, official variants and an identification system ensure consistency across all institutions. A phased transition strategy provides an orderly pathway for implementation while minimizing disruption and promoting public confidence. Finally, comparative international practice demonstrates that structured official flag systems are a recognized feature of constitutional governance and effective public administration. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Collectively, these provisions affirm that the ONE47 Official Flag System is intended to promote constitutional clarity, institutional dignity and national unity. By providing clear standards for recognition, manufacture, display and ceremonial use, the system seeks to ensure that every official flag faithfully reflects the sovereignty, democratic values and shared aspirations of the Republic of Kenya. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The next chapter builds upon this foundation by examining the principles and practical requirements for respecting the National Flag, including standards of conduct, civic etiquette and the responsibilities of public institutions and citizens in safeguarding the dignity of the Republic's foremost national symbol.

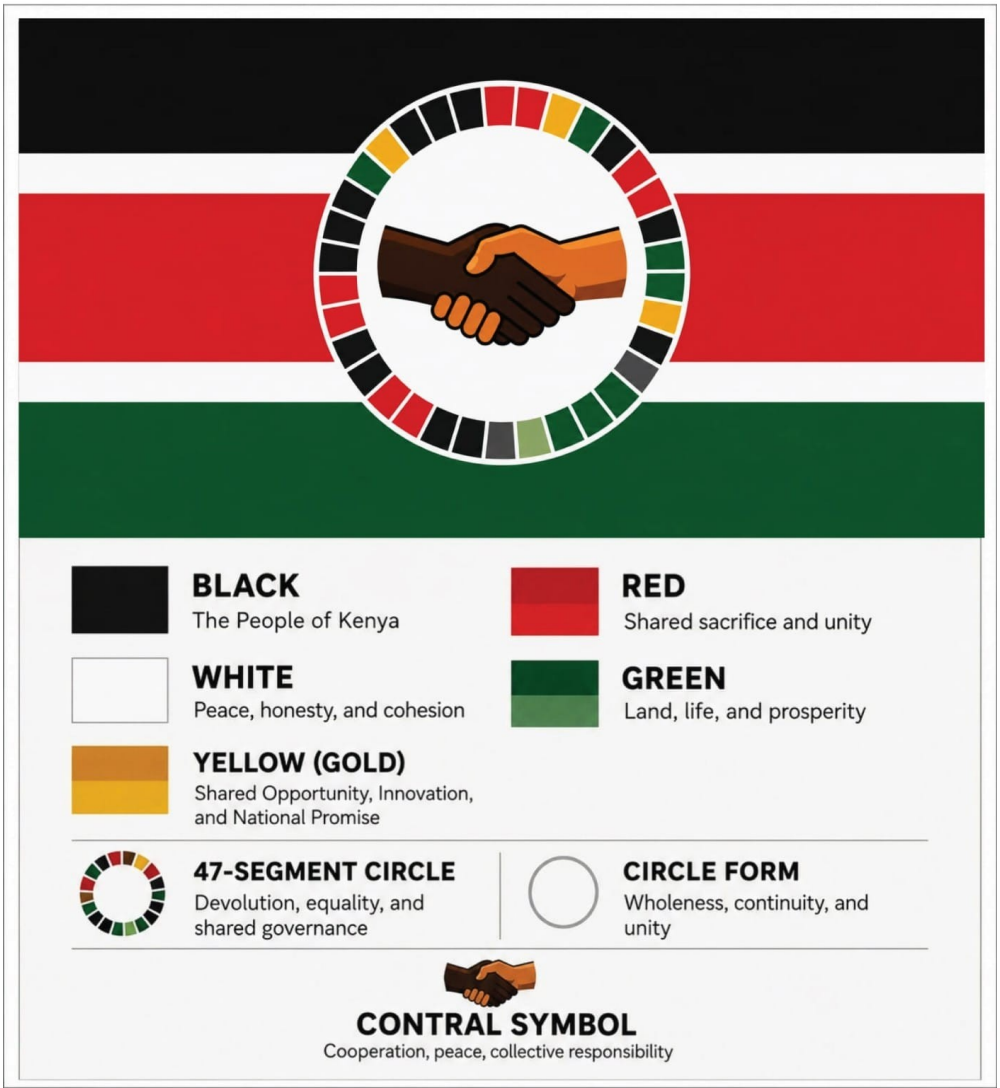


Figure 2.1 · ONE47 National Flag: colours and symbolism



Figure 2.2 · Proposed ONE47 National Flag



Figure 2.3 · Proposed military ensigns

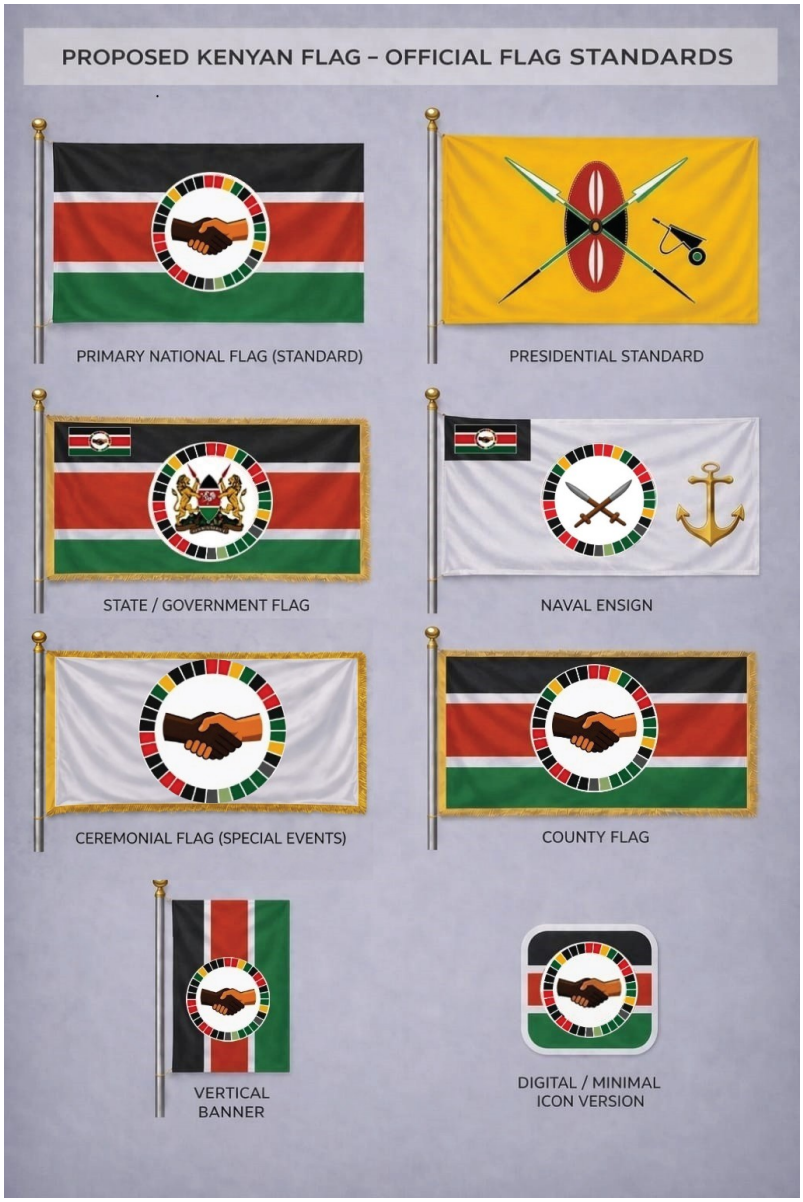


Figure 2.4 · Proposed official flag standards

CHAPTER 3: RESPECT FOR THE NATIONAL FLAG

The Philosophy and Civic Meaning of Respect A national flag is more than a decorative piece of fabric. It is the visible embodiment of a nation's sovereignty, constitutional order, collective memory and shared aspirations. Wherever it is displayed-whether atop Parliament, outside a village school, aboard a naval vessel or during an international sporting event-it represents the Republic itself. It speaks silently of a nation's history, its struggles, its achievements and its hopes for the future.

The ONE47 National Flag has been conceived as a symbol of One Nation, Forty-Seven Counties, One Shared Future. It preserves the historic colours that have represented Kenya since Independence while incorporating design elements that reflect the constitutional transformation ushered in by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Because the flag symbolizes the entire Republic, respect for it is not directed toward a government, political party or public office; it is directed toward the nation and its people. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the principles governing respect for the National Flag. It explains why respect for the flag is an expression of civic responsibility, constitutional patriotism and national unity. It also provides guidance on the conduct expected of public institutions, public officers and citizens whenever the National Flag is displayed or used in official ceremonies.

Respect for the flag should never be understood as blind obedience or unquestioning loyalty to any administration. In a constitutional democracy, citizens retain the right to express opinions, engage in public debate and hold government accountable. Respect for the National Flag is instead respect for the constitutional order, the sovereignty of the people and the enduring ideals of the Republic.

3.2 The National Flag as the Supreme Symbol of the Republic

3.2.1 The Flag Represents the Republic

The National Flag is the foremost symbol of the Republic of Kenya. It represents the nation in its entirety and transcends political transitions, changes of government and temporary public disagreements.

Governments may change through elections, public policies may evolve and institutions may be reformed, but the National Flag remains the enduring symbol of the sovereignty and continuity of the Republic.

For this reason, the National Flag shall always be accorded the highest position of honour within the Official Flag System. Every other official flag-including the Presidential Standard, the State Flag, the parliamentary ceremonial protocol, the judicial ceremonial protocol, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s and County Flags-derives its legitimacy from the Republic symbolized by the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

3.2.2 A Symbol Belonging to All Kenyans

The National Flag belongs equally to every citizen regardless of:

- Ethnicity.
- County of origin.
- Religion.
- Gender.
- Political affiliation.
- Social status.
- Profession.
- Age.
- Language.
- Economic background.

No person or institution has exclusive ownership of the National Flag. It is the common inheritance of the people of Kenya and a shared symbol of national identity.

The ONE47 design reinforces this principle through the Forty-Seven-Segment Circle, which visually affirms that every county is an equal participant in the life of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.2.3 A Living Constitutional Symbol

Unlike monuments or historical artifacts, the National Flag is a living symbol. It is present wherever the Republic exercises its constitutional authority:

- At Parliament.
- In courts of law.
- In county governments.
- At diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- In military establishments.
- In schools and universities.
- During national celebrations.
- At international conferences.

Its presence reminds citizens and public officers alike that authority is exercised under the Constitution and in service of the people.

3.2.4 Symbol of National Continuity

The National Flag also represents continuity between generations. It connects:

- The sacrifices of the independence generation.
- The constitutional reforms of later generations.
- The aspirations of present citizens.
- The hopes of future generations.

The ONE47 National Flag seeks to preserve this continuity by honouring Kenya's historic colours while reflecting the constitutional values of equality, devolution and national unity. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.3 Constitutional and Civic Significance of Respect

3.3.1 Respect Rooted in the Constitution

Respect for the National Flag is fundamentally respect for the Constitution and the democratic values upon which the Republic is founded. The Constitution proclaims the sovereignty of the people, the rule of law, human dignity, equality, inclusiveness and public participation. These principles give meaning to the flag and distinguish it from symbols associated solely with governments or political movements.

Accordingly, showing respect to the National Flag signifies respect for:

- Constitutional supremacy.
- Democratic governance.
- National unity.
- Human rights.
- Equality of all citizens.
- Peaceful coexistence.
- The rule of law.

3.3.2 Patriotism and Constitutional Citizenship

Patriotism is often misunderstood as unquestioning support for those in authority. In a constitutional democracy, patriotism is better understood as commitment to the Republic, its Constitution and the welfare of its people.

Respect for the National Flag therefore reflects:

- Love of country.
- Commitment to constitutional values.
- Pride in national identity.
- Responsibility toward fellow citizens.
- Dedication to the common good.

Such patriotism strengthens democratic institutions while encouraging responsible civic engagement.

3.3.3 National Cohesion

Kenya is a nation of rich cultural, linguistic and regional diversity. Respect for the National Flag provides a shared civic practice that transcends these differences. Whether displayed in Turkana, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi or Mandera, the flag reminds every citizen that they belong to one sovereign Republic.

The ONE47 design embodies this message through its representation of all forty-seven counties within a single unified circle. Respecting the flag therefore becomes an affirmation of national cohesion and mutual belonging. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

3.3.4 Civic Education

The National Flag serves as an educational tool. Through schools, public ceremonies and civic education programmes, citizens learn:

- The meaning of the flag's colours.
- The symbolism of its design.
- The constitutional values it represents.
- The history of the Republic.
- The responsibilities of citizenship.

Understanding the symbolism of the flag deepens respect by replacing familiarity with informed appreciation.

3.4 Respect as a Duty of Citizenship

3.4.1 Civic Responsibility

Respect for the National Flag is not reserved for government officials. It is a shared civic responsibility that belongs to every citizen. By treating the flag with dignity, citizens contribute to the preservation of national symbols and strengthen the civic culture upon which constitutional democracy depends.

This responsibility includes:

- Displaying the flag properly.
- Learning its symbolism.
- Following established protocol.
- Preventing misuse where possible.
- Teaching younger generations its significance.

3.4.2 Responsibilities of Public Officers

Public officers occupy positions of public trust and should therefore demonstrate exemplary respect for the

They should:

- Observe official flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Ensure correct display within their institutions.
- Promote civic education.
- Protect official flags from damage or misuse.
- Uphold the dignity of national ceremonies.

Their conduct should inspire confidence in public institutions and reinforce respect for constitutional symbols.

3.4.3 Responsibilities of Educational Institutions

Schools, colleges and universities play a vital role in shaping civic values. Educational institutions should:

- Teach the history and symbolism of the National Flag.
- Conduct respectful flag-raising ceremonies.
- Encourage responsible citizenship.
- Promote appreciation of constitutional values.
- Incorporate national symbols into civic education curricula.

Through education, respect for the flag becomes part of the nation's civic culture rather than merely a ceremonial practice.

3.4.4 Responsibilities of Families and Communities

Families are often the first place where children encounter national symbols. Parents, guardians, community leaders and religious organizations can contribute by:

- Explaining the meaning of the flag.
- Encouraging respectful behaviour during national ceremonies.
- Promoting national unity.
- Discouraging acts that demean national symbols.

These everyday practices help cultivate responsible citizenship from an early age.

3.5 Principles Governing Respect for the National Flag

Respect for the National Flag should be guided by the following principles, which apply to all citizens, institutions and public authorities.

3.5.1 Principle of Dignity

The National Flag shall always be treated with dignity befitting the supreme symbol of the Republic.

It shall never be handled, displayed or used in a manner that demeans its significance. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.5.2 Principle of Equality

The flag represents every Kenyan equally. No community, institution or political organization may claim exclusive ownership of it or use it to suggest superiority over others.

3.5.3 Principle of Political Neutrality

The National Flag shall remain above partisan politics. It should unite citizens irrespective of their political opinions and shall not be appropriated as the exclusive symbol of any political party, candidate or campaign.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.5.4 Principle of Constitutional Loyalty

Respect for the National Flag signifies loyalty to the Constitution, the Republic and the sovereignty of the people. It does not require allegiance to any individual office-holder or political administration.

3.5.5 Principle of Inclusiveness

Every citizen should feel represented by the National Flag. Respect for the flag should therefore promote inclusion, mutual respect and recognition of Kenya's cultural and regional diversity.

3.5.6 Principle of Peace

The National Flag should inspire peaceful coexistence, dialogue and reconciliation. It should never be used to encourage hostility, discrimination or violence.

3.5.7 Principle of Stewardship

Citizens and institutions act as custodians of the National Flag for future generations. They should preserve its dignity through proper handling, maintenance and observance of official protocol.

3.5.8 Principle of Education

Respect is strengthened through understanding. Government institutions, schools, civil society organizations and the media should promote continuous public education on the meaning, history and proper use of the National Flag.

Standards of Conduct and Public Etiquette

3.6 General Rules of Respect

The dignity of a national flag is reflected not only in the manner in which it is manufactured and displayed but also in the conduct of the people who stand before it. Proper etiquette demonstrates that citizens recognize the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic rather than as an ordinary object or decorative ornament.

The standards contained in this chapter are intended to establish a common national culture of respect. They apply equally to public institutions, private organizations and individual citizens whenever the National Flag is displayed.

While these rules are formal in nature, they should be understood primarily as expressions of civic responsibility rather than mere ceremonial obligations.

3.6.2 General Conduct

Whenever the National Flag is displayed, individuals should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects dignity and respect.

Appropriate conduct includes:

- Standing in a respectful posture.
- Removing hats or head coverings where culturally and religiously appropriate.
- Avoiding unnecessary movement during ceremonial moments.
- Maintaining silence during official observances.
- Following instructions issued by ceremonial officials.

The objective is to create an atmosphere befitting the significance of the occasion.

3.6.3 Handling the National Flag

The National Flag should always be handled carefully.

Persons entrusted with its care should:

- Carry it respectfully.
- Prevent unnecessary folding or creasing.
- Protect it from damage.
- Ensure it does not touch the ground.
- Store it properly after use.

Careful handling reflects respect for the Republic rather than concern merely for the material fabric.

3.6.4 Raising and Lowering

The National Flag should be raised deliberately and confidently.

Similarly, it should be lowered slowly and respectfully.

During ceremonial occasions:

- Participants should remain attentive.
- Spectators should avoid distractions.
- Official commands should be followed.
- Appropriate honours should be rendered.

The raising and lowering of the flag symbolize the living presence of the Republic.

3.6.5 Public Behaviour

The following conduct should be avoided whenever the National Flag is being honoured:

- Loud conversations.
- Mobile phone use.
- Smoking.
- Disorderly behaviour.
- Eating during formal ceremonies.
- Unnecessary movement across ceremonial areas.

Respectful behaviour contributes to the dignity of national occasions.

3.7 Saluting the National Flag

3.7.1 Purpose of the Salute

The salute is one of the oldest forms of public respect accorded to national symbols. It is a visible expression of loyalty to the Republic and acknowledgement of the constitutional authority represented by the National Flag.

In civilian settings, respect is normally shown by standing at attention. In disciplined services, formal saluting procedures apply according to their respective regulations.

3.7.2 Civilian Practice

During official ceremonies involving the National Flag, civilians should:

- Stand facing the flag.
- Maintain a respectful posture.
- Remove hats where appropriate.
- Refrain from conversation.
- Remain still until the ceremony concludes.

No elaborate gesture is required unless prescribed by official protocol.

3.7.3 Military and Disciplined Services

Members of:

- Kenya Defence Forces.
- National Police Service.
- Kenya Prisons Service.
- National Youth Service.
- Other uniformed services authorized by law.

shall render the prescribed official salute whenever required by their respective service regulations.

Military salutes recognize both the Republic and the constitutional command structure established under the Constitution.

3.7.4 During Processions

When the National Flag passes in procession:

- Civilians should stand respectfully.
- Uniformed personnel should salute where appropriate.
- Vehicles should stop where safe to do so.
- Public attention should be directed toward the flag.

The procession symbolizes the movement of the Republic through its people.

3.7.5 During Sporting Events

When the National Flag is presented before international competitions:

- Athletes should maintain respectful conduct.
- Officials should observe ceremonial protocol.
- Spectators should stand during the National Anthem.
- Displays of patriotism should remain respectful and non-disruptive.

International sporting events provide important opportunities to demonstrate national pride with dignity.

3.8 Conduct During the National Anthem

3.8.1 Relationship Between the Flag and the Anthem

The National Flag and the National Anthem are complementary national symbols.

When performed together, they represent:

- National unity.
- Constitutional identity.
- Collective memory.
- Shared aspirations.

Respect shown to one should equally be shown to the other.

3.8.2 Expected Conduct

Whenever the National Anthem is played during an official ceremony involving the National Flag:

Individuals should:

- Stand immediately.
- Face the National Flag where visible.
- Maintain silence.

- Remain attentive until the anthem concludes.

3.8.3 Singing the Anthem

Citizens are encouraged to sing the National Anthem respectfully and accurately.

Institutions should promote:

- Correct pronunciation.
- Proper tempo.
- Respectful participation.
- Understanding of the anthem's meaning.

Knowledge enhances the ceremonial significance of the occasion.

3.8.4 Educational Ceremonies

Schools should use flag ceremonies as opportunities for civic education.

Students should be taught:

- Proper posture.
- Meaning of the anthem.
- History of national symbols.
- Appropriate ceremonial behaviour.

These practices encourage lifelong respect for the Republic.

3.8.5 International Events

When Kenya participates in international ceremonies:

- The Kenyan National Flag shall receive appropriate honours. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Participants shall observe international protocol.
- Respect shall equally be extended to the national symbols of other participating states.

Mutual respect strengthens international friendship and cooperation.

3.9 Public Ceremonies and Official Events

3.9.1 National Ceremonies

The National Flag occupies a central position during major national ceremonies, including:

- Madaraka Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Presidential inaugurations.
- State funerals.
- National memorial services.
- National awards ceremonies.

Its display symbolizes the unity of the Republic throughout these occasions.

3.9.2 County Ceremonies

County governments should display the National Flag during:

- County Assembly sittings.

- Public celebrations.
- County development launches.
- Civic education programmes.

County Flags may accompany the National Flag but shall not diminish its position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)

3.9.3 Public Gatherings

During public gatherings organized by government institutions:

- The National Flag should occupy the principal display position.
- Official flag protocol should be observed. (United Nations, 2020)
- Ceremonial procedures should be consistent nationwide.

Uniform practice promotes national cohesion.

3.9.4 Memorial Services

The National Flag often serves as a symbol of national gratitude during memorial ceremonies.

Special respect should be observed during:

- Military funerals.
- State funerals.
- National remembrance ceremonies.
- Memorial services for distinguished public servants.

These occasions remind the nation of shared sacrifice and collective memory.

3.9.5 Cultural and Civic Events

The National Flag may also be displayed during:

- Cultural festivals.
- Civic education forums.
- National exhibitions.
- Academic ceremonies.
- Official sporting events.

Its presence signifies that cultural diversity exists within one united Republic.

3.10 Respect by Public Officers and State Institutions

3.10.1 Public Trust

Public officers are custodians of national symbols.

Their conduct should reflect:

- Professionalism.
- Integrity.
- Constitutional responsibility.
- Respect for public institutions.

By observing proper flag etiquette, public officers strengthen confidence in government.

3.10.2 Institutional Responsibilities

Every public institution should:

- Display the National Flag correctly.

- Maintain flags in good condition.
- Replace damaged flags promptly.
- Train staff on flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Observe official ceremonial procedures.

Institutional consistency reinforces national standards.

3.10.3 Leadership by Example

Senior public officials should demonstrate exemplary respect during:

- Official ceremonies.
- Public addresses.
- International engagements.
- National commemorations.

Leadership through example encourages similar conduct throughout society.

3.10.4 Administrative Responsibility

Each institution should designate an officer responsible for:

- Flag maintenance.
- Proper display.
- Inventory management.
- Protocol compliance.
- Staff awareness.

Clear responsibility promotes accountability and consistent practice.

3.10.5 Building a Culture of Respect

Respect for the National Flag should become an integral part of institutional culture rather than an obligation observed only during formal ceremonies.

Government agencies are encouraged to:

- Conduct periodic protocol training.
- Include flag etiquette in staff induction programmes.
- Celebrate national days with educational activities.
- Encourage public participation in civic ceremonies.

Such initiatives strengthen patriotism and reinforce the values embodied in the ONE47 National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Respect Within Institutions, National Ceremonies and the Digital Age

3.11 Respect in Schools and Educational Institutions

Educational institutions occupy a unique position in shaping the civic character of a nation. While families introduce children to their cultural identities, schools cultivate a shared national identity founded upon constitutional values, civic responsibility and patriotism. For many citizens, the first formal encounter with the National Flag occurs in school through assemblies, flag-raising ceremonies and national celebrations.

The ONE47 National Flag should therefore become an educational instrument that teaches unity, equality, constitutional democracy and national service. Respect for the flag must not be taught as mere ritual but as an understanding of the values it represents. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.11.2 The Role of Educational Institutions

Every educational institution has a responsibility to promote informed respect for national symbols.

This responsibility includes:

- Teaching the history of the National Flag.
- Explaining the symbolism of its colours and design.
- Demonstrating correct flag etiquette.
- Encouraging patriotic citizenship.
- Promoting respect for constitutional values.

Through continuous civic education, students develop a lifelong appreciation of their role as citizens of the Republic.

3.11.3 Daily Flag Ceremonies

Schools that conduct daily assemblies are encouraged to incorporate structured flag ceremonies.

Such ceremonies may include:

- Raising the National Flag.
- Singing the National Anthem.
- Reciting the National Values or Civic Pledge where adopted.
- Brief reflections on citizenship.
- Messages promoting unity and integrity.

The ceremony should be dignified, orderly and educational rather than merely procedural.

3.11.4 Responsibilities of Learners

Students should be encouraged to:

- Stand respectfully during flag ceremonies.
- Learn the meaning of the National Flag.
- Participate respectfully in the National Anthem.
- Protect school flags from damage.
- Demonstrate respect for national symbols both inside and outside school.

These practices foster civic discipline and national pride.

3.11.5 Responsibilities of Teachers

Teachers serve as role models in matters of civic conduct.

They should:

- Demonstrate proper flag etiquette.
- Correct inappropriate behaviour respectfully.
- Integrate national symbols into civic education.
- Encourage inclusive patriotism.
- Promote understanding rather than fear.

The objective is to nurture informed citizens who respect the Republic because they understand its constitutional ideals.

3.12 Respect Within the Kenya Defence Forces and Disciplined

Services

3.12.1 Constitutional Service

The Kenya Defence Forces, National Police Service, Kenya Prisons Service, National Youth Service and other disciplined services perform duties that require exceptional standards of discipline, honour and service.

Their relationship with the National Flag reflects a solemn commitment to defend the Constitution and protect the sovereignty of the Republic.

The flag therefore occupies a central place in military and national security ceremonies.

3.12.2 Military Honour

Within the Defence Forces, the National Flag represents:

- The Republic.
- Constitutional command.
- National sovereignty.
- Military sacrifice.
- Service to the people.

Every salute rendered to the National Flag is ultimately a salute to the Republic itself.

3.12.3 Military Ceremonies

The National Flag shall receive appropriate honours during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Passing-out parades.
- Commissioning ceremonies.
- Military funerals.
- Guard of Honour ceremonies.
- National Day celebrations.
- Peacekeeping deployments.
- Official inspections.
- Change-of-command ceremonies.

Military protocol shall always preserve the superior status of the National Flag.

3.12.4 Police and Other Uniformed Services

Uniformed services should similarly observe official flag protocol during: (United Nations, 2020)

- Graduation ceremonies.
- National celebrations.
- Official parades.
- Memorial services.
- Public safety ceremonies.

Their conduct demonstrates professionalism and reinforces public confidence in state institutions.

3.12.5 Respect Beyond Ceremony

Members of disciplined services should uphold respect for the National Flag in everyday conduct by:

- Protecting official flags from damage.
- Displaying flags correctly.
- Reporting misuse where appropriate.
- Setting an example for the public.

Professional respect strengthens institutional credibility.

3.13 Respect During National Days and State Ceremonies

3.13.1 National Celebrations

National holidays provide opportunities for citizens to celebrate their shared identity.

During occasions such as:

- Madaraka Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Labour Day.
- National Tree Planting Day.
- Other officially declared national celebrations.

the National Flag becomes the principal visual symbol of national unity.

3.13.2 State Functions

State ceremonies require the highest standards of protocol.

Examples include:

- Presidential inaugurations.
- State banquets.
- Official state visits.
- Opening of Parliament.
- Swearing-in ceremonies.
- National honours investitures.

At all such occasions, the National Flag should occupy the position of highest honour.

3.13.3 State Funerals

The National Flag carries profound significance during state funerals.

It symbolizes:

- National gratitude.
- Public service.
- Collective remembrance.
- Constitutional continuity.

Where official protocol permits draping of a coffin with the National Flag, this honour should be reserved for individuals designated under applicable law or state protocol.

3.13.4 Public Participation

Citizens participating in national ceremonies should:

- Observe official instructions.
- Maintain orderly conduct.
- Respect ceremonial procedures.
- Display patriotism peacefully.
- Treat national symbols with dignity.

Public participation enhances the meaning of national commemorations.

3.13.5 National Unity

Every national ceremony should reinforce the message that the National Flag belongs equally to every

The ONE47 Flag, through its Forty-Seven-Segment Circle, visually communicates that every county, community and citizen contributes to the life of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3.14 Respect in Digital Media, Publications and Broadcasting

3.14.1 The Digital Era

Modern communication increasingly occurs through digital platforms.

The National Flag now appears in:

- Television broadcasts.
- Government websites.
- Educational materials.
- Social media.
- Online publications.
- Digital presentations.
- Mobile applications.

Respect for the National Flag therefore extends beyond physical display to digital representation.

3.14.2 Accuracy of Representation

Digital reproductions should:

- Use official colours.
- Preserve correct proportions.
- Maintain approved symbols.
- Avoid distortion.
- Follow official design specifications.

Accurate digital representation preserves the integrity of national symbols.

3.14.3 Government Publications

Government publications should use only officially approved artwork.

Departments should avoid:

- Improvised designs.
- Inconsistent colours.
- Outdated versions.
- Unauthorized artistic modifications.

Consistency strengthens public recognition and institutional credibility.

3.14.4 Social Media Conduct

Citizens enjoy freedom of expression while also bearing civic responsibilities.

When using images of the National Flag online, users are encouraged to:

- Avoid deliberate desecration.
- Avoid misleading representations.
- Avoid false claims of official endorsement.
- Use respectful imagery during national commemorations.

Responsible digital citizenship supports respectful public discourse.

3.14.5 Broadcasting Standards

Broadcasters covering national ceremonies should ensure that:

- The National Flag is displayed accurately.
- Camera presentation reflects appropriate dignity.
- Ceremonial protocol is respected.
- Educational commentary is factually correct.

The media plays a significant role in shaping public understanding of national symbols.

3.15 Common Acts That Diminish the Dignity of the Flag

While the National Flag belongs to the people, certain practices undermine its dignity and should be discouraged. Protecting the flag does not limit legitimate civic participation or freedom of expression;

rather, it preserves the integrity of a symbol shared by all citizens.

3.15.2 Improper Display

Examples of improper display include:

- Flying a damaged or excessively faded flag.
- Displaying the flag upside down except where internationally recognized as a distress signal.
- Displaying the flag in a visibly neglected condition.
- Allowing it to become unnecessarily soiled through neglect.

Public institutions should ensure that flags remain clean, serviceable and worthy of display.

3.15.3 Unauthorized Alterations

The official design of the National Flag should not be modified by:

- Changing official colours.
- Altering proportions.
- Adding unofficial symbols.
- Removing official design elements.
- Creating misleading variations for official use.

Educational or artistic representations may be used where they do not purport to replace or misrepresent the official flag.

3.15.4 Commercial and Political Misuse

The National Flag should not be used in ways that imply exclusive ownership by any political party, commercial enterprise or private interest.

Examples include:

- Suggesting official government endorsement where none exists.
- Using the flag as a substitute for a commercial logo.
- Presenting the flag in a manner that misleads the public regarding official status.

The National Flag should remain a symbol of the Republic as a whole rather than of any sectional interest.

3.15.5 Neglect Through Ignorance

Many instances of improper flag use arise from lack of knowledge rather than deliberate disrespect.

Accordingly, the preferred response should often be:

- Public education.

- Institutional training.
- School instruction.
- Distribution of official protocol manuals.

Education remains the most effective means of promoting long-term respect for national symbols.

Promoting a Culture of National Respect

3.16 Civic Education and Public Awareness

Respect for the National Flag cannot be sustained through legislation and protocol alone. While laws establish standards of conduct and provide legal protection for national symbols, genuine respect is cultivated through education, understanding and shared civic values. A nation whose citizens appreciate the meaning of their flag is more likely to preserve its dignity than one that relies solely on legal sanctions.

The ONE47 National Flag is intended to serve as a permanent instrument of civic education. Its symbolism-representing the people of Kenya, the sacrifices of independence, environmental stewardship, peace, equality among the forty-seven counties and national cooperation-provides a visual framework through which citizens can better understand the Constitution and the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly, civic education should be regarded as the primary means of nurturing respect for the National Flag. Every encounter with the flag should become an opportunity to reinforce national identity, constitutional values and responsible citizenship.

3.16.2 National Civic Education Programme

The Government, in partnership with educational institutions, county governments, civil society organizations and the media, should promote continuous public education on the proper use and significance of the National Flag.

Such programmes may include:

- Public lectures.
- Community forums.
- Civic education workshops.
- School competitions.
- National essay contests.
- Documentary productions.
- Museum exhibitions.
- National Flag Week celebrations.
- Public awareness campaigns.

These initiatives should explain not only how the flag is used but why it deserves respect.

3.16.3 Public Information Materials

Educational materials should be widely available in both printed and digital formats.

Examples include:

- Official protocol booklets.
- Civic education manuals.
- Posters.
- Classroom charts.
- Children's illustrated books.
- Digital animations.
- Television educational programmes.
- Social media campaigns.

These materials should be accessible in formats suitable for learners of all ages and backgrounds.

3.16.4 National Flag Week

To strengthen public engagement, Kenya may designate an annual National Flag Week, preceding or coinciding with a major national celebration.

Activities could include:

- Flag-raising ceremonies.
- School debates.
- Civic education exhibitions.
- Community clean-up exercises.
- Public lectures on constitutional values.
- Historical exhibitions on Kenya's national symbols.
- Recognition of exemplary civic service.

Such a programme would reinforce the flag's role as a symbol of unity and public responsibility.

3.16.5 Civic Education Beyond Government

Respect for national symbols should not be viewed solely as a government responsibility.

Religious organizations, professional associations, youth groups, cultural institutions, sports organizations and community leaders all have important roles in promoting responsible citizenship.

A society that collectively values its national symbols strengthens democratic participation and national cohesion.

3.17 The Role of Families, Schools and Communities

3.17.1 Families as the Foundation of Citizenship

Citizenship begins within the family. Before children encounter formal civic education, they observe attitudes and behaviours demonstrated by parents, guardians and other family members.

Families should therefore encourage:

- Respectful discussion of national symbols.
- Participation in national celebrations.
- Understanding of Kenya's history.
- Appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Pride in belonging to the Republic.

These early experiences often shape lifelong attitudes toward national identity.

3.17.2 Schools as Centres of Civic Formation

Schools provide structured opportunities to cultivate civic knowledge and constitutional values.

Educational institutions should integrate the National Flag into:

- History lessons.
- Civic education.
- Social studies.
- National celebrations.
- Leadership training.
- Student government activities.

Students should learn not only ceremonial practices but also the constitutional principles represented by the

3.17.3 Communities and Local Leadership

Community organizations can strengthen civic responsibility through local initiatives.

These may include:

- Public discussions on national values.
- Flag etiquette workshops.
- Youth leadership programmes.
- Cultural festivals promoting unity.
- Community service projects conducted under the National Flag.

Local engagement ensures that respect for national symbols is rooted in everyday life rather than limited to official ceremonies.

3.17.4 The Role of Faith-Based Organizations

Religious communities have historically contributed to moral formation and social cohesion.

Without compromising religious independence, faith-based organizations may encourage:

- Respect for national institutions.
- Peaceful coexistence.
- National unity.
- Ethical leadership.
- Responsible citizenship.

These values complement the constitutional ideals represented by the National Flag.

3.17.5 Private Sector Participation

Businesses and professional organizations also contribute to civic culture.

They are encouraged to:

- Display the National Flag respectfully.
- Observe national commemorations.
- Support civic education initiatives.
- Promote ethical corporate citizenship.

Responsible participation by the private sector reinforces the shared ownership of national symbols.

3.18 Comparative International Practice

3.18.1 Respect as a Universal Principle

Across the world, national flags are treated with respect because they symbolize the sovereignty and identity of their respective nations. Although specific customs vary between countries, certain principles are widely shared.

These include:

- Respectful display.
- Proper handling.
- Appropriate ceremonial use.
- Legal protection.
- Public education.
- Institutional accountability.

The ONE47 Flag Protocol aligns with these broadly accepted international practices while reflecting Kenya's constitutional and cultural context. (United Nations, 2020)

3.18.2 Lessons from Constitutional Democracies

Many constitutional democracies emphasize that the national flag represents the nation rather than any particular government or political movement.

Common features include:

- Political neutrality of the flag.
- Educational programmes in schools.
- Standardized flag protocols. (United Nations, 2020)
- Public guidance on proper display.
- Respect during national ceremonies.
- Legal safeguards against misuse.

These approaches demonstrate that respect for national symbols strengthens democratic culture without diminishing freedom of expression.

3.18.3 International Diplomatic Practice

The National Flag also serves as Kenya's primary symbol in international relations.

It represents the Republic during:

- State visits.
- International conferences.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Peacekeeping operations.
- Cultural exchanges.
- Sporting competitions.

Respect shown to Kenya's flag abroad contributes to the country's international image and reflects the professionalism of its representatives.

Similarly, Kenya should extend appropriate respect to the national symbols of other sovereign states in accordance with international diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

3.18.4 Kenya's Contribution to International Practice

The ONE47 National Flag introduces a distinctive contribution to contemporary flag design by integrating constitutional devolution into national symbolism through the Forty-Seven-Segment Circle. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This innovation demonstrates that national unity and regional diversity are complementary rather than contradictory.

In doing so, Kenya offers an example of how constitutional reform can be reflected in national symbols while preserving historical continuity.

3.19 Building a Culture of Patriotism Through Respect

3.19.1 Patriotism as Active Citizenship

Patriotism is not measured solely by ceremonial observance. It is expressed through responsible participation in national life, respect for the Constitution and commitment to the common good.

The National Flag serves as a constant reminder of these responsibilities.

Citizens honour the flag not only by standing during ceremonies but also by:

- Obeying the law.
- Respecting others.

- Protecting public property.
- Promoting peace.
- Serving their communities.

3.19.2 Unity in Diversity

The ONE47 National Flag reflects Kenya's diversity while affirming the unity of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every county, culture, language and community forms part of the national family.

Respect for the flag therefore means respecting fellow citizens regardless of:

- Ethnicity.
- Religion.
- Political affiliation.
- Gender.
- Region.
- Economic status.

The flag becomes a visible reminder that Kenya's strength lies in its diversity.

3.19.3 Stewardship for Future Generations

Every generation inherits national symbols from those who came before and bears responsibility for preserving them for those who follow.

Stewardship includes:

- Maintaining official standards.
- Teaching future generations.
- Protecting the dignity of the flag.
- Preserving national history.
- Strengthening civic institutions.

The ONE47 Flag is intended to become a lasting symbol that future generations recognize with pride and respect.

3.19.4 Respect Through Daily Conduct

The highest expression of respect for the National Flag is found not in occasional ceremonies but in everyday civic conduct.

Citizens honour the Republic whenever they:

- Demonstrate integrity.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Reject corruption.
- Protect the environment.
- Contribute to national development.
- Promote peaceful coexistence.

In this sense, respect for the flag becomes respect for the values it represents.

This chapter has explored the philosophical, constitutional and practical dimensions of respecting the ONE47 National Flag. It has established that the flag is the supreme symbol of the Republic, representing the sovereignty of the people, the authority of the Constitution and the shared identity of all Kenyans.

Respect for the flag has been presented not as allegiance to a particular government or political ideology, but as an expression of constitutional patriotism, democratic citizenship and national unity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has examined standards of

conduct during flag ceremonies, the responsibilities of public officers, educational institutions, disciplined services and citizens, and the importance of preserving the dignity of the National Flag in both physical and digital environments. It has also emphasized that the most enduring safeguard for national symbols is public understanding. Civic education, community participation and responsible leadership are therefore essential to fostering a culture of respect that extends beyond formal protocol into everyday life.

Finally, the chapter has shown that patriotism is demonstrated not only through ceremonial observance but also through ethical conduct, service to the community, respect for the Constitution and commitment to the common good. The ONE47 National Flag, with its representation of the equality of Kenya's forty-seven counties within one sovereign Republic, serves as a powerful reminder that unity is strengthened when every citizen recognizes both their rights and their responsibilities. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) As the manual proceeds to the next chapter, attention shifts from the principles of respect to the practical rules governing the Order of Precedence. Understanding the hierarchy in which the National Flag and other official flags are displayed will ensure consistency, dignity and constitutional clarity across all public institutions, ceremonies and official occasions within the Republic of Kenya. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Proposed order of precedence The proposed Act lists the order as National Flag;

Presidential Standard; State Flag; County Flags; Defence Forces Flags; Ceremonial Flag Standard. This sequence describes the proposed system and should not be presented as an enacted statutory order.

CHAPTER 4: ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

The Constitutional Foundations and Principles of Order of Precedence An effective national flag system requires more than attractive design and meaningful symbolism. It also requires a clear and universally understood protocol governing the relative position of every official flag whenever two or more flags are displayed together. This protocol is known as the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Order of precedence is the established hierarchy that determines the relative position, sequence and prominence of official flags during ceremonies, official functions, public displays and state occasions. It ensures that every flag occupies the position appropriate to the constitutional authority it represents.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Without an agreed order of precedence, uncertainty may arise concerning which flag should occupy the place of honour, particularly where multiple constitutional institutions participate in (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) the same event.

Such uncertainty can inadvertently diminish the dignity of national symbols or create conflicting interpretations of constitutional status.

The ONE47 Official Flag System therefore establishes a comprehensive order of precedence that reflects Kenya's constitutional structure while maintaining the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The primary purpose of an official order of precedence is to provide consistency. Every government institution, county government, diplomatic mission, military establishment, educational institution and public authority should apply identical standards whenever official flags are displayed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) An agreed hierarchy:

- Prevents confusion.
- Eliminates conflicting practices.
- Promotes institutional dignity.
- Supports constitutional order.
- Reinforces public confidence.
- Facilitates international protocol.

The Order of Precedence is therefore both an administrative necessity and a constitutional expression of the organization of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Throughout history, flags have identified kingdoms, armies, governments and nations. As constitutional government evolved, states recognized the importance of distinguishing the national flag from the standards of heads of state, military organizations and public institutions.

Modern democracies generally recognize:

- One supreme national flag.
- Official standards representing constitutional offices.
- Military service ensigns.
- State flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- ceremonial and institutional display standards.

The ONE47 Flag System follows this internationally recognized approach while adapting it to Kenya's constitutional framework, particularly the principles of devolution, separation of powers and institutional equality. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) The placement of official flags is not merely ceremonial. It reflects the constitutional organization of the State.

When citizens observe:

- The National Flag.
- The Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol.
- The judicial ceremonial protocol.

- Defence Forces Flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flags.

displayed in an orderly hierarchy, they witness the constitutional structure of the Republic expressed visually.

Protocol therefore becomes a form of constitutional education.

4.2 Constitutional Basis

4.2.1 Sovereignty of the People

The Constitution of Kenya declares that all sovereign power belongs to the people and shall be exercised only in accordance with the Constitution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) The National Flag symbolizes that sovereignty.

Consequently, every other official flag derives its authority indirectly from the sovereignty represented by the National Flag.

This principle explains why the National Flag always occupies the highest position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)

4.2.2 Supremacy of the Constitution

The Constitution establishes:

- The Presidency.
- Parliament.
- Judiciary.
- County Governments.
- Independent Constitutional Commissions.
- The Kenya Defence Forces.

Each institution exercises authority assigned by the Constitution.

Their official flags therefore symbolize constitutional functions rather than independent sovereignty.

Only the National Flag represents the Republic itself.

4.2.3 Separation of Powers

Kenya's constitutional system distributes authority among three principal arms:

- Executive.
- Legislature.
- Judiciary.

Each possesses constitutional independence.

The existence of separate ceremonial and institutional display standards acknowledges this independence while preserving the constitutional principle that all institutions serve one Republic represented by the National Flag.

The Order of Precedence therefore balances institutional dignity with national unity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.2.4 Devolution

The Constitution introduced a system of devolved government consisting of forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) County Flags recognize local constitutional identity.

However:

- Counties are not sovereign states.
- County Governments derive authority from the Constitution.
- County Flags therefore remain subordinate to the National Flag.

This relationship reflects the constitutional principle that devolution strengthens rather than weakens national unity. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

4.2.5 Constitutional Equality

Although constitutional institutions perform different functions, each deserves respect.

Accordingly:

- Parliament shall respect the Judiciary.
- The Judiciary shall respect Parliament.
- The Executive shall respect both.
- County Governments shall respect National Government institutions.
- National Government shall respect county governments.

The Order of Precedence reflects constitutional structure rather than institutional superiority. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.3 Purpose of the Official Order of Precedence

4.3.1 National Uniformity

One objective of the Official Flag System is to eliminate inconsistent practices. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every public institution should display official flags according to identical rules.

Whether a ceremony occurs in:

- Nairobi,
- Mombasa,
- Kisumu,
- Garissa,
- Turkana,
- Mandera,

the order of official flags should remain consistent.

Uniformity strengthens national identity.

4.3.2 Institutional Clarity

When multiple official flags are displayed together, citizens immediately understand which institutions are represented.

Clear protocol:

- Improves public understanding.
- Supports civic education.
- Demonstrates constitutional order.
- Prevents administrative confusion.

The arrangement of flags therefore communicates important constitutional information.

4.3.3 National Dignity

The National Flag occupies the highest position because it represents:

- The Republic.

- Constitutional authority.
- The people of Kenya.

No institutional flag should appear to compete with or overshadow the National Flag.

This principle preserves national dignity.

4.3.4 Diplomatic Consistency

International diplomatic protocol depends upon predictable standards. (United Nations, 2020) Kenya's diplomatic missions should apply the same order of precedence used within the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Consistency:

- Enhances Kenya's international image.
- Facilitates state visits.
- Supports multilateral diplomacy.
- Promotes mutual respect between nations.

4.3.5 Administrative Efficiency

Government officers responsible for organizing ceremonies require clear guidance.

An official order of precedence enables:

- Efficient planning.
- Consistent procurement.
- Standardized ceremonial arrangements.
- Simplified protocol training.

Administrative certainty reduces errors and strengthens professionalism.

4.4 Fundamental Principles

The Official Order of Precedence is governed by several foundational principles. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.4.1 Principle of National Supremacy

The National Flag always occupies the highest place of honour.

It represents:

- The Republic.
- The Constitution.
- National sovereignty.
- The people.

Every other official flag derives its authority from the Republic represented by the National Flag.

4.4.2 Principle of Constitutional Legitimacy

Only flags authorized by law participate in the official order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Political party flags, organizational banners and private emblems fall outside the Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.4.3 Principle of Institutional Respect

Every constitutional institution deserves dignity.

The Order of Precedence recognizes institutional roles without diminishing their constitutional independence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.4.4 Principle of Political Neutrality

Official flags shall never be arranged according to political considerations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Protocol reflects constitutional order rather than temporary political circumstances.

This principle protects the neutrality of national symbols.

4.4.5 Principle of Consistency

The same hierarchy shall apply throughout Kenya unless specific legislation provides otherwise.

Consistency strengthens public confidence and simplifies civic education.

4.4.6 Principle of Simplicity

Protocol should be easily understood.

Citizens, schools, government officers and ceremonial officials should be able to apply the Order of Precedence without unnecessary complexity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.4.7 Principle of International Compatibility

Kenya's protocol should remain compatible with widely accepted international diplomatic practice while preserving its unique constitutional identity. (United Nations, 2020)

4.5 Official Hierarchy of the ONE47 Flag System

The core precedence sequence is: National Flag; Presidential Standard; State Flag; County Flags;

Defence Forces Flags; and the Ceremonial Flag Standard. Specific institutional protocols may refine positioning within a category, but they must not displace the National Flag from the primary position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The following hierarchy establishes the official order of precedence for the display of the flags recognized under the ONE47 Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) First Order The ONE47 National Flag The National Flag is the supreme symbol of the Republic and shall always occupy the principal position of honour. (United Nations, 2020) Second Order The Presidential Standard The Presidential Standard represents the constitutional office of the President as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief. It follows the National Flag and never replaces it. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Third Order The State Flag The State Flag identifies the Government of the Republic in formal institutional functions and follows the Presidential Standard in precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Fourth Order County Flags County Flags represent the forty-seven county governments and rank equally among themselves.

Fifth Order Defence Forces Flags The Defence Forces Flags occupy fifth place as one official category. The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign and Army, Air Force and Naval service ensigns are arranged internally under applicable military protocol, without creating additional national ranks.

Sixth Order Ceremonial Flag Standard The Ceremonial Flag Standard occupies sixth place.

The six-rank hierarchy is established by National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027. Institutional and service flags do not displace these official ranks.

4.6 Position of Honour

Having established the constitutional hierarchy of the Official Flag System, it is necessary to prescribe practical rules governing how official flags are displayed. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that the constitutional order established above is consistently reflected in public ceremonies, government institutions, diplomatic missions and national events. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The position of honour is the place accorded the greatest prominence during any

Since the National Flag represents the sovereignty of the Republic and the constitutional authority of the people, it shall always occupy this position unless international diplomatic protocol specifically requires otherwise. (United Nations, 2020) Uniform application of these rules ensures that the dignity of the Republic is preserved throughout Kenya and in all official representations abroad.

4.6.2 The Position of Honour

The National Flag shall occupy the highest position of honour whenever it is displayed with other official flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The position of honour is generally:

- The centre when an odd number of flagpoles is used.
- The extreme right from the perspective of the flag itself (the observer's left) when displayed

alongside other flags.

- The foremost position during processions.
- The highest position where differing flagpole heights are officially authorized.

The National Flag shall never be intentionally placed in a subordinate position to any institutional flag of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.6.3 Equal Dignity of Constitutional Institutions

Although the National Flag enjoys precedence over all other official flags, ceremonial and institutional display standards should always be displayed respectfully.

The Presidential Standard, parliamentary ceremonial protocol, judicial ceremonial protocol, State Flag, Defence Forces Flags and County Flags each symbolize constitutional institutions deserving of dignity.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The purpose of precedence is therefore not to establish superiority among institutions, but to recognize the Republic as the source of their constitutional authority.

4.6.4 Visibility

Flags should be positioned so that:

- Each flag is fully visible.
- No flag obscures another.
- The National Flag remains clearly identifiable.
- Official emblems face the correct direction. (WIPO, n.d.)
- Lighting permits clear visibility where appropriate.

Proper visibility promotes public recognition and respect.

4.6.5 Appropriate Environment

Flags should be displayed only in locations consistent with their dignity.

Suitable locations include:

- Government buildings.
- Parliament.
- Courts.
- County headquarters.
- Educational institutions.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Military establishments.
- Public monuments.
- Official ceremonial grounds.

Display locations should always reflect the importance of the symbols represented.

4.7 Display on Flagpoles

4.7.1 Single Flagpole

Where only one flagpole is available: Only the ONE47 National Flag shall ordinarily be flown. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No institutional flag shall replace the National Flag on a single official flagpole except where specifically authorized by law or ceremonial protocol.

4.7.2 Two Flagpoles

When two official flagpoles are used: The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The accompanying flag may be: Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) County Flag.

Defence Forces Ensign.

The National Flag shall always appear in the superior position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.7.3 Three Flagpoles

Three flagpoles represent the most common arrangement for government institutions.

The recommended arrangement is: Centre: National Flag.

Observer's Left: Highest-ranking accompanying official flag.

Observer's Right: Next official flag according to the Order of Precedence.

Observer's Right: Next official flag according to the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This arrangement ensures that the National Flag remains visually dominant.

4.7.4 Multiple Flagpoles

Where several official flags are displayed together: The sequence shall follow the Official Order of Precedence established in Chapter Four. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) ceremonial and institutional display standards shall never be arranged arbitrarily.

4.7.5 Equal Pole Heights

Unless international diplomatic protocol provides otherwise: (United Nations, 2020) All flagpoles should be of equal height. (United Nations, 2020) The superiority of the National Flag is indicated by its position rather than by taller poles.

Equal-height poles symbolize mutual constitutional respect while preserving national precedence through placement.

4.8 Indoor and Outdoor Display

4.8.1 Indoor Display

Indoor displays commonly occur in:

- Courtrooms.
- Parliamentary chambers.
- Government offices.

- County Assembly chambers.
- Universities.
- Public auditoriums.

Indoor flags should be:

- Properly mounted.
- Clean.
- Upright.
- Clearly visible.
- Positioned according to official protocol.

4.8.2 Conference Platforms

On conference stages: The National Flag should occupy the principal position.

Other official flags should be arranged according to the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Where a speaker stands at a podium, the National Flag should normally appear in the position of honour relative to the audience. (United Nations, 2020)

4.8.3 Wall Displays

When mounted against a wall: The National Flag should occupy the superior position.

If crossed staffs are used: The staff supporting the National Flag should appear in front of the accompanying staff.

This arrangement ensures visual prominence while maintaining symmetry.

4.8.4 Outdoor Display

Outdoor flags should:

- Fly freely.
- Remain in good condition.
- Be securely fastened.
- Be illuminated where appropriate for night display.
- Be lowered during hazardous weather where necessary.

Regular inspection should ensure that damaged flags are replaced promptly.

4.8.5 Permanent Government Buildings

Permanent government installations should display:

- The National Flag.
- Appropriate ceremonial and institutional display standards where authorized.

Examples include:

- State House.
- Parliament.
- Supreme Court.
- Ministries.
- County headquarters.
- Military headquarters.

Display arrangements should remain consistent nationwide.

4.9 Processions, Parades and Ceremonial Movement

4.9.1 Processional Order

During ceremonial processions: The National Flag shall lead the procession of official flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) ceremonial and institutional display standards shall follow according to the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This arrangement symbolizes that all constitutional authority proceeds from the Republic.

4.9.2 Military Parades

Military parades shall observe:

- National Flag first.
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- Service Ensigns.
- Unit Colours where authorized.

Military ceremonial regulations may provide additional operational guidance consistent with this hierarchy.

4.9.3 Academic Processions

Universities and educational institutions conducting formal academic ceremonies may display:

- National Flag.
- Institutional Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

4.9.4 County Ceremonies

County processions may include:

- National Flag.
- County Flag.

Where National Government officials participate, additional official flags shall be arranged according to national protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.9.5 Funeral Processions

Official funeral processions shall observe prescribed ceremonial protocol.

Where the National Flag accompanies the procession: It shall remain the foremost national symbol throughout the ceremony.

4.10 Vehicles, Aircraft, Ships and Diplomatic Missions

4.10.1 Official Vehicles

Vehicle flags shall be restricted to offices authorized by law.

Where displayed: The National Flag shall maintain precedence over ceremonial and institutional display standards. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Official vehicle flags should be securely mounted and maintained in good condition.

4.10.2 Presidential Motorcade

Where the Presidential Standard is displayed on the official presidential vehicle: (National Flag, Emblems

When displayed alongside the National Flag during ceremonial events, the National Flag retains its status as the supreme symbol of the Republic.

4.10.3 Aircraft

Government aircraft authorized to display official flags shall do so in accordance with aviation regulations and official protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag remains the primary national identifier.

4.10.4 Naval Vessels

Naval vessels shall display:

- National Flag.
- Naval Ensign.
- Other authorized naval ensigns where prescribed.

Maritime protocol shall remain consistent with international practice.

4.10.5 Diplomatic Missions

Kenyan embassies, high commissions and consulates shall display: (United Nations, 2020)

- The National Flag as the principal national symbol.
- Other official flags where authorized.

During visits by foreign dignitaries: Flag arrangements shall observe both Kenyan protocol and accepted international diplomatic practice, ensuring mutual respect between sovereign states. (United Nations, 2020) Application of the Order of Precedence During Official Ceremonies

4.11 Presidential Ceremonies

Presidential ceremonies represent the highest level of official state protocol in the Republic of Kenya.

They symbolize the constitutional authority of the Head of State while simultaneously affirming that the sovereignty of the Republic resides in the people. Consequently, the arrangement of official flags during presidential occasions must clearly communicate both constitutional order and national unity.

Although the President occupies the highest constitutional office, the ONE47 National Flag remains the supreme national symbol. The Presidential Standard represents the Office of the President, whereas the National Flag represents the Republic itself. This distinction is fundamental to the constitutional philosophy underpinning the ONE47 Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.11.2 Official Flag Arrangement

During presidential ceremonies, official flags shall follow the national order of precedence prescribed by the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027:

1. National Flag

2. Presidential Standard

3. State Flag

4. County Flags

5. Defence Forces Flags

6. Ceremonial Flag Standard Defence Forces service ensigns, where displayed, are arranged within rank five under military protocol and do not constitute additional national ranks.

This arrangement visually demonstrates that the Office of the President exercises constitutional authority on behalf of the Republic.

4.11.3 Presidential Addresses

Whenever the President delivers an official address, the National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The Presidential Standard shall indicate the constitutional presence of the Head of State but shall not replace or overshadow the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This distinction reinforces the principle that the President serves under the Constitution and in the name of the Republic.

4.11.4 State House Functions

Official events held at State House shall observe the established order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag should be displayed:

- At the principal entrance.
- On the main ceremonial grounds.
- Behind the official podium where appropriate.
- Alongside the Presidential Standard during official engagements. (National Flag, Emblems and Names

Act, 2027) Other official flags may be displayed according to the nature of the ceremony.

4.11.5 Presidential Inauguration

During the inauguration of a President-elect:

- The National Flag symbolizes the continuity of the Republic.
- The Presidential Standard symbolizes the assumption of constitutional office. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Military Colours symbolize the loyalty of the Defence Forces to the Constitution.

The sequence of flags should reinforce the peaceful transfer of constitutional authority.

4.12 Parliamentary and Judicial Ceremonies

4.12.1 Parliament

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol symbolizes the legislative authority vested in Parliament under the Constitution.

During official parliamentary ceremonies:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Parliamentary ceremonial arrangements shall respect the Order of Precedence. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Other ceremonial and institutional display standards may be displayed where appropriate.

This arrangement reflects Parliament's constitutional role while affirming the supremacy of the Republic.

4.12.2 Opening of Parliament

The State Opening of Parliament is one of Kenya's highest constitutional ceremonies.

Official flag precedence shall follow the six ranks prescribed by the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027:

1. National Flag

    1. Presidential Standard
    2. State Flag
    3. County Flags
    4. Defence Forces Flags
    5. Ceremonial Flag Standard Parliamentary and judicial ceremonial protocols concern institutional positioning and do not create separate flag ranks.

4.12.3 County Assemblies

County Assembly chambers should display:

- National Flag.
- County Flag.

Where National Government officials attend official sittings, additional flags may be displayed according to established protocol.

4.12.4 Judicial Ceremonies

The Judiciary derives its authority directly from the Constitution.

During:

- Judicial conferences.
- Swearing-in ceremonies.
- Opening of the judicial year.
- Constitutional commemorations.

the National Flag shall occupy the principal position while the setting preserves judicial independence and dignity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.12.5 Constitutional Balance

The Order of Precedence does not diminish judicial independence or parliamentary authority. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Instead, it demonstrates that:

- Parliament legislates under the Constitution.
- The Judiciary interprets the Constitution.
- The Executive implements the Constitution.

The National Flag unites these constitutional functions within one Republic.

4.13 Military Ceremonies and National Security Institutions

4.13.1 Constitutional Role

The Kenya Defence Forces protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic.

Accordingly, military ceremonies should prominently display the National Flag as the supreme national symbol.

Military flags represent service identity and operational command rather than national sovereignty.

4.13.2 Military Parade Sequence

The recommended ceremonial sequence shall be:

2. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign
3. Army Ensign
4. Naval Ensign
5. Air Force Ensign
6. Authorized Unit Colours. This arrangement reflects both constitutional authority and military command structure.

4.13.3 Military Funerals

During official military funerals:

- The National Flag symbolizes service to the Republic.
- Military Colours symbolize the individual's service branch.
- Funeral protocol should maintain dignity and precision.

Where authorized, the National Flag may drape the casket in accordance with official regulations.

4.13.4 National Police Service

Police graduation ceremonies, national security events and official parades shall display the National Flag in the position of honour. (United Nations, 2020) Institutional banners shall follow according to approved protocol.

4.13.5 National Security Cooperation

Joint ceremonies involving:

- Kenya Defence Forces,
- National Police Service,
- Kenya Prisons Service,
- National Intelligence Service,
- National Youth Service,

shall maintain one unified order of precedence centred upon the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This reinforces constitutional unity across national security institutions.

4.14 County Governments and Public Institutions

4.14.1 County Governments

County Governments are constitutional institutions established under the system of devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) During county ceremonies:

- The National Flag shall occupy the highest position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- The County Flag shall follow.
- Additional official flags shall appear according to national protocol. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This arrangement demonstrates that counties exercise devolved authority within one sovereign Republic.

4.14.2 County Headquarters

Permanent displays at county headquarters should normally include:

- National Flag.

Where offices of National Government are present, relevant ceremonial and institutional display standards may also be displayed.

4.14.3 Educational Institutions

Schools, colleges and universities should display:

- National Flag.
- Institutional Flag where authorized.

During graduation ceremonies, the National Flag should remain the foremost national symbol.

4.14.4 Public Universities

Universities may display their ceremonial and institutional display standards alongside the National Flag.

Academic autonomy is symbolized by ceremonial and institutional display standards, while the National Flag represents the constitutional framework within which public education operates.

4.14.5 State Corporations

Public corporations and constitutional commissions may display authorized ceremonial and institutional display standards.

However, these shall always follow the National Flag in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.15 National Celebrations, Diplomatic Functions and International

Events

4.15.1 National Celebrations

National holidays provide the greatest public visibility for official flags.

Examples include:

- Madaraka Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- National Tree Planting Day.
- Other officially declared national commemorations.

The National Flag should dominate all official ceremonial arrangements.

4.15.2 State Banquets

Official banquets hosted by the President or Government should display:

- National Flag.
- Presidential Standard where appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Visiting nation's flag where international protocol requires.

Placement should reflect equality between sovereign states while preserving the dignity of the Republic.

4.15.3 Diplomatic Visits

During state visits: The National Flag of Kenya and the visiting country's national flag shall enjoy equal prominence in accordance with international diplomatic practice. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) ceremonial and institutional display standards shall follow the established national order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.15.4 International Conferences

Where Kenya participates in:

- United Nations meetings. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union Summits.
- East African Community meetings.
- Commonwealth conferences.
- International sporting events.

the National Flag represents the Republic. ceremonial and institutional display standards shall generally not replace the National Flag in international representation unless specifically authorized by the relevant protocol. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

4.15.5 Sporting Events

At international sporting competitions:

- The National Flag shall represent Kenya. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Team or federation banners shall remain subordinate.
- Medal ceremonies shall follow international protocol while preserving respect for the

National Flag and National Anthem.

The flag symbolizes the collective identity of the Republic beyond athletic competition.

Special Circumstances, International Practice and Chapter Summary

4.16 Special Cases and Exceptional Circumstances

While the preceding sections establish the standard hierarchy governing the display of official flags within the Republic, circumstances occasionally arise that require modifications to ordinary protocol.

International diplomacy, multinational events, peacekeeping operations, national emergencies and joint governmental functions may involve the display of foreign national flags, international organizational flags or ceremonial standards not ordinarily encountered in domestic settings. (United Nations, 2020) The purpose of this section is to establish guiding principles for these exceptional situations while preserving the constitutional supremacy of the ONE47 National Flag within Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.16.2 Principle of Constitutional Consistency

Exceptional circumstances shall not alter the constitutional status of the National Flag.

Any temporary variation in flag arrangement shall arise only from:

- International diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Treaty obligations.
- Military regulations.
- Official ceremonial requirements.
- National legislation.

Temporary procedural adjustments shall never diminish the constitutional dignity of the National Flag.

4.16.3 Joint National and County Events

Where National Government and County Government jointly organize official ceremonies: The official order of precedence is:

1. National Flag

3. State Flag
4. County Flags
5. Defence Forces Flags
6. Ceremonial Flag Standard Service ensigns, where present, are arranged within the Defence Forces Flags category, not as a seventh rank. This arrangement recognizes both national sovereignty and constitutional devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

4.16.4 Multiple County Flags

Where all forty-seven County Flags are displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (United Nations, 2020)

- County Flags shall enjoy equal status among themselves.
- Counties may be arranged: o Alphabetically; o Geographically; o By officially approved

ceremonial sequence.

No County Flag shall claim precedence over another unless specifically provided by law for a particular event.

4.16.5 Temporary Ceremonial Displays

Temporary displays constructed for:

- National celebrations,
- Public exhibitions,
- Educational displays,
- Civic education programmes,

should preserve the official Order of Precedence while allowing artistic presentation that does not distort constitutional relationships. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.17 International Protocol and Foreign Flags

4.17.1 Diplomatic Equality

International law recognizes the sovereign equality of states.

Accordingly, during official diplomatic events involving foreign governments:

- Kenya's National Flag and the visiting state's National Flag shall enjoy equal dignity.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Neither National Flag shall be displayed in a manner implying superiority over the other.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This reflects internationally accepted diplomatic practice.

4.17.2 State Visits

During State Visits: The official display normally consists of:

- Kenya National Flag.
- Visiting State's National Flag.

Where additional official flags are displayed:

- Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

These shall follow national protocol without disturbing diplomatic equality between sovereign states.

4.17.3 International Organizations

When Kenya hosts or participates in events involving international organizations, the National Flag may be displayed alongside:

- United Nations Flag. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union Flag.
- East African Community Flag.
- Commonwealth Flag.
- Other officially recognized intergovernmental organizations.

The National Flag remains Kenya's primary national symbol.

4.17.4 Peacekeeping Operations

During United Nations or African Union peacekeeping missions: (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) The National Flag continues to identify Kenyan personnel while international organizational flags identify the mission itself.

Display arrangements shall comply with:

- International operational regulations.
- Military protocol.
- Diplomatic agreements.

4.17.5 Sporting and Cultural Events

International sporting competitions and cultural festivals frequently display multiple National Flags.

In such events:

- Kenya shall be represented by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National

Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- ceremonial and institutional display standards shall generally not replace the National Flag.
- Medal ceremonies shall follow international sporting regulations while maintaining respect

for Kenya's national symbols.

4.18 Common Protocol Errors and Corrective Measures

Many protocol errors arise not from deliberate disrespect but from unfamiliarity with official standards.

Civic education, standardized guidance and institutional training are therefore essential to ensuring consistent practice throughout the Republic.

4.18.2 Common Errors

Frequent mistakes include:

- Placing an institutional flag above the National Flag.
- Displaying damaged or faded flags.
- Using incorrect proportions.
- Displaying unauthorized versions.
- Incorrect sequencing of official flags.
- Mixing ceremonial and ordinary flags improperly.
- Improper positioning on stages or podiums.

These errors diminish the dignity of official ceremonies and should be corrected promptly.

4.18.3 Institutional Responsibility

Government institutions should periodically review their flag displays to ensure compliance with the Official Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020) Each institution is encouraged to designate a Protocol Officer responsible for:

- Flag placement.
- Maintenance.
- Staff awareness.
- Compliance with official standards.

4.18.4 Training and Capacity Building

Regular training should be provided to:

- Government administrators.
- Protocol officers.
- Military personnel.
- County officials.
- School administrators.
- Public event organizers.

Training should include practical demonstrations and reference to the Official Technical Standards Manual.

4.18.5 Continuous Review

As constitutional practice evolves, Government may periodically review protocol standards to ensure continued relevance while preserving the core constitutional principles governing the Official Flag System.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4.19 Practical Guidance for Organizers

4.19.1 Planning Official Ceremonies

Every organizer of an official ceremony should consider flag protocol during the planning stage rather than immediately before the event. (United Nations, 2020) Planning should address:

- Number of flagpoles.
- Indoor or outdoor display.
- Institutional representation.
- Diplomatic participation.
- Ceremonial sequence.
- Lighting and visibility.

Proper planning prevents avoidable protocol errors.

4.19.2 Recommended Event Checklist

Before every official event, organizers should verify:

- Correct flags have been selected.
- Flags are clean and undamaged.
- Correct Order of Precedence has been applied. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Pole heights comply with protocol.
- Flag orientation is correct.
- Ceremonial officials understand their responsibilities.

- Appropriate lighting is available where necessary.
- Weather conditions have been considered.

4.19.3 Role of Protocol Officers

Protocol officers should ensure:

- Consistency.
- Accuracy.
- Professional presentation.
- Compliance with legislation.
- Respect for national symbols.

They serve as custodians of ceremonial standards rather than mere event coordinators.

4.19.4 Public Education During Ceremonies

Official ceremonies present opportunities for civic education.

Where appropriate, masters of ceremony may briefly explain:

- The significance of the National Flag.
- The meaning of the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The symbolism of official flags.
- The constitutional institutions represented.

Public understanding strengthens public respect.

4.19.5 Future Development

As Kenya's civic education programme expands, additional protocol guides may be developed for:

- Schools.
- County governments.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Defence Forces.
- Sporting organizations.
- Public universities.

Such specialized manuals should remain consistent with the principles established in this Manual.

This chapter has established the Official Order of Precedence as the authoritative framework governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag and all other officially recognized flags of the Republic. It has demonstrated that the arrangement of flags is not a matter of aesthetics or convenience, but a visible expression of Kenya's constitutional order, institutional structure and national sovereignty. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter began by defining the concept of precedence and grounding it in the Constitution, affirming that the ONE47 National Flag occupies the highest position of honour because it represents the sovereignty of the people and the Republic itself. It then outlined the official hierarchy of the National Flag, the Presidential Standard, the State Flag, the parliamentary ceremonial protocol, the judicial ceremonial protocol, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s, County Flags and other authorized ceremonial and institutional display standards. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Subsequent sections translated these constitutional principles into practical guidance for flagpoles, indoor and outdoor displays, ceremonial stages, processions, government buildings, vehicles, aircraft, naval vessels and diplomatic missions.

Detailed procedures were also provided for presidential ceremonies, parliamentary and judicial functions, military parades, county government events, educational institutions, state occasions and international engagements, ensuring that protocol is applied consistently across every level of public life. (United Nations,

2020) Finally, the chapter addressed exceptional circumstances involving foreign national flags and international organizations, identified common protocol errors, and provided practical guidance for organizers and protocol officers. Throughout, the guiding principle has remained unchanged: the ONE47 National Flag is the supreme emblem of the Republic and shall always occupy the principal position of honour, while all other official flags derive their authority from the constitutional institutions they represent.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) By establishing a clear, consistent and constitutionally grounded Order of Precedence, this chapter strengthens the dignity of Kenya's national symbols, promotes uniformity across public institutions and enhances civic understanding of the constitutional relationships that define the Republic. It provides a practical protocol framework that complements the ONE47 legal implementation framework and supports the implementation of the broader ONE47 Official Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 5: DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Fundamental Principles Governing the Display of the ONE47 National Flag The National Flag is the most visible symbol of the Republic. While Chapter Four established the constitutional hierarchy governing the Order of Precedence, this chapter addresses an equally important question: how should the National Flag be displayed? (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The manner in which a flag is displayed communicates the level of respect accorded to the nation it represents. A properly displayed flag reflects discipline, professionalism and constitutional order, while an improperly displayed flag may unintentionally diminish the dignity of the Republic.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish clear, uniform and authoritative standards governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag throughout the Republic of Kenya and in all official representations abroad.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) These standards are intended for use by:

- National Government institutions.
- County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Educational institutions.
- Public corporations.
- Civil society organizations.
- Private citizens.

By adopting common standards, Kenya strengthens both national identity and institutional consistency.

The National Flag performs several important constitutional and civic functions.

It:

- Identifies the Republic.
- Represents national sovereignty.
- Symbolizes constitutional authority.
- Inspires patriotism.
- Unifies citizens.
- Demonstrates Kenya's identity internationally.

Consequently, every display of the National Flag should project dignity, order and national pride.

Proper display transforms the flag from a physical object into a living representation of the Republic.

Every public display of the National Flag serves an educational purpose.

Citizens-particularly children and young people-learn civic values by observing how national symbols are treated.

A correctly displayed flag teaches:

- Respect.
- Equality.
- Constitutional order.
- Patriotism.
- National unity.

For this reason, institutions responsible for displaying the National Flag should regard themselves as participants in civic education.

One of the principal objectives of the ONE47 Official Flag System is to eliminate inconsistent practices.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whether a citizen visits:

- Parliament.
- A County Headquarters.
- A public university.
- A courthouse.
- A military installation.
- A Kenyan Embassy abroad.

the National Flag should be displayed according to identical principles.

Uniformity reinforces the idea that every public institution serves one Republic under one Constitution.

This chapter provides guidance on:

- General display principles.
- Permanent installations.
- Temporary displays.
- Indoor displays.
- Outdoor displays.
- Government buildings.
- Schools.
- County Governments.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Ceremonial occasions.
- Public events.

Subsequent chapters will address specialized topics such as half-mast protocol, indoor protocol and ceremonial use in greater detail. (United Nations, 2020)

5.2 The National Flag as the Principal Symbol of the Republic

5.2.1 Constitutional Status

The ONE47 National Flag is the supreme visual symbol of the Republic of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It represents:

- The sovereignty of the people.
- The authority of the Constitution.
- National independence.
- Territorial integrity.
- Democratic governance.
- National unity.

Accordingly, every official display shall preserve its dignity and prominence.

5.2.2 Symbol of the Entire Nation

Unlike ceremonial and institutional display standards, the National Flag does not belong to:

- The President.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.
- The Government.

- County Governments.

It belongs equally to every citizen.

Its display therefore represents the Republic as a whole rather than any particular institution or political authority.

5.2.3 Symbol of Constitutional Unity

The ONE47 National Flag visually expresses Kenya's constitutional order. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its design reflects:

- National unity.
- Equality of the forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- Shared responsibility.
- Peace.
- Progress.
- Democratic cooperation.

Whenever displayed, these values should be communicated through dignified presentation.

5.2.4 National Identity

The National Flag is one of the most recognizable symbols of Kenya.

It accompanies:

- International diplomacy.
- Sporting events.
- National celebrations.
- Military service.
- Educational ceremonies.
- Cultural festivals.

Its proper display strengthens Kenya's national image both domestically and internationally.

5.2.5 Symbol Above Politics

The National Flag shall never be regarded as the symbol of a political administration. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Governments change.

Political parties change.

Public officials change.

The Republic endures.

The National Flag therefore represents constitutional continuity beyond electoral cycles.

5.3 General Principles for Display

5.3.1 Principle of Honour

The National Flag shall always be displayed with dignity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whenever multiple flags are displayed, it shall occupy the position of honour established in Chapter Four.

(United Nations, 2020) Its placement should immediately communicate its constitutional significance.

5.3.2 Principle of Visibility

The National Flag should be displayed where it is clearly visible.

- Adequate height.
- Proper lighting.
- Correct orientation.
- Freedom from obstruction.
- Clean surroundings.

The flag should never be hidden behind furniture, decorations or advertising material.

5.3.3 Principle of Proper Orientation

The National Flag shall always be displayed in its approved orientation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The uppermost stripe shall remain at the top, and all official design elements shall appear exactly as prescribed in the Technical Standards Manual.

The flag shall not be displayed upside down except where internationally recognized as an officially authorized distress signal.

5.3.4 Principle of Good Condition

Only flags in good condition should be displayed.

Official flags should be:

- Clean.
- Undamaged.
- Properly coloured.
- Correctly proportioned.
- Free from excessive fading.
- Professionally manufactured.

A damaged flag diminishes the dignity of the Republic.

5.3.5 Principle of Respect

The National Flag should never be displayed in a manner that suggests neglect.

Institutions should inspect flags regularly and replace worn examples promptly.

Respect is demonstrated through continuous care rather than occasional ceremony.

5.4 Official Locations for Display

The National Flag is intended for display on public buildings and at official functions. The Presidential Standard is reserved exclusively for the serving President, while the ceremonial standard is limited to designated ceremonial occasions. Any flag that incorporates a canton must be oriented and displayed in accordance with its approved upper-hoist configuration. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.4.1 National Government Institutions

The National Flag should be permanently displayed at:

- State House.
- Parliament Buildings.
- Supreme Court.
- Ministries.
- State Departments.
- Independent Constitutional Offices.
- National Government Administrative Offices.

These institutions exercise constitutional authority on behalf of the Republic.

5.4.2 County Governments

County headquarters should permanently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The respective County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

5.4.3 Educational Institutions

Every public educational institution is encouraged to display the National Flag.

These include:

- Primary schools.
- Junior schools.
- Secondary schools.
- Technical institutions.
- Universities.
- Teacher training colleges.

Daily display promotes civic education and patriotism.

5.4.4 Diplomatic Missions

Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad shall prominently display the National Flag. (United Nations, 2020) It represents:

- Kenya's sovereignty.
- National identity.
- Diplomatic authority.
- Constitutional government.

Embassies and High Commissions should maintain the highest standards of presentation. (United Nations, 2020)

5.4.5 Military Installations

Military establishments should permanently display the National Flag together with authorized Defence Forces flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Military display should emphasize:

- Constitutional loyalty.
- National sovereignty.
- Professional discipline.

5.5 Responsibilities for Proper Display

5.5.1 Government Responsibility

The National Government bears primary responsibility for establishing official standards governing the display of the National Flag.

Relevant ministries and agencies should:

- Publish guidance.
- Conduct inspections.

- Support institutional compliance.

5.5.2 County Government Responsibility

County Governments should ensure that all county institutions observe official display standards.

This includes:

- County headquarters.
- County Assembly buildings.
- Public health facilities.
- Vocational institutions.
- Public parks where official flagpoles are installed.

5.5.3 Responsibilities of Public Officers

Public officers responsible for government premises should ensure that:

- Flags are displayed correctly.
- Damaged flags are replaced.
- Protocol is followed.
- Ceremonial standards are maintained.

Professional management reflects institutional integrity.

5.5.4 Responsibilities of Event Organizers

Organizers of official ceremonies should ensure:

- Proper flag selection.
- Correct placement.
- Appropriate lighting.
- Compliance with the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Respectful handling throughout the event.

Protocol should be incorporated into event planning from the outset.

5.5.5 Responsibilities of Citizens

The National Flag belongs to all Kenyans.

Citizens who display the flag voluntarily are encouraged to:

- Use approved designs.
- Display it respectfully.
- Keep it clean and serviceable.
- Follow official guidance.
- Promote respect for national symbols within their communities.

Respect for the National Flag is ultimately a shared civic responsibility that strengthens national unity and reinforces constitutional patriotism.

Standards for Indoor and Outdoor Display of the ONE47 National Flag

5.6 Indoor Display of the National Flag

Indoor display of the National Flag is among the most common forms of official flag presentation.

Government offices, legislative chambers, courtrooms, conference facilities, educational institutions and public auditoriums display the National Flag to visibly affirm the authority of the Republic and the supremacy of the Constitution.

Unlike outdoor displays, indoor displays are generally permanent and closely associated with institutional identity. Consequently, the National Flag must always be displayed with precision, dignity and consistency.

Every indoor display should immediately communicate that the institution operates under the authority of the Constitution and serves the people of Kenya.

5.6.2 Position Within Government Offices

Every ministry, state department, constitutional office and public institution should display the National Flag in its principal office.

Examples include:

- Cabinet Secretary's Office.
- Principal Secretary's Office.
- Governor's Office.
- Speaker's Office.
- Chief Justice's Office.
- Chief Executive Officer's Office of public institutions.

The National Flag should occupy a prominent position that is immediately visible to visitors upon entering the office.

It should not be hidden behind furniture, curtains or decorative installations.

5.6.3 Conference Rooms

Official conference rooms frequently host:

- Cabinet meetings.
- County Executive meetings.
- Parliamentary committee sessions.
- Judicial conferences.
- Public consultations.
- International delegations.

The National Flag should occupy the principal position within the room.

Where ceremonial and institutional display standards are also displayed, their arrangement shall follow the Official Order of Precedence established in Chapter Four. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag should be positioned so that it remains visible throughout proceedings without obstructing participants.

5.6.4 Courtrooms

Courtrooms symbolize the administration of justice under the Constitution.

Accordingly:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (United Nations, 2020)

- The judicial ceremonial protocol may also be displayed.
- Both flags shall be maintained in excellent condition.

Their presence reminds litigants, advocates and judicial officers that justice is administered in the name of the Republic.

5.6.5 Parliamentary Chambers

Within Parliament:

- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol symbolizes legislative authority.

The National Flag shall always occupy the superior position while respecting the dignity of Parliament as a constitutional institution. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.6.6 Educational Institutions

Indoor display within schools and universities should occur in:

- Assembly halls.
- Principal's offices.
- Board rooms.
- Graduation venues.
- Libraries where appropriate.

Educational institutions should use these displays as opportunities for civic education by explaining the symbolism of the National Flag to learners.

5.6.7 Museums and Public Buildings

National museums, memorial centres and public galleries may permanently display the National Flag.

Displays should include educational information explaining:

- Its constitutional significance.
- Historical development.
- Symbolism.
- Official protocol.

Such displays strengthen public understanding of national identity.

5.7 Outdoor Display Standards

5.7.1 Purpose of Outdoor Display

Outdoor display provides the most visible representation of national identity.

Government buildings displaying the National Flag demonstrate that public authority is exercised under the Constitution and on behalf of the people.

Proper outdoor display enhances both institutional dignity and public confidence.

5.7.2 Permanent Flagpoles

Permanent flagpoles should be installed at:

- State House.
- Parliament.
- Supreme Court.
- Government ministries.
- County headquarters.
- Military installations.
- Public universities.
- National monuments.
- Official border crossings.
- Kenyan diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)

Permanent flagpoles should comply with official engineering standards prescribed in the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.7.3 Height and Proportion

Outdoor flagpoles should be proportionate to:

- Building height.
- Available space.
- Flag dimensions.
- Viewing distance.

Extremely small poles diminish visibility, while excessively tall poles may distort the appearance of the flag.

Engineering specifications should therefore promote both visibility and aesthetic balance.

5.7.4 Environmental Conditions

Outdoor flags are continuously exposed to:

- Wind.
- Rain.
- Sunlight.
- Dust.
- Humidity.

Institutions should therefore conduct regular inspections to ensure:

- Colour retention.
- Structural integrity.
- Secure attachment.
- Proper flying condition.

Flags that become excessively faded or damaged should be replaced promptly.

5.7.5 Lighting

Where the National Flag remains displayed during hours of darkness, it should be illuminated sufficiently to ensure that it remains clearly visible.

Lighting should:

- Evenly illuminate the flag.
- Avoid glare.
- Preserve colour visibility.
- Enhance ceremonial dignity.

Where adequate lighting cannot be provided, institutions may lower the flag in accordance with established protocol.

5.8 Permanent and Temporary Installations

5.8.1 Permanent Installations

Permanent displays symbolize the continuous presence of the Republic.

Such installations should maintain:

- Professional appearance.
- Structural safety.
- Uniform dimensions.
- Proper maintenance.
- Official proportions.

5.8.2 Temporary Installations

Temporary displays are common during:

- National celebrations.
- Public exhibitions.
- Civic education campaigns.
- Conferences.
- Sporting events.
- County festivals.

Temporary installations should observe the same standards of dignity applicable to permanent displays.

Temporary convenience should never justify improper display.

5.8.3 Portable Flag Stands

Indoor portable flag stands should:

- Remain stable.
- Hold the flag vertically.
- Prevent the flag from touching the floor.
- Be appropriately sized for the displayed flag.

Portable displays should complement rather than dominate the ceremonial setting.

5.8.4 Decorative Displays

The National Flag may inspire decorative themes during public celebrations.

However:

- The official flag itself should never be distorted for decorative purposes.
- Decorative colour schemes should not replace the official design.
- Official proportions should always be preserved when the actual flag is displayed.

5.8.5 Public Exhibitions

Exhibitions explaining the National Flag should include:

- Historical information.
- Constitutional symbolism.
- Technical specifications.
- Civic education materials.
- Official protocol guidance.

Such exhibitions contribute significantly to public understanding.

5.9 Maintenance and Inspection

5.9.1 Importance of Maintenance

The condition of the National Flag reflects the respect shown to the Republic.

Every institution displaying the flag should adopt a maintenance programme that includes:

- Routine inspection.
- Cleaning.
- Repair where appropriate.
- Timely replacement.

5.9.2 Inspection Schedule

Institutions are encouraged to inspect permanently displayed flags:

- Daily through visual observation.
- Weekly for structural condition.
- Monthly for colour retention.
- Annually for overall replacement planning.

Large public institutions may designate specific officers responsible for inspections.

5.9.3 Replacement Standards

Flags should be replaced where they become:

- Torn.
- Severely faded.
- Permanently stained.
- Frayed.
- Structurally damaged.
- Incorrectly proportioned following repair.

A damaged flag should never remain on display merely for reasons of economy.

5.9.4 Storage

When not displayed, flags should be stored:

- Clean.
- Dry.
- Folded carefully.
- Protected from sunlight.
- Protected from moisture.
- Protected from insects.

Proper storage prolongs service life.

5.9.5 Record Keeping

Major government institutions are encouraged to maintain records of:

- Procurement.
- Installation.
- Inspection.
- Replacement.
- Retirement.

Such records promote accountability and efficient asset management.

5.10 Responsibilities for Institutional Compliance

5.10.1 Institutional Accountability

Every institution displaying the National Flag bears responsibility for ensuring compliance with official standards.

Institutional leadership should actively support proper flag protocol as part of good public administration. (United Nations, 2020)

5.10.2 Role of Protocol Officers

Protocol officers should supervise:

- Installation.
- Placement.
- Maintenance.
- Ceremonial display.
- Compliance with legislation.

Their responsibilities extend beyond ceremonial events to include everyday institutional practice.

5.10.3 Responsibility of Facility Managers

Facility managers should ensure that:

- Flagpoles remain structurally sound.
- Lighting systems function properly.
- Display areas remain clean.
- Replacement schedules are observed.

Physical infrastructure contributes significantly to ceremonial dignity.

5.10.4 Responsibility During Public Events

Organizers should inspect display arrangements before every official event.

This includes verifying:

- Correct flag.
- Proper orientation.
- Position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)
- Secure mounting.
- Appropriate lighting.
- Overall presentation.

Careful preparation prevents avoidable protocol errors.

5.10.5 Shared National Responsibility

Although government institutions bear primary responsibility for official displays, respect for the National Flag remains a collective civic obligation.

Citizens, educational institutions, community organizations and private entities displaying the National Flag should strive to uphold the same standards of dignity and professionalism expected of public institutions.

Through shared commitment to proper display, the National Flag continues to serve as a powerful symbol of Kenya's unity, constitutional order and national identity.

Display of the ONE47 National Flag During Official Ceremonies and Special Occasions

5.11 Display During National Celebrations

National celebrations provide the highest public expression of Kenya's unity, sovereignty and constitutional identity. During these occasions, the ONE47 National Flag becomes the principal visual representation of the Republic, reminding citizens that despite political, cultural, religious and regional diversity, they belong to one sovereign nation. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The display of the National Flag during national celebrations should therefore be uniform, dignified and consistent throughout the Republic.

5.11.2 National Holidays

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed during all officially recognized national celebrations, including: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Madaraka Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Labour Day.
- National Tree Planting Day.
- Any other day declared a national holiday by law.

Government institutions shall ensure that official flags are clean, properly installed and displayed in accordance with the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.11.3 National Celebration Venues

Official venues hosting national celebrations shall display the National Flag:

- At the principal entrance.
- On the main ceremonial stage.
- Along ceremonial routes.
- At official reception areas.
- On designated flagpoles surrounding the venue.

Where multiple official flags are displayed, the National Flag shall always occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

5.11.4 Public Participation

Citizens attending national celebrations are encouraged to:

- Display the National Flag respectfully.
- Observe official protocol during the raising and lowering of the flag.
- Stand during the National Anthem.
- Protect the dignity of national symbols.

The widespread display of the National Flag during national celebrations strengthens patriotism and national cohesion.

5.11.5 Symbol of Collective Identity

During national celebrations, the National Flag symbolizes not the Government of the day, but the enduring Republic of Kenya.

Its display reminds citizens that:

- Governments may change.
- Political leadership may change.
- Institutions may evolve.

Yet the Republic remains united under one Constitution and one National Flag.

5.12 Presidential, Parliamentary and Judicial Ceremonies

5.12.1 Presidential Functions

Official presidential ceremonies include:

- Presidential inaugurations.

- National award ceremonies.
- Official receptions.
- State banquets.
- National commemorations.

The National Flag shall occupy the principal position throughout such ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidential Standard may be displayed to signify the constitutional presence of the President but shall not supersede the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.12.2 Parliamentary Functions

During parliamentary ceremonies, including:

- State Opening of Parliament.
- Swearing-in of Members.
- Official parliamentary commemorations.
- Committee hearings involving state protocol.

The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The parliamentary ceremonial protocol shall symbolize the Legislature while maintaining the hierarchy established in Chapter Four.

5.12.3 Judicial Ceremonies

Judicial ceremonies include:

- Opening of the Judicial Year.
- Judicial conferences.
- Appointment and swearing-in of judges.
- Constitutional commemorations.
- Judicial outreach programmes.

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed alongside the judicial ceremonial protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The arrangement should reflect both judicial independence and constitutional unity.

5.12.4 Official Government Conferences

Government conferences involving multiple ministries or constitutional institutions shall display:

1. National Flag.
2. Appropriate ceremonial and institutional display standards.
3. County Flags where applicable. Uniform display reinforces professionalism and constitutional order.

5.12.5 Constitutional Ceremonies

Whenever constitutional offices participate jointly in official ceremonies, the National Flag symbolizes the unity of the Republic while ceremonial and institutional display standards identify their respective constitutional functions.

5.13 Military, Security and State Ceremonies

5.13.1 Kenya Defence Forces

Military ceremonies require particularly high standards of flag display because they symbolize the Defence Forces' commitment to defend the sovereignty represented by the National Flag.

The National Flag shall therefore occupy the foremost ceremonial position during: (National Flag, Emblems

- Military parades.
- Commissioning ceremonies.
- Passing-out parades.
- Military anniversaries.
- Official inspections.
- Peacekeeping deployments.

5.13.2 National Security Institutions

The National Flag shall also be prominently displayed during official ceremonies conducted by: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- National Police Service.
- Kenya Prisons Service.
- National Intelligence Service.
- National Youth Service.
- Other disciplined services established by law.

ceremonial and institutional display standards shall follow according to the Official Order of Precedence.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.13.3 Military Funerals

Military funerals constitute one of the highest ceremonial uses of the National Flag.

Where authorized:

- The National Flag may drape the casket.
- Appropriate military honours shall accompany the ceremony.
- The flag shall be folded respectfully following established military protocol.

Its use symbolizes national gratitude for service rendered to the Republic.

5.13.4 Memorial Ceremonies

National memorial services should display the National Flag prominently as a symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and constitutional continuity.

Such ceremonies remind citizens that the Republic honours those who have served the nation with distinction.

5.13.5 National Security Cooperation

Joint security ceremonies involving multiple agencies shall display one unified National Flag representing the Republic while ceremonial and institutional display standards identify participating services.

This arrangement reinforces cooperation among constitutional institutions.

5.14 Educational, Cultural and Sporting Events

5.14.1 Schools

Schools should display the National Flag during:

- Morning assemblies.
- Graduation ceremonies.
- National holiday celebrations.
- Civic education programmes.
- Student leadership events.

These occasions help cultivate patriotism from an early age.

5.14.2 Universities

Universities should display the National Flag during:

- Graduation ceremonies.
- Installation of university leaders.
- Academic conferences.
- National commemorations.
- Public lectures.

ceremonial and institutional display standards may accompany the National Flag without diminishing its prominence.

5.14.3 Cultural Festivals

The National Flag should feature prominently during officially recognized cultural festivals.

Its presence symbolizes:

- Unity amid diversity.
- Equal dignity of all communities.
- Shared national heritage.

The ONE47 National Flag is particularly suited to this role through its symbolic representation of all forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.14.4 Sporting Events

National sporting events should prominently display the National Flag.

Examples include:

- National championships.
- School games.
- University competitions.
- International tournaments hosted in Kenya.

During medal ceremonies, the National Flag should receive appropriate honours alongside the National Anthem.

5.14.5 International Representation

Whenever Kenyan athletes, artists or official delegations represent the Republic internationally, the ONE47 National Flag shall serve as the primary national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It identifies Kenya before the international community and should therefore always be displayed accurately and respectfully.

5.15 Diplomatic and International Display

5.15.1 Diplomatic Missions

Kenyan embassies, high commissions and consulates shall permanently display the National Flag. (United Nations, 2020) Its presence signifies:

- Kenya's sovereignty.
- Diplomatic authority.
- Constitutional government.

Diplomatic missions should maintain exemplary standards of presentation. (United Nations, 2020)

5.15.2 State Visits

During visits by foreign Heads of State:

- Kenya's National Flag.
- Visiting nation's National Flag.

shall be displayed together in accordance with international diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020) ceremonial and institutional display standards shall follow national protocol without disturbing diplomatic equality.

5.15.3 International Organizations

Where Kenya participates in meetings of:

- United Nations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union.
- East African Community.
- Commonwealth.
- Other intergovernmental organizations.

the National Flag shall represent the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) International organizational flags may accompany it according to applicable protocol.

5.15.4 International Conferences

Kenyan delegations attending international conferences should ensure that official displays of the National Flag conform to both Kenyan law and internationally accepted diplomatic practice.

Proper display reflects positively upon the Republic.

5.15.5 National Image

Every international display of the National Flag contributes to Kenya's global image.

A professionally displayed flag communicates:

- National confidence.
- Institutional maturity.
- Constitutional stability.
- Respect for international standards.

Diplomatic protocol therefore strengthens both national prestige and international goodwill. (United Nations, 2020) Special Display Situations, Compliance, Public Education and Chapter Summary

5.16 Special Display Situations

While the preceding sections establish the general principles governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag, certain occasions require the application of special protocol. These include international diplomatic engagements, multinational conferences, joint governmental ceremonies, displays alongside international organizational flags, emergency situations and other exceptional circumstances. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) In every such case, the guiding principle remains unchanged: the ONE47 National Flag shall always be displayed in a manner that preserves its dignity, constitutional status and symbolic importance, while respecting internationally accepted diplomatic practices and Kenya's legal obligations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Special display situations require careful planning to balance national protocol with international courtesy and ceremonial requirements.

5.16.2 Display with Foreign National Flags

During official visits by foreign Heads of State, Heads of Government or diplomatic delegations, the ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed alongside the visiting nation's National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The following principles shall apply:

- Both National Flags shall enjoy equal dignity.
- Neither National Flag shall be displayed higher than the other. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Flags shall be of similar dimensions and quality.
- Flagpoles should be of equal height. (United Nations, 2020)
- The order of display shall comply with accepted international diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020) This arrangement reflects the sovereign equality of states while preserving Kenya's constitutional dignity.

5.16.3 Display with International Organizations

Kenya regularly participates in activities organized by international and regional organizations.

Examples include:

- United Nations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union.
- East African Community.
- Commonwealth.
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
- International Court of Justice.
- Other recognized international bodies.

When displayed together:

- The ONE47 National Flag represents the Republic of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Organizational flags identify the respective institutions.
- Organizational flags shall not replace the National Flag as Kenya's principal national symbol.

5.16.4 Joint National and County Functions

Joint ceremonies involving National Government and County Governments should reinforce constitutional cooperation rather than institutional competition.

The recommended display shall include:

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. State Flag where appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
3. Relevant ceremonial and institutional display standards.
4. County Flag(s). This arrangement reflects both national unity and the constitutional principle of devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

5.16.5 Emergency Situations

During emergencies, including natural disasters or national crises, government institutions should continue displaying the National Flag wherever reasonably practicable.

- Constitutional continuity.
- National resilience.
- Public confidence.
- Unity during adversity.

Where display becomes unsafe due to extreme weather or security concerns, temporary removal shall not be regarded as disrespect but as a practical protective measure.

5.17 Inspection, Maintenance and Compliance

5.17.1 Importance of Inspection

Proper display requires continuous inspection.

Institutions should regularly examine:

- Flag condition.
- Colour quality.
- Structural integrity.
- Orientation.
- Mounting systems.
- Lighting.
- Pole safety.

Routine inspections preserve the dignity of national symbols and reduce unnecessary replacement costs.

5.17.2 Institutional Compliance

Every public institution displaying the National Flag should establish internal procedures for ensuring compliance with official standards.

These procedures may include:

- Scheduled inspections.
- Maintenance registers.
- Replacement schedules.
- Staff training.
- Protocol supervision.

Institutional compliance reflects responsible public administration.

5.17.3 Inspection Checklist

Routine inspections should confirm that:

- Official design has been used.
- Colours conform to approved specifications.
- Correct proportions have been maintained.
- Flag is properly oriented.
- Position of honour has been observed. (United Nations, 2020)
- Flag is free from damage.
- Flagpole remains structurally sound.
- Lighting is operational where required.
- Display surroundings are clean.
- Protocol documentation is available where appropriate.

A standardized inspection process promotes nationwide consistency.

5.17.4 Maintenance Programme

Institutions should establish preventive maintenance programmes including:

- Cleaning.
- Pole inspection.
- Hardware replacement.
- Flag rotation.
- Seasonal inspection.
- Storage management.

Preventive maintenance preserves both appearance and functionality.

5.17.5 Retirement and Replacement

Flags reaching the end of their service life should be respectfully retired in accordance with the procedures established in Section 16.17 (Retirement and Respectful Disposal of Official Flags).

Replacement flags should always comply with the official technical specifications established in the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5.18 Common Display Errors and Corrective Measures

Most errors in flag display result from unfamiliarity with official protocol rather than intentional disrespect.

Accordingly, education should remain the preferred means of correcting mistakes.

5.18.2 Frequent Errors

Common display errors include:

- Incorrect orientation.
- Displaying faded flags.
- Improper proportions.
- Incorrect pole placement.
- Displaying unofficial designs.
- Improper positioning with ceremonial and institutional display standards.
- Allowing flags to become dirty or damaged.
- Obstructing visibility.

Each of these errors diminishes the dignity of the Republic and should be corrected promptly.

5.18.3 Institutional Training

Government institutions should periodically conduct protocol training for:

- Reception staff.
- Administrative officers.
- Security personnel.
- Event organizers.
- School administrators.
- County protocol officers.

Training reduces errors while strengthening institutional professionalism.

5.18.4 Public Awareness

Citizens should have access to:

- Online guidance.
- Educational posters.
- School learning materials.
- Civic education campaigns.

Public awareness encourages voluntary compliance rather than reliance upon enforcement.

5.18.5 Continuous Improvement

Government should periodically review display practices to ensure:

- Consistency.
- Modernization.
- Accessibility.
- Compatibility with evolving constitutional practice.

Such reviews should preserve the core principles established in this Manual.

5.19 Civic Responsibility and Public Participation

5.19.1 The National Flag Belongs to Every Kenyan

Although official institutions bear primary responsibility for protocol, the National Flag belongs equally to every citizen.

Respect for the flag is therefore a shared civic responsibility rather than an exclusively governmental function.

5.19.2 Voluntary Public Display

Citizens are encouraged to display the National Flag during:

- National holidays.
- Civic celebrations.
- Educational activities.
- Community events.
- Sporting achievements.
- National commemorations.

Voluntary display strengthens public participation in national life.

5.19.3 Civic Education

Community organizations, schools, universities, youth organizations and professional associations should promote understanding of:

- Flag symbolism.
- Proper display.
- Constitutional values.
- National identity.

Knowledge encourages genuine respect.

5.19.4 Shared Ownership

The ONE47 National Flag belongs equally to:

- Every county.
- Every community.
- Every generation.

Its Forty-Seven-Segment Circle symbolizes this shared ownership. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every respectful display reinforces the principle that Kenya's unity is strengthened by its diversity.

5.19.5 Building a Culture of Respect

Ultimately, the success of the ONE47 National Flag depends not upon legislation alone but upon the willingness of citizens to embrace it as a symbol of their common identity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) A culture of respect is built through:

- Education.
- Leadership.
- Example.
- Community participation.
- Constitutional patriotism.

This chapter has established the official standards governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag throughout the Republic of Kenya. Building upon the constitutional hierarchy established in Chapter Four, it has translated the principles of national dignity and constitutional order into practical guidance for the display of the National Flag in government institutions, county governments, educational institutions, military establishments, diplomatic missions, public ceremonies and community events. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The chapter has explained that the National Flag is the supreme visual symbol of the Republic and, as such, must always occupy the position of honour whenever displayed. It has provided standards for indoor and outdoor installations, permanent and temporary displays, ceremonial use, international engagements, maintenance and institutional compliance. Particular attention has been given to ensuring that every display of the National Flag reflects professionalism, consistency and respect for the Constitution. (United Nations, 2020) In addition, the chapter has addressed special display situations involving foreign national flags and international organizations, identified common display errors and outlined practical inspection and maintenance procedures. It has also emphasized the shared responsibility of government institutions and citizens in safeguarding the dignity of the National Flag, recognizing that enduring respect for national symbols is best achieved through education, civic participation and responsible leadership. (United Nations, 2020) By establishing uniform national standards for the display of the ONE47 National Flag, this chapter provides an operational framework that complements the ONE47 legal implementation framework and the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual. Together, these instruments ensure that the National Flag is displayed consistently across all official and public settings, reinforcing Kenya's constitutional identity, national unity and democratic values. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 6: FLAG DISPLAY WITH OTHER FLAGS

Constitutional Principles Governing the Display of the ONE47 National Flag with Other Official Flags (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Republic of Kenya recognizes several official flags, each representing a distinct constitutional institution or public authority. While the ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the sovereignty and unity of the Republic, other official flags identify the constitutional offices and institutions through which the powers of the State are exercised. These include the Presidential Standard, the State Flag, the parliamentary ceremonial protocol, the judicial ceremonial protocol, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s and County Flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) As these flags are frequently displayed together during official ceremonies, state functions, diplomatic engagements and civic events, it is essential that their arrangement follows a clear and consistent protocol. Without such guidance, displays may unintentionally create confusion regarding constitutional relationships or diminish the dignity of the National Flag.

This chapter therefore establishes the official rules governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag alongside other official flags of the Republic and, where appropriate, alongside foreign national flags and the flags of international organizations. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Preserve the constitutional supremacy of the ONE47 National Flag. (

Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Establish uniform standards for multiple-flag displays.
- Promote consistency across all public institutions.
- Prevent protocol errors.
- Enhance civic understanding of constitutional institutions.
- Support diplomatic and ceremonial practice.
- Complement the ONE47 legal implementation framework.

These standards apply to all official institutions of the Republic and are recommended as best practice for civic organizations and public events.

The display of multiple official flags is not merely ceremonial; it reflects Kenya's constitutional architecture.

The Constitution establishes separate but complementary institutions, each exercising distinct powers on behalf of the people:

- The Executive administers the Republic.
- Parliament enacts legislation.
- The Judiciary administers justice.
- County Governments exercise devolved authority.
- The Kenya Defence Forces safeguard national sovereignty.

Each institution may possess its own official flag or standard, but all derive their authority from the Constitution and ultimately serve the Republic represented by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) ceremonial and institutional display standards express functional authority rather than sovereignty.

For example:

- The Presidential Standard represents the constitutional office of the President. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol represents legislative authority.
- Judicial settings symbolize judicial independence and the rule of law.

- Defence Forces Flags identify military command. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) The ONE47 National Flag, however, represents the Republic itself. Accordingly, no institutional flag shall ever assume precedence over the National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whether displayed at:

- State House,
- Parliament,
- the Supreme Court,
- a County Headquarters,
- a military base,
- a public university,
- or a Kenyan Embassy abroad,

the principles governing multiple-flag displays shall remain uniform throughout the Republic.

Consistency reinforces constitutional order and strengthens public confidence in national institutions.

6.2 The ONE47 National Flag as the Principal Flag

6.2.1 Supreme National Symbol

The ONE47 National Flag occupies the highest position within Kenya's official flag system because it represents: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The sovereignty of the people.
- The unity of the Republic.
- Constitutional government.
- National independence.
- Territorial integrity.
- Democratic governance.

Its constitutional significance is therefore greater than that of any institutional flag.

6.2.2 Representation of the Republic

Unlike ceremonial and institutional display standards, the National Flag does not represent an office or organization.

Instead, it represents:

- Every citizen.
- Every county.
- Every constitutional institution.
- Every generation.
- Every community.
- The Republic as a whole.

Its display therefore transcends political, administrative and institutional boundaries.

6.2.3 Symbol of National Unity

The ONE47 National Flag visually expresses the unity of Kenya's forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its design reflects:

- Equality.
- Shared nationhood.
- Peace.

- Constitutional patriotism.

Accordingly, whenever displayed alongside other flags, its prominence symbolizes the unity that binds all institutions together.

6.2.4 Relationship with Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards

ceremonial and institutional display standards do not compete with the National Flag.

Rather, they complement it by identifying constitutional functions.

The National Flag therefore serves as the common constitutional reference point for:

- Executive authority.
- Legislative authority.
- Judicial authority.
- Military service.
- County governance.

This relationship should always be reflected in official flag displays.

6.2.5 Position of Honour

Whenever multiple official flags are displayed, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) This generally means:

- The highest ceremonial position.
- The principal flagpole.
- The central position where appropriate.
- The foremost position in processions.
- The first position in official order.

This principle shall apply consistently unless modified by accepted international diplomatic practice.

(United Nations, 2020)

6.3 Categories of Official Flags of the Republic

6.3.1 National Flag

The ONE47 National Flag represents the Republic of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It is the supreme flag within the national flag system and shall always receive the highest honours.

6.3.2 Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard symbolizes the constitutional office of the President as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It shall be displayed only in circumstances authorized by law and protocol.

Its display indicates the official presence or authority of the President but shall not replace the National Flag.

6.3.3 State Flag

The State Flag identifies the Executive branch of Government. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It may be displayed:

- At Government ministries.
- State departments.

- Government offices.

It shall always follow the National Flag in precedence.

6.3.4 Parliamentary Settings

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol represents the legislative authority vested in Parliament.

It symbolizes democratic representation and law-making under the Constitution.

When displayed with the National Flag, it shall occupy its appropriate position according to the official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.3.5 Judicial Settings

The judicial ceremonial protocol symbolizes the independence of the courts and the administration of justice.

Its display emphasizes the Judiciary's constitutional mandate while recognizing the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic.

6.3.6 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign represents the unified command of the Defence Forces.

It shall be displayed:

- At Defence Headquarters.
- Joint military ceremonies.
- National military functions.

The National Flag shall remain the principal flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.3.7 Service Ensigns

The Army, Air Force and Naval each possess distinctive service ensigns.

These identify military branches rather than national sovereignty.

Their display shall follow the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

6.3.8 County Flags

County Flags represent the governments of Kenya's forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) County Flags symbolize:

- Devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- Local governance.
- County identity.

They shall never supersede the National Flag.

6.3.9 Ceremonial Flag Standard

The Ceremonial Flag Standard is reserved for officially approved ceremonial occasions where decorative or honorary display is appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its use shall be governed by the provisions of the proposed legislation and relevant protocol regulations.

6.4 Principles Governing Mixed Displays

6.4.1 Principle of Constitutional Hierarchy

Accordingly:

- The National Flag represents the Republic.
- ceremonial and institutional display standards represent constitutional offices.

Their arrangement should visibly communicate these constitutional relationships.

6.4.2 Principle of Equality Among Institutions

Although ceremonial and institutional display standards follow the National Flag, each official institution deserves equal constitutional respect within its own sphere of authority.

Protocol therefore distinguishes between:

- Constitutional precedence.
- Institutional dignity.

Proper flag arrangement preserves both.

6.4.3 Principle of Visibility

Every flag in a mixed display should remain:

- Clearly visible.
- Properly illuminated where necessary.
- Free from obstruction.
- Correctly oriented.

The National Flag should remain immediately identifiable as the principal symbol.

6.4.4 Principle of Uniform Dimensions

Where multiple official flags are displayed together:

- Flag sizes should generally be uniform.
- Pole heights should generally be equal.
- Construction quality should be consistent.

The prominence of the National Flag should derive from its position rather than exaggerated dimensions.

6.4.5 Principle of Professional Presentation

Mixed displays should project:

- Order.
- Precision.
- Balance.
- Dignity.
- Professionalism.

Poorly arranged displays undermine public confidence and diminish ceremonial quality.

6.5 General Rules for Displaying Multiple Flags

6.5.1 Planning Multiple Displays

Before arranging multiple flags, organizers should determine:

- Nature of the ceremony.
- Participating institutions.
- International involvement.
- Number of available flagpoles.

- Indoor or outdoor setting.
- Applicable protocol.

Proper planning prevents protocol errors.

6.5.2 Odd and Even Numbers of Flags

When an odd number of flags is displayed, the National Flag should normally occupy the central position of honour. (United Nations, 2020) When an even number of flags is displayed, the National Flag should occupy the principal position as determined by official protocol, ensuring its prominence within the arrangement.

6.5.3 Indoor Multiple Displays

Indoor displays should maintain:

- Proper spacing.
- Uniform stands.
- Correct orientation.
- Visibility to the audience.

Flags should not obstruct speakers or ceremonial activities.

6.5.4 Outdoor Multiple Displays

Outdoor displays should ensure:

- Equal pole spacing.
- Secure mounting.
- Appropriate lighting where required.
- Structural safety.
- Compliance with engineering standards.

Environmental conditions should be considered during planning.

6.5.5 Consistency Across the Republic

Every institution displaying multiple official flags should apply these standards consistently.

Uniform practice throughout Kenya strengthens:

- Constitutional identity.
- Institutional professionalism.
- Civic education.
- National unity.

The orderly display of official flags reflects the orderly functioning of the Republic itself.

Display of the ONE47 National Flag with Official Kenyan Flags

6.6 Display with the Presidential Standard

6.6.1 Constitutional Relationship

The Presidential Standard represents the constitutional office of the President of the Republic of Kenya in the President's capacity as Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The ONE47 National Flag, however, represents the Republic itself. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly, the Presidential Standard derives its constitutional authority from the Republic and shall therefore never supersede the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whenever both are displayed together, the National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and

6.6.2 Purpose of the Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard serves several ceremonial and constitutional functions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It signifies:

- The official presence of the President.
- The constitutional authority of the Presidency.
- The continuity of executive leadership.
- The dignity of the Office of the President.

Unlike the National Flag, the Presidential Standard represents an office rather than the nation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.6.3 Display During Presidential Ceremonies

During official presidential functions, the recommended display shall be:

1. ONE47 National Flag
2. Presidential Standard Where additional ceremonial and institutional display standards are displayed, they shall follow the official Order of Precedence established in Chapter Four. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Examples include:

- Presidential inaugurations.
- State addresses.
- National honours ceremonies.
- Official receptions.
- State banquets.
- National celebrations attended by the President.

6.6.4 Presidential Office

Within the Office of the President, the National Flag and the Presidential Standard should be displayed together. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag symbolizes the Republic.

The Presidential Standard identifies the constitutional office occupied by the President. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Their joint display visually communicates that presidential authority is exercised on behalf of the Republic.

6.6.5 Presidential Motorcade and Official Residence

Where the Presidential Standard is displayed on official presidential vehicles, aircraft or official residences, the National Flag should remain prominently displayed at the principal official premises. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidential Standard shall not replace the National Flag as Kenya's principal national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.7 Display with the State Flag

6.7.1 Purpose of the State Flag

The State Flag identifies the Executive branch responsible for administering public affairs under the Constitution. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It symbolizes governmental authority rather than national sovereignty.

Accordingly, it shall always follow the National Flag.

6.7.2 Government Ministries

Government ministries should normally display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

Additional ceremonial and institutional display standards may be displayed where authorized.

6.7.3 Executive Meetings

During Cabinet meetings, intergovernmental conferences and executive forums: The National Flag shall occupy the principal position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The State Flag shall symbolize executive administration. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This arrangement reinforces the constitutional principle that Government derives its authority from the Republic.

6.7.4 State Departments

State departments may display the State Flag within their premises together with the National Flag.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Departmental logos or banners shall not replace either official flag.

6.7.5 Government Agencies

Government agencies operating under ministries should display the National Flag as the primary national symbol.

The State Flag may accompany it where officially authorized. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.8 Display with Parliament and judicial ceremonial protocols

6.8.1 Parliamentary Settings

The parliamentary ceremonial protocol represents Kenya's Legislature.

It symbolizes:

- Democratic representation.
- Legislative authority.
- Parliamentary independence.
- Constitutional law-making.

When displayed together:

1. National Flag
2. parliamentary ceremonial protocol The National Flag retains constitutional precedence.

6.8.2 Parliamentary Ceremonies

Examples include:

- Opening of Parliament.
- Swearing-in of Members.
- Parliamentary conferences.
- Official committee hearings.
- National legislative celebrations.

The National Flag should remain the dominant national symbol throughout such ceremonies.

6.8.3 Judicial Settings

It represents:

- Rule of law.
- Constitutional interpretation.
- Judicial authority.
- Administration of justice.

Its display emphasizes judicial impartiality while recognizing the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic.

6.8.4 Judicial Buildings

Within:

- Supreme Court.
- Court of Appeal.
- High Court.
- Magistrates' Courts.

The National Flag should be displayed prominently and respectfully.

Their arrangement should communicate both constitutional unity and judicial independence.

6.8.5 Joint Constitutional Ceremonies

Where the Executive, Parliament and Judiciary participate jointly: Recommended arrangement:

1. National Flag.
2. Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
3. parliamentary ceremonial protocol.
4. judicial ceremonial protocol. Additional official flags shall follow according to the Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This arrangement visibly reflects the constitutional separation of powers.

6.9 Display with Kenya Defence Forces Ensign s

6.9.1 Constitutional Significance

The Kenya Defence Forces defend the sovereignty represented by the National Flag.

Military flags therefore symbolize military command rather than national sovereignty.

Their display should always reinforce constitutional civilian authority.

6.9.2 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign represents unified military command.

When displayed:

1. National Flag.
2. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign. This arrangement reflects that the Defence Forces serve the Republic.

6.9.3 Service Ensigns

The official sequence should normally be:

1. National Flag.
2. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

3. Army Ensign.
4. Naval Ensign.
5. Air Force Ensign. Additional regimental colours may follow according to military regulations.

6.9.4 Military Headquarters

Military headquarters should prominently display the National Flag.

Service flags identify command structures without replacing the National Flag.

6.9.5 Military Ceremonies

Military events requiring multiple flags include:

- Passing-out parades.
- Commissioning ceremonies.
- National military celebrations.
- Peacekeeping deployments.
- Military funerals.

The National Flag shall always receive the highest ceremonial honours. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.10 Display with County Flags and Other Official Flags

6.10.1 County Flags

County Flags represent devolved governments established under Chapter Eleven of the Constitution.

They symbolize:

- County identity.
- Local governance.
- Democratic devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

County Flags shall always follow the National Flag.

6.10.2 County Headquarters

County headquarters should normally display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flag.

Where National Government offices are located within county premises, additional official flags may be displayed according to established protocol.

6.10.3 Multiple County Flags

Where several County Flags are displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flags shall enjoy equal status among themselves.
- Counties may be arranged alphabetically, geographically or according to an officially approved ceremonial sequence.

No County Flag shall claim superiority over another.

6.10.4 Ceremonial Flag Standard

The Ceremonial Flag Standard may accompany the National Flag during officially authorized ceremonial occasions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its display should complement rather than overshadow the National Flag.

Gold ceremonial fringe, where prescribed, shall be used in accordance with official specifications contained in the Technical Standards Manual.

6.10.5 Other Official Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards

Constitutional commissions, independent offices, public universities and public corporations may possess officially approved ceremonial and institutional display standards or banners.

Examples include:

- Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.
- Commission on Administrative Justice.
- Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.
- Public universities.
- State corporations.

Whenever displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Official ceremonial and institutional display standards shall follow according to their

constitutional or administrative status.

- Institutional logos, corporate banners or promotional materials shall never be placed in a

manner that diminishes the prominence or dignity of the National Flag.

The National Flag remains the unifying symbol that transcends all institutional identities.

Display of the ONE47 National Flag with Foreign National Flags and International Organizations (United Nations, 2020)

6.11 Display with Foreign National Flags

The Republic of Kenya is an active member of the international community and regularly hosts foreign Heads of State, diplomatic missions, international conferences, trade delegations and cultural exchanges.

During such occasions, the ONE47 National Flag is frequently displayed alongside the national flags of other sovereign states. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The display of multiple national flags is governed by internationally recognized diplomatic principles, including sovereign equality, mutual respect and reciprocity. While Kenya's National Flag remains the supreme symbol of the Republic within its own constitutional order, it shall be displayed with foreign national flags in a manner that reflects the equality of sovereign nations under international law.

(United Nations, 2020) The proper display of national flags during international engagements is therefore both a constitutional obligation and an expression of Kenya's respect for international diplomacy.

6.11.2 Principle of Sovereign Equality

One of the oldest principles of diplomatic protocol is that all sovereign states are equal. (United Nations, 2020) Accordingly:

• Kenya's National Flag shall never be displayed in a manner that intentionally diminishes another nation's flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

• Likewise, foreign national flags shall not diminish the dignity of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

• Equality shall be reflected through: o Equal flag size. o Equal pole height. o Equal lighting. o Equal visibility. o Equal ceremonial treatment.

This principle reflects the Charter of the United Nations and customary international diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020) (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

6.11.3 Official State Visits

During State Visits involving Presidents, Monarchs or Heads of Government, the official display should normally include:

• The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

• The National Flag of the visiting State.

Where additional flags are required, such as the Presidential Standard or State Flag, these shall be displayed in accordance with Kenya's official Order of Precedence without disturbing diplomatic equality between sovereign nations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The arrangement should communicate friendship, mutual respect and cooperation.

6.11.4 Diplomatic Ceremonies

Official diplomatic ceremonies include:

- Presentation of Letters of Credence.
- Farewell ceremonies.
- Treaty signing.
- Bilateral meetings.
- Joint press conferences.
- State banquets.
- Official receptions.

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed throughout these ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.11.5 Bilateral Meetings

Conference rooms hosting bilateral meetings should normally display:

• ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

• Visiting Nation's Flag.

The flags should be positioned symmetrically behind official delegations or podiums.

Uniform presentation reinforces diplomatic professionalism.

6.12 Display within Diplomatic Missions

6.12.1 Embassies and High Commissions

Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad represent the sovereignty of the Republic. (United Nations, 2020) Accordingly, every Embassy and High Commission shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag signifies:

- Kenya's constitutional authority.
- Diplomatic presence.
- National identity.
- Sovereign representation.

Its display should comply with both Kenyan law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

6.12.2 Consulates

Consulates shall similarly display the National Flag at: (United Nations, 2020)

- Official entrances.
- Consular offices.
- Reception areas.
- Official ceremonial venues.

The flag should remain in excellent condition at all times.

6.12.3 Residence of the Head of Mission

Where diplomatic protocol permits, the official residence of the Ambassador or High Commissioner may display: (United Nations, 2020)

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Presidential Standard only where expressly authorized under Kenyan law and diplomatic regulations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutional consistency should be maintained across all diplomatic premises.

6.12.4 Diplomatic Vehicles

Official diplomatic vehicles may display miniature national flags during authorized ceremonial occasions.

Such displays shall comply with:

- Diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Host country regulations.
- Kenyan Government guidelines.

The dignity of the National Flag should always be preserved.

6.12.5 International Representation

Every display of the ONE47 National Flag abroad contributes to Kenya's international image. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Professional presentation communicates:

- Stability.
- Good governance.
- Constitutional maturity.

Diplomatic missions therefore serve as custodians of Kenya's visual identity before the international community. (United Nations, 2020)

6.13 Display with International Organizations

6.13.1 United Nations

As a Member State of the United Nations, Kenya frequently participates in UN conferences, peacekeeping operations and international meetings. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) When displayed together:

- The ONE47 National Flag identifies the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The United Nations Flag identifies the Organization. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) Neither flag replaces the other because they represent different legal entities.

6.13.2 African Union

Kenya is a founding member of the African Union.

During AU meetings:

- The ONE47 National Flag represents Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The African Union Flag represents the continental organization.

Both flags should be displayed according to established AU protocol while preserving Kenya's national identity.

6.13.3 East African Community

Within the East African Community: The National Flag symbolizes Kenya's sovereignty while the EAC Flag represents regional cooperation.

Joint display reinforces both national independence and regional integration.

6.13.4 Commonwealth

During Commonwealth activities:

- Kenya's National Flag shall remain the primary national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Commonwealth organizational flags identify the international association.

The display should reflect Kenya's participation as an equal member state.

6.13.5 Other International Organizations

Kenya may also participate in meetings of:

- IGAD.
- COMESA.
- World Bank.
- International Monetary Fund.
- UNESCO.
- World Health Organization.

- Other intergovernmental organizations.

In every case: The ONE47 National Flag represents the Republic while organizational flags identify the respective institutions. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.14 International Conferences, Peacekeeping and Sporting Events

6.14.1 International Conferences

International conferences frequently display numerous national flags.

Kenya's National Flag should:

- Follow official conference protocol.
- Be displayed accurately.
- Be equal in size to other national flags.
- Maintain proper orientation.
- Be free from damage.

Conference organizers should verify compliance before official proceedings commence.

6.14.2 Peacekeeping Operations

Kenyan personnel serving under:

- United Nations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union.
- Regional peacekeeping missions.

continue to represent the Republic.

Accordingly:

- The ONE47 National Flag identifies Kenyan forces. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag,

Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Mission flags identify the peacekeeping operation.

Both should be displayed according to applicable operational regulations.

6.14.3 International Sporting Events

Sport provides one of the most visible international platforms for the National Flag.

The ONE47 National Flag shall represent Kenya during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Olympic Games.
- Paralympic Games.
- Commonwealth Games.
- African Games.
- World Championships.
- International university competitions.
- Regional sporting events.

Athletes compete individually, but the National Flag symbolizes the Republic.

6.14.4 Cultural Exchanges

Official cultural delegations should prominently display the National Flag during:

- Cultural exhibitions.

- Artistic festivals.
- Heritage events.
- Educational exchanges.
- Tourism promotion.

The flag serves as a visual ambassador of Kenya's heritage and identity.

6.14.5 International Trade Missions

Government trade delegations and investment forums should prominently display the National Flag alongside the flags of participating nations where appropriate.

Professional presentation strengthens Kenya's international reputation and investment image.

6.15 International Courtesy, Reciprocity and Best Practice

6.15.1 Principle of Reciprocity

Kenya shall extend to foreign national flags the same dignity that it expects other nations to extend to the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Reciprocity promotes international goodwill and diplomatic respect.

6.15.2 Uniform Standards

Kenyan institutions participating in international events should ensure: (United Nations, 2020)

- Correct flag specifications.
- Uniform dimensions.
- Approved colours.
- Proper orientation.
- High-quality presentation.

Technical accuracy reflects institutional professionalism.

6.15.3 Respect for International Protocol

Kenyan officials should familiarize themselves with:

- Diplomatic conventions.
- International ceremonial practice.
- Host country protocol.
- Organizational regulations.

Respect for protocol strengthens Kenya's international relationships.

6.15.4 Symbol of National Reputation

Every international display of the ONE47 National Flag contributes to Kenya's global reputation.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) A well-presented flag communicates:

- Professionalism.
- Constitutional stability.
- National unity.
- Respect for international norms.

It reflects positively upon both Government and citizens.

6.15.5 The National Flag as Kenya's Global Identity

Beyond diplomacy and protocol, the ONE47 National Flag serves as Kenya's enduring visual identity before the world. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Whether displayed at an embassy, a peacekeeping mission, a trade exhibition, an international court, a university exchange, a sporting arena or a global summit, the flag represents the aspirations, values and constitutional ideals of the Kenyan people.

Every respectful international display therefore strengthens Kenya's standing among the family of nations.

Special Display Arrangements, Practical Protocol, Compliance and Chapter Summary

6.16 Special Multiple-Flag Arrangements

While standard flag arrangements apply to most official occasions, there are circumstances that require more complex protocols due to the participation of multiple constitutional institutions, county governments, foreign delegations, security agencies or international organizations.

Such arrangements must always preserve the constitutional status of the ONE47 National Flag while accommodating the ceremonial requirements of participating institutions. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The overriding principle remains that every multiple-flag display should communicate constitutional order, institutional harmony and national unity.

6.16.2 National and County Government Ceremonies

Joint ceremonies involving the National Government and County Governments represent Kenya's system of devolved governance.

Examples include:

- Intergovernmental summits.
- Council of Governors meetings.
- National development launches.
- County infrastructure commissioning.
- National disaster response programmes.

The recommended display shall be:

1. ONE47 National Flag
2. Presidential Standard (where applicable)
3. State Flag
4. County Flag(s)
5. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign
6. Service Ensigns, where applicable
7. Ceremonial Flag Standard (where applicable) This arrangement illustrates that devolution exists within a single sovereign Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

6.16.3 Multi-County Ceremonies

Occasions may arise where numerous County Flags are displayed simultaneously.

Examples include:

- Devolution conferences. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- County investment forums.
- Agricultural exhibitions.
  National cultural festivals.

- County sports championships.

In such cases:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- County Flags shall enjoy equal status among themselves.
- County Flags may be arranged alphabetically, geographically or according to an officially

approved sequence.

No County Flag shall receive permanent precedence over another.

6.16.4 Multi-Agency Government Functions

Government programmes often involve several constitutional institutions simultaneously.

Examples include:

- National security meetings.
- Anti-corruption initiatives.
- Electoral preparations.
- Constitutional commissions.
- Disaster management operations.

ceremonial and institutional display standards shall identify participating agencies while the National Flag symbolizes the unity of the Republic.

6.16.5 Mixed Civilian-Military Ceremonies

Joint ceremonies involving civilian institutions and the Kenya Defence Forces should preserve civilian constitutional authority while recognizing military professionalism.

The recommended order for official flags is:

1. National Flag
2. Presidential Standard
3. State Flag
4. County Flags
5. Defence Forces Flags
6. Ceremonial Flag Standard Military service ensigns are placed within the Defence Forces Flags category. County Flags remain above Defence Forces Flags in the national order.

6.17 Practical Guidance for Organizers

6.17.1 Planning Multiple-Flag Displays

Successful flag protocol begins long before the ceremony itself. (United Nations, 2020) Organizers should determine:

- Nature of the event.
- Participating institutions.
- Number of official flags required.
- International participation.
- Indoor or outdoor setting.
- Available flagpoles or stands.

Advance planning prevents protocol errors and promotes a dignified presentation.

6.17.2 Flagpole Arrangements

When multiple flagpoles are available:

- Poles should normally be of equal height. (United Nations, 2020)
- Spacing should be uniform.
- Flags should not overlap.
- Visibility should be unobstructed.
- Lighting should be adequate where required.

Engineering safety shall always accompany ceremonial correctness.

6.17.3 Stage Arrangements

Official stages frequently present protocol challenges.

The National Flag should remain clearly visible behind:

- Speakers.
- Dignitaries.
- Official podiums.
- Signing tables.
- Award presentation areas.

Decorative materials should never obscure the National Flag.

6.17.4 Indoor Flag Stands

Indoor flag stands should:

- Hold flags vertically.
- Maintain equal height. (United Nations, 2020)
- Prevent flags from touching the floor.
- Remain stable throughout the event.

Professional presentation enhances institutional credibility.

6.17.5 Ceremonial Processions

During official processions: The National Flag should normally lead the procession unless military regulations prescribe a different ceremonial sequence for Colours under specific service traditions.

ceremonial and institutional display standards should follow according to the Official Order of Precedence.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

6.18 Common Protocol Errors

Most protocol mistakes occur because organizers are unfamiliar with official standards rather than intentionally disrespectful.

Consequently, education remains the preferred corrective measure.

6.18.2 Frequent Errors

Common mistakes include:

- Placing ceremonial and institutional display standards above the National Flag.
- Using unequal flag sizes.
- Displaying faded flags beside new flags.

- Improper orientation.
- Incorrect spacing.
- Mixing ceremonial and ordinary flags.
- Using unofficial flag designs.
- Displaying flags in poor physical condition.

Such errors diminish the dignity of official ceremonies.

6.18.3 Display Errors During International Events

International ceremonies present additional challenges.

Common mistakes include:

- Incorrect order of national flags.
- Unequal pole heights.
- Incorrect diplomatic positioning.
- Improper organizational flag placement.

Institutions should consult official protocol guidance before international events. (United Nations, 2020)

6.18.4 Training and Capacity Building

Government institutions should periodically train:

- Protocol officers.
- Administrative officers.
- Event organizers.
- Military ceremonial personnel.
- County officials.
- School administrators.

Continuous professional development strengthens national consistency.

6.18.5 Institutional Review

Major institutions should periodically review their flag display practices through:

- Internal inspections.
- Protocol audits.
- Staff orientation.
- Updated procedural manuals.

Such reviews promote continuous improvement.

6.19 Inspection, Compliance and Civic Education

6.19.1 Inspection Checklist

Before every official ceremony, organizers should verify:

- Correct official flags.
- Proper Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Approved technical specifications.
- Correct orientation.
- Equal pole heights where required.
- Appropriate lighting.
- Clean, undamaged flags.
- Secure mounting.

6.19.2 Institutional Compliance

Every public institution should designate a responsible officer to oversee:

- Flag procurement.
- Installation.
- Maintenance.
- Protocol compliance.
- Replacement schedules.

Responsibility should be clearly assigned.

6.19.3 Civic Education

The display of multiple flags presents valuable opportunities for public education.

Official ceremonies may include brief explanations regarding:

- Meaning of the National Flag.
- Purpose of ceremonial and institutional display standards.
- Constitutional Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Symbolism of devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- National unity.

Such explanations strengthen constitutional literacy.

6.19.4 Public Participation

Citizens should understand that ceremonial and institutional display standards do not compete with the National Flag.

Instead:

- The National Flag symbolizes the Republic.
- ceremonial and institutional display standards identify constitutional functions.

Understanding these distinctions promotes informed patriotism.

6.19.5 Future Development

As the ONE47 National Flag System evolves, supplementary protocol guidance may be developed for:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- County Governments.
- Universities.
- Public corporations.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Military academies.
- Sporting federations.

These specialized guides should remain consistent with this Manual.

This chapter has established the official principles governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag alongside all other officially recognized flags. It has demonstrated that multiple-flag displays are not merely decorative arrangements but visual expressions of Kenya's constitutional order, institutional relationships and national identity. The chapter has affirmed that the ONE47 National Flag occupies the principal position in every official display because it represents the sovereignty of the Republic, the supremacy of the Constitution and the unity of the Kenyan people. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has distinguished between the National Flag and ceremonial and institutional display standards such as the Presidential Standard, the State Flag, the parliamentary

ceremonial protocol, the judicial ceremonial protocol, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign, the Service Ensigns, County Flags and other authorized official flags. While each institutional flag represents a specific constitutional office or public function, none supersedes or diminishes the National Flag. Their proper arrangement reflects the separation of powers, the system of devolution and the professionalism of Kenya's public institutions. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Finally, this chapter has provided practical guidance for organizers, identified common protocol errors, established inspection and compliance procedures and highlighted the importance of civic education.

Through consistent application of these standards, every multiple-flag display becomes an opportunity to reinforce constitutional values, public confidence and national cohesion.

Collectively, the provisions of this chapter complement the ONE47 legal implementation framework, the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual (Volume III) and this Official Flag Protocol, Etiquette and Ceremonial Manual (Volume II), creating a comprehensive and authoritative framework for all official flag displays within the Republic of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

CHAPTER 7: HALF-MAST PROTOCOL

The Constitutional Meaning, Purpose and Authority for Half-Mast Display The lowering of the ONE47 National Flag to half-mast is among the highest ceremonial honours that the Republic of Kenya may bestow.

It is a solemn national act that publicly expresses collective grief, remembrance, respect and solidarity during periods of national mourning. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Unlike ordinary flag display, which symbolizes the vitality, continuity and sovereignty of the Republic, the lowering of the National Flag acknowledges that the nation pauses to honour an individual, commemorate a tragedy or recognize a moment of exceptional national significance. It reflects not weakness or diminished sovereignty, but the maturity of a constitutional democracy that honours service, sacrifice and the dignity of human life.

Half-mast display is therefore not merely a ceremonial gesture. It is a constitutional expression of the nation's shared values and a visual reminder that the Republic remembers those whose lives or service have profoundly shaped the country. (United Nations, 2020) The practice of lowering national flags as a mark of mourning has developed over centuries and is recognized throughout the world as a symbol of collective remembrance. Although the origins of the custom are rooted in maritime tradition, it has evolved into a universally accepted expression of public mourning adopted by constitutional democracies, monarchies and republics alike.

Kenya has long observed this tradition during periods of national mourning. Under the ONE47 National Flag System, the practice is preserved and modernized by establishing clear constitutional authority, uniform standards and transparent procedures for its application. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The objective is to ensure that every half-mast display is consistent, respectful and understood by all citizens. (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag represents the sovereignty of the Republic and the unity of the Kenyan people. Because of this unique constitutional status, any alteration to its normal position carries profound meaning. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Lowering the National Flag to half-mast signifies that: (United Nations, 2020)

- The nation collectively mourns.
- Constitutional institutions honour distinguished service.
- Citizens stand together in remembrance.
- The dignity of the Republic is expressed through solemn ceremony.
- National unity transcends political, ethnic, religious and regional differences.

Half-mast display therefore reinforces the constitutional values of dignity, patriotism, respect for public service and national cohesion. (United Nations, 2020) Periods of national mourning often arise from events that affect the entire country, such as the passing of eminent leaders, national tragedies or acts of exceptional sacrifice.

The ONE47 National Flag, with its representation of all forty-seven counties, becomes a powerful symbol of shared grief. Every lowered flag communicates that mourning is not confined to one community or institution but is experienced collectively by the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) In this way, half-mast display strengthens the principle that Kenya remains one nation even in times of sorrow. (United Nations, 2020) This chapter establishes the official protocol governing:

- The authority to order half-mast display. (United Nations, 2020)
- Circumstances requiring half-mast honours. (United Nations, 2020)
- Procedures for raising and lowering the flag.
- Duration of mourning.
- Application across government institutions.
  County Government participation.

- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Military establishments.
- Educational institutions.
- Public participation.

These provisions shall apply throughout the Republic unless otherwise provided by law.

7.2 Purpose of Half-Mast Protocol

7.2.1 National Mourning

The primary purpose of half-mast display is to signify national mourning. (United Nations, 2020) When the ONE47 National Flag is lowered, it communicates that the Republic collectively pauses to honour a life, commemorate a tragedy or acknowledge an event of profound national importance. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The lowered flag serves as a silent national message that transcends language, political affiliation and social status.

7.2.2 Honouring Distinguished Service

Half-mast display recognizes individuals whose service has significantly contributed to the Republic.

(United Nations, 2020) Such honours acknowledge:

- Constitutional leadership.
- National sacrifice.
- Exceptional public service.
- Heroism.
- Distinguished military service.
- Contributions to national development.

The honour is directed not solely to the individual but also to the constitutional offices and institutions they served.

7.2.3 Public Solidarity

The lowering of the National Flag enables citizens to mourn collectively.

It creates a visible expression of:

- Compassion.
- National unity.
- Shared remembrance.
- Respect for bereaved families.
- Collective resilience.

By participating in national mourning, citizens reaffirm their membership in a common national community.

7.2.4 Constitutional Continuity

Although the National Flag is lowered, the Republic itself remains fully constituted.

Government continues to function.

Courts continue to administer justice.

Parliament continues its constitutional responsibilities unless otherwise determined.

Half-mast display therefore symbolizes remembrance without interrupting constitutional governance.

(United Nations, 2020)

7.2.5 Civic Education

Half-mast observances also educate the public. (United Nations, 2020) They remind citizens that:

- National service is honoured.
- Constitutional offices deserve respect.
- Public sacrifice is remembered.
- National symbols possess enduring meaning.

Through repeated observance, future generations develop a deeper appreciation for civic responsibility and constitutional patriotism.

7.3 Authority to Order Half-Mast Display

7.3.1 Constitutional Authority

Because the National Flag represents the sovereignty of the Republic, the authority to order its lowering shall rest only with the constitutional organs designated by law.

No individual, institution or organization shall declare national half-mast observance except under lawful authority. (United Nations, 2020) This preserves the dignity and consistency of national mourning.

7.3.2 The President

The President of the Republic shall possess the primary constitutional authority to proclaim national periods of mourning and to direct that the ONE47 National Flag be flown at half-mast. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Such proclamations shall specify:

- Reason for mourning.
- Duration.
- Geographic scope.
- Applicable institutions.
- Additional ceremonial arrangements where necessary.

7.3.3 Acting President

Where the office of the President is temporarily exercised by an Acting President in accordance with the Constitution, the Acting President may exercise this authority where circumstances require immediate action.

This ensures continuity of constitutional leadership.

7.3.4 Government Gazette and Official Communication

Half-mast directives should normally be communicated through: (United Nations, 2020)

- Official Gazette Notice.
- Presidential Proclamation.
- Government Press Release.
- Official Government communication channels.

Prompt communication ensures nationwide consistency.

7.3.5 Exceptional Circumstances

In extraordinary circumstances requiring immediate national mourning, Government may issue provisional directives pending formal publication.

Such measures should subsequently be confirmed through official constitutional procedures.

7.4 Principles Governing Half-Mast Display

7.4.1 Principle of Uniformity

National mourning shall be observed uniformly throughout the Republic.

All institutions required to participate should commence and conclude half-mast observance simultaneously whenever practicable. (United Nations, 2020) Uniformity reinforces national unity.

7.4.2 Principle of Dignity

Half-mast display must always preserve the dignity of the National Flag. (United Nations, 2020) The flag should:

- Be clean.
- Be undamaged.
- Be correctly proportioned.
- Be properly illuminated where necessary.
- Be respectfully handled.

Mourning should never become an excuse for neglect.

7.4.3 Principle of Equality

Every county, institution and public authority should observe national mourning equally.

The significance of mourning should not vary according to geography or institutional status.

This reflects the equality of all citizens before the Constitution.

7.4.4 Principle of Respect

Half-mast display is an act of respect. (United Nations, 2020) It should therefore be accompanied by:

- Appropriate ceremonial conduct.
- Professional presentation.
- Public decorum.
- Observance of official protocol.

The lowered National Flag should inspire reflection rather than spectacle.

7.4.5 Principle of Constitutional Order

Half-mast observance shall always reinforce constitutional order. (United Nations, 2020) Its purpose is not political expression, partisan advocacy or institutional competition.

Instead, it symbolizes the enduring stability of the Republic and the constitutional values that unite the nation.

7.5 Official Definitions

For the purposes of this Manual: Half-Mast The position of the National Flag when it is first raised fully to the top of the flagpole and then respectfully lowered to a position approximately halfway between the top of the pole and the base, in accordance with official protocol.

National Mourning A formally declared period during which the Republic collectively honours the passing of distinguished persons or commemorates events of exceptional national significance through prescribed ceremonial observances, including the flying of the National Flag at half-mast. (United Nations, 2020) State Funeral An official funeral authorized by the Republic for persons entitled by law or Presidential proclamation to the highest national ceremonial honours.

Official Mourning A period of mourning declared for specified institutions, sectors or regions where circumstances do not require nationwide observance but nevertheless warrant official recognition.

Memorial Observance A ceremonial event conducted to honour the memory of individuals or groups whose service, sacrifice or contribution to the Republic merits public remembrance, whether or not accompanied by a formal period of national mourning.

Occasions Requiring the ONE47 National Flag to be Flown at Half-Mast

7.6 National Constitutional Office Holders

The Republic of Kenya recognizes certain constitutional offices as embodying the sovereignty, governance and constitutional continuity of the State. The passing of holders of these offices affects not only the institutions they served but also the nation as a whole.

Accordingly, the death of specified constitutional office holders shall be marked by the flying of the ONE47 National Flag at half-mast as an official expression of national mourning and respect. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Such observances honour both the individual and the constitutional office they occupied.

7.6.2 Death of the President of the Republic

The death of a sitting President constitutes one of the most solemn occasions for national mourning.

Upon official confirmation of the President's death:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall immediately be flown at half-mast throughout the Republic.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- All National Government institutions shall comply.
- County Governments shall participate.
- Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad shall observe the proclamation. (United Nations, 2020)
- Kenya Defence Forces establishments shall implement military mourning protocol. (United

Nations, 2020)

- Public institutions and educational establishments shall observe the directive.

The period of mourning shall be determined by Presidential succession procedures and official proclamation.

7.6.3 Death of a Former President

Former Presidents remain enduring symbols of Kenya's constitutional history and democratic development.

Upon the death of a former President:

- National mourning may be proclaimed.
- The National Flag shall be flown at half-mast for the period specified in the official

proclamation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- State funeral arrangements shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law.

This honour recognizes distinguished national service beyond the period of active office.

7.6.4 Death of the Deputy President

The Deputy President occupies the second highest constitutional office within the Executive.

Upon the death of a serving Deputy President:

- The National Flag shall be flown at half-mast throughout the Republic. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- Government institutions shall observe the prescribed mourning period.
- Appropriate State ceremonial honours shall be accorded.

7.6.5 Death of Other Constitutional Leaders

The President may proclaim national mourning upon the death of holders of other constitutional offices, including:

- Chief Justice.
- Speaker of the National Assembly.
- Speaker of the Senate.
- Former holders of these offices where circumstances warrant.
- Other constitutional office holders designated by law.

The duration of mourning shall reflect the constitutional significance of the office and the circumstances surrounding the death.

7.7 National Heroes and Distinguished Public Servants

7.7.1 National Heroes

Kenya honours individuals whose service has made exceptional contributions to the Republic.

National mourning may therefore be declared upon the death of:

- National heroes formally recognized by law.
- Individuals awarded the Republic's highest honours.
- Persons whose contributions have significantly advanced national unity, constitutional

development, peace or public welfare.

Half-mast observance recognizes service rendered to the nation rather than political affiliation. (United Nations, 2020)

7.7.2 Distinguished Public Service

The President may direct the National Flag to be flown at half-mast for distinguished public servants whose service has had exceptional national significance. (United Nations, 2020) Such persons may include:

- Senior public officials.
- Distinguished diplomats.
- Eminent jurists.
- National security leaders.
- Outstanding civil servants.
- Former Cabinet Secretaries.
- Former Speakers.
- Former Chief Justices.

Each decision should be guided by objective national interest and constitutional dignity.

7.7.3 National Recognition Rather than Political Recognition

Half-mast honours should never become instruments of political preference. (United Nations, 2020) Instead, decisions should reflect:

- Constitutional contribution.

- Public service.
- Integrity.
- Historical significance.

This preserves the non-partisan character of national mourning.

7.7.4 Exceptional Contributions

In rare circumstances, the President may proclaim national mourning for individuals outside public office whose contributions fundamentally transformed Kenya.

Examples may include:

- Distinguished scientists.
- Internationally recognized scholars.
- Humanitarian leaders.
- Cultural icons.
- National sports legends.
- Eminent artists whose work profoundly shaped national identity.

Such proclamations should remain exceptional.

7.7.5 National Legacy

The purpose of these honours is not merely to mourn death but to celebrate lives devoted to national advancement.

Half-mast display reminds future generations that service to the Republic receives enduring national recognition. (United Nations, 2020)

7.8 Members of the Kenya Defence Forces and National Security

Services

7.8.1 Constitutional Significance

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces swear allegiance to defend the sovereignty represented by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly, exceptional military sacrifice may warrant national mourning.

7.8.2 Death in National Service

National mourning may be proclaimed where members of the Kenya Defence Forces lose their lives:

- Defending Kenya.
- During officially authorized military operations.
- In peacekeeping missions.
- In national security emergencies.
- While performing duties of exceptional national importance.

The President shall determine whether nationwide half-mast observance is appropriate. (United Nations, 2020)

7.8.3 National Police Service

Where members of the National Police Service make exceptional sacrifice in the protection of the Republic, official mourning may likewise be declared.

Each case should be considered on its merits.

7.8.4 Other Disciplined Services

Where circumstances warrant, official mourning may also recognize exceptional sacrifice by members of:

- Kenya Prisons Service.
- National Intelligence Service.
- National Youth Service.
- Kenya Wildlife Service.
- Other disciplined services established by law.

Recognition shall reflect extraordinary service rather than routine occupational risk.

7.8.5 Collective Sacrifice

Where multiple members of the Defence Forces or security services lose their lives in a national tragedy, collective national mourning may be proclaimed.

Such observances reinforce national gratitude toward those who safeguard the Republic.

7.9 National Tragedies and Extraordinary Events

7.9.1 National Disasters

Half-mast display may be proclaimed following national disasters resulting in substantial loss of life.

(United Nations, 2020) Examples include:

- Major earthquakes.
- Floods.
- Drought-related catastrophes.
- Industrial disasters.
- Transportation disasters.
- Public health emergencies.

The proclamation should reflect both the scale of the tragedy and its national significance.

7.9.2 Acts of Terrorism

Acts of terrorism directed against the Republic or its citizens may warrant national mourning.

The lowering of the National Flag symbolizes:

- National resilience.
- Solidarity with victims.
- Rejection of violence.
- Commitment to constitutional order.

7.9.3 National Emergencies

Extraordinary national emergencies affecting the Republic as a whole may justify official mourning.

Such declarations should remain exceptional and proportionate to the circumstances.

7.9.4 Mass Casualty Events

Major accidents causing exceptional national loss may warrant half-mast display. (United Nations, 2020) Examples include:

- Aviation disasters.
- Maritime disasters.
- Railway accidents.

- Catastrophic fires.

The President shall determine the appropriate national response.

7.9.5 Days of National Remembrance

The Republic may designate official remembrance days commemorating:

- National heroes.
- Historic tragedies.
- Major constitutional milestones.
- Collective sacrifice.

Where officially proclaimed, the National Flag may be flown at half-mast for the prescribed period. (United Nations, 2020)

7.10 International Mourning and Presidential Proclamations

7.10.1 Mourning for Foreign Heads of State

Kenya may lower the ONE47 National Flag as a mark of respect following the death of: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Foreign Heads of State.
- Foreign Heads of Government.
- Distinguished international leaders.

Such observances should reflect Kenya's diplomatic relationships and international practice.

7.10.2 International Tragedies

In exceptional circumstances, Kenya may express solidarity with the international community following catastrophic events affecting another nation.

Half-mast display should be reserved for tragedies of extraordinary humanitarian significance. (United Nations, 2020)

7.10.3 Presidential Discretion

The President retains constitutional discretion to proclaim national mourning where circumstances fall outside the categories expressly described in this Manual.

Such discretion should always be exercised:

- Prudently.
- Consistently.
- Transparently.
- In the national interest.

7.10.4 Official Proclamation

Every declaration of national mourning should specify:

- Reason for mourning.
- Persons or events being honoured.
- Geographic scope.
- Duration.
- Institutions required to comply.
- Additional ceremonial instructions where necessary.

7.10.5 Exceptional Nature of Half-Mast Display

Because the ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the sovereignty of the Republic, half-mast display shall remain an exceptional honour rather than a routine occurrence. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Restrained and principled use preserves its solemn meaning, ensuring that each observance commands the respect of citizens and reflects the dignity of the Kenyan nation.

Operational Procedures for Flying the ONE47 National Flag at Half-Mast

7.11 General Procedures for Half-Mast Display

The dignity of the ONE47 National Flag depends not only upon the decision to fly it at half-mast but also upon the manner in which that decision is implemented. The ceremonial procedures governing half-mast display have been developed over many years of international practice and reflect the respect due to the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Improper handling during periods of mourning undermines both the solemnity of the occasion and the constitutional significance of the National Flag.

Accordingly, every institution responsible for displaying the flag shall ensure that the procedures prescribed in this chapter are observed with precision, consistency and dignity.

Half-mast protocol is therefore a matter of constitutional ceremony rather than individual discretion. (United Nations, 2020)

7.11.2 Meaning of "Half-Mast"

For the purposes of this Manual, half-mast refers to the position of the National Flag when it is displayed approximately halfway between the top of the flagpole and the base. (United Nations, 2020) Where architectural or engineering limitations prevent an exact halfway position, the flag shall be lowered to the nearest practical position that clearly communicates national mourning while preserving the dignity of the display.

The objective is visual recognition rather than mathematical precision.

7.11.3 Raising the Flag to Half-Mast

The National Flag shall never be raised directly to the half-mast position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The correct procedure shall be:

1. Raise the flag briskly to the peak of the flagpole.
2. Pause briefly at the top.
3. Lower the flag slowly and respectfully to the approved half-mast position. (United Nations, 2020) This procedure symbolizes that the sovereignty of the Republic remains complete and undiminished even during periods of mourning.

7.11.4 Lowering the Flag at Sunset

At the conclusion of each day's observance, the National Flag shall: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

1. Be raised fully to the top of the flagpole.
2. Pause briefly.
3. Be lowered completely with dignity. The flag shall never be lowered directly from the half-mast position. (United Nations, 2020) This practice preserves the ceremonial integrity of the National Flag.

7.11.5 Continuous Display

Where the National Flag is illuminated throughout the night in accordance with Chapter Nine of this Manual, it may remain at half-mast continuously during the officially declared mourning period. (United Nations, 2020) Institutions should ensure that:

- Lighting remains adequate.
- Flag condition remains satisfactory.
- Weather conditions do not compromise dignity.

7.12 Application Across Government Institutions

7.12.1 National Government Institutions

Upon proclamation of national mourning, all National Government institutions shall immediately implement half-mast protocol. (United Nations, 2020) These include:

- State House.
- Ministries.
- State Departments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- Government Agencies.
- Public Corporations.

Uniform implementation demonstrates the unity of Government during periods of mourning.

7.12.2 Parliament

During officially proclaimed national mourning:

- Parliament Buildings shall fly the ONE47 National Flag at half-mast. (

Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol shall likewise be lowered where appropriate.
- Parliamentary proceedings shall observe any ceremonial directives issued by the Speakers.

The Legislature participates in mourning as one of the constitutional organs of the Republic.

7.12.3 Judiciary

The Judiciary shall implement half-mast observance across: (United Nations, 2020)

- Supreme Court.
- Court of Appeal.
- High Court.
- Magistrates' Courts.
- Tribunals where applicable.

Court operations may continue unless otherwise directed, thereby affirming the continuity of constitutional governance.

7.12.4 County Governments

County Governments shall observe officially proclaimed national mourning by lowering the ONE47 National Flag at all County Government premises. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) County Flags shall also be flown at half-mast where protocol requires.

(United Nations, 2020) Participation by every county reinforces the principle that mourning belongs to the

7.12.5 Public Institutions

All public institutions shall comply with official proclamations.

These include:

- Public universities.
- Technical institutions.
- Public schools.
- Hospitals.
- Research institutions.
- Public libraries.
- National museums.

The National Flag should remain the principal symbol throughout the observance.

7.13 Special Institutional Procedures

7.13.1 Kenya Defence Forces

The Kenya Defence Forces shall observe half-mast protocol in accordance with this Manual together with military ceremonial regulations. (United Nations, 2020) Military observances shall maintain:

- Precision.
- Uniformity.
- Discipline.
- Ceremonial dignity.

Where regimental colours are displayed, military regulations shall determine their treatment consistent with national protocol.

7.13.2 National Police Service

Police establishments shall lower the National Flag immediately upon official proclamation.

Police ceremonial units should receive periodic training to ensure consistent implementation across all formations.

7.13.3 Diplomatic Missions

Kenyan Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates abroad shall observe official national mourning by flying the National Flag at half-mast. (United Nations, 2020) Heads of Mission shall ensure compliance with:

- Kenyan Government directives.
- International diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020)
- Host country regulations where applicable.

Such observances communicate Kenya's constitutional unity to the international community.

7.13.4 Educational Institutions

Schools, colleges and universities should participate in officially proclaimed national mourning.

Educational institutions are encouraged to accompany half-mast observance with civic education explaining:

(United Nations, 2020)

- The significance of the National Flag.
- The reason for mourning.
- Constitutional values.

This transforms ceremonial observance into an educational opportunity.

7.13.5 Public Corporations and State Agencies

Public corporations shall implement official mourning directives in the same manner as other Government institutions.

Institutional consistency reinforces public confidence in national administration.

7.14 Display with Other Flags During Mourning

7.14.1 General Principle

Where multiple official flags are displayed, mourning protocol should preserve both constitutional order and ceremonial consistency. (United Nations, 2020) The National Flag remains the principal symbol throughout the mourning period.

7.14.2 Official Kenyan Flags

Where official Kenyan flags accompany the National Flag, the following shall normally apply:

- Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- County Flags.

Where national mourning has been proclaimed, these official flags should also be lowered at half- mast unless otherwise directed by official proclamation or established ceremonial protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

7.14.3 Foreign National Flags

Where foreign national flags are displayed together with the ONE47 National Flag within Kenya:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- Official diplomatic guidance shall determine whether all national flags are lowered.
- Reciprocity and international courtesy should guide implementation.
- Diplomatic missions may follow the instructions of their respective governments where

consistent with international practice. (United Nations, 2020)

7.14.4 Organizational Flags

Flags of:

- United Nations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union.
- East African Community.
- Commonwealth.
- Other international organizations.

shall be handled according to the applicable organizational protocol while respecting the official mourning declared by the Republic.

7.14.5 Indoor Displays

Indoor ceremonial flags mounted on permanent stands are generally not lowered unless specifically directed by official protocol.

Instead, institutions may observe mourning through:

- Moments of silence.
- Memorial ceremonies.
- Black mourning ribbons where officially authorized.
- Other prescribed ceremonial measures.

7.15 Duration, Compliance and Operational Guidance

7.15.1 Duration of Mourning

The official proclamation shall specify:

- Commencement date.
- Commencement time.

Institutions shall implement the directive without variation unless expressly authorized.

7.15.2 Compliance

Heads of institutions bear primary responsibility for ensuring:

- Timely implementation.
- Correct positioning.
- Proper maintenance.
- Uniform observance.

Delegation of operational duties does not remove institutional responsibility.

7.15.3 Inspection During Mourning

Institutions should verify daily that:

- Flag remains correctly positioned.
- Flag remains undamaged.
- Lighting functions properly.
- Flagpole remains secure.
- Mourning period has not expired.

Routine inspections preserve ceremonial dignity.

7.15.4 Public Communication

Government should communicate:

- Reason for mourning.
- Period of observance.
- Persons being honoured.
- Applicable institutions.

Clear communication encourages voluntary public participation and prevents confusion.

At the conclusion of the officially declared mourning period, every institution shall restore the National Flag to its full-mast position using the proper ceremonial procedure:

1. Raise the flag fully to the top of the pole.
2. Pause briefly.
3. Continue normal flag display. The restoration of the National Flag to full mast symbolizes not the end of remembrance, but the continuation of the life of the Republic. It affirms that while the nation honours those it has lost, constitutional government, national unity and public service endure. The return of the ONE47 National Flag to its full position represents resilience, hope and the unwavering

continuity of the Kenyan State. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Special Mourning Situations, Civic Participation, Compliance and Chapter

CHAPTER 8: INDOOR FLAG PROTOCOL

Constitutional Principles and General Standards for Indoor Display of the ONE47 National Flag The ONE47 National Flag is the foremost symbol of the sovereignty, unity and constitutional identity of the Republic of Kenya. While its outdoor display proclaims the presence and authority of the State in public spaces, its indoor display serves a complementary but equally important function. Within enclosed spaces, the National Flag embodies the constitutional authority under which public institutions operate, (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every official building, courtroom, parliamentary chamber, government office, school, university, diplomatic mission and ceremonial venue in which the National Flag is displayed becomes a space where the authority of the Constitution is visibly represented. For this reason, indoor flag display must be governed by uniform standards that preserve the dignity of the National Flag and eliminate uncertainty regarding its correct placement and use.

This chapter establishes those standards and provides comprehensive guidance for all institutions entrusted with displaying the ONE47 National Flag indoors. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Unlike outdoor displays, which are often constrained by weather conditions and permanent flagpoles, indoor displays vary considerably depending on the architecture and function of the building. Offices, conference halls, legislative chambers, courtrooms, classrooms and ceremonial halls each present unique spatial considerations.

Without standardized guidance, institutions may inadvertently adopt inconsistent practices that diminish the dignity of the National Flag or create confusion regarding constitutional precedence. Uniform indoor standards therefore promote:

- National consistency.
- Institutional professionalism.
- Public confidence.
- Constitutional clarity.
- Respect for national symbols.

Every official indoor display should immediately communicate order, dignity and the authority of the Republic.

Unless otherwise provided by law, this chapter applies to the indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag in:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Office of the President.
- The Office of the Deputy President.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.
- Ministries and State Departments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- County Government offices.
- Public corporations.
- Schools and universities.
- Public hospitals.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Conference centres.
- State reception rooms.
- Public ceremonial venues.
- Other public institutions established by law.

Private organizations displaying the National Flag are encouraged to follow these standards as a matter of

An indoor National Flag is not a decorative object.

Its presence signifies:

- The authority of the Constitution.
- The sovereignty of the Republic.
- The unity of the Kenyan people.
- The legitimacy of public institutions.
- The continuity of constitutional government.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall never be displayed merely to enhance interior decoration or corporate branding. Its placement must always be purposeful, respectful and consistent with its constitutional significance. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter complements the provisions of:

- Chapter Four (Order of Precedence). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Chapter Six (Display of the National Flag).
- Chapter Six (Display with Other Flags).
- Chapter Seven (Half-Mast Protocol). (United Nations, 2020)

Where the National Flag is displayed indoors alongside other official flags, the provisions of those chapters shall continue to apply unless specifically modified by this chapter.

8.2 Constitutional Principles Governing Indoor Display

8.2.1 Principle of Constitutional Supremacy

Every indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag shall affirm the supremacy of the Constitution. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag represents the Republic rather than any particular office, institution, political party, community or individual. Consequently, its placement shall always reflect its status as the supreme national symbol.

No institutional flag, organizational emblem or decorative feature shall diminish its constitutional prominence.

8.2.2 Principle of Dignity

Indoor display should preserve the dignity of the National Flag at all times.

This requires that the flag:

- Be clean.
- Be free from tears or fading.
- Be properly mounted.
- Be adequately illuminated where necessary.
- Be displayed in a position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)

A poorly maintained National Flag undermines the dignity of both the institution and the Republic.

8.2.3 Principle of Visibility

The National Flag should be clearly visible to all persons entering the room or official space.

Its position should not be obstructed by:

- Furniture.
- Audio-visual equipment.
- Decorative plants.
- Curtains.
- Advertising materials.

- Temporary displays.

Visibility reinforces the symbolic authority of the Republic.

8.2.4 Principle of Neutrality

Because the National Flag belongs equally to all Kenyans, it shall remain politically neutral.

Accordingly, it shall never be displayed in a manner suggesting association with:

- Political parties.
- Election campaigns.
- Commercial advertising.
- Religious preference.
- Ethnic identity.
- Private interests.

The National Flag represents the entire Republic.

8.2.5 Principle of Institutional Respect

Every institution entrusted with the National Flag becomes a temporary custodian of one of Kenya's most important constitutional symbols.

Public officers therefore bear a duty to ensure that indoor displays consistently reflect professionalism, respect and constitutional integrity.

8.3 Objectives of Indoor Flag Protocol

8.3.1 Reinforcing Constitutional Identity

The first objective of indoor flag protocol is to reinforce Kenya's constitutional identity within every public institution. (United Nations, 2020) The presence of the National Flag reminds both public officers and citizens that governmental authority is exercised on behalf of the Republic under the Constitution.

8.3.2 Standardizing Institutional Practice

Uniform indoor standards eliminate uncertainty regarding:

- Placement.
- Orientation.
- Position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)
- Display with other flags.
- Ceremonial arrangements.

Standardization strengthens consistency throughout the Republic.

8.3.3 Promoting Professionalism

Proper indoor display contributes to institutional professionalism.

Visitors to Government offices should immediately observe:

- Order.
- Discipline.
- Respect.
- Constitutional authority.

These qualities inspire public confidence in governance.

8.3.4 Supporting Civic Education

Every indoor display serves an educational purpose.

Citizens, students and visitors learn:

- The appearance of the National Flag.
- Its constitutional significance.
- Its relationship to other official flags.
- Proper standards of respect.

Government buildings therefore function as centres of civic education.

8.3.5 Preserving National Unity

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes all forty-seven counties equally. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its consistent indoor display reminds every Kenyan that public institutions exist to serve the entire nation rather than sectional interests.

8.4 General Rules for Indoor Display

8.4.1 Position of Honour

Within any indoor setting, the National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Where displayed alone, it should be placed in the most prominent location within the room.

Examples include:

- Behind the principal speaker.
- Beside the main podium.
- Adjacent to the official entrance.
- Beside the presiding officer.

Its placement should immediately communicate constitutional authority.

8.4.2 Orientation

The National Flag shall always be displayed upright. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The black stripe shall remain uppermost.

The hoist edge shall remain nearest the flagpole.

No alteration of orientation shall be permitted except where specifically authorized for ceremonial purposes.

8.4.3 Permanent Installation

Where indoor flag stands are permanently installed, they should remain:

- Secure.
- Vertical.
- Stable.
- Free from obstruction.

Improvised or unstable supports shall not be used.

8.4.4 Protection from Damage

Indoor flags shall be protected from:

- Excessive sunlight.
  Moisture.

- Dust.
- Heat sources.
- Mechanical damage.

Institutions should establish maintenance schedules to preserve their condition.

8.4.5 Removal During Renovation

Where official premises undergo renovation or construction, the National Flag should be temporarily removed and safely stored until dignified display can resume.

Construction materials shall never obscure or endanger the National Flag.

8.5 Official Indoor Flag Equipment and Standards

8.5.1 Indoor Flag Stands

Indoor flag stands should be:

- Stable.
- Durable.
- Proportionate to the flag.
- Finished in a dignified manner.
- Suitable for official ceremonial use.

Cheap or decorative stands inconsistent with the dignity of the National Flag should be avoided.

8.5.2 Flagstaffs

Indoor flagstaffs should:

- Be vertical.
- Maintain uniform height where multiple flags are displayed.
- Be constructed of durable materials.
- Be fitted with appropriate finials approved by Government.

Uniformity contributes to ceremonial consistency.

8.5.3 Indoor Flag Dimensions

Indoor National Flags should comply with the official technical specifications contained in the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual (Volume III). (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Scaled versions may be used provided that:

- Official proportions are preserved.
- Colours remain accurate.
- Construction quality is maintained.

8.5.4 Lighting

Indoor lighting should ensure that the National Flag remains clearly visible without creating glare or visual distortion.

Where ceremonial lighting is employed, it should emphasize dignity rather than theatrical effect.

8.5.5 Responsibility for Maintenance

Every institution displaying the ONE47 National Flag indoors shall designate an officer responsible for:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Cleaning.
- Replacement.
- Proper positioning.
- Protocol compliance.

This responsibility should form part of the institution's broader duty to protect national symbols.

Indoor Flag Display in Government Buildings and Constitutional Institutions

8.6 The Office of the President and the Executive

8.6.1 Constitutional Significance

The Office of the President is the highest constitutional office within the Executive and symbolizes the unity of the Republic, the authority of the Constitution and the continuity of the Kenyan State.

Accordingly, the indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag within the Office of the President carries exceptional constitutional significance. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag displayed in the President's office does not represent the individual occupying the office but the sovereignty of the Republic itself. Every official meeting, signing ceremony, diplomatic reception and State function conducted within the Office of the President takes place under the authority symbolized by the National Flag.

8.6.2 Position within the Presidential Office

Within the principal office of the President:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the primary position of honour. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- The Presidential Standard may be displayed as the official flag of the Presidency. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Where both flags are displayed, the National Flag shall retain constitutional primacy in

accordance with the Official Order of Precedence established under the ONE47 National Flag System.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flags should be positioned behind or adjacent to the President's official desk or principal seating area, ensuring clear visibility during official engagements.

8.6.3 Executive Meeting Rooms

Cabinet meeting rooms, Executive conference facilities and official reception areas should display:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The Presidential Standard, where appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The placement should reinforce that Executive authority is exercised under the Constitution and in service to the Republic.

8.6.4 The Office of the Deputy President

The Office of the Deputy President shall display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027)

- Any other officially authorized institutional flag where applicable.

The National Flag shall always occupy the position of honour, reflecting the Deputy President's constitutional duty to uphold and defend the Constitution. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

8.6.5 State Houses and Official Residences

Official State Houses and Presidential residences used for constitutional functions shall display the National Flag in reception rooms, conference facilities and ceremonial halls.

Private residential areas not used for official business need not display the National Flag.

8.7 Parliament of Kenya

8.7.1 Symbolism within Parliament

Parliament exercises legislative authority on behalf of the people of Kenya. The presence of the ONE47 National Flag within Parliament symbolizes that all legislative authority derives from the Constitution and is exercised in the name of the Republic rather than any political party or individual. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag therefore serves as a constant reminder that Members of Parliament represent the entire nation.

8.7.2 The National Assembly Chamber

Within the Chamber of the National Assembly:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The parliamentary ceremonial protocol may be displayed in accordance with official

protocol.

- The National Flag shall never be positioned below or behind the parliamentary ceremonial

protocol in a manner suggesting inferior status. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its placement should remain visible to Members, visitors and broadcast audiences.

8.7.3 Senate Chamber

The same principles shall apply within the Senate Chamber.

The National Flag symbolizes the unity of the Republic, while the Senate represents the interests of counties within that Republic. The relationship between the two should be visually reflected through proper flag positioning.

8.7.4 Committee Rooms

Parliamentary committee rooms should display the ONE47 National Flag whenever official proceedings are conducted. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Large committee rooms may also display the parliamentary ceremonial protocol, provided that the National Flag retains the position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)

8.7.5 Parliamentary Ceremonies

Official ceremonies within Parliament-including the opening of Parliament, addresses by the President, State receptions and swearing-in ceremonies-shall prominently feature the ONE47 National Flag in accordance

with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.8 The Judiciary

8.8.1 Constitutional Role

The Judiciary administers justice on behalf of the people under the Constitution. The presence of the ONE47 National Flag within court facilities signifies that judicial authority is exercised in the name of the Republic and under the rule of law. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its display reinforces public confidence in the impartiality and independence of the courts.

8.8.2 Supreme Court

The Supreme Court shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag within: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The main courtroom.
- The ceremonial courtroom.
- Reception areas used for official functions.
- The office of the Chief Justice.

Where the judicial ceremonial protocol is displayed, it shall complement-not supersede-the National Flag.

8.8.3 Courtrooms

Every courtroom should display the National Flag in a position visible to:

- Judges.
- Advocates.
- Litigants.
- Witnesses.
- Members of the public.

The National Flag should normally be positioned near the judicial bench, symbolizing that justice is administered under the Constitution.

8.8.4 Offices of Judicial Officers

The offices of:

- The Chief Justice.
- Deputy Chief Justice.
- Principal Judges.
- Registrars.
- Heads of Courts.

may display the National Flag alongside the judicial ceremonial protocol where appropriate.

Professional consistency should be maintained throughout all court facilities.

8.8.5 Judicial Ceremonies

Judicial ceremonies such as:

- Admission of Advocates.
- Judicial appointments.
- Retirement ceremonies.
- Constitutional commemorations.

8.9 Ministries, State Departments and Government Agencies

8.9.1 Government Ministries

Every Ministry shall display the ONE47 National Flag within: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Cabinet Secretary's office.
- Principal Secretary's office.
- Boardrooms.
- Conference facilities.
- Public reception areas.

The National Flag reminds both officials and visitors that executive authority is exercised on behalf of the Republic.

8.9.2 State Departments

State Departments shall maintain uniform standards of indoor flag display.

Each Department should ensure that:

- Flag dimensions comply with official specifications.
- Positioning remains consistent across offices.
- Maintenance schedules are implemented.

Uniformity reinforces the professionalism of Government.

8.9.3 Government Agencies

Government Agencies and State Corporations shall display the National Flag in:

- Headquarters.
- Regional offices.
- Official meeting rooms.
- Public reception areas.

Institutional logos shall never replace or overshadow the National Flag.

8.9.4 Official Conferences

Government conferences should display the National Flag behind the principal speaker or podium.

Where multiple ceremonial and institutional display standards are present, they shall be arranged according to the Official Order of Precedence established in Chapter Four. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.9.5 Public Reception Areas

Reception areas should display the National Flag in a dignified location where visitors immediately recognize the authority of the institution.

The flag should remain unobstructed and properly illuminated.

8.10 Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices

8.10.1 Constitutional Independence

Independent constitutional commissions exercise authority independently of the Executive while remaining institutions of the Republic.

The ONE47 National Flag displayed within these institutions symbolizes their constitutional legitimacy rather than Executive control. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.10.2 Commission Offices

Constitutional Commissions should display the National Flag within:

- Chairperson's office.
- Boardrooms.
- Public hearing rooms.
- Official reception areas.

Commission flags or logos may accompany-but never replace-the National Flag.

8.10.3 Independent Offices

Independent Offices established under the Constitution, including those of the Auditor-General and the Controller of Budget, shall display the National Flag prominently within their headquarters and regional offices.

Its presence affirms that constitutional oversight functions are exercised on behalf of the Republic.

8.10.4 Public Hearings

Public hearings conducted by constitutional commissions should display the National Flag prominently behind the presiding officials.

This reinforces public confidence in the constitutional authority and impartiality of the proceedings.

8.10.5 Uniform Institutional Standards

Every constitutional institution should adopt written internal guidelines based upon this Manual covering:

- Flag positioning.
- Maintenance.
- Replacement.
- Ceremonial use.
- Staff responsibilities.

Such guidelines promote consistent national practice while respecting the constitutional independence of each institution.

Indoor Flag Display in County Governments, Educational Institutions, Diplomatic Missions and Ceremonial Venues (United Nations, 2020)

8.11 County Governments

8.11.1 Constitutional Context

The Constitution of Kenya establishes a system of devolved government comprising the National Government and forty-seven County Governments. While each county exercises constitutionally assigned functions within its jurisdiction, every county remains an integral part of one sovereign Republic.

The indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag within County Government institutions therefore serves two complementary purposes: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- It affirms the constitutional unity of Kenya.
- It recognizes the lawful exercise of devolved authority.

The National Flag reminds every County Government that devolution strengthens-not replaces-the sovereignty of the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

8.11.2 Governor's Office

The office of the Governor shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The County Flag shall symbolize the identity and administration of the county while acknowledging that county authority derives from the Constitution.

8.11.3 County Assembly Chambers

County Assembly Chambers shall display the ONE47 National Flag during all official sittings. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag symbolizes:

- The Constitution.
- National unity.
- Democratic governance.
- The authority under which county legislation is enacted.

Where a County Flag is also displayed, it shall complement-not supersede-the National Flag.

8.11.4 County Executive Offices

County Executive offices, including those of County Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers, shall maintain indoor displays consistent with this Manual.

Public officers should immediately recognize that county executive authority exists within the broader constitutional framework of the Republic.

8.11.5 County Public Buildings

The ONE47 National Flag should also be displayed in: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- County headquarters.
- County reception halls.
- Public service centres.
- County hospitals.
- County conference facilities.
- Official county boardrooms.

Uniform standards should apply throughout all county institutions.

8.12 Educational Institutions

8.12.1 Civic Education through the National Flag

Educational institutions occupy a unique position in developing constitutional awareness among future generations.

The presence of the ONE47 National Flag within schools, colleges and universities reminds learners that

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Indoor flag displays should therefore serve both ceremonial and educational purposes.

8.12.2 Primary and Secondary Schools

Schools should display the National Flag in:

- Head teacher's office.
- School hall.
- Assembly hall.
- Boardroom.
- Reception area.

Where resources permit, classrooms used for civic education may also display the National Flag.

Teachers should explain its symbolism as part of civic education.

8.12.3 Universities and Colleges

Universities and colleges should prominently display the National Flag in:

- Vice-Chancellor's office.
- Principal's office.
- Senate chambers.
- Council boardrooms.
- Graduation halls.
- Official conference facilities.

Its presence reflects the constitutional responsibility of higher education institutions to contribute to national development.

8.12.4 Graduation Ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies represent significant national events celebrating academic achievement.

The National Flag should occupy a prominent position behind:

- The Chancellor.
- The Vice-Chancellor.
- Principal speakers.
- Graduation podiums.

ceremonial and institutional display standards may accompany the National Flag in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.12.5 Educational Value

Educational institutions should integrate flag protocol into civic education programmes covering: (United Nations, 2020)

- National symbols.
- Constitutional values.
- Patriotism.
- National unity.
- Respect for public institutions.

Students who understand the symbolism of the National Flag are more likely to become responsible citizens.

8.13 Diplomatic Missions

8.13.1 Representation of the Republic Abroad

Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates represent the Republic of Kenya before the international community. (United Nations, 2020) Accordingly, the indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag within diplomatic missions carries exceptional importance. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) It signifies:

- Kenya's sovereignty.
- Constitutional authority.
- National identity.
- Diplomatic legitimacy.

8.13.2 Offices of Heads of Mission

The offices of:

- Ambassadors.
- High Commissioners.
- Consuls-General.

shall prominently display the National Flag.

Where the State Flag is also displayed, both shall be arranged according to official protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.13.3 Official Reception Rooms

Reception rooms used for:

- Diplomatic meetings.
- Treaty negotiations.
- Official receptions.
- Credential presentations.

should prominently display the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The arrangement should project professionalism and national dignity.

8.13.4 Bilateral Meeting Rooms

Rooms used for bilateral meetings shall normally display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027)

- The National Flag of the visiting State.

The two flags should be:

- Equal in size.
- Equally illuminated.
- Symmetrically positioned.

This arrangement reflects the principle of sovereign equality.

8.13.5 International Conferences

Kenyan delegations participating in international conferences should ensure that indoor display of the National Flag complies with:

- International diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020)
- Kenyan constitutional standards.

Professional presentation strengthens Kenya's international reputation.

8.14 Conference Halls and Public Meeting Venues

8.14.1 Government Conferences

Conference facilities used for official Government business shall display the National Flag prominently behind:

- The principal speaker.
- The official podium.
- The presiding chair.

Where multiple institutions participate, ceremonial and institutional display standards shall be arranged according to the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.14.2 Public Consultations

Public participation forums established under the Constitution should prominently display the National Flag.

Its presence reminds participants that public consultation forms part of constitutional governance.

8.14.3 National Workshops and Seminars

Government workshops, training programmes and seminars should display the National Flag throughout the proceedings.

Institutional branding should remain secondary to the constitutional symbolism of the National Flag.

8.14.4 Public Lecture Halls

Lecture halls hosting official Government lectures, constitutional education programmes or national commemorative events should prominently display the National Flag.

Educational institutions should encourage respectful conduct whenever the National Flag is present.

8.14.5 Multi-Agency Conferences

Large conferences involving:

- National Government.
- County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- International organizations.

should arrange flags in accordance with Chapter Six (Display with Other Flags), ensuring that the National Flag retains its principal position.

8.15 Indoor Ceremonial Functions

8.15.1 National Ceremonies

Indoor State ceremonies should prominently feature the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Examples include:

- National awards.
  State receptions.

- Constitutional anniversaries.
- Official commemorations.
- Swearing-in ceremonies.

The National Flag should provide the visual centrepiece of the ceremony.

8.15.2 Signing Ceremonies

Official signing ceremonies involving:

- Treaties.
- National agreements.
- Constitutional instruments.
- Intergovernmental agreements.

should prominently display the National Flag behind the signing table.

Its presence signifies that the instruments are executed under the authority of the Republic.

8.15.3 Award Ceremonies

Government awards recognizing distinguished service should prominently display the National Flag throughout the ceremony.

Recipients are honoured on behalf of the Republic rather than any particular institution.

8.15.4 Memorial Services

Indoor memorial services conducted under official authority should display the National Flag respectfully in accordance with Chapter Seven (Half-Mast Protocol). (United Nations, 2020) Where indoor flag stands are used, they should remain upright unless official protocol specifically provides otherwise.

8.15.5 Civic Ceremonies

Other civic events-including citizenship ceremonies, public oaths, civic education forums and constitutional commemorations-should display the National Flag prominently to reinforce the values of patriotism, constitutionalism and national unity.

The National Flag serves as a constant reminder that civic participation strengthens the Republic.

Operational Standards, Inspection, Compliance and Chapter Summary

8.16 Positioning of the ONE47 National Flag with Other Flags

Indoors Indoor ceremonies frequently require the display of more than one official flag. Government meetings, diplomatic engagements, constitutional ceremonies and public events often involve institutional, county, defence or foreign national flags in addition to the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The purpose of this section is to establish uniform standards governing the indoor positioning of multiple flags while preserving the constitutional dignity of the National Flag.

The fundamental principle is that the ONE47 National Flag shall remain the supreme national symbol and shall occupy the principal position of honour in every official indoor display. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

8.16.2 Position of Honour

Where the National Flag is displayed with one or more other flags indoors, it shall occupy the position of honour. (United Nations, 2020) For the purposes of this Manual, the position of honour is normally: (United

- To the right of the principal speaker (audience's left), or
- At the centre where an odd number of flags are displayed and protocol so requires.

The exact arrangement shall depend upon the nature of the ceremony while remaining consistent with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

8.16.3 Display with the Presidential Standard

Where the President is present and the Presidential Standard is displayed indoors: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall symbolize the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidential Standard shall symbolize the constitutional office of the Presidency. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Both flags complement one another but represent distinct constitutional functions.

8.16.4 Display with Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards

Where the National Flag is displayed with:

- State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- County Flags.

their arrangement shall strictly follow the Official Order of Precedence established under Chapter Five.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) ceremonial and institutional display standards shall never obscure or visually dominate the National Flag.

8.16.5 Display with Foreign National Flags

During bilateral meetings:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed together with the visiting nation's flag.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Both flags shall be equal in size.
- Flagstaffs shall be of equal height. (United Nations, 2020)
- Lighting shall be uniform.

This arrangement reflects the principle of sovereign equality while preserving Kenya's constitutional protocol.

8.17 Lighting, Maintenance and Preservation

8.17.1 Importance of Proper Lighting

Indoor lighting contributes significantly to the dignity of the National Flag.

The flag should remain clearly visible under normal room lighting without requiring excessive illumination.

Special ceremonial lighting should enhance rather than overshadow the National Flag.

8.17.2 Environmental Protection

Indoor flags should be protected from:

- Direct sunlight causing fading.

- Dust accumulation.
- Smoke.
- Chemical exposure.
- Heat sources.

Environmental protection extends the useful life of the National Flag while preserving its appearance.

8.17.3 Routine Maintenance

Institutions should establish maintenance schedules including:

- Weekly visual inspection.
- Monthly cleaning.
- Periodic replacement.
- Inspection of flagstaffs.
- Inspection of flag stands.

Maintenance records should be retained as part of institutional protocol documentation.

8.17.4 Replacement Standards

An indoor National Flag shall be replaced immediately where it becomes: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Torn.
- Frayed.
- Faded.
- Permanently stained.
- Distorted.
- Otherwise unsuitable for dignified display.

Replacement should occur before deterioration becomes noticeable to the public.

8.17.5 Secure Storage

When not displayed, National Flags shall be stored:

- Clean.
- Dry.
- Folded correctly.
- Protected from damage.
- Separate from unsuitable materials.

Storage facilities should preserve both physical condition and ceremonial dignity.

8.18 Common Indoor Protocol Errors

Indoor flag protocol is frequently compromised not through deliberate disrespect but through misunderstanding of proper procedures. (United Nations, 2020) Training remains the most effective means of preventing errors.

8.18.2 Frequent Positioning Errors

Common mistakes include:

- Placing ceremonial and institutional display standards above the National Flag.
- Positioning the National Flag behind furniture.
- Displaying the flag at an angle that obscures visibility.
- Unequal flagstaff heights.

Such arrangements diminish the ceremonial effectiveness of the display.

8.18.3 Incorrect Orientation

The National Flag shall never be displayed:

- Upside down.
- Backwards.
- Draped over furniture.
- Folded into decorative shapes.
- Used as interior decoration.

Its constitutional significance requires correct orientation at all times.

8.18.4 Inappropriate Commercial Use

Indoor National Flags shall not be incorporated into:

- Commercial advertising.
- Corporate branding.
- Product displays.
- Promotional decorations.

Government institutions should ensure that official meeting venues remain free from commercial misuse of the National Flag.

8.18.5 Corrective Measures

Institutions discovering protocol errors should:

- Correct them immediately.
- Provide staff guidance.
- Review internal procedures.
- Conduct refresher training.

Prompt correction demonstrates respect for the Republic.

8.19 Inspection, Compliance and Institutional Responsibility

8.19.1 Inspection Checklist

Responsible officers should periodically verify:

- Correct flag design.
- Official proportions.
- Correct position of honour. (United Nations, 2020)
- Proper orientation.
- Clean condition.
- Stable flagstand.
- Adequate lighting.
- Proper spacing from other flags.
- Absence of obstructions.
- Compliance with official protocol.

8.19.2 Institutional Responsibility

Every public institution shall designate a Protocol Officer or other responsible officer to oversee:

- Indoor flag placement.

- Inspection.
- Replacement.
- Staff awareness.

Responsibility should be formally assigned.

8.19.3 Staff Training

Training programmes should include:

- Constitutional symbolism.
- Flag etiquette.
- Indoor positioning.
- Ceremonial procedures.
- Maintenance standards.

Knowledgeable staff ensure consistent compliance.

8.19.4 Periodic Review

Institutions should periodically review:

- Display locations.
- Equipment quality.
- Maintenance records.
- Staff understanding.

Continuous improvement strengthens professionalism.

8.19.5 Civic Leadership

Government institutions serve as models for society.

Their respectful treatment of the National Flag encourages citizens to adopt similar standards in schools, workplaces, homes and community organizations.

Institutional leadership therefore contributes directly to national civic culture.

This chapter has established the official standards governing the indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag throughout the Republic of Kenya. It has demonstrated that indoor displays are constitutional expressions of national sovereignty rather than decorative features, reinforcing the authority of the Constitution and the legitimacy of the institutions within which they are displayed. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has prescribed detailed guidance for the placement of the National Flag within the offices of the President and Deputy President, Parliament, the Judiciary, Ministries, State Departments, Constitutional Commissions, Independent Offices, County Governments, educational institutions, diplomatic missions, conference facilities and ceremonial venues. In every setting, the National Flag has been affirmed as the foremost symbol of the Republic, occupying the position of honour while coexisting appropriately with officially authorized institutional and foreign flags.

(United Nations, 2020) Operational standards relating to positioning, lighting, maintenance, inspection and institutional responsibility have further ensured that indoor displays remain consistent, dignified and professionally maintained. The identification of common protocol errors and the emphasis on staff training and periodic review reinforce the importance of continuous institutional compliance and civic education.

Collectively, the provisions of this chapter complement the ONE47 legal implementation framework, the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual (Volume III) and the preceding chapters of this Official Flag Protocol, Etiquette and Ceremonial Manual (Volume II). Together, they establish a coherent national framework ensuring that every indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag reflects the constitutional values of unity, dignity, professionalism and respect for the Republic.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

CHAPTER 9: OUTDOOR FLAG PROTOCOL

Constitutional Principles and General Standards for the Outdoor Display of the ONE47 National Flag (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag is the most visible expression of the sovereignty, unity and constitutional identity of the Republic of Kenya. Raised above government buildings, educational institutions, diplomatic missions, military installations and public spaces, the National Flag serves as a constant reminder of the enduring authority of the Constitution and the collective aspirations of the Kenyan people. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Unlike indoor displays, which primarily serve official and ceremonial functions within institutions, outdoor displays communicate directly with the public. They symbolize the presence of the State, the rule of law and the unity of the nation across all forty-seven counties. Every citizen, visitor and observer should be able to recognize that a properly displayed National Flag represents the Republic rather than the institution upon which it is flown. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) This chapter establishes the official standards governing the outdoor display, maintenance and ceremonial use of the ONE47 National Flag. It provides uniform guidance for all institutions entrusted with displaying the National Flag in open public spaces and ensures consistency throughout the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag is one of the principal symbols through which the Republic visibly expresses its sovereignty. Its outdoor display demonstrates:

- The authority of the Constitution.
- The presence of lawful government.
- The unity of the Republic.
- The permanence of national institutions.
- The continuity of constitutional governance.

Wherever the National Flag is flown, it should communicate stability, dignity and public confidence.

This chapter applies to the outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag at: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- State House and official Presidential residences.
- Parliament.
- Courts of law.
- Ministries and State Departments.
- County Government headquarters.
- Public corporations.
- Educational institutions.
- Diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Military establishments.
- Police installations.
- National monuments.
- Public parks.
- Ports and airports.
- Border posts.
- Public ceremonial grounds.
- National memorial sites.
- Any other public institution established by law.

Private organizations and citizens are encouraged to follow these standards whenever displaying the National Flag.

This chapter complements:

Chapter Four (Order of Precedence). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Chapter Six (Display of the National Flag).
- Chapter Six (Display with Other Flags).
- Chapter Seven (Half-Mast Protocol). (United Nations, 2020)
- Chapter Eight (Indoor Flag Protocol). (United Nations, 2020)

Where conflicts arise, the provisions specifically governing outdoor display shall apply while remaining consistent with the broader constitutional principles established throughout this Manual.

The elevation of the National Flag above public buildings symbolizes the supremacy of the Constitution over every institution of the Republic.

It reminds public officers that authority belongs to the people of Kenya and is exercised only in accordance with constitutional principles.

The flag therefore represents:

- National unity.
- Democratic legitimacy.
- Equality of all counties.
- Public service.
- Hope for future generations.

9.2 Constitutional Principles Governing Outdoor Display

9.2.1 Principle of National Sovereignty

The ONE47 National Flag is the foremost outdoor symbol of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every outdoor display should affirm that Kenya is:

- One sovereign nation.
- Constitutionally governed.
- United despite diversity.
- Equal in dignity among nations.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall occupy the principal position whenever displayed with other official flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

9.2.2 Principle of Visibility

Outdoor display should ensure maximum public visibility.

The National Flag should be positioned where it can be clearly seen without obstruction from:

- Buildings.
- Trees.
- Utility poles.
- Advertising structures.
- Temporary installations.
- Construction works.

Visibility enhances public recognition and civic awareness.

9.2.3 Principle of Dignity

The outdoor National Flag shall always be displayed in a manner consistent with its constitutional significance. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly:

- Torn flags shall not be flown.
- Faded flags shall be replaced.
- Dirty flags shall be cleaned.

- Damaged flagpoles shall be repaired.
- Improvised displays shall be avoided.

Public respect begins with institutional example.

9.2.4 Principle of Permanence

Government institutions should maintain permanent flag display wherever practical.

Permanent display communicates:

- Institutional continuity.
- Stability.
- Constitutional permanence.
- Public confidence.

Temporary removal should occur only where necessary for maintenance or safety.

9.2.5 Principle of Equality

Every official National Flag, regardless of location, shall conform to the same official design standards.

Whether displayed at:

- State House.
- A county headquarters.
- A rural primary school.
- A diplomatic mission.

the National Flag remains one national symbol representing one Republic.

9.3 Objectives of Outdoor Flag Protocol

9.3.1 Promoting National Unity

Outdoor display reminds citizens that they belong to one Republic composed of forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.

The National Flag unites communities across:

- Ethnicity.
- Religion.
- Language.
- Geography.
- Political opinion.

Its continuous presence reinforces shared national identity.

9.3.2 Standardizing Public Display

This chapter establishes uniform standards governing:

- Flagpole design.
- Flag dimensions.
- Display positions.
- Raising and lowering procedures.
- Maintenance.
- Inspection.

Uniformity strengthens institutional professionalism.

9.3.3 Supporting Civic Education

Public display of the National Flag creates daily opportunities for civic education.

Citizens become familiar with:

- National symbols.
- Constitutional values.
- Public institutions.
- National ceremonies.

The National Flag thus becomes an everyday civic educator.

9.3.4 Enhancing Institutional Professionalism

Well-maintained outdoor displays communicate:

- Administrative competence.
- Respect for public office.
- Institutional pride.
- National discipline.

Conversely, neglected flag displays undermine public confidence.

9.3.5 Representing Kenya Internationally

At embassies, airports, ports and border crossings, the National Flag serves as Kenya's visual ambassador.

(United Nations, 2020) Its appearance should always reflect:

- Professionalism.
- Dignity.
- National confidence.
- International respect.

9.4 General Rules for Outdoor Display

9.4.1 Position of Honour

The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal outdoor position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Where multiple flagpoles exist, the National Flag shall be positioned in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its location should immediately identify it as the foremost national symbol.

9.4.2 Proper Orientation

The National Flag shall always be flown:

- Upright.
- Fully extended where possible.
- With the black stripe uppermost.
- With the hoist correctly attached.

Incorrect orientation constitutes improper display.

9.4.3 Raising the Flag

The National Flag shall be raised:

- Briskly.

- Without hesitation.

Where ceremonial procedures are observed, appropriate honours should accompany the raising.

9.4.4 Lowering the Flag

The National Flag shall be lowered:

- Slowly.
- Respectfully.
- Without touching the ground.

Lowering should reflect the dignity of the Republic.

9.4.5 Continuous Display

Where institutions display the National Flag continuously, adequate nighttime illumination should be provided in accordance with this Manual.

Poorly illuminated displays should be avoided.

9.5 Official Flagpoles, Dimensions and Equipment

9.5.1 Official Flagpoles

Flagpoles used for permanent outdoor display should be:

- Structurally sound.
- Weather resistant.
- Properly anchored.
- Uniform in appearance.
- Appropriate to the scale of the building.

Flagpoles themselves contribute to the ceremonial dignity of the display.

9.5.2 Height of Flagpoles

Flagpole height should be proportionate to:

- Building size.
- Surrounding landscape.
- Public visibility.
- Architectural character.

National monuments and principal Government buildings may utilize taller ceremonial flagpoles consistent with engineering standards.

9.5.3 Flag Dimensions

Outdoor National Flags shall comply with the official construction standards established in: ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual (Volume III). (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Scaled versions should preserve:

- Official proportions.
- Colour accuracy.
- Symbol integrity.

9.5.4 Flagpole Hardware

Official outdoor flagpoles should incorporate:

- Secure cleats.
- Corrosion-resistant fittings.
- Proper pulley systems.
- Stable foundations.

Routine inspection should ensure operational reliability.

9.5.5 Responsibility for Equipment

Every institution displaying the National Flag outdoors shall designate an officer responsible for:

- Flagpole maintenance.
- Flag condition.
- Daily inspection.
- Raising and lowering.
- Compliance with this Manual.

The quality of the equipment directly affects the dignity of the National Flag and, by extension, the public image of the Republic.

Outdoor Display at Government Buildings, Public Institutions and Public Spaces

9.6 National Government Buildings and Constitutional Institutions

9.6.1 Constitutional Significance

National Government buildings are the principal physical manifestations of the authority of the Republic.

The outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag at these institutions visibly affirms that public authority is exercised under the Constitution and in service of the people of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every National Government institution displaying the National Flag serves as a guardian of national dignity and constitutional order. Consequently, the flag shall be displayed prominently, maintained diligently and accorded the highest level of respect. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

9.6.2 Office of the President

The Office of the President shall maintain a permanent outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Where official ceremonial flagpoles are provided:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal flagpole. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- The Presidential Standard may be flown in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Both flags shall conform to official technical specifications.

During State ceremonies, additional ceremonial flags may be displayed, provided they do not diminish the constitutional prominence of the National Flag.

9.6.3 Parliament of Kenya

Parliament shall display the ONE47 National Flag prominently outside: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Parliament Buildings.
- The National Assembly Chamber.

- The Senate Chamber.
- Official parliamentary entrances.
- Parliamentary ceremonial grounds.

The National Flag shall symbolize the legislative authority exercised on behalf of the people of Kenya.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

9.6.4 The Judiciary

The Supreme Court and all subordinate courts shall maintain permanent outdoor displays of the National Flag.

Court buildings should ensure that:

- The flag is visible from public entrances.
- Flagpoles are maintained in good condition.
- Flags are replaced immediately upon deterioration.

The outdoor display of the National Flag reinforces public confidence in the administration of justice under the Constitution.

9.6.5 Ministries and State Departments

All Ministries, State Departments and Constitutional Offices shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag outside their headquarters and regional offices. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag should be flown during all official working days and during periods of continuous display where permanent flagpoles are installed.

9.7 County Governments

9.7.1 Constitutional Position of Counties

County Governments form an integral part of the constitutional structure of the Republic.

The outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag at county institutions symbolizes: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- National unity.
- Constitutional devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- Shared sovereignty.
- Cooperation between the National and County Governments.

Every county shall therefore display the National Flag in a manner that reflects both local identity and national cohesion.

9.7.2 County Headquarters

County Headquarters shall maintain permanent outdoor displays of:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The County Flag. The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

9.7.3 County Assembly Buildings

County Assembly buildings shall display the National Flag throughout the year except where temporary removal becomes necessary for maintenance or official protocol.

9.7.4 County Administrative Offices

County administrative offices, including sub-county and ward offices where official flagpoles exist, should display the National Flag consistently.

County Flags may accompany the National Flag where appropriate.

9.7.5 County Public Facilities

County-operated facilities such as:

- Hospitals.
- Public libraries.
- Agricultural centres.
- County service centres.
- Public stadiums.

should display the National Flag where suitable permanent flagpoles exist.

This promotes constitutional visibility throughout the county.

9.8 Educational Institutions and Public Institutions

9.8.1 Civic Education through Outdoor Display

Educational institutions provide some of the earliest opportunities for citizens to encounter the National Flag.

Proper outdoor display encourages learners to associate the National Flag with:

- National identity.
- Constitutional values.
- Public service.
- Patriotism.

Schools therefore play an essential role in developing long-term civic culture.

9.8.2 Primary and Secondary Schools

Every public primary and secondary school should maintain a permanent flagpole displaying the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag should be raised:

- Before commencement of classes.
- During official school ceremonies.
- During national commemorations.

Schools may also conduct educational activities explaining proper flag etiquette.

9.8.3 Universities and Colleges

Universities and colleges shall prominently display the National Flag at:

- Main entrances.
- Administration buildings.
- Graduation grounds.
- Ceremonial squares.

Its presence reflects the contribution of higher education to national development.

9.8.4 Public Hospitals

Public hospitals should display the National Flag prominently outside their principal entrance.

The National Flag symbolizes that healthcare services are provided under the authority of the Republic and in service of all citizens without discrimination.

9.8.5 Other Public Institutions

Other institutions established by law-including museums, libraries, research institutes and training centres-should maintain dignified outdoor displays of the National Flag.

Uniform standards promote national consistency.

9.9 Public Spaces, National Monuments and Infrastructure

9.9.1 National Monuments

National monuments commemorate the history and achievements of the Republic.

Where flagpoles are provided, the ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed prominently as a symbol of national remembrance and continuity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Examples include:

- National memorials.
- Heroes' monuments.
- Constitutional memorial sites.
- Independence monuments.

9.9.2 Public Parks

Major public parks owned by National or County Governments may display the National Flag where suitable ceremonial flagpoles exist.

The display should contribute to civic identity rather than recreational decoration.

9.9.3 Airports

International and domestic airports should prominently display the National Flag at:

- Terminal entrances.
- Main flag plazas.
- Official reception areas.
- VIP facilities.

The National Flag serves as an important symbol welcoming visitors to Kenya.

9.9.4 Ports and Harbours

Ports and harbours shall display the National Flag prominently.

Maritime facilities should ensure that the National Flag remains visible to arriving and departing vessels as a symbol of Kenyan sovereignty.

9.9.5 Border Posts

Border crossings represent the territorial limits of the Republic.

The National Flag displayed at border posts symbolizes:

- National sovereignty.
  Territorial integrity.

- Constitutional authority.

Its condition should therefore be exemplary.

9.10 Government Ceremonies and Public Events

9.10.1 National Celebrations

Major national celebrations should prominently feature the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Examples include:

- Madaraka Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Labour Day.
- National Prayer Day.
- Other officially proclaimed commemorations.

The National Flag should occupy the principal ceremonial position throughout the event.

9.10.2 Presidential Functions

Presidential functions conducted outdoors shall display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Presidential Standard where appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Additional ceremonial flags may accompany these in accordance with official protocol.

9.10.3 Public Participation Forums

Government-organized public participation forums should display the National Flag prominently.

Its presence reminds citizens that public participation forms part of constitutional governance.

9.10.4 National Memorial Events

Official outdoor memorial ceremonies should display the National Flag in accordance with the Half- Mast Protocol established in Chapter Seven. (United Nations, 2020) Proper observance demonstrates national respect for those being commemorated.

9.10.5 Community Civic Events

Community events organized in partnership with Government institutions may display the National Flag provided that:

- Official specifications are observed.
- The dignity of the National Flag is maintained.
- Political neutrality is preserved.
- Commercial exploitation is avoided.

Such events contribute to civic education and national unity.

Multiple Flag Displays, Weather Conditions, Illumination, Maintenance and Replacement Standards

9.11 Display of the ONE47 National Flag with Other Flags Outdoors

Government institutions frequently display the ONE47 National Flag together with other officially authorized flags. These may include the Presidential Standard, the State Flag, the Kenya Defence Forces

Ensign, Service Ensigns, County Flags, Diplomatic Flags, the East African Community Flag, the African Union Flag and the flags of foreign states during official visits. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The purpose of this section is to establish a uniform framework governing the outdoor arrangement of multiple flags while preserving the constitutional dignity of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Regardless of the number of flags displayed, the National Flag shall always remain the foremost symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

9.11.2 Position of Honour

Whenever multiple flags are displayed outdoors, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The position of honour shall ordinarily be:

- The tallest ceremonial flagpole where appropriate;
- The central flagpole where an odd number of flagpoles exists; or
- The observer's left (flag's own right) where flags are displayed in a straight line.

These arrangements ensure immediate recognition of the constitutional status of the National Flag.

9.11.3 Display with the Presidential Standard

When the President is officially present, the Presidential Standard may be flown together with the ONE47 National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The outdoor order of display shall remain consistent with the Official Order of Precedence established under the ONE47 National Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag symbolizes the Republic.

The Presidential Standard symbolizes the constitutional office of the Head of State. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Both should be displayed with equal dignity while preserving their distinct constitutional meanings.

9.11.4 Display with County Flags

County headquarters may display:

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. County Flag. The National Flag shall occupy the superior ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The County Flag shall symbolize devolved government while acknowledging the constitutional unity of the Republic. No County Flag shall ever be displayed above or in a position suggesting superiority over the National Flag.

9.11.5 Display with Foreign National Flags

During State visits, diplomatic receptions and international conferences:

- The ONE47 National Flag and foreign national flags shall be equal in size. (

Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- Flagpoles shall be equal in height.
- Flags shall be displayed according to internationally accepted diplomatic practice.

This reflects sovereign equality while preserving Kenya's constitutional protocol.

9.12 Weather Conditions and Environmental Considerations

9.12.1 Importance of Weather Protection

Outdoor flags are continuously exposed to environmental conditions.

Rain, wind, sunlight, dust and pollution gradually affect their appearance.

Institutions therefore have a continuing responsibility to monitor flag condition and ensure that environmental exposure does not diminish the dignity of the National Flag.

9.12.2 High Winds

During unusually strong winds, institutions should assess whether continued display risks damaging the National Flag.

Where damage appears likely, the flag may be temporarily lowered until safe conditions return.

This action demonstrates respect rather than neglect.

9.12.3 Heavy Rain

The ONE47 National Flag may remain displayed during ordinary rainfall provided: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The material is suitable for outdoor use.
- The flag remains structurally sound.
- The display does not compromise dignity.

Where severe weather causes deterioration, prompt replacement shall follow.

9.12.4 Storms and Extreme Weather

During severe storms or dangerous weather conditions, responsible officers may temporarily lower the National Flag to prevent unnecessary damage.

Flags should be raised again as soon as conditions safely permit.

9.12.5 Environmental Pollution

Institutions located near:

- Industrial areas.
- Ports.
- Airports.
- Major highways.

should inspect flags more frequently because pollution accelerates fading and deterioration.

Regular cleaning schedules should be implemented.

9.13 Night Display and Illumination

9.13.1 Principle of Continuous Dignity

Where the National Flag is displayed continuously throughout the day and night, appropriate illumination shall be provided.

A flag left in darkness loses much of its symbolic visibility and should therefore either be illuminated or respectfully lowered.

9.13.2 Lighting Standards

Lighting should:

- Illuminate the entire flag.
- Avoid excessive glare.
- Preserve colour accuracy.
- Prevent dramatic shadows.

Professional lighting enhances dignity without creating spectacle.

9.13.3 Government Buildings

Major Government buildings displaying permanent National Flags should install dedicated flag illumination systems designed for:

- Energy efficiency.
- Weather resistance.
- Consistent visibility.

Lighting systems should be regularly maintained.

9.13.4 National Monuments

National memorials and monuments displaying the National Flag should ensure that illumination contributes to the solemn character of the site.

The objective is respectful visibility rather than decorative effect.

9.13.5 Airports, Ports and Border Posts

International gateways should maintain continuous illumination of the National Flag throughout the hours of darkness.

These facilities often provide a visitor's first or last impression of Kenya.

Professional presentation is therefore essential.

9.14 Maintenance and Inspection

9.14.1 Institutional Responsibility

Every institution displaying the National Flag outdoors shall designate an officer responsible for:

- Daily inspection.
- Maintenance scheduling.
- Flag replacement.
- Equipment inspection.
- Compliance with this Manual.

Responsibility should be clearly documented.

9.14.2 Daily Inspection

Routine inspection should verify:

- Proper orientation.
- Secure attachment.
- Clean condition.
- Structural integrity.
- Visibility.

Minor defects should be corrected immediately.

9.14.3 Weekly Maintenance

Weekly maintenance should include:

- Cleaning flagpoles.
- Inspecting halyards.
- Checking pulley systems.
- Removing accumulated dirt.
- Verifying structural stability.

Preventive maintenance reduces long-term costs while preserving dignity.

9.14.4 Monthly Review

Monthly reviews should examine:

- Flag fading.
- Stitching integrity.
- Rope wear.
- Corrosion.
- Lighting systems.
- Foundations.

Written maintenance records should be retained.

9.14.5 Annual Assessment

Government institutions should conduct annual assessments of all permanent flag installations to determine whether:

- Equipment requires replacement.
- Flagpoles require repainting.
- Lighting requires upgrading.
- Display locations remain appropriate.

Continuous improvement strengthens national presentation.

9.15 Replacement Standards

9.15.1 Replacement Criteria

The ONE47 National Flag shall be replaced immediately where it becomes: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Torn.
- Frayed.
- Faded.
- Permanently stained.
- Distorted.
- Otherwise unsuitable for dignified display.

The National Flag should never be flown in visibly deteriorated condition.

9.15.2 Scheduled Replacement

Institutions displaying permanent outdoor flags should establish replacement schedules based upon:

- Weather conditions.

- Frequency of display.
- Material durability.

Planned replacement ensures continuous quality.

9.15.3 Retirement of Worn Flags

Flags removed from service shall be handled respectfully in accordance with Section 16.17 (Retirement and Respectful Disposal of Official Flags).

They shall never be discarded as ordinary waste.

9.15.4 Procurement Standards

Replacement flags shall:

- Comply with official specifications.
- Match approved colours.
- Observe official proportions.
- Be manufactured using approved materials.

Unauthorized variations shall not be accepted.

9.15.5 Public Confidence

Well-maintained National Flags reflect:

- Administrative competence.
- Institutional pride.
- National discipline.
- Constitutional respect.

Conversely, neglected flags diminish public confidence in the institutions responsible for their display.

Every institution therefore shares responsibility for preserving the public image of the Republic.

Institutional Compliance, Inspection, Common Errors and Chapter Conclusion

9.16 Institutional Responsibilities and Operational Compliance

9.16.1 Duty of Every Public Institution

Every public institution entrusted with displaying the ONE47 National Flag assumes a constitutional responsibility that extends beyond simple maintenance of physical property. By displaying the National Flag, an institution publicly represents the sovereignty, unity and constitutional authority of the Republic.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly, each institution shall ensure that:

- Official flag protocol is observed at all times. (United Nations, 2020)
- Personnel understand the significance of the National Flag.
- Outdoor flag installations remain safe and serviceable.
- Maintenance schedules are implemented consistently.
- Adequate resources are allocated for replacement and repairs.

Compliance with this Manual should form part of the institution's broader commitment to constitutional governance and public service excellence.

9.16.2 Appointment of Responsible Officers

Each institution shall designate an appropriately trained officer to oversee outdoor flag protocol. (United

- A Protocol Officer.
- A Facilities Manager.
- A Public Administration Officer.
- A Security Officer.
- Another officer formally assigned responsibility.

The officer shall coordinate all matters relating to:

- Flag display.
- Flag raising and lowering.
- Equipment maintenance.
- Inspection.
- Staff guidance.
- Compliance reporting.

9.16.3 Institutional Flag Registers

Government institutions are encouraged to maintain a Flag Register containing:

- Number of official flags.
- Dates of acquisition.
- Manufacturer information.
- Inspection dates.
- Replacement history.
- Maintenance records.

Such documentation promotes accountability and facilitates long-term asset management.

9.16.4 Standard Operating Procedures

Every institution displaying the National Flag outdoors should adopt written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) covering:

- Daily flag operations.
- Ceremonial display.
- Half-mast procedures. (United Nations, 2020)
- Severe weather response.
- Replacement procedures.
- Emergency contingencies.

Uniform internal procedures promote consistency across the Republic.

9.16.5 Inter-Institutional Coordination

Where multiple Government institutions share one compound or public facility, a lead institution should coordinate flag protocol to ensure: (United Nations, 2020)

- Consistent standards.
- Proper positioning.
- Unified maintenance.
- Efficient resource utilization.

Cooperation enhances ceremonial dignity.

9.17 Official Outdoor Flag Inspection Checklist

9.17.1 Purpose

Routine inspection protects both the physical condition of the National Flag and the constitutional dignity it represents.

Institutions should conduct inspections daily, with comprehensive reviews at regular intervals.

9.17.2 Flag Condition Checklist

Responsible officers should verify:

- Official colours remain accurate.
- Fabric remains intact.
- No tears or fraying.
- No excessive fading.
- Correct dimensions.
- Proper stitching.
- Clean appearance.

Any deficiencies should be corrected immediately.

9.17.3 Flagpole Checklist

Inspection should confirm:

- Vertical alignment.
- Structural stability.
- Sound foundation.
- Proper pulley operation.
- Secure halyards.
- Corrosion-free fittings.
- Proper lighting installation where applicable.

9.17.4 Display Checklist

Verify that:

- The National Flag occupies the correct position.
- No unauthorized flags are displayed.
- Official order of precedence is observed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Visibility remains unobstructed.
- The flag flies freely.
- Lighting functions correctly during nighttime display.

9.17.5 Documentation

Inspection findings should be documented, including:

- Date.
- Inspector.
- Observations.
- Corrective actions.
- Replacement recommendations.

Accurate records support institutional accountability.

9.18 Common Outdoor Flag Protocol Errors

Most breaches of flag protocol arise from misunderstanding rather than deliberate disrespect. (United Nations, 2020) Continuous civic education therefore remains essential.

9.18.2 Improper Positioning

Common positioning errors include:

- Flying another flag above the National Flag.
- Incorrect order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Unequal flagpole heights where equality is required.
- Displaying unofficial flags alongside official flags without authorization.

Such arrangements create confusion regarding constitutional hierarchy.

9.18.3 Poor Maintenance

Frequent maintenance failures include:

- Torn flags.
- Faded colours.
- Dirty fabric.
- Broken flagpoles.
- Frayed ropes.
- Damaged pulleys.

Poor maintenance diminishes the dignity of both the institution and the Republic.

9.18.4 Improper Commercial Use

The National Flag shall never be used outdoors as: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Advertising material.
- Promotional banners.
- Product branding.
- Decorative festival material.
- Political campaign equipment.

Commercial exploitation undermines the constitutional neutrality of the National Flag.

9.18.5 Failure to Observe Official Protocol

Examples include:

- Incorrect half-mast procedures. (United Nations, 2020)
- Flying damaged flags during national ceremonies.
- Improper lowering.
- Incorrect ceremonial arrangements.

Regular training significantly reduces such errors.

9.19 Public Education and National Compliance

9.19.1 Civic Responsibility

Respect for the National Flag is not solely the responsibility of Government institutions.

Every Kenyan shares responsibility for preserving the dignity of national symbols.

Citizens displaying the National Flag voluntarily should be encouraged to follow the standards established in

9.19.2 Educational Campaigns

Government agencies responsible for civic education should periodically conduct public awareness programmes explaining:

- National symbolism.
- Proper display.
- Flag etiquette.
- Constitutional significance.

Such programmes strengthen patriotism through knowledge rather than coercion.

9.19.3 Institutional Training

Regular training should be provided to:

- Protocol officers.
- Public administrators.
- Security personnel.
- School administrators.
- County officials.
- Facilities managers.

Professional competence promotes nationwide consistency.

9.19.4 Public Information Materials

The Government should publish:

- Illustrated protocol guides.
- Posters.
- Digital manuals.
- Educational videos.
- Inspection checklists.

These materials should remain publicly accessible.

9.19.5 National Culture of Respect

Ultimately, successful implementation depends upon developing a culture in which the National Flag is respected not because citizens fear sanctions but because they understand its constitutional meaning.

The ONE47 National Flag should become a visible expression of civic pride, democratic values and national unity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter has established the comprehensive standards governing the outdoor display of the ONE47 National Flag, ensuring that the Republic's foremost national symbol is displayed consistently, respectfully and professionally across all public spaces. It has affirmed that outdoor display serves as the most visible expression of Kenya's sovereignty, constitutional order and national unity, projecting the authority of the Republic to citizens and the international community alike. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has prescribed detailed guidance for the display of the National Flag at Government buildings, County Headquarters, educational institutions, public facilities, national monuments, airports, ports, border posts and ceremonial venues. It has further established rules governing multiple-flag displays, environmental protection, illumination, maintenance, inspection and replacement, ensuring that operational practices remain consistent with constitutional values and the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutional responsibilities, inspection procedures and public education measures have also been emphasized as essential components of effective implementation. Every institution entrusted with displaying the National Flag has been recognized as a custodian of one of Kenya's most important constitutional symbols, bearing a continuing duty to

Collectively, the provisions of this chapter complement the ONE47 legal implementation framework, the ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual (Volume III) and the preceding chapters of this Official Flag Protocol, Etiquette and Ceremonial Manual (Volume II). Together, they establish a unified national framework (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) through which the ONE47 National Flag is displayed with consistency, professionalism and constitutional respect in every outdoor setting throughout the Republic.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 10: GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS FLAG PROTOCOL

Government Institutions and Constitutional Authority Government institutions are the permanent organs through which the Republic of Kenya exercises constitutional authority, delivers public services and upholds the rule of law. Whether operating at the national or county level, every institution acts not in its own right, but as an instrument of the sovereign people under the Constitution.

The ONE47 National Flag is the foremost symbol of that constitutional authority. Its presence within and outside Government institutions visibly affirms that all public power is exercised in accordance with the Constitution and in service of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the official standards governing the display, handling and ceremonial use of the ONE47 National Flag and other authorized official flags by Government institutions.

It seeks to promote consistency, professionalism and constitutional dignity throughout the public service. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every Government institution entrusted with the display of the National Flag assumes responsibility for protecting one of Kenya's most important constitutional symbols.

Accordingly, institutions shall ensure that:

- Official flag protocol is consistently observed. (United Nations, 2020)
- Public officers understand the symbolism of the National Flag.
- Flag displays comply with approved technical standards.
- Institutional ceremonies uphold national dignity.
- Public confidence is strengthened through professional practice.

The National Flag shall never be regarded merely as office decoration or institutional branding. It represents the Republic itself. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter applies to:

- The Presidency.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.
- Ministries.
- State Departments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- State Corporations.
- Public Universities.
- National Government Administration.
- County Governments.
- Public Hospitals.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Kenya Defence Forces Headquarters.
- National Police Service Headquarters.
- Public agencies established by law.

The standards may also guide private institutions when participating in official Government functions.

This chapter should be read together with:

- Volume I: ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Volume II: Chapters Five through Ten governing order of precedence, indoor and outdoor

display, ceremonial use and flag etiquette. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Together these

The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Standardize flag protocol across Government institutions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Promote constitutional professionalism.
- Reinforce national unity.
- Protect the dignity of official symbols.
- Guide public officers in institutional ceremonies.
- Strengthen public confidence in Government.

10.2 Constitutional Basis for Institutional Flag Protocol

10.2.1 The Constitution as the Source of Authority

Every Government institution derives its authority from the Constitution of Kenya.

The National Flag therefore represents:

- Constitutional government.
- Democratic legitimacy.
- Sovereign authority.
- Public accountability.

No institution possesses authority independent of the Constitution.

The National Flag serves as a constant visual reminder of this constitutional relationship.

10.2.2 The National Flag as a Constitutional Symbol

The ONE47 National Flag belongs to the Republic rather than any institution, political office or individual.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Government institutions display the National Flag because they exercise public authority on behalf of the people.

Accordingly:

- Ministries do not own the National Flag.
- Parliament does not own the National Flag.
- County Governments do not own the National Flag.

All institutions merely serve as custodians of the Republic's foremost national symbol.

10.2.3 Public Service and National Identity

Public officers swear allegiance to the Constitution and the Republic.

The National Flag displayed within Government institutions symbolizes this commitment.

Its presence reminds every public officer that:

- Public office is a public trust.
- Authority must be exercised lawfully.
- National interest takes precedence over personal interest.
- Service to citizens remains the highest duty.

10.2.4 Institutional Neutrality

Government institutions serve all citizens equally.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall never be used to promote: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Political parties.

- Religious organizations.
- Commercial interests.
- Ethnic communities.

Its constitutional neutrality must always be preserved.

10.2.5 Public Confidence

Visible adherence to official flag protocol promotes confidence in Government institutions. (United Nations, 2020) Citizens are more likely to respect institutions that visibly demonstrate:

- Professionalism.
- Constitutional discipline.
- Administrative competence.
- Respect for national symbols.

Institutional flag protocol therefore contributes directly to public trust. (United Nations, 2020)

10.3 Government Institutions Authorized to Display Official Flags

10.3.1 General Principle

Only institutions established under the Constitution or national legislation may display official State flags as part of their institutional identity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The ONE47 National Flag may be displayed by all Government institutions. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Other official flags shall only be displayed where authorized by law.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.3.2 National Executive

The National Executive shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027)

- Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag where officially prescribed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

These flags shall be displayed according to the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.3.3 Parliament

Parliament shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027) The National Flag shall remain the principal constitutional symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.3.4 Judiciary

The Judiciary shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027) The judicial ceremonial protocol symbolizes the institution.

The National Flag symbolizes the Republic.

10.3.5 County Governments

County Governments shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flag.

The National Flag shall always occupy the superior ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.4 Responsibilities of Public Officers

10.4.1 Custodianship

Every public officer responsible for flag protocol acts as a custodian rather than an owner of the National Flag. (United Nations, 2020) Custodianship includes responsibility for:

- Respectful handling.
- Proper display.
- Safe storage.
- Timely replacement.
- Compliance with official standards.

10.4.2 Professional Conduct

Public officers responsible for official ceremonies shall demonstrate:

- Respect.
- Precision.
- Consistency.
- Professional appearance.
- Knowledge of protocol.

Ceremonial errors should be corrected immediately.

10.4.3 Training

Government institutions should provide regular training covering:

- National symbolism.
- Official flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Ceremonial procedures.
- Indoor display.
- Outdoor display.

Professional development promotes nationwide consistency.

10.4.4 Reporting Responsibilities

Responsible officers should report:

- Damaged flags.
- Protocol violations.
- Equipment failures.
- Maintenance needs.
- Replacement requirements.

10.4.5 Ethical Responsibility

Public officers should demonstrate personal respect for the National Flag both during official duties and in public life.

Professional example remains one of the most effective forms of civic education.

10.5 Institutional Protocol Principles

10.5.1 Principle of Constitutional Supremacy

The National Flag shall always symbolize the supremacy of the Constitution over every institution of Government. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No institutional flag shall diminish this principle.

10.5.2 Principle of Uniformity

Government institutions throughout Kenya shall observe uniform standards of flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020) Uniformity promotes:

- National cohesion.
- Administrative professionalism.
- Public recognition.
- Institutional consistency.

10.5.3 Principle of Dignity

Every institutional display of the National Flag shall reflect: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Respect.
- Honour.
- Integrity.
- Professionalism.

Improvised or careless display shall be avoided.

10.5.4 Principle of Accountability

Institutional leaders bear ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with official flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020) This responsibility includes:

- Providing resources.
- Assigning trained personnel.
- Monitoring compliance.
- Supporting civic education.

Leadership begins with example.

10.5.5 Principle of National Unity

Above all, Government institutions should remember that the ONE47 National Flag represents:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- One Republic.
- One Constitution.
- One sovereign people.
- forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.
- Shared national destiny.

Every institutional display should strengthen the spirit of unity that the ONE47 National Flag was designed to embody. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Executive, Ministries, State Departments and Constitutional Offices

10.6 The Office of the President

10.6.1 Constitutional Position

The Office of the President is the highest constitutional office in the Republic of Kenya. Under the Constitution, the President serves as the Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces. Every official function undertaken by the Office of the President is therefore performed on behalf of the Republic.

The display of the ONE47 National Flag within and around the Office of the President signifies that presidential authority is exercised under the Constitution and not as a personal prerogative of the office holder. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall remain the foremost constitutional symbol in every presidential institution. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.6.2 Official Flags of the Presidency

The Presidency may officially display:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
3. The State Flag, where officially prescribed by law. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
   These flags shall be displayed strictly in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence established under the National Flag System. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidential Standard shall represent the constitutional office of the President, while the National Flag shall continue to symbolize the Republic itself. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.6.3 Presidential Offices

The National Flag shall be displayed prominently at: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The President's principal office.
- State House.
- Official State Lodges.
- Presidential boardrooms.
- Official reception areas.
- Cabinet meeting rooms.
- Presidential press briefing venues.

Both indoor and outdoor displays shall comply with Chapters Nine and Ten of this Manual.

10.6.4 Presidential Ceremonies

The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal position during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Swearing-in ceremonies.
- State addresses.
- Cabinet meetings.
- National awards.
- Signing of Bills.

- Presidential press conferences.
- Official receptions.

The National Flag shall remain visible throughout official proceedings. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.6.5 Presidential Travel

During official travel within Kenya:

- The National Flag shall be displayed at official reception venues. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Temporary ceremonial displays shall comply with national protocol.
- Local Government institutions shall ensure uniform presentation.

During international visits, the National Flag shall be displayed together with the host nation's flag in accordance with diplomatic protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

10.7 The Office of the Deputy President

10.7.1 Constitutional Status

The Office of the Deputy President supports the constitutional functions of the Presidency and serves as the second-highest office within the Executive.

The display of the National Flag at the Office of the Deputy President affirms the constitutional continuity of Executive authority.

10.7.2 Official Display

The Office of the Deputy President shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- State Flag where officially authorized. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

No separate personal flag shall be flown unless specifically established by law.

10.7.3 Official Meetings

Conference rooms, boardrooms and reception areas shall prominently display the National Flag during:

- Intergovernmental meetings.
- Cabinet committee meetings.
- County consultations.
- International engagements.

Its presence symbolizes that discussions are conducted on behalf of the Republic.

10.7.4 Ceremonial Functions

During ceremonies presided over by the Deputy President, the National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Additional official flags may accompany it according to the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.7.5 Public Representation

Where the Deputy President represents the President at official functions, display arrangements shall reflect

10.8 Ministries and State Departments

10.8.1 Institutional Identity

Every Ministry represents a functional component of the National Government.

The National Flag displayed by Ministries symbolizes that ministerial authority derives entirely from the Constitution and national legislation.

The flag therefore represents public service rather than ministerial identity.

10.8.2 Ministerial Headquarters

Every Ministry shall prominently display the National Flag:

- At the main entrance.
- Within reception areas.
- In Cabinet Secretary's offices.
- In Principal Secretary's offices.
- In boardrooms.
- During official conferences.

Indoor and outdoor displays shall conform to the standards prescribed in earlier chapters.

10.8.3 Ministry Meetings

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Ministerial meetings.
- Inter-Ministerial consultations.
- Stakeholder engagements.
- Official press briefings.
- Public participation forums.

Its presence reminds participants that Government decisions are made on behalf of the Republic.

10.8.4 Official Launches

Government programmes officially launched by Ministries should prominently display the National Flag throughout the ceremony.

Institutional branding shall remain secondary to the National Flag.

10.8.5 Regional Offices

Regional and county offices of Ministries shall maintain consistent standards of flag display identical to those applied at headquarters.

Uniformity reinforces national administrative cohesion.

10.9 Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices

10.9.1 Constitutional Independence

Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices exercise authority independently while remaining institutions of the Republic.

The National Flag displayed within these institutions symbolizes constitutional legitimacy rather than Executive control.

Its display reinforces public confidence in institutional impartiality.

10.9.2 Authorized Flags

Constitutional Commissions shall display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Official institutional flag where authorized.

ceremonial and institutional display standards shall complement-not replace-the National Flag.

10.9.3 Offices and Boardrooms

The National Flag shall be displayed within:

- Chairperson's office.
- Chief Executive Officer's office.
- Commission boardrooms.
- Public hearing rooms.
- Official reception areas.

Display arrangements should remain consistent throughout the institution.

10.9.4 Public Hearings

Public hearings conducted by constitutional commissions shall prominently display the National Flag.

Its presence reassures participants that proceedings are conducted under constitutional authority.

10.9.5 Institutional Neutrality

Because these institutions frequently adjudicate sensitive matters, strict neutrality must be maintained.

The National Flag shall never be displayed in a manner suggesting political affiliation or institutional bias.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.10 Official Ceremonies and Institutional Representation

10.10.1 Official Signing Ceremonies

Government signing ceremonies involving:

- Contracts.
- Agreements.
- Memoranda of Understanding.
- International cooperation.
- Constitutional instruments.

shall prominently display the National Flag behind the signing table or principal officials.

The National Flag symbolizes that official acts are performed on behalf of the Republic.

10.10.2 Reception of Dignitaries

Government institutions receiving:

- Heads of State.
- Foreign Ministers.
- Ambassadors.
- International delegations.

shall arrange the National Flag together with foreign national flags according to diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020) Equal dignity shall be maintained.

10.10.3 Official Press Conferences

Government press conferences should prominently display the National Flag behind the principal spokesperson.

Institutional logos may appear separately but shall not diminish the prominence of the National Flag.

10.10.4 Intergovernmental Meetings

Meetings involving:

- National Government.
- County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Public Agencies.

shall display the National Flag as the unifying symbol of the Republic.

County or ceremonial and institutional display standards may accompany it where appropriate.

10.10.5 Representation of the Republic

Whenever Government institutions represent Kenya domestically or internationally, the ONE47 National Flag shall remain the foremost visual representation of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutional identity shall always remain subordinate to national identity.

State Corporations, Public Agencies, County Governments and Public Service Institutions

10.11 State Corporations and Public Enterprises

10.11.1 Constitutional and Legal Status

State Corporations and public enterprises are established by Parliament to perform specialized public functions on behalf of the Republic. Although many operate with varying degrees of administrative or commercial autonomy, they remain public institutions accountable to the Constitution and the laws of Kenya.

The display of the ONE47 National Flag at these institutions signifies that their authority is exercised in the public interest and under the sovereignty of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall therefore be displayed with the same dignity accorded to all Government institutions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.11.2 Official Display

Every State Corporation shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the main entrance to its headquarters.
- Within reception areas.
- In the office of the Chief Executive Officer.
- In Board meeting rooms.
- At official conference facilities.
- During all major institutional ceremonies.

Where an official corporate flag exists, it shall be displayed only in accordance with the Official Order of

10.11.3 Corporate Identity and National Identity

The institutional logos and branding of State Corporations promote organizational recognition; however, they shall never replace the constitutional significance of the National Flag.

Corporate branding should complement institutional identity, while the National Flag remains the visual representation of the Republic.

10.11.4 Official Functions

State Corporations shall display the National Flag during:

- Board meetings.
- Annual General Meetings.
- Public launches.
- Contract-signing ceremonies.
- International cooperation events.
- Official press briefings.

This demonstrates that institutional activities are undertaken on behalf of the Kenyan people.

10.11.5 Uniform Standards

All regional offices and branches of State Corporations shall observe the same flag standards adopted by their headquarters.

Uniformity strengthens national administrative consistency and reinforces public confidence.

10.12 Regulatory Authorities and Independent Agencies

10.12.1 Public Regulatory Responsibility

Regulatory Authorities exercise statutory powers over specific sectors of the economy and public administration.

Examples include authorities responsible for:

- Communications.
- Energy.
- Transport.
- Financial services.
- Environmental protection.
- Professional regulation.

The National Flag displayed at these institutions symbolizes that regulatory authority derives from Parliament and the Constitution rather than institutional discretion.

10.12.2 Official Premises

Regulatory Authorities shall display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Outside headquarters.
- Within reception areas.
- In hearing rooms.
- In boardrooms.
- During public consultations.

The display should reflect neutrality, professionalism and constitutional authority.

10.12.3 Public Hearings

Public hearings conducted by regulatory agencies shall prominently display the National Flag.

Its presence reassures participants that regulatory decisions are exercised fairly and under the rule of law.

10.12.4 Enforcement Activities

Where regulatory authorities conduct official enforcement activities or inspections, temporary ceremonial display of the National Flag may accompany major public events where appropriate.

Routine field inspections need not include ceremonial flag displays unless specifically required by protocol.

10.12.5 Public Confidence

Professional flag display contributes to public trust by visibly reinforcing the legitimacy and impartiality of regulatory institutions.

10.13 County Governments

10.13.1 Constitutional Position

County Governments constitute the second level of government under the Constitution of Kenya.

While enjoying constitutional autonomy within their assigned functions, counties remain integral parts of one sovereign Republic.

The outdoor and indoor display of the ONE47 National Flag therefore symbolizes the unity of the nation while recognizing the constitutional role of devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

10.13.2 County Headquarters

County Headquarters shall prominently display:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The County Flag. The National Flag shall always occupy the position of honour in accordance with Chapter Four (Order of Precedence). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The County Flag represents the identity and administration of the county, while the National Flag represents the Republic as a whole.

10.13.3 Governor's Office

The Governor's Office shall display the National Flag:

- Outside the office.
- Inside the principal office.
- In official reception rooms.
- During Executive meetings.
- During public addresses.

The Governor acts as the chief executive of the county while remaining a constitutional office holder within the Republic.

10.13.4 County Assemblies

County Assembly Chambers shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag during all official sittings.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Committee rooms, public

The County Flag may accompany the National Flag but shall never assume a superior position.

10.13.5 County Institutions

County-operated institutions, including:

- Hospitals.
- Vocational training centres.
- Agricultural offices.
- Public libraries.
- County service centres.

should maintain consistent National Flag displays.

This reinforces constitutional continuity throughout devolved governance.

10.14 Educational Institutions

10.14.1 National Civic Responsibility

Educational institutions play a central role in cultivating patriotism, civic responsibility and constitutional literacy.

The ONE47 National Flag should therefore be displayed prominently throughout Kenya's education system.

(Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Students should encounter the National Flag daily as a visible reminder of their membership in one Republic.

10.14.2 Primary and Secondary Schools

Schools shall display the National Flag:

- At the main entrance.
- In assembly grounds.
- In the Head Teacher's office.
- In school halls.
- During assemblies and national celebrations.

Schools are encouraged to integrate flag etiquette into civic education programmes.

10.14.3 Universities

Universities shall display the National Flag:

- At principal entrances.
- In administration buildings.
- At graduation grounds.
- Within senate chambers.
- In council boardrooms.

Graduation ceremonies should prominently feature the National Flag throughout official proceedings.

10.14.4 Technical and Vocational Institutions

Technical institutions, colleges and vocational training centres shall observe the same standards prescribed for universities. ceremonial and institutional display standards may accompany-but shall not replace-the National Flag.

10.14.5 Educational Ceremonies

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Graduation ceremonies.
- Prize-giving events.
- National examinations.
- Public lectures.
- Official Government visits.

Educational institutions contribute significantly to civic culture through proper observance of national protocol.

10.15 Public Hospitals and Public Service Institutions

10.15.1 Public Health Institutions

Public hospitals operate on behalf of the Republic to provide essential healthcare services to all citizens.

The National Flag displayed at these institutions symbolizes:

- Equality.
- Public service.
- National solidarity.
- Constitutional responsibility.

10.15.2 Hospital Headquarters

Major public hospitals shall display the National Flag:

- At principal entrances.
- In administration buildings.
- Within boardrooms.
- At official reception areas.

Flag displays should reflect the dignity of public healthcare.

10.15.3 Emergency Facilities

Emergency facilities need not maintain ceremonial flag displays within operational areas where they would interfere with medical activities.

However, principal administrative buildings should display the National Flag prominently.

10.15.4 Other Public Service Institutions

Other Government institutions, including:

- National museums.
- Public archives.
- Research institutes.
- Training academies.
- Correctional institutions.
- National libraries.

shall display the National Flag in accordance with this Manual.

Uniformity promotes national identity throughout the public service.

10.15.5 Service Before Self

The presence of the National Flag within public service institutions reminds every public servant that service to citizens remains the highest constitutional obligation.

Official Ceremonies, Institutional Administration, Compliance and Chapter County flag emblem The county flag retains the approved central handshake, depicting two hands in prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades to represent human diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation. These shades are integral to the emblem and preserve its recognisable appearance, but are not additional official national colours. The forty-seven equal ring segments represent Kenya's forty-seven counties. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 11: COUNTY GOVERNMENTS FLAG PROTOCOL

Constitutional Framework for County Flag Protocol The Constitution of Kenya establishes a system of devolved government founded upon the principles of democracy, public participation, accountability and equitable development. County Governments are not separate sovereign entities but constitutionally recognized levels of government exercising delegated authority within one indivisible Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) The ONE47 National Flag represents the sovereignty, unity and constitutional identity of the Republic of Kenya. County Flags, by contrast, symbolize the unique identity, heritage and administration of each county while remaining subordinate to the National Flag in accordance with the Constitution and the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the official protocol governing the display, ceremonial use and administration of the ONE47 National Flag and County Flags throughout the forty-seven counties. It seeks to ensure that devolution strengthens national unity rather than undermines it by providing a uniform framework through which county institutions visibly affirm both local identity and national cohesion. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Standardize flag protocol across all County Governments. (United Nations, 2020)
- Clarify the relationship between the National Flag and County Flags.
- Promote respect for constitutional hierarchy.
- Guide County Executives and County Assemblies in official flag use.
- Strengthen civic understanding of devolution within one Republic. (Republic of Kenya,

2010)

- Foster consistency in county ceremonies and public administration.

This chapter applies to:

- Offices of Governors and Deputy Governors.
- County Executive Committees.
- County Assemblies.
- County Departments.
- County Public Service Boards.
- County hospitals.
- County educational and vocational institutions.
- County administrative offices.
- County ceremonial venues.
- County parks, public squares and civic centres.
- All public facilities established and operated by County Governments.

The standards contained herein shall guide every county regardless of geographical size, population or economic capacity.

This chapter shall be read together with:

- ONE47 National Flag Technical Standards and Construction Manual

, which prescribes the official design specifications for the National Flag and County Flags. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Chapter Four - Order of Precedence, establishing the hierarchy of official flags. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Chapter Eight - Indoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Chapter Nine - Outdoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

Together these documents provide a complete framework for the proper display and ceremonial use of flags throughout the Republic.

The philosophy underlying County Governments Flag Protocol is that devolution enriches national unity by bringing government closer to the people while preserving the sovereignty of the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes:

- One Constitution.
- One Republic.
- One Sovereign People.

County Flags symbolize:

- Local governance.
- County identity.
- Regional heritage.
- Community pride.

These symbols are complementary rather than competing.

11.2 Constitutional Position of County Governments

11.2.1 Devolution within One Republic

The Constitution establishes Kenya as a sovereign Republic operating through two distinct but interdependent levels of government:

1. The National Government.
2. The County Governments. Neither level exists independently of the Constitution, and neither possesses sovereignty separate from the Republic. The National Flag therefore remains the supreme constitutional symbol throughout all counties.

11.2.2 Constitutional Identity

Every County Government exercises authority derived from the Constitution and national legislation.

The display of the ONE47 National Flag at county institutions visibly affirms that county authority is exercised: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Constitutionally.
- Democratically.
- Transparently.
- On behalf of the people.

County Flags complement this constitutional identity by representing the individuality of each county within the national framework.

11.2.3 Equality of Counties

The ONE47 National Flag embodies the principle that all forty-seven counties are equal partners within the Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No County Flag shall be interpreted as symbolizing superiority over another county, nor shall differences in economic development, population or geography affect the constitutional equality of counties.

The equal status of counties reinforces the national principle of unity in diversity.

11.2.4 Shared Sovereignty

County Governments do not possess separate sovereignty.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall always occupy the position of honour at county institutions and ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) This arrangement visually communicates the constitutional relationship between national sovereignty and devolved governance.

11.2.5 Cooperative Government

The Constitution encourages cooperation between the National Government and County Governments.

Official flag protocol should therefore reinforce: (United Nations, 2020)

- Mutual respect.
- Institutional cooperation.
- Shared constitutional responsibilities.
- National cohesion.

Proper display of the National Flag alongside County Flags serves as a visible expression of cooperative government.

11.3 National Unity and County Identity

11.3.1 Complementary Symbols

The ONE47 National Flag and County Flags perform different but complementary functions. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag represents:

- National sovereignty.
- Constitutional authority.
- Citizenship.
- National unity.

County Flags represent:

- County administration.
- Cultural heritage.
- Local governance.
- Regional identity.

Both should be displayed together where appropriate, with the National Flag occupying the superior ceremonial position.

11.3.2 Diversity within Unity

Kenya's counties reflect extraordinary diversity in:

- Culture.
- Language.
- Geography.
- History.
- Economy.
- Traditions.

The ONE47 National Flag celebrates this diversity by incorporating the symbolic representation of all forty-seven counties while emphasizing their unity within one Republic. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) County Flags further enrich this symbolism by highlighting each county's unique identity without fragmenting national cohesion.

11.3.3 Civic Identity

County Flags should foster civic pride in local communities while encouraging citizens to appreciate their shared national identity.

County patriotism should strengthen rather than replace national patriotism.

Every citizen belongs simultaneously to:

- A county community.
- The Republic of Kenya.

Official flag protocol should reflect both identities harmoniously. (United Nations, 2020)

11.3.4 Public Perception

County institutions should educate citizens that:

- The National Flag unites all counties.
- County Flags celebrate local identity.
- Neither symbol diminishes the importance of the other.
- Constitutional hierarchy remains essential.

Clear public understanding reduces unnecessary political controversy regarding official symbols.

11.3.5 National Cohesion

The combined display of the National Flag and County Flags should reinforce the constitutional principle that unity and diversity are mutually reinforcing rather than contradictory.

Proper protocol transforms flag display into an instrument of civic education and national integration.

11.4 Official Flags Authorized for County Governments

11.4.1 Authorized Flags

County Governments may officially display:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The officially approved County Flag.
3. Other official flags specifically authorized by law or national protocol. No unauthorized flag shall be displayed as an official county symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.4.2 Position of Honour

Where the National Flag and County Flag are displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (United Nations, 2020)

- The County Flag shall occupy the secondary position.
- Both flags shall be treated with dignity and respect.

This arrangement reflects constitutional hierarchy while recognizing county identity.

11.4.3 County Flag Design Standards

Every County Flag shall conform to:

- Official technical specifications.

- Approved colours.
- Official proportions.
- Manufacturing standards.
- Construction guidelines prescribed in Volume I.

Unauthorized alterations shall not be permitted.

11.4.4 Ceremonial Display

County Flags shall accompany the National Flag during:

- County Assembly sittings.
- County Executive meetings.
- County celebrations.
- Official launches.
- Intergovernmental forums.
- Visits by national leaders.
- Public participation exercises.

The National Flag shall remain the principal symbol throughout such events. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.4.5 Ceremonial and Institutional Display Standards

County departments may possess institutional logos or emblems.

Such emblems shall not be displayed as flags unless specifically authorized by law.

Official county flag displays shall remain simple, dignified and constitutionally consistent.

11.5 Fundamental Principles of County Flag Protocol

11.5.1 Principle of Constitutional Supremacy

The ONE47 National Flag shall always represent the supreme constitutional authority of the Republic.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No County Flag shall be displayed in a manner that suggests constitutional equality with or superiority over the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.5.2 Principle of Equality

All County Flags shall enjoy equal ceremonial status among themselves.

No County Flag shall receive preferential treatment based upon:

- Population.
- Economic performance.
- Historical significance.
- Political influence.
- Geographic size.

Equality among counties strengthens national cohesion.

11.5.3 Principle of Professionalism

County Governments shall maintain professional standards in:

- Flag display.
- Ceremonial protocol.

- Storage.
- Replacement.
- Public education.

Professional presentation reflects institutional excellence.

11.5.4 Principle of Public Service

County officials displaying the National Flag act as custodians of a national constitutional symbol.

They therefore bear responsibility for preserving its dignity through proper observance of official protocol.

11.5.5 Principle of National Unity

Above all, every County Government shall remember that the ONE47 National Flag symbolizes:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- One Nation.
- One Constitution.
- One Sovereign Republic.
- forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.
- One Shared Future.

County Flags enrich this national identity by celebrating the diversity that strengthens the unity of Kenya.

County Executive and County Assembly Flag Protocol

11.6 The Office of the Governor

11.6.1 Constitutional Position of the Governor

The Governor is the Chief Executive Officer of the County Government and the head of the County Executive Committee. The office is established under the Constitution and exercises executive authority on behalf of the people of the county while remaining subject to the Constitution of Kenya.

The display of the ONE47 National Flag within the Office of the Governor symbolizes that executive authority at the county level derives from the Constitution and is exercised within one sovereign Republic.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall therefore remain the foremost constitutional symbol in every Governor's office. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.6.2 Official Flags Displayed by the Governor's Office

The Office of the Governor shall display:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
2. The Official County Flag. Where both flags are displayed together:

- The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (United Nations, 2020)

- The County Flag shall occupy the secondary position.
- Both flags shall conform to the technical specifications prescribed in Volume I.

No unofficial ceremonial or personal flag shall replace or diminish the prominence of the National Flag.

11.6.3 Governor's Office

The National Flag shall be displayed prominently in: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Governor's principal office.
- Official reception rooms.
- Executive boardrooms.
- Public address venues.
- Official media briefing rooms.

The County Flag shall accompany the National Flag where appropriate but shall not occupy the superior position.

11.6.4 Official Functions of the Governor

The ONE47 National Flag shall be prominently displayed during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- County Executive meetings.
- Official public addresses.
- County development launches.
- Signing of county legislation.
- Public participation forums.
- County awards ceremonies.
- Official receptions.
- Intergovernmental meetings.

The National Flag reminds participants that county administration forms part of the constitutional government of Kenya.

11.6.5 Official Travel

When the Governor undertakes official visits within or outside the county, Government institutions hosting the visit shall display the ONE47 National Flag together with the County Flag in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) During meetings involving the National Government, the National Flag shall remain the principal symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.7 The Office of the Deputy Governor

11.7.1 Constitutional Role

The Deputy Governor assists the Governor in performing executive functions and ensures continuity of county administration.

The Office of the Deputy Governor therefore represents constitutional authority exercised within the devolved system of government.

The display of the National Flag reinforces this constitutional relationship.

11.7.2 Official Display

The Office of the Deputy Governor shall display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Official County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the position of honour in all offices, reception areas and official meeting rooms. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

11.7.3 Meetings and Public Engagements

During:

- Stakeholder meetings.
- Public consultations.
- County forums.
- Official briefings.
- Development planning sessions.

the National Flag shall be displayed prominently behind the principal office holder where practicable.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.7.4 Official Representation

Where the Deputy Governor officially represents the Governor, the National Flag shall continue to symbolize the authority of the Republic while the County Flag represents the devolved administration.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The constitutional hierarchy of the two flags shall remain unchanged.

11.7.5 Administrative Consistency

County Governments should maintain uniform standards of flag display across both the Governor's and Deputy Governor's offices to promote consistency and professionalism.

11.8 County Executive Committee

11.8.1 Executive Authority

The County Executive Committee exercises executive authority over county administration under the leadership of the Governor.

Its meetings and official functions should visibly reflect constitutional governance through the display of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.8.2 Executive Boardrooms

County Executive Committee boardrooms shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.8.3 Executive Meetings

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Cabinet meetings.
- Budget discussions.
- Policy reviews.
- Strategic planning sessions.

- Development coordination meetings.

Its presence reinforces collective responsibility under the Constitution.

11.8.4 Executive Press Conferences

County Executive media briefings should prominently display the National Flag behind the principal spokesperson.

County branding and institutional logos shall remain secondary to the National Flag.

11.8.5 Intergovernmental Meetings

Meetings involving:

- National Government Ministries.
- Other County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- State Agencies.

shall display the National Flag as the common constitutional symbol uniting all participating institutions.

11.9 County Assembly

11.9.1 Constitutional Position

County Assemblies constitute the legislative arm of County Government.

The Assembly exercises legislative authority under the Constitution and therefore displays the National Flag as the visible symbol of constitutional governance.

11.9.2 Assembly Chamber

The Assembly Chamber shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the superior ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.9.3 Official Proceedings

The National Flag shall remain displayed during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Plenary sittings.
- Committee hearings.
- Public participation sessions.
- Budget debates.
- Special sittings.
- Official addresses.

The display reinforces the constitutional legitimacy of legislative proceedings.

11.9.4 Committee Rooms

Committee rooms conducting:

- Public hearings.

- Consultations.
- Official meetings.

should display the National Flag in accordance with this Manual.

11.9.5 Ceremonial Events

The National Flag shall feature prominently during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Opening of Assembly sessions.
- Swearing-in of Members.
- Election of the Speaker.
- Official commemorations.
- Visits by national leaders.
- International parliamentary exchanges.

County Flags shall accompany-but never supersede-the National Flag.

11.10 County Administrative Offices

11.10.1 Administrative Headquarters

County administrative headquarters serve as the operational centres through which county services are delivered to the public.

Every headquarters shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The County Flag.

11.10.2 County Departments

County departments responsible for:

- Health.
- Agriculture.
- Roads.
- Water.
- Lands.
- Education.
- Trade.
- Finance.

shall maintain official National Flag displays at their headquarters and principal public offices.

11.10.3 Sub-County and Ward Offices

Administrative offices established at sub-county and ward levels should display the National Flag where permanent flagpoles or official reception facilities exist.

This ensures that constitutional symbolism reaches every level of devolved administration.

11.10.4 Service Delivery Centres

County service centres receiving members of the public should prominently display the National Flag within reception areas.

The display reminds citizens that services are delivered under the authority of the Constitution.

11.10.5 Administrative Uniformity

County Governments should adopt standardized flag arrangements throughout all departments and administrative offices.

Uniform standards:

- Promote professionalism.
- Strengthen institutional identity.
- Reinforce constitutional order.
- Improve public confidence.

Every county should therefore maintain one consistent protocol applicable across all administrative structures.

County Institutions, Ceremonies and Public Display

11.11 County Departments

11.11.1 Role of County Departments

County Departments constitute the operational arms through which County Governments implement policies, deliver public services and execute devolved functions assigned under the Constitution.

Although each department performs specialized responsibilities, all departments operate under the authority of the County Government and ultimately under the Constitution of Kenya.

The display of the ONE47 National Flag therefore signifies that departmental authority is exercised in service of the Republic and the people. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.11.2 Departmental Headquarters

Every County Department shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the principal entrance.
- Within the reception area.
- In the office of the County Executive Committee Member (CECM).
- In the office of the Chief Officer.
- In departmental boardrooms.
- During official meetings and public forums.

Where the County Flag is displayed, it shall accompany-but never supersede-the National Flag.

11.11.3 Public Service Delivery

Departments providing direct services to the public-including health, agriculture, water, transport, finance, lands, trade, environment and social services-shall maintain visible National Flag displays in public service areas.

This reinforces public confidence by reminding citizens that services are delivered under constitutional authority rather than institutional discretion.

11.11.4 Official Meetings

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Departmental management meetings.
- Budget planning sessions.

- Public participation forums.
- Development planning conferences.
- Official inspections.

Its presence emphasizes accountability and collective responsibility.

11.11.5 Uniform Departmental Standards

County Governments should adopt a standardized layout for flag displays across all departments to ensure consistency in:

- Positioning.
- Flag size.
- Indoor display.
- Outdoor display.
- Ceremonial arrangements.

Uniformity reflects professionalism throughout the county administration.

11.12 County Public Service Institutions

11.12.1 Public Hospitals

County hospitals represent one of the most visible expressions of devolved public service.

The ONE47 National Flag displayed at county hospitals symbolizes that healthcare is provided:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Equitably.
- Professionally.
- Constitutionally.
- In service of every citizen.

11.12.2 Hospital Administration

County hospitals shall prominently display the National Flag:

- Outside the principal entrance.
- Within the administration block.
- In the Medical Superintendent's office.
- In boardrooms.
- At official ceremony venues.

Emergency treatment areas need not include ceremonial displays where operational considerations make such display impractical.

11.12.3 Vocational Training Institutions

County vocational training centres and technical institutes shall display the National Flag:

- At school entrances.
- During graduation ceremonies.
- Within administration offices.
- During official Government visits.

Students should receive instruction on proper flag etiquette as part of civic education.

11.12.4 Public Libraries and Cultural Centres

These institutions contribute to civic education by promoting awareness of Kenya's constitutional identity and national heritage.

11.12.5 Sports Facilities

County stadiums, sports academies and public recreation facilities may display the National Flag during:

- Official sporting events.
- County championships.
- National competitions.
- Public celebrations.

The National Flag unites participants regardless of county affiliation.

11.13 Public Parks, Civic Squares and County Infrastructure

11.13.1 Civic Spaces

Public parks and civic squares provide important venues for public gatherings and national celebrations.

Where permanent flagpoles exist, the ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed prominently. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The display should encourage civic pride rather than serve purely decorative purposes.

11.13.2 County Headquarters Squares

Many County Headquarters include ceremonial squares or public plazas.

These spaces should prominently feature:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

11.13.3 County Monuments

County monuments commemorating historical events, national heroes or county achievements may display the National Flag where appropriate.

County Flags may accompany the National Flag in accordance with official protocol.

11.13.4 Public Infrastructure Projects

Major county infrastructure projects-including roads, bridges, markets and water schemes-may display the National Flag during:

- Ground-breaking ceremonies.
- Official commissioning.
- Public launches.
- Government inspections.

Following completion, permanent flag displays should be limited to appropriate administrative facilities.

11.13.5 Public Markets

County markets generally serve commercial purposes and should not routinely display ceremonial flag arrangements.

However, the National Flag may be displayed during official Government events or national celebrations conducted within the market.

11.14 County Ceremonies

11.14.1 Official County Celebrations

County Governments conduct numerous official ceremonies throughout the year.

The ONE47 National Flag shall remain the principal ceremonial symbol during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- County anniversaries.
- Development launches.
- Cultural festivals organized by Government.
- Agricultural shows.
- County awards ceremonies.
- Official commemorations.

11.14.2 National Celebrations within Counties

During national celebrations such as:

- Madaraka Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Labour Day.

County Governments shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) County Flags may accompany the National Flag but shall remain subordinate within the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

11.14.3 Public Participation Forums

Public participation is a constitutional obligation of County Governments.

The National Flag shall be displayed prominently during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Budget consultations.
- Public hearings.
- Development planning meetings.
- Legislative consultations.
- Community engagement forums.

Its presence reinforces the constitutional legitimacy of participatory governance.

11.14.4 County Awards and Recognition

County honours, certificates and public recognition programmes shall prominently feature the National Flag throughout official proceedings.

Recipients should understand that recognition is granted on behalf of the County Government operating within the Republic of Kenya.

11.14.5 Inter-County Events

Joint events involving two or more County Governments shall prominently display:

- ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

- Participating County Flags.

All County Flags shall enjoy equal ceremonial status among themselves while remaining subordinate to the National Flag.

11.15 Public Education and Civic Awareness

11.15.1 County Civic Education

County Governments should actively promote public understanding of:

- National symbolism.
- County identity.
- Flag etiquette.
- Constitutional hierarchy.
- Civic responsibility.

Flag education contributes to national cohesion.

11.15.2 Schools

County Governments should collaborate with educational institutions to incorporate instruction on:

- Proper flag display.
- Meaning of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and

Names Act, 2027)

- County Flag symbolism.
- National values.

Young citizens develop lifelong respect for national symbols through education.

11.15.3 Public Information Materials

County Governments are encouraged to produce: (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

- Illustrated guides.
- Posters.
- Civic education booklets.
- Digital media.
- Public awareness campaigns.

Educational materials should remain consistent with this Manual.

11.15.4 Community Engagement

County administrators should use public meetings and community forums to explain the constitutional relationship between:

- The National Flag.
- County Flags.
- National unity.
- Devolution. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)

Public understanding strengthens respect for official symbols.

11.15.5 Building Civic Culture

The ultimate objective of County Governments Flag Protocol is to foster a civic culture in which citizens proudly recognize that: (United Nations, 2020)

- County identity enriches national identity.
- Diversity strengthens unity.
- The ONE47 National Flag belongs to every Kenyan. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- County Flags celebrate the unique contribution of every county to the Republic.

This understanding reinforces the constitutional vision of one united nation composed of forty-seven equal counties.

Compliance, Inspection, Administrative Responsibility and Chapter Conclusion

11.16 County Institutional Responsibilities

11.16.1 Constitutional Duty

Every County Government bears a constitutional responsibility to ensure that the ONE47 National Flag and the Official County Flag are displayed in accordance with this Manual, the ONE47 legal framework, and all other applicable laws governing national symbols. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The proper display of official flags is not merely a ceremonial obligation but an expression of constitutional governance, professionalism and respect for the sovereignty of the Republic.

County institutions shall therefore regard flag protocol as an integral component of public administration. (United Nations, 2020)

11.16.2 Responsibility of the Governor

The Governor, as the Chief Executive Officer of the County Government, bears ultimate responsibility for ensuring that official flag protocol is observed throughout all county institutions. (United Nations, 2020) This responsibility includes:

- Ensuring compliance with national standards.
- Allocating adequate resources for flag procurement and maintenance.
- Supporting civic education.
- Designating officers responsible for protocol administration.
- Monitoring institutional compliance.

Leadership by example strengthens respect for constitutional symbols.

11.16.3 County Secretary

The County Secretary shall coordinate administrative implementation of county flag protocol by: (United Nations, 2020)

- Issuing internal administrative directives.
- Coordinating departmental compliance.
- Supervising official ceremonies.
- Maintaining institutional consistency.
- Advising county leadership on protocol matters.

The County Secretary should ensure that all county departments operate under one uniform protocol system.

11.16.4 County Protocol Office

Where a County Protocol Office exists, it shall serve as the principal advisory office on matters concerning:

- Official flag display.
- Ceremonial arrangements.

- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Institutional inspections.
- Staff training.

The office shall work closely with the Governor's Office, County Assembly and departmental administrators.

11.16.5 Departmental Responsibility

Every County Department shall designate an officer responsible for:

- Daily flag display.
- Indoor and outdoor maintenance.
- Inspection.
- Storage.
- Replacement.
- Reporting protocol deficiencies.

Delegation promotes accountability without diminishing institutional responsibility.

11.17 County Inspection and Quality Assurance

11.17.1 Purpose of Inspection

Regular inspection ensures that official flags remain dignified, accurate and consistent with national standards.

County Governments should establish structured inspection programmes covering all institutions under their jurisdiction.

11.17.2 Inspection Frequency

The following inspection schedule is recommended: Daily

- Correct display.
- Proper positioning.
- Cleanliness.
- Visibility.

Weekly

- Flagpole inspection.
- Rope systems.
- Lighting.
- General maintenance.

Monthly

- Fabric condition.
- Colour accuracy.
- Structural integrity.
- Equipment servicing.

Annually

- Comprehensive institutional review.
- Replacement planning.
- Budget assessment.
- Staff refresher training.

11.17.3 Official County Inspection Checklist

Responsible officers should verify:

- Official dimensions.
- Correct colours.
- Proper stitching.
- No tears.
- No fading.
- Proper flagpole height.
- Correct order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Proper illumination.
- Secure attachment.
- Appropriate storage facilities.

Inspection records should be maintained for administrative accountability.

11.17.4 Technical Compliance

County Governments shall ensure that all official flags comply with:

- Volume I Technical Standards.
- Official colour specifications. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Approved manufacturing standards.
- Official proportions.
- Construction drawings.

Unauthorized variations shall not be accepted for official use.

11.17.5 Continuous Improvement

Inspection should not merely identify deficiencies but encourage continuous improvement of:

- Institutional presentation.
- Ceremonial professionalism.
- Administrative efficiency.
- Public confidence.

Counties should periodically review international best practices while preserving Kenya's constitutional traditions.

11.18 Common County Flag Protocol Errors

11.18.1 Improper Flag Hierarchy

The most common protocol violation occurs when County Flags are displayed in a manner suggesting equality with or superiority over the National Flag.

Examples include:

- Flying the County Flag above the National Flag.
- Giving the County Flag the central ceremonial position.
- Displaying only the County Flag during official Government functions.

Such arrangements contradict constitutional hierarchy.

11.18.2 Poor Maintenance

Common maintenance failures include:

- Frayed stitching.
- Faded colours.
- Dirty fabric.
- Damaged flagpoles.
- Broken lighting systems.

Poor maintenance diminishes institutional credibility.

11.18.3 Unauthorized Designs

County Governments shall not:

- Modify approved County Flag designs.
- Alter official colours.
- Introduce unofficial symbols.
- Display political branding on official flags.

Consistency protects the integrity of official symbols.

11.18.4 Political Misuse

Official County Flags and the ONE47 National Flag shall never be used: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- During political party campaigns.
- To endorse candidates.
- For partisan demonstrations.
- As campaign branding.

County Governments shall maintain strict political neutrality in the display of official flags.

11.18.5 Failure to Educate Staff

Many protocol errors arise from insufficient training rather than deliberate misconduct.

County Governments should therefore prioritize continuous civic education and staff development.

Knowledge remains the most effective means of promoting compliance.

11.19 Public Education and Community Engagement

11.19.1 County Civic Responsibility

County Governments have an important responsibility to educate residents regarding:

- The meaning of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The symbolism of County Flags.
- Official flag etiquette.
- Constitutional hierarchy.
- Respect for national symbols.

Public understanding strengthens national unity.

11.19.2 Schools and Youth Programmes

County Governments should collaborate with schools, youth organizations and vocational institutions to promote:

- Flag ceremonies.

- Civic education.
- Constitutional literacy.
- Patriotism.
- Community service.

Young people become ambassadors of national unity through proper civic education.

11.19.3 Community Events

County Governments should incorporate flag education into:

- Public barazas.
- Agricultural shows.
- Cultural festivals.
- Sports competitions.
- Community development meetings.

Such events provide valuable opportunities for civic engagement.

11.19.4 Public Information Materials

Counties should produce:

- Illustrated protocol guides.
- Posters.
- Educational brochures.
- Digital publications.
- Public awareness campaigns.

Educational materials should remain consistent with this Manual.

11.19.5 Building National Unity

Ultimately, County Governments should use official flag protocol to demonstrate that: (United Nations, 2020)

- County pride strengthens national pride.
- Diversity enriches unity.
- Constitutional values belong to every citizen.
- The ONE47 National Flag unites all counties into one Republic. (

Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Proper flag protocol therefore becomes an instrument of nation-building. (United Nations, 2020) This chapter has established the comprehensive framework governing the display and ceremonial use of the ONE47 National Flag and officially authorized County Flags within Kenya's devolved system of government. It has affirmed that County Governments derive their authority from the Constitution and therefore display the National Flag as the supreme symbol of the Republic, while County Flags represent the unique identity, heritage and administrative character of each of the forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has prescribed detailed standards for the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Deputy Governor, County Executive Committees, County Assemblies, County Departments, public institutions, healthcare facilities, educational centres, civic spaces and official county ceremonies. It has further established protocols for institutional compliance, inspections, administrative accountability, public education and continuous improvement, ensuring that flag protocol becomes an integral component of professional county governance. (United Nations, 2020) A central theme throughout the chapter has been the harmonious relationship between national unity and devolution. The ONE47 National Flag serves as the enduring symbol of one sovereign Republic governed under one Constitution, while County Flags celebrate the diversity, culture and aspirations of individual counties. By maintaining the National Flag in the position of honour and treating County Flags as

complementary symbols, County Governments visibly reinforce the constitutional principle that devolved governance flourishes within a united Kenya. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Through consistent observance of these standards, County Governments contribute not only to institutional professionalism but also to civic education, public confidence and national cohesion. Every respectful display of the ONE47 National Flag reminds citizens that, although Kenya is enriched by forty- seven distinct counties, it remains one indivisible Republic whose strength lies in its shared constitutional identity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 12: SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FLAG PROTOCOL

Constitutional Foundation and Civic Purpose Educational institutions occupy a unique position in the life of the Republic. They are not only centres for academic instruction but also institutions entrusted with nurturing responsible citizenship, constitutional values, ethical leadership and national identity. Every learner who passes through Kenya's education system should graduate with a deep understanding of the rights, duties and shared responsibilities that accompany citizenship.

The ONE47 National Flag serves as one of the most powerful educational tools for achieving these objectives. Its daily presence within schools and institutions of higher learning reminds learners that they belong to one sovereign Republic founded upon constitutional democracy, equality, unity in diversity and the rule of law. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the official standards governing the display, handling and educational use of the ONE47 National Flag in all public and private educational institutions throughout the Republic of Kenya.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter applies to all recognized educational institutions, including:

- Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) Centres.
- Primary Schools.
- Junior Schools.
- Secondary Schools.
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.
- Teacher Training Colleges.
- National Polytechnics.
- Universities.
- Specialized training institutions.
- Public and private educational institutions accredited under Kenyan law.

The standards prescribed herein shall apply regardless of ownership, sponsorship, religious affiliation or management structure.

National symbols are among the earliest civic lessons encountered by young citizens. Through respectful interaction with the National Flag, learners begin to appreciate concepts that are fundamental to democratic society, including:

- National unity.
- Constitutional governance.
- Equality of all citizens.
- Respect for diversity.
- Public responsibility.
- Service to the nation.

Educational institutions should therefore treat the National Flag not merely as an object of display but as an instrument of civic formation.

This chapter shall be read together with:

- Chapter Three - Respect for the National Flag
- Chapter Four - Order of Precedence
- Chapter Eight - Indoor Flag Protocol
- Chapter Nine - Outdoor Flag Protocol
- Chapter Ten - Government Institutions Flag Protocol (United Nations, 2020)
- Chapter Eleven - County Governments Flag Protocol (United Nations, 2020)

The present chapter adapts those general principles to the unique environment of educational institutions.

The educational philosophy underpinning this chapter is that patriotism is cultivated through knowledge, understanding and daily practice rather than through compulsion.

Learners who understand the constitutional meaning of the ONE47 National Flag are more likely to:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Respect public institutions.
- Value peaceful coexistence.
- Participate responsibly in civic life.
- Defend democratic values.
- Contribute positively to national development.

Educational flag protocol therefore supports the broader goals of citizenship education. (United Nations, 2020)

12.2 Constitutional Role of Educational Institutions

12.2.1 Education and Nation Building

The Constitution recognizes education as a foundation for national development and social transformation. Schools and institutions of higher learning play a central role in shaping the character, values and aspirations of future generations.

Beyond academic excellence, educational institutions are expected to cultivate:

- Integrity.
- Responsibility.
- Respect for human dignity.
- National cohesion.
- Democratic participation.
- Constitutional literacy.

The ONE47 National Flag provides a visible reminder of these shared national aspirations. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.2.2 Constitutional Citizenship

Every learner is a citizen-or a future citizen-with rights protected by the Constitution and responsibilities owed to the Republic.

Educational institutions should use the National Flag to teach that citizenship involves:

- Respect for the Constitution.
- Obedience to the law.
- Respect for others.
- Public participation.
- Service to community.
- Protection of national unity.

The flag becomes a daily reminder of these civic obligations.

12.2.3 Equality of Learners

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the equal dignity of all Kenyans regardless of: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- County of origin.
- Ethnicity.
- Religion.

- Language.
- Gender.
- Economic status.
- Disability.

Within educational institutions, the National Flag should reinforce the principle that every learner belongs equally to the Republic.

12.2.4 National Identity

Educational institutions often bring together learners from diverse counties and communities.

The ONE47 National Flag reminds students that while they celebrate different cultures and traditions, they share one national identity as citizens of Kenya. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Schools should actively promote this understanding through civic education programmes.

12.2.5 Civic Responsibility

Schools should emphasize that respect for the National Flag reflects respect for:

- Fellow citizens.
- Constitutional institutions.
- Democratic governance.
- National history.
- Shared future.

Such respect contributes to responsible citizenship rather than blind nationalism.

12.3 National Identity, Citizenship and the ONE47 National Flag

12.3.1 Symbol of the Republic

The ONE47 National Flag represents:

- The sovereignty of Kenya.
- Constitutional democracy.
- National unity.
- Equality of the forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- Peaceful coexistence.
- Shared prosperity.

Students should understand that these values are embodied in the flag they encounter daily.

12.3.2 Diversity in Unity

One of the defining features of the ONE47 National Flag is its symbolic representation of all forty- seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Educational institutions should explain that the design celebrates:

- Cultural diversity.
- Regional identity.
- Equal partnership among counties.
- National solidarity.

Learners should appreciate that diversity strengthens rather than weakens the Republic.

12.3.3 Shared National Heritage

- Every learner.
- Every teacher.
- Every parent.
- Every community.
- Every county.

No individual, institution or political organization owns the National Flag.

Schools should reinforce this principle consistently.

12.3.4 Constitutional Patriotism

Educational institutions should promote constitutional patriotism-a form of patriotism grounded in respect for democratic values, human rights and the Constitution.

Students should learn that genuine patriotism includes:

- Respecting diversity.
- Rejecting discrimination.
- Protecting public property.
- Participating peacefully in civic life.
- Serving others.

The National Flag becomes a symbol of these commitments.

12.3.5 Future Leadership

Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders.

Their daily interaction with the ONE47 National Flag should inspire future generations to govern with:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Integrity.
- Wisdom.
- Accountability.
- Compassion.
- Commitment to national unity.

Educational institutions therefore play an indispensable role in preparing future custodians of the Republic.

12.4 Educational Objectives of Flag Protocol

12.4.1 Civic Education

Flag protocol should be integrated into civic education programmes to ensure learners understand: (United Nations, 2020)

- Proper display.
- Official symbolism.
- Constitutional hierarchy.
- National values.
- Public responsibility.

Knowledge promotes meaningful respect.

12.4.2 Character Formation

Proper observance of flag protocol contributes to the development of: (United Nations, 2020)

- Discipline.

- Respect.
- Courtesy.
- Leadership.
- Integrity.

These qualities benefit both individual learners and society.

12.4.3 Institutional Culture

Educational institutions should foster a culture in which:

- National symbols are respected.
- Diversity is celebrated.
- Civic responsibility is encouraged.
- Constitutional values are lived daily.

Flag ceremonies should reinforce-not replace-these broader educational goals.

12.4.4 Public Service Ethic

Schools should encourage learners to view public service as an honourable calling.

The National Flag reminds students that leadership exists to serve the people rather than personal interests.

This message supports ethical leadership development.

12.4.5 Lifelong Citizenship

Respect learned during school years often continues throughout adulthood.

Educational institutions therefore contribute to lifelong civic behaviour by modelling proper flag protocol consistently. (United Nations, 2020)

12.5 Guiding Principles for Schools and Educational Institutions

12.5.1 Respect

The ONE47 National Flag shall always be treated with dignity and respect. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Students should understand that respect for the flag reflects respect for the Republic and for fellow citizens.

12.5.2 Inclusivity

Educational flag ceremonies shall include all learners without discrimination.

Participation should foster unity rather than exclusion.

No learner shall be marginalized on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or county of origin.

12.5.3 Educational Purpose

Flag protocol within schools exists primarily to educate rather than to intimidate or compel. (United Nations, 2020) Teachers should explain the meaning behind ceremonies so that learners participate with understanding rather than mere routine.

12.5.4 Professionalism

School administrators shall ensure that:

- Flags are correctly displayed.
- Flagpoles are maintained.

- Staff understand official protocol.

Professional standards reinforce institutional credibility.

12.5.5 National Unity

Above all, educational institutions should use the ONE47 National Flag to remind every learner that they belong to: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- One Constitution.
- One Republic.
- One People.
- forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.
- One Shared Future.

This principle shall guide every aspect of educational flag protocol throughout Kenya. (United Nations, 2020) Primary and Secondary Schools Flag Protocol

12.6 Display of the ONE47 National Flag in Schools

12.6.1 General Principle

Every school shall recognize the ONE47 National Flag as the foremost constitutional symbol of the Republic of Kenya. The flag shall be displayed with dignity, accuracy and consistency in accordance with the standards prescribed in this Manual and the technical specifications contained in Volume III. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The daily presence of the National Flag within the school environment reinforces the ideals of national unity, constitutional governance and responsible citizenship.

12.6.2 Schools Covered

The standards in this section apply to:

- Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) Centres.
- Primary Schools.
- Junior Schools.
- Secondary Schools.
- Special Needs Education institutions.
- Boarding schools.
- Day schools.
- Public and private schools recognized by the Ministry responsible for Education.

12.6.3 Location of the National Flag

Every school shall display the ONE47 National Flag in one or more of the following locations: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the principal entrance.
- On the main flagpole within the assembly ground.
- At the administration block.
- In the Head Teacher's or Principal's office.
- In the school hall.
- During official ceremonies and public functions.

Where multiple flagpoles exist, the National Flag shall occupy the position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

12.6.4 Flagpole Standards

The principal school flagpole shall:

- Be permanently installed.
- Be structurally secure.
- Be of appropriate height.
- Be maintained in good condition.
- Allow unobstructed visibility of the flag.

Where possible, the flagpole should be positioned in a central location visible to learners, staff and visitors.

12.6.5 Daily Display

Schools operating during normal academic terms should display the National Flag throughout the school day.

The flag should normally be raised before the commencement of official activities and lowered after the conclusion of the school day, except where permanently illuminated displays are authorized.

12.7 School Assemblies

12.7.1 Educational Importance of Assemblies

School assemblies provide one of the most effective opportunities for cultivating civic awareness and national identity.

The ONE47 National Flag shall form the focal point of official assemblies, symbolizing that the educational community gathers under one Constitution and one Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Assemblies should encourage learners to understand the significance of the flag rather than merely observe ceremonial routines.

12.7.2 Position of the National Flag

During assemblies:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Learners should face the National Flag during official observances.
- Temporary displays shall remain stable and dignified.
- No decorative material shall obscure or diminish the flag.

12.7.3 Opening Assemblies

Schools are encouraged to begin official assemblies with appropriate civic observances, which may include:

- The raising of the National Flag.
- The National Anthem.
- A pledge of civic responsibility where authorized.
- Brief reflections on national values.
- Announcements of public importance.

Such observances should be conducted with dignity and educational purpose.

12.7.4 Weekly Assemblies

During weekly assemblies, school leaders are encouraged to provide short civic education messages

- Constitutional values.
- Respect for national symbols.
- Responsible citizenship.
- Environmental stewardship.
- Community service.
- National unity.

The National Flag should serve as the visual focus of these discussions.

12.7.5 Special Assemblies

Special assemblies held to commemorate:

- National holidays.
- School anniversaries.
- Visits by public officials.
- National achievements.
- Memorial events.

shall prominently feature the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.8 Daily Flag Raising and Lowering Ceremonies

12.8.1 Educational Purpose

The daily raising and lowering of the National Flag should be regarded primarily as an educational exercise that cultivates:

- Discipline.
- Respect.
- Responsibility.
- Patriotism.
- Constitutional awareness.

The ceremony should never become a mechanical ritual devoid of educational meaning.

12.8.2 Raising the Flag

The National Flag should normally be raised:

- Before lessons commence.
- In an orderly manner.
- Smoothly and respectfully.
- Without unnecessary delay.

Learners participating in the ceremony should maintain appropriate decorum.

12.8.3 Lowering the Flag

At the close of the school day, the National Flag shall be lowered: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Slowly.
- Respectfully.
- Under supervision.
- Without touching the ground.

After lowering, the flag shall be properly folded and stored where daily removal is practiced.

12.8.4 Responsibility for Ceremonies

Schools may designate trained learners, supervised by teachers, to conduct flag ceremonies.

Selection of flag bearers should reflect:

- Good discipline.
- Leadership qualities.
- Responsibility.
- Respect for school values.

Participation should be regarded as an honour rather than a privilege.

12.8.5 Weather Conditions

During severe weather capable of damaging the National Flag, schools may temporarily remove the flag to prevent deterioration.

Replacement should occur as soon as conditions permit.

12.9 Classroom and Administrative Protocol

12.9.1 Classroom Display

Where classrooms display the National Flag:

- The flag shall be clean and undamaged.
- It shall occupy a respectful position.
- It shall not obstruct teaching activities.
- It shall not be used as decorative material.

Display should reinforce civic education rather than merely decorate the classroom.

12.9.2 Head Teacher's Office

The office of the Head Teacher or Principal shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Where appropriate, the County Flag in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall occupy the superior position.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.9.3 Boardrooms and Staff Rooms

School boardrooms used for:

- Board of Management meetings.
- Parent associations.
- Staff meetings.
- Official consultations.

should prominently display the National Flag.

The display reminds participants that educational governance serves the public interest.

12.9.4 School Halls

School halls used for:

- Prize-giving ceremonies.
- Drama festivals.
- Public lectures.
- National celebrations.
- Graduation ceremonies.

shall prominently display the National Flag.

12.9.5 Visitors

When Government officials or distinguished visitors attend school functions, the National Flag should remain prominently displayed throughout the event.

The display symbolizes that the institution forms part of Kenya's constitutional education system.

12.10 Responsibilities of School Leadership

12.10.1 Head Teachers and Principals

The Head Teacher or Principal bears overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with official flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020) Responsibilities include:

- Supervising daily display.
- Ensuring flag maintenance.
- Supporting civic education.
- Training staff.
- Designating responsible officers.

Leadership by example reinforces institutional culture.

12.10.2 Teachers

Teachers should integrate instruction concerning:

- National symbols.
- Constitutional values.
- Citizenship.
- Civic responsibility.
- National unity.

Teaching should encourage understanding rather than rote memorization.

12.10.3 Learners

Learners should:

- Treat the National Flag respectfully.
- Participate appropriately during ceremonies.
- Avoid misuse of official symbols.
- Learn the constitutional significance of the flag.
- Encourage respect among fellow learners.

The school environment provides an opportunity to cultivate lifelong civic habits.

12.10.4 Parents and Guardians

Schools are encouraged to involve parents in promoting respect for national symbols.

Partnerships between schools and families strengthen civic education beyond the classroom.

12.10.5 Whole-School Culture

Every school should strive to build a culture in which:

- Respect for the National Flag is understood.
- Constitutional values are practiced.
- Diversity is celebrated.
- Patriotism is inclusive.
- Service to others is encouraged.

The ONE47 National Flag should become a daily reminder of the school's commitment to forming informed, responsible and united citizens. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Technical, Vocational and Higher Education Institutions

12.11 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Institutions

12.11.1 Constitutional Role of TVET Institutions

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions play a vital role in Kenya's national development by equipping learners with practical skills, innovation, entrepreneurship and professional competence. They prepare technicians, artisans, technologists and skilled professionals who contribute directly to economic transformation and public service.

As institutions established under the laws of Kenya, TVET institutions exercise their educational mandate within the constitutional framework of the Republic. The display of the ONE47 National Flag affirms that technical education contributes not only to economic productivity but also to responsible citizenship and national development. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.11.2 Display of the National Flag

Every TVET institution shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the principal entrance.
- Within the administration block.
- In the Principal's office.
- In the governing council boardroom.
- At assembly grounds.
- During official institutional ceremonies.

Where an institutional flag exists, it shall complement-but never supersede-the National Flag.

12.11.3 Workshops and Training Facilities

Workshops, laboratories and practical training facilities need not display ceremonial flags within operational workspaces where safety considerations may be affected.

However, administration buildings and public training venues should prominently display the National Flag.

12.11.4 Institutional Ceremonies

TVET institutions shall prominently display the National Flag during:

- Graduation ceremonies.
- Skills exhibitions.
- Innovation fairs.
- Official Government visits.

- Industry partnership launches.

The National Flag symbolizes that technical education contributes to the prosperity of the Republic.

12.11.5 Civic Education

TVET institutions should integrate civic education into student orientation programmes, emphasizing:

- Constitutional values.
- Professional ethics.
- Public responsibility.
- Respect for national symbols.
- Service to the nation.

Technical excellence and civic responsibility should develop together.

12.12 Teacher Training Colleges and National Polytechnics

12.12.1 Preparing National Leaders

Teacher Training Colleges and National Polytechnics occupy a strategic position in shaping future educators and skilled professionals who will influence generations of Kenyans.

These institutions should therefore model exemplary observance of official flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

12.12.2 Institutional Display

Teacher Training Colleges and National Polytechnics shall display the National Flag:

- At the main entrance.
- Within administration buildings.
- In lecture theatres used for official functions.
- In boardrooms.
- At graduation venues.

Institutional branding shall remain secondary to the National Flag.

12.12.3 Student Orientation

Every new student should receive instruction concerning:

- The symbolism of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Official flag etiquette.
- Constitutional citizenship.
- Institutional responsibilities.
- National values.

Orientation programmes should establish a foundation for responsible civic participation.

12.12.4 Academic Events

The National Flag shall feature prominently during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Academic conferences.
- Professional seminars.
- Teaching practice briefings.
- Institutional anniversaries.

Its presence reinforces the connection between education and national service.

12.12.5 Future Educators

Teacher training institutions bear a unique responsibility because their graduates will eventually teach civic values to millions of learners.

Respect for the National Flag should therefore become an integral component of teacher preparation.

12.13 Universities

12.13.1 Universities as National Institutions

Universities are centres of advanced learning, research, innovation and public discourse. They prepare future leaders across every sector of national life, including government, business, science, education, law and the arts.

The ONE47 National Flag displayed within universities symbolizes the institution's contribution to the intellectual and constitutional development of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.13.2 University Administration

Universities shall prominently display the National Flag:

- At the main gate.
- At administration headquarters.
- In the Vice-Chancellor's office.
- In Senate chambers.
- In Council boardrooms.
- In ceremonial halls.

The National Flag shall remain the foremost symbol of institutional service to the nation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.13.3 Faculties and Schools

Individual faculties and schools within universities may display the National Flag in administration offices and official meeting rooms.

Faculty emblems or banners shall not replace the National Flag during official university functions.

12.13.4 Academic Freedom and Constitutional Responsibility

Universities enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy within the framework of the Constitution.

The National Flag reminds the academic community that freedom of inquiry exists alongside responsibility to uphold constitutional values, democratic governance and the rule of law.

12.13.5 Public Engagement

Universities conducting public lectures, policy forums or community outreach programmes should prominently display the National Flag to emphasize that knowledge serves the public interest and national development.

12.14 Graduation and Academic Ceremonies

12.14.1 Significance of Graduation

Graduation ceremonies mark the successful completion of an educational journey and the transition of learners into professional and civic life.

The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy a position of honour throughout graduation ceremonies as a reminder that graduates now assume greater responsibilities to society and the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

12.14.2 Graduation Venue

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Behind the graduation dais.
- At the entrance to the ceremony.
- Beside the official podium.
- Within the academic procession assembly area.

Its placement should be dignified and clearly visible.

12.14.3 Academic Processions

Academic processions may include institutional banners and ceremonial regalia.

Where the National Flag forms part of the procession:

- It shall precede institutional banners.
- It shall be carried with dignity.
- It shall not be obscured by ceremonial decorations.

The National Flag remains the supreme symbol of the Republic.

12.14.4 National Anthem

Graduation ceremonies may appropriately include the National Anthem at the commencement or Student Leadership, Civic Education and National Ceremonies

12.16 Student Leadership and Custodianship of the National Flag

12.16.1 Leadership through Service

Educational institutions are entrusted with preparing future leaders for public service, private enterprise, civil society and community life. Leadership within schools and institutions of higher learning should therefore be understood as an opportunity to serve others with integrity, humility and accountability.

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes these ideals. Learners entrusted with responsibilities relating to the National Flag should recognize that they act as custodians of a constitutional symbol belonging to every Kenyan. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Flag duties should always promote service rather than privilege.

12.16.2 Student Leadership Structures

The National Flag may be entrusted to responsible student leaders including:

- School Captains.
- Head Boys and Head Girls.
- Student Council Officials.

- Prefects.
- Student Government Representatives.
- Cadet Leaders.
- Scouts and Girl Guides.
- Members of officially designated ceremonial teams.

Selection should reflect exemplary character and commitment to school values.

12.16.3 Standards for Student Leaders

Students entrusted with flag responsibilities should demonstrate:

- Discipline.
- Integrity.
- Respect for others.
- Good academic standing where appropriate.
- Leadership by example.
- Respect for national values.
- Commitment to public service.

Schools should avoid treating flag responsibilities as rewards based solely on academic performance.

12.16.4 Training

Before participating in official flag ceremonies, student leaders should receive training on:

- Proper handling of the National Flag.
- Official display standards.
- Raising and lowering procedures.
- Folding and storage.
- Constitutional symbolism.
- Respectful conduct during ceremonies.

Training promotes consistency and confidence.

12.16.5 Educational Value

Participation in flag ceremonies should help students develop:

- Responsibility.
- Confidence.
- Teamwork.
- Civic awareness.
- Leadership skills.

Schools should emphasize these educational outcomes during leadership development programmes.

12.17 Flag Bearers and Ceremonial Teams

12.17.1 Appointment of Flag Bearers

Educational institutions may appoint designated flag bearers to conduct official ceremonies.

Appointments should be based upon:

- Character.
- Discipline.
- Reliability.
- Respect for school values.

Appointments should remain non-political and inclusive.

12.17.2 Composition of Ceremonial Teams

Flag teams may include:

- Principal Flag Bearer.
- Assistant Flag Bearers.
- Ceremony Coordinator.
- Student Master of Ceremony where appropriate.

Schools may adapt team size according to institutional needs.

12.17.3 Duties

Flag bearers shall be responsible for:

- Preparing the National Flag.
- Inspecting equipment.
- Conducting raising ceremonies.
- Conducting lowering ceremonies.
- Proper folding.
- Secure storage.
- Reporting maintenance concerns.

Their responsibilities should always be supervised by designated members of staff.

12.17.4 Conduct During Ceremonies

Flag bearers shall:

- Maintain professional appearance.
- Conduct ceremonies calmly.
- Avoid unnecessary conversation.
- Handle the National Flag respectfully.
- Demonstrate confidence and composure.

Their conduct should model respect for fellow learners.

12.17.5 Rotation of Responsibilities

Schools are encouraged to rotate ceremonial responsibilities periodically to provide leadership opportunities for many learners.

Rotation promotes inclusion while maintaining high standards.

12.18 National Ceremonies in Educational Institutions

12.18.1 National Days

Educational institutions shall commemorate official national celebrations including:

- Madaraka Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Labour Day where appropriate.
- National Days of Remembrance.
- Other officially declared national observances.

The ONE47 National Flag shall remain the principal ceremonial symbol throughout these events. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.18.2 School Commemorations

Schools may organize educational activities including:

- Civic discussions.
- Historical presentations.
- Cultural performances.
- Community service activities.
- Public lectures.
- Student debates.

These activities should deepen learners' understanding of Kenya's constitutional development.

12.18.3 Visits by Public Leaders

When public officials visit educational institutions, the National Flag shall be prominently displayed throughout official proceedings. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutional banners and school flags shall remain secondary to the National Flag.

12.18.4 Educational Competitions

National celebrations may include:

- Essay competitions.
- Debates.
- Poetry.
- Art exhibitions.
- Innovation challenges.
- Civic quizzes.

Such activities should encourage thoughtful engagement with constitutional values rather than superficial displays of patriotism.

12.18.5 Community Participation

Schools should encourage parents and local communities to participate in national commemorations.

Community involvement strengthens the connection between educational institutions and civic life.

12.19 Civic Education Clubs and Student Organisations

12.19.1 Civic Clubs

Schools are encouraged to establish Civic Education Clubs that promote:

- Constitutional literacy.
- National unity.
- Community service.
- Democratic participation.
- Leadership development.

The National Flag should serve as the central symbol of these programmes.

12.19.2 Existing Student Organisations

- Scouts.
- Girl Guides.
- St. John Ambulance.
- Kenya Red Cross Youth.
- Environmental Clubs.
- Debate Clubs.
- Student Councils.

may incorporate education concerning the ONE47 National Flag into their activities. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.19.3 Community Service

Student organisations should be encouraged to undertake community service projects demonstrating:

- Patriotism through action.
- Respect for diversity.
- Environmental stewardship.
- Volunteerism.
- Public responsibility.

Such activities embody the values represented by the National Flag.

12.19.4 Constitutional Literacy

Schools should regularly organize programmes addressing:

- The Constitution.
- National values.
- Rights and responsibilities.
- Public participation.
- Good governance.

The National Flag should be presented as a symbol of these constitutional ideals.

12.19.5 Responsible Citizenship

Educational institutions should help learners understand that: Patriotism is demonstrated not only through ceremonial observance but also through:

- Honesty.
- Respect for others.
- Peaceful conduct.
- Protection of public property.
- Service to community.
- Respect for the Constitution.

The National Flag represents these daily responsibilities.

12.20 Patriotism and Constitutional Values

12.20.1 Meaning of Patriotism

Educational institutions should teach that patriotism means:

- Loving one's country.
- Respecting fellow citizens.
- Protecting constitutional democracy.
- Serving the public good.

- Promoting peace and justice.

Patriotism should never encourage hostility toward others.

12.20.2 Constitutional Patriotism

The ONE47 National Flag should inspire loyalty to: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Constitution.
- Democratic institutions.
- Human dignity.
- Equality.
- Rule of law.
- National unity.

This approach strengthens civic responsibility rather than political partisanship.

12.20.3 Respect for Diversity

Schools should use the symbolism of the ONE47 National Flag to explain that Kenya's strength lies in its diversity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Learners should appreciate differences in:

- Language.
- Culture.
- Religion.
- County identity.
- Traditions.

while recognizing their shared citizenship.

12.20.4 Future Leadership

Every learner should understand that respect for the National Flag prepares them for future leadership founded upon:

- Integrity.
- Accountability.
- Service.
- Courage.
- Compassion.

The Republic depends upon citizens who embody these values.

12.20.5 Building a National Civic Culture

The ultimate purpose of educational flag protocol is to cultivate generations of Kenyans who instinctively understand that the ONE47 National Flag represents: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- One Constitution.
- One Sovereign Republic.
- forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.
- One People.
- One Shared Destiny.

By respecting the National Flag throughout their educational journey, learners develop habits of citizenship that extend beyond school into every aspect of national life.

Educational Ceremonies and Institutional Administration

12.21 Official Visits to Educational Institutions

12.21.1 Purpose of Official Visits

Educational institutions regularly receive official visitors from the National Government, County Governments, constitutional commissions, independent offices, diplomatic missions, professional bodies, development partners and the private sector. Such visits often include inspections, policy engagements, commissioning of projects, prize-giving ceremonies and public addresses. (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag shall be prominently displayed throughout these official engagements as the foremost symbol of the Republic and the constitutional framework within which educational institutions operate.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.21.2 Display During Official Visits

During official visits, the National Flag shall be displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the main entrance to the institution.
- At the reception area.
- At the venue of the official programme.
- Behind the principal speakers where appropriate.
- Beside the official podium.
- Along ceremonial walkways where permanent flag displays exist.

Temporary displays shall comply with the standards prescribed in this Manual.

12.21.3 Reception of National Leaders

When the President, Deputy President, Cabinet Secretaries, Speakers of Parliament, Governors or other senior public officials visit an educational institution, the National Flag shall receive the highest ceremonial prominence in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Institutional banners, sponsor flags and organizational branding shall remain subordinate to the National Flag.

12.21.4 International Visitors

Where international delegations visit educational institutions, the National Flag of Kenya shall be displayed together with the flag(s) of the visiting state(s) in accordance with diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020) As the host nation, Kenya's National Flag shall occupy the principal position prescribed under international practice. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.21.5 Educational Significance

Schools and institutions should use official visits as opportunities to explain to learners the constitutional importance of official symbols and public institutions.

Such occasions transform ceremonial events into practical civic education.

12.22 Educational Ceremonies

12.22.1 General Principle

Educational ceremonies celebrate academic achievement, institutional milestones and community participation. They should therefore reflect the dignity, professionalism and constitutional values

represented by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.22.2 Prize-Giving Ceremonies

During prize-giving events, the National Flag shall be prominently displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Behind the main dais.
- At the principal entrance.
- Beside the official podium.

Awards presented under the National Flag symbolize recognition granted within the educational system of the Republic.

12.22.3 Opening and Closing Ceremonies

The National Flag shall feature prominently during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Opening of academic years.
- Closing ceremonies.
- School anniversaries.
- Institutional jubilees.
- Foundation celebrations.

Its presence reinforces continuity between institutional traditions and national identity.

12.22.4 Cultural Events

Educational institutions frequently organize cultural festivals celebrating Kenya's diverse communities.

During such events:

- The National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Cultural symbols shall complement rather than compete with the National Flag.
- Programmes should emphasize unity through diversity.

This reflects the spirit embodied by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

12.22.5 Academic Excellence Awards

Academic awards, scholarships and institutional honours should be presented in the presence of the National Flag.

Recipients should appreciate that academic excellence carries responsibilities to serve the nation and humanity.

12.23 Sports Competitions and Co-Curricular Activities

12.23.1 Educational Sports

Sports develop teamwork, discipline, perseverance and mutual respect.

The National Flag displayed during school sports reinforces the principle that healthy competition strengthens rather than divides the national community.

12.23.2 Inter-School Competitions

During inter-school competitions, institutions shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- ceremonial and institutional display standards where appropriate.

School flags shall never occupy a position superior to the National Flag.

12.23.3 National Championships

Regional and national championships should prominently feature the National Flag throughout official proceedings.

The National Flag reminds participants that although they represent different schools and counties, they compete as citizens of one Republic.

12.23.4 International Competitions

Where educational institutions host international sporting events, Kenya's National Flag shall be displayed together with participating national flags in accordance with international protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Respect shall be accorded equally to all national flags while recognizing Kenya's role as host nation.

12.23.5 Educational Value of Competition

Teachers and coaches should encourage learners to understand that the National Flag represents:

- Fair competition.
- Mutual respect.
- National pride.
- Peaceful coexistence.
- Shared achievement.

Winning should never diminish respect for fellow competitors.

12.24 National Examinations and Academic Integrity

12.24.1 National Importance

National examinations occupy a significant place within Kenya's education system.

Although examinations themselves do not require ceremonial observance, educational institutions should recognize that academic integrity contributes directly to national development.

The National Flag displayed at examination centres symbolizes this responsibility.

12.24.2 Examination Centres

Schools designated as official examination centres should prominently display the National Flag:

- At the principal entrance.
- Within administration areas.
- At official reception points.

Display within examination rooms is optional and should not distract candidates.

12.24.3 Academic Honesty

- Honesty during examinations.
- Respect for rules.
- Integrity in academic work.
- Fairness toward fellow learners.

Patriotism begins with personal integrity.

12.24.4 Institutional Responsibility

School administrators shall ensure that official examination activities are conducted professionally and impartially.

The National Flag serves as a reminder that public trust depends upon institutional integrity.

12.24.5 National Development

Every learner should understand that honest academic achievement contributes to:

- National progress.
- Professional competence.
- Economic growth.
- Public confidence.
- Constitutional development.

Education therefore becomes a form of national service.

12.25 Responsibilities of Educational Institutions

12.25.1 Institutional Responsibility

Every educational institution bears responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Manual.

Institutional responsibilities include:

- Correct display of the National Flag.
- Maintenance of flagpoles.
- Staff training.
- Student education.
- Ceremonial planning.
- Periodic inspections.

12.25.2 Boards of Management

Boards of Management and governing councils shall support implementation by:

- Providing adequate resources.
- Approving maintenance budgets.
- Monitoring compliance.
- Supporting civic education initiatives.

Good governance promotes consistent standards.

12.25.3 Institutional Policies

Educational institutions should incorporate official flag protocol into: (United Nations, 2020)

- Student handbooks.
- Staff manuals.
- Administrative procedures.
- Orientation programmes.

Written policies promote continuity.

12.25.4 Record Keeping

Institutions are encouraged to maintain records concerning:

- Flag procurement.
- Maintenance schedules.
- Replacement history.
- Inspection reports.
- Staff training.

Documentation supports accountability and continuous improvement.

12.25.5 Institutional Culture

Ultimately, educational institutions should cultivate an environment in which:

- Respect for the National Flag becomes habitual.
- Constitutional values guide daily conduct.
- Learners understand civic responsibility.
- Professionalism characterizes institutional administration.

The ONE47 National Flag should stand not merely as an emblem displayed on ceremonial occasions but as a constant reminder that education exists to prepare citizens capable of strengthening the Republic through knowledge, integrity and service. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Compliance, Inspection, Staff Training and

CHAPTER 13: KENYA DEFENCE FORCES ENSIGN PROTOCOL

Constitutional Foundation and Military Flag Tradition The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) stand as the principal constitutional institution entrusted with safeguarding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Kenya. As a disciplined national institution established under the Constitution, the Kenya Defence Forces uphold the values of patriotism, professionalism, honour and selfless service.

Within military tradition, flags occupy a position of exceptional significance. They are not merely identifying emblems but enduring symbols of national sovereignty, lawful authority, military honour and collective sacrifice. Every salute rendered to the National Flag affirms loyalty to the Republic, the Constitution and the people of Kenya.

This chapter establishes the official standards governing the display, handling and ceremonial use of the ONE47 National Flag, the Presidential Standard, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign, and the official service ensigns of the Army, Air Force and Naval. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter applies to:

- Kenya Defence Forces Headquarters.
- Kenya Army formations and units.
- Kenya Navy commands, ships and shore establishments.
- Kenya Air Force commands and air bases.
- Defence Staff College.
- Kenya Military Academy.
- Recruit Training Schools.
- Military hospitals.
- Military schools and colleges.
- Joint operations.
- Peace support missions.
- Official military ceremonies.

It also applies to military personnel participating in official national ceremonies within Kenya or abroad.

Throughout history, military flags have represented:

- Sovereign authority.
- Command.
- Discipline.
- Unit identity.
- Courage.
- Honour.
- Sacrifice.

Within the Kenya Defence Forces, the ONE47 National Flag serves as the supreme military symbol representing the Republic for which every member serves. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter shall be interpreted together with:

- Chapter Three - Respect for the National Flag
- Chapter Four - Order of Precedence
- Chapter Five - Display of the National Flag
- Chapter Seven - Half-Mast Protocol
- Chapter Eight - Indoor Flag Protocol
- Chapter Nine - Outdoor Flag Protocol

Where military protocol requires specialized procedures, the standards contained in this chapter shall prevail.

- Discipline.
- Professionalism.
- Respect for lawful authority.
- National unity.
- Operational cohesion.
- Institutional pride.

The ONE47 National Flag reminds every member of the Kenya Defence Forces that their ultimate loyalty is owed to the Republic of Kenya and its Constitution. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.2 Constitutional Role of the Kenya Defence Forces

13.2.1 Constitutional Mandate

Under the Constitution of Kenya, the Kenya Defence Forces are established to:

- Defend the sovereignty of the Republic.
- Protect territorial integrity.
- Assist and cooperate with other national security organs.
- Support civil authorities where lawfully required.
- Participate in international peace support operations authorized under law.

The National Flag symbolizes the constitutional authority under which these responsibilities are exercised.

13.2.2 Loyalty to the Constitution

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces pledge allegiance not to individuals or political interests but to:

- The Constitution.
- The Republic.
- The People of Kenya.

Every military display of the ONE47 National Flag reflects this constitutional commitment.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.2.3 Civilian Authority

The Constitution establishes the principle of civilian control over the military.

Accordingly:

- The President serves as Commander-in-Chief.
- Parliament exercises legislative oversight.
- Civilian institutions define national policy.
- Military authority operates within constitutional limits.

The display of the National Flag symbolizes this constitutional relationship.

13.2.4 National Unity

The Kenya Defence Forces recruit personnel from every county and community across the Republic.

The ONE47 National Flag visibly represents the unity of these diverse servicemen and women under one national command. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its symbolism reflects the principle that national service transcends ethnicity, religion, language and regional identity.

13.2.5 Public Confidence

Professional observance of flag protocol strengthens public confidence by demonstrating: (United Nations, 2020)

- Discipline.
- Constitutional obedience.
- Institutional integrity.
- Respect for democratic governance.

Military professionalism is reflected not only in operational effectiveness but also in ceremonial excellence.

13.3 The ONE47 National Flag and Military Service

13.3.1 Supreme Military Symbol

Within the Kenya Defence Forces, the ONE47 National Flag is the supreme military flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It represents:

- The Republic of Kenya.
- Constitutional sovereignty.
- National unity.
- Collective sacrifice.
- Democratic legitimacy.

All other military flags derive their authority from the National Flag.

13.3.2 Symbol of Service

Every military oath, parade and operational deployment conducted beneath the National Flag reminds personnel that their service is rendered:

- To the Constitution.
- To the Republic.
- To all citizens equally.

The National Flag belongs to the nation rather than to any military formation.

13.3.3 Equality of Service Members

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the equal dignity of all members of the Kenya Defence Forces regardless of: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Rank.
- Service branch.
- County of origin.
- Ethnicity.
- Religion.
- Gender.

Military cohesion depends upon this shared national identity.

13.3.4 National Sacrifice

The National Flag also honours those who have:

- Defended the Republic.
- Fallen in military service.
- Participated in peace operations.
- Protected constitutional order.

Military ceremonies should consistently recognize this tradition of sacrifice.

13.3.5 International Representation

Whenever members of the Kenya Defence Forces serve abroad, the ONE47 National Flag represents:

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Kenya's sovereignty.
- National professionalism.
- Constitutional democracy.
- Commitment to international peace.

Respect shown to the National Flag reflects directly upon the Republic.

13.4 Military Honour and National Symbols

13.4.1 Honour

Honour forms one of the oldest traditions of military service.

Respect for the National Flag demonstrates:

- Honour.
- Duty.
- Integrity.
- Loyalty.
- Courage.

Military personnel should uphold these values both on and off duty.

13.4.2 Discipline

Military flag ceremonies reinforce discipline through:

- Precision.
- Uniformity.
- Timing.
- Professional conduct.

Every movement during ceremonial observances should reflect the standards expected of the Kenya Defence Forces.

13.4.3 Respect

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces shall always treat the National Flag with the highest degree of respect.

The flag shall never be:

- Mishandled.
- Discarded carelessly.
- Used for unofficial purposes.
- Displayed in damaged condition.

Respect for the National Flag reflects respect for the Republic itself.

13.4.4 Esprit de Corps

While each service branch maintains its own traditions, all members ultimately serve beneath one National Flag.

The ONE47 National Flag strengthens unity across: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Kenya Army.
- Kenya Navy.
- Kenya Air Force.

Institutional identity should reinforce rather than replace national identity.

13.4.5 Public Example

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces are expected to serve as role models in the respectful treatment of national symbols.

Their conduct during ceremonies establishes standards for other public institutions and citizens.

13.5 Guiding Principles of Military Flag Protocol

13.5.1 Constitutional Supremacy

Military flag protocol shall always recognize the constitutional supremacy of the ONE47 National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) No military flag shall outrank the National Flag.

13.5.2 Professional Excellence

Military ceremonies involving official flags shall be conducted with: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Precision.
- Discipline.
- Consistency.
- Dignity.
- Professionalism.

High ceremonial standards reinforce operational excellence.

13.5.3 Respect for Tradition

Military traditions should be preserved where consistent with:

- The Constitution.
- National legislation.
- Official protocol.
- Democratic values.

Tradition should strengthen constitutional identity rather than contradict it.

13.5.4 Unity of Command

Military flag protocol reflects the unified command structure of the Kenya Defence Forces. (United Nations, 2020) Although each service maintains its own identity, all operate under:

- One Commander-in-Chief.
- One Constitution.
- One Republic.
- One National Flag.

13.5.5 Service Before Self

Above all, military flag protocol reminds every member of the Kenya Defence Forces that: (United Nations, 2020) Personal ambition remains subordinate to:

- Duty.
- Honour.
- Service.
- Constitutional responsibility.

The ONE47 National Flag therefore stands as the highest visible reminder of the military's enduring commitment to protect the Republic and its people. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Official Military Flags of the Republic

13.6 The ONE47 National Flag

13.6.1 Supreme Military Flag

The ONE47 National Flag is the supreme flag of the Republic of Kenya and the highest-ranking military flag within the Kenya Defence Forces. Every member of the Kenya Defence Forces serves under its authority, and all military ceremonies ultimately honour the Republic symbolized by the National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No military formation, unit, service branch or commander may display any flag in a position superior to the ONE47 National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.6.2 Symbolism in Military Service

Within the Kenya Defence Forces, the ONE47 National Flag symbolizes: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The sovereignty of the Republic.
- Constitutional governance.
- The unity of Kenya's Forty-Seven Counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010)
- National independence.
- Collective sacrifice.
- The honour of military service.

Every salute rendered to the National Flag is a salute to the Republic and the Constitution.

13.6.3 Occasions for Display

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Military parades.
- Guard of Honour ceremonies.
- Presidential inspections.
- Commissioning parades.
- Passing-out parades.
- Military funerals.
- National celebrations.
- Official military conferences.
- International military engagements.
- Joint operations headquarters.
- Defence installations.

13.6.4 Position of Honour

Whenever displayed with any other flag, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour in accordance with the Official Order of Precedence established under this Manual. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No military service flag, institutional flag or ceremonial colour shall supersede the National Flag.

13.6.5 Respect

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces shall:

- Salute the National Flag during prescribed ceremonies.
- Protect it from damage.
- Prevent improper use.
- Ensure dignified handling at all times.

Respect for the National Flag reflects loyalty to the Republic itself.

13.7 Presidential Standard (Commander-in-Chief)

13.7.1 Constitutional Status

The Presidential Standard is the personal official flag of the President of the Republic of Kenya in his or her constitutional capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It symbolizes the lawful exercise of supreme command over the Defence Forces.

13.7.2 Nature of the Standard

Unlike the National Flag, the Presidential Standard does not represent the Republic generally. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Instead, it represents:

- The office of the President.
- Constitutional command authority.
- Civilian control of the military.
- National unity under constitutional leadership.

Its authority exists only while accompanying the President or representing the Office of the President.

13.7.3 Authorized Display

The Presidential Standard may be displayed:

- At State House.
- At official presidential residences.
- On presidential vehicles where authorized.
- At military ceremonies attended by the Commander-in-Chief.
- During official inspections.
- During military reviews.
- At Defence Headquarters when the President is officially present.

13.7.4 Military Protocol

When the Commander-in-Chief is present:

- The Presidential Standard may be displayed together with the National Flag. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The National Flag retains its constitutional supremacy as the national symbol.
- The Presidential Standard signifies the personal presence of the Commander-in-Chief.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.7.5 Ceremonial Significance

The appearance of the Presidential Standard indicates that military honours are being rendered to the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with constitutional protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.8 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign

13.8.1 Purpose

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign represents the Kenya Defence Forces collectively as one unified military institution.

It symbolizes:

- Joint operations.
- Unified command.
- Institutional identity.
- Defence professionalism.

13.8.2 Official Use

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign may be displayed:

- At Defence Headquarters.
- During joint-service ceremonies.
- At military conferences.
- During multinational exercises.
- At Defence Staff College.
- At official KDF events.

13.8.3 Relationship to the National Flag

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign shall never replace the National Flag.

Instead, it identifies the institution while recognizing the supremacy of the Republic represented by the National Flag.

13.8.4 Joint Operations

During joint-service activities involving:

- Kenya Army.
- Kenya Navy.
- Kenya Air Force.

the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign symbolizes operational unity under one command.

13.8.5 Public Representation

The KDF Flag represents the Defence Forces institutionally but does not replace service ensigns or ceremonial colours during occasions specifically involving individual services.

13.9 Army Ensign

13.9.1 Identity

It reflects the Army's traditions of:

- Courage.
- Discipline.
- Endurance.
- National defence.

13.9.2 Authorized Display

The Army Ensign may be displayed:

- At Army Headquarters.
- Army bases.
- Training schools.
- Army formations.
- Regimental headquarters.
- Army ceremonies.

13.9.3 Operational Display

Army units may display the Army Flag:

- During official ceremonies.
- At headquarters.
- At training establishments.
- During authorized military events.

Operational security considerations shall always prevail during active deployments.

13.9.4 Ceremonial Role

The Army Flag symbolizes institutional identity but remains subordinate to:

- The National Flag.
- The Presidential Standard where applicable. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.9.5 Professional Tradition

The Army Flag represents generations of soldiers who have defended Kenya's sovereignty since independence.

13.10 Naval Ensign

13.10.1 Identity

The Naval Ensign represents the naval service of the Republic.

It symbolizes:

- Maritime security.
- Professional seamanship.
- Protection of territorial waters.
- International maritime cooperation.

13.10.2 Authorized Display

The Navy Flag may be displayed:

- At naval headquarters.
- Naval bases.

- Naval academies.
- Official naval ceremonies.

13.10.3 Naval Tradition

Naval flag traditions reflect international maritime customs while remaining fully consistent with Kenya's constitutional framework.

13.10.4 Ships

Commissioned naval vessels shall display official flags according to naval regulations prescribed by the Kenya Navy.

The ONE47 National Flag remains the supreme national symbol. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.10.5 International Operations

During multinational naval exercises, the Naval Ensign identifies the service while the National Flag identifies the Republic.

13.11 Air Force Ensign

13.11.1 Identity

The Air Force Ensign represents the aviation service branch of the Kenya Defence Forces.

It symbolizes:

- Air power.
- National defence.
- Aviation professionalism.
- Rapid response capability.

13.11.2 Authorized Display

The Air Force Flag may be displayed:

- At Air Force Headquarters.
- Air bases.
- Aviation training schools.
- Official ceremonies.
- Military air shows.

13.11.3 Aircraft

Military aircraft shall display national markings prescribed under aviation regulations.

Ceremonial display of the Air Force Flag shall follow standards approved by the Kenya Air Force.

13.11.4 Air Ceremonies

The Air Force Flag may accompany:

- Aircraft commissioning.
- Graduation ceremonies.
- Aviation exhibitions.
- Official inspections.

13.11.5 Institutional Identity

The Air Force Flag reinforces service identity while acknowledging the constitutional supremacy of the National Flag.

13.12 Military Colours and Ceremonial Flag Standards

13.12.1 Nature of Military Colours

Military Colours are ceremonial flags carried by authorized military formations.

They symbolize:

- Unit honour.
- Military history.
- Operational distinction.
- Institutional continuity.

Colours should always be treated with exceptional dignity.

13.12.2 Unit Colours

Authorized military units may possess official Colours approved by the Commander-in-Chief.

Unit Colours represent:

- Regimental identity.
- Service history.
- Collective achievement.

13.12.3 Ceremonial Use

Military Colours shall appear during:

- Trooping of the Colour.
- Regimental anniversaries.
- Commissioning ceremonies.
- Military funerals where authorized.
- Change of command ceremonies.

13.12.4 Protection of Colours

Military Colours shall:

- Be guarded.
- Maintained.
- Properly stored.
- Protected from damage.
- Retired respectfully when no longer serviceable.

Historically, Colours have represented the honour of military formations and should receive corresponding respect.

13.12.5 Order of Military Flag Precedence

For military ceremonies, the national order of precedence remains:

1. National Flag
2. Presidential Standard
3. State Flag

4. County Flags
5. Defence Forces Flags
6. Ceremonial Flag Standard Within the fifth rank, the Kenya Defence Forces Ensign, Army Ensign, Air Force Ensign and Naval Ensign may follow authorised service protocol. Unit colours and formation flags are subordinate military arrangements, not additional ranks in the national hierarchy. Military Ceremonies and Parade Protocol

13.13 Military Parades

13.13.1 Purpose of Military Parades

Military parades are among the most visible expressions of discipline, professionalism and national service within the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). They demonstrate the readiness, cohesion and constitutional loyalty of the armed forces while providing opportunities for the Republic to honour military achievement, commemorate national events and strengthen public confidence in the Defence Forces.

During every official parade, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour and shall serve as the central ceremonial symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.13.2 Types of Military Parades

Military parades may include:

- National Day Parades.
- Presidential Reviews.
- Passing-Out Parades.
- Commissioning Parades.
- Guards of Honour.
- Regimental Parades.
- Memorial Parades.
- Victory and Commemorative Parades.
- International Military Ceremonies.
- Joint-Service Parades.

Each parade shall be conducted in accordance with official military drill manuals and this Flag Protocol Manual. (United Nations, 2020)

13.13.3 Display of the National Flag

The ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed:

- At the principal reviewing stand.
- At the parade ground.
- During the march-on.
- During the National Anthem.
- During ceremonial salutes.
- During official inspections.

The National Flag shall remain visible throughout official proceedings whenever practicable. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.13.4 Conduct During the National Anthem

When the National Anthem is played:

- All military personnel in uniform shall stand at attention.

- Personnel shall render the prescribed military salute where appropriate.
- Colours shall remain steady.
- Conversation shall cease.
- Movement shall stop unless required by drill commands.

This observance affirms loyalty to the Republic and the Constitution.

13.13.5 Public Participation

Members of the public attending military parades are encouraged to:

- Stand respectfully during the National Anthem.
- Avoid obstructing ceremonial movements.
- Refrain from disruptive behaviour.
- Show appropriate respect to the National Flag.

Military ceremonies serve both ceremonial and civic educational purposes.

13.14 Trooping of the Colour

13.14.1 Historical Significance

The Trooping of the Colour is one of the oldest military traditions inherited within Commonwealth armed forces. Historically, regimental colours enabled soldiers to identify their units on the battlefield and became enduring symbols of honour, sacrifice and service.

Within the Kenya Defence Forces, the ceremony symbolizes the preservation of military tradition under the constitutional authority of the Republic.

13.14.2 Relationship to the National Flag

Although ceremonial Colours represent military formations, they remain subordinate to the ONE47 National Flag, which symbolizes the Republic itself. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall therefore receive precedence throughout Trooping ceremonies.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.14.3 Escort of the Colour

During the ceremony:

- The Colour shall be escorted by designated military personnel.
- Escorts shall maintain precise drill.
- The Colour shall never be left unattended.
- Appropriate honours shall be rendered throughout the ceremony.

13.14.4 Saluting the Colour

Military personnel shall render prescribed honours to the Colour during:

- Presentation.
- Trooping.
- Retirement.

These honours acknowledge the unit's distinguished service while affirming loyalty to the Republic.

13.14.5 Preservation of Tradition

The Trooping of the Colour should continue to educate younger generations of service members concerning:

Military history.

- Regimental heritage.
- Constitutional service.
- Professional honour.

Tradition strengthens institutional identity when exercised within constitutional principles.

13.15 Guards of Honour

13.15.1 Purpose

A Guard of Honour represents one of the highest ceremonial honours rendered by the Kenya Defence Forces.

It demonstrates:

- Respect.
- Professionalism.
- Military precision.
- National dignity.

13.15.2 Occasions

Guards of Honour may be mounted for:

- The President.
- Visiting Heads of State.
- Distinguished constitutional office holders.
- Official military ceremonies.
- National commemorations.

Authorization shall be given in accordance with military regulations.

13.15.3 National Flag Display

During a Guard of Honour:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal ceremonial position. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Presidential Standard may be displayed when appropriate. (National Flag, Emblems and Names

Act, 2027)

- Visiting national flags shall follow diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

13.15.4 Inspection

Where an inspection forms part of the ceremony:

- Personnel shall remain motionless except as prescribed.
- Colours shall be maintained correctly.
- The National Flag shall remain prominently displayed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) Inspection symbolizes constitutional accountability and military readiness.

13.15.5 Ceremonial Excellence

The Guard of Honour should reflect:

- Discipline.
- Precision.

- Respect for national institutions.

Every movement contributes to the dignity of the Republic.

13.16 Military Salutes and Honours

13.16.1 Meaning of the Military Salute

The military salute is one of the oldest expressions of professional respect within armed forces.

When rendered to the ONE47 National Flag, the salute signifies: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Loyalty to the Republic.
- Respect for constitutional authority.
- Honourable service.

13.16.2 Saluting the National Flag

Military personnel shall salute the National Flag during:

- Raising ceremonies.
- Lowering ceremonies.
- National Anthem.
- Parade reviews.
- Official inspections.
- Military funerals.
- Other prescribed ceremonial occasions.

13.16.3 Saluting the Presidential Standard

Military honours rendered to the Presidential Standard recognize the constitutional office of Commander-in-Chief rather than the individual office-holder. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.16.4 International Courtesy

When foreign national flags are displayed during official military events, appropriate honours shall be rendered consistent with international military protocol. (United Nations, 2020) Respect shown to foreign flags reflects Kenya's commitment to international cooperation.

13.16.5 Discipline

Military salutes shall always be:

- Prompt.
- Correct.
- Uniform.
- Professional.

Improper saluting diminishes ceremonial standards.

13.17 Commissioning and Passing-Out Parades

13.17.1 Commissioning Ceremonies

Commissioning ceremonies formally admit newly qualified officers into the Kenya Defence Forces.

The ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the central ceremonial position throughout these events. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names

13.17.2 Passing-Out Parades

Passing-Out Parades mark the successful completion of recruit training.

They symbolize:

- Completion of military preparation.
- Acceptance into military service.
- Commitment to constitutional duty.

13.17.3 Oaths of Allegiance

Military oaths shall be taken beneath the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The oath affirms loyalty to:

- The Constitution.
- The Republic.
- The People of Kenya.

13.17.4 Presentation of Certificates

Certificates, commissions and awards presented during these ceremonies should be conferred in the presence of the National Flag.

13.17.5 Public Significance

These ceremonies provide opportunities for the public to witness:

- Military professionalism.
- Constitutional service.
- National unity.

The National Flag connects military achievement with national responsibility.

13.18 Military Funerals and Remembrance

13.18.1 National Honour

Military funerals honour those who have served the Republic faithfully.

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes national gratitude for their sacrifice. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.18.2 Draping the Coffin

Where authorized by military regulations, the coffin of a deceased service member may be draped with the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag shall:

- Be clean.
- Properly positioned.
- Removed respectfully before burial unless otherwise prescribed.

13.18.3 Funeral Honours

Military funeral honours may include:

- Guard of Honour.
- Reverse arms.
- Last Post.

- Gun salute where authorized.
- National Anthem.

These honours should be conducted with dignity and restraint.

13.18.4 Remembrance Ceremonies

During memorial observances, the National Flag reminds participants that military sacrifice protects:

- Constitutional government.
- National peace.
- Sovereignty.
- Future generations.

13.18.5 Respect for Families

Military ceremonies should always recognize the dignity of bereaved families.

Professional conduct reflects respect for both the deceased and the Republic.

13.19 Change of Command Ceremonies

13.19.1 Purpose

Change of Command ceremonies symbolize the orderly transfer of military authority within constitutional structures.

They reinforce continuity of command and institutional stability.

13.19.2 Role of the National Flag

Throughout the ceremony, the ONE47 National Flag shall remain prominently displayed as the enduring symbol of the Republic that transcends individual office holders. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Command changes, but constitutional service remains constant.

13.19.3 Transfer of Authority

The transfer of command should emphasize:

- Continuity.
- Professionalism.
- Accountability.
- Loyalty to constitutional authority.

13.19.4 Unit Colours

Where Unit Colours form part of the ceremony, they shall be treated with dignity while remaining subordinate to the National Flag.

13.19.5 Institutional Continuity

The ceremony demonstrates that military authority belongs not to individuals but to constitutional institutions serving the Republic.

The ONE47 National Flag therefore remains the permanent symbol of military service and national continuity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Military Installations and Operational Flag Protocol

13.20 Military Headquarters and Defence Installations

13.20.1 Purpose

Military headquarters and defence installations are permanent symbols of the operational authority of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). Every headquarters, barracks, camp, training establishment and command installation represents the constitutional authority of the Republic and shall display the ONE47 National Flag in a manner that reflects discipline, professionalism and national dignity. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall be the most prominent symbol displayed at every military installation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.20.2 Defence Headquarters

At Defence Headquarters, any official flags displayed shall respect the national hierarchy:

1. National Flag
2. Presidential Standard
3. State Flag 100. County Flags 101. Defence Forces Flags 102. Ceremonial Flag Standard Only flags applicable to the occasion need be displayed. Omission of a category does not change the rank of other categories.)

13.20.3 Service Headquarters

The Headquarters of the:

- Kenya Army,
- Kenya Navy, and
- Kenya Air Force,

shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag together with the respective service flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The service flag shall identify the institution, while the National Flag shall symbolize the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.20.4 Permanent Military Camps

Every permanent military camp shall display the National Flag:

- At the main entrance.
- At parade grounds.
- At command headquarters.
- At ceremonial squares.
- At official reception areas.

Flags shall be raised and lowered according to prescribed military timings.

13.20.5 Temporary Installations

Temporary operational headquarters established during exercises or deployments may display the National Flag where operational security permits.

The safety of personnel and operational objectives shall always take precedence over ceremonial considerations.

13.21 Military Barracks and Unit Lines

13.21.1 Display within Barracks

Military barracks shall display the National Flag:

- At the principal administration building.
- At parade squares.
- At official assembly points.
- During ceremonial occasions.

Display should reinforce daily military discipline.

13.21.2 Unit Headquarters

Battalion, brigade, regiment and formation headquarters may additionally display:

- Authorized unit flags.
- Regimental Colours.
- Formation flags.

These shall remain subordinate to the National Flag.

13.21.3 Accommodation Areas

The National Flag should not ordinarily be displayed inside individual accommodation rooms except:

- During official ceremonial preparations.
- Within designated instructional facilities.
- In approved educational displays.

Military accommodation should avoid excessive decorative use of official flags.

13.21.4 Administrative Buildings

Administrative offices shall display:

- Indoor National Flags.
- Official portraits where prescribed.
- Authorized institutional symbols.

Displays should remain orderly and dignified.

13.21.5 Daily Routine

The raising and lowering of the National Flag should form part of the daily rhythm of military life, reinforcing discipline and institutional cohesion.

13.22 Operational Deployments

13.22.1 General Principle

Operational deployments prioritize mission effectiveness and personnel safety.

Display of the National Flag during active operations shall therefore balance:

- Constitutional symbolism.
- Operational security.
- Tactical requirements.

13.22.2 Field Headquarters

Where operational conditions permit, field headquarters may display the National Flag to identify official command locations.

Display should never compromise operational security.

13.22.3 Combat Operations

During active combat operations:

- Operational commanders shall determine appropriate display.
- Protection of personnel takes precedence.
- The National Flag shall not be unnecessarily exposed to enemy action. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Military necessity may require temporary modification of normal ceremonial practices.

13.22.4 Humanitarian Operations

During humanitarian assistance operations, the National Flag serves as an important symbol of:

- National service.
- Public reassurance.
- Constitutional authority.

Display should assist civilian confidence while maintaining operational effectiveness.

13.22.5 Disaster Response

Where the Kenya Defence Forces assist civil authorities during emergencies, the National Flag identifies official government assistance and reinforces public confidence.

13.23 Border Security and Peace Support Operations

13.23.1 Border Installations

Border security installations shall prominently display the National Flag where appropriate.

Its presence affirms:

- National sovereignty.
- Territorial integrity.
- Constitutional authority.

13.23.2 International Peace Support Missions

During international peace support operations authorized by law, Kenyan military contingents shall display the National Flag in accordance with:

- United Nations regulations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- African Union procedures.
- Regional peacekeeping frameworks.
- Applicable international agreements.

13.23.3 Combined Operations

Where Kenyan personnel operate alongside foreign armed forces, the ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed with due respect alongside the flags of participating states and organizations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Equality

13.23.4 Humanitarian Missions Abroad

Military humanitarian missions should prominently display the National Flag as a symbol of Kenya's commitment to international peace, cooperation and humanitarian service.

13.23.5 National Representation

Wherever Kenyan forces serve internationally, the National Flag represents:

- The Republic of Kenya.
- The Constitution.
- The People of Kenya.
- National professionalism.

Every member of the Kenya Defence Forces becomes an ambassador of the Republic.

13.24 Naval Bases and Commissioned Ships

13.24.1 Naval Bases

Kenya Navy installations shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Naval Ensign.
- Authorized naval command flags where prescribed.

The National Flag shall remain supreme. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.24.2 Commissioned Ships

Every commissioned naval vessel shall display the National Flag in accordance with naval tradition and official naval regulations.

The National Flag identifies the vessel as sovereign Kenyan territory under international maritime law.

13.24.3 Entering and Leaving Port

When entering or departing port:

- Naval honours shall be rendered.
- National Flag procedures shall follow naval ceremonial regulations.
- International maritime customs shall be observed.

13.24.4 Visiting Foreign Ports

While visiting foreign ports:

- The National Flag shall represent Kenya. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Courtesy flags shall be flown where required by international maritime practice.
- Naval personnel shall observe diplomatic etiquette.

13.24.5 Naval Ceremonies

Naval commissioning, decommissioning and remembrance ceremonies shall prominently feature the National Flag.

Maritime tradition should reinforce constitutional identity.

13.25 Air Bases and Military Aircraft

13.25.1 Air Force Bases

Kenya Air Force installations shall prominently display:

- The National Flag.
- The Air Force Ensign.
- Other authorized military flags.

Display shall reflect aviation professionalism and military discipline.

13.25.2 Aircraft

Military aircraft shall carry national markings prescribed under military aviation regulations.

These markings symbolize:

- National sovereignty.
- Military authority.
- International recognition. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

13.25.3 Air Shows

Official military aviation displays should prominently feature the National Flag throughout public ceremonies.

Aerial demonstrations should reinforce national pride and public confidence.

13.25.4 Aviation Training

Training institutions should educate aircrew concerning:

- National markings.
- Flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Aviation customs.
- International military etiquette.

Professional knowledge strengthens institutional excellence.

13.25.5 Aviation Representation

Whenever military aircraft operate internationally, national markings represent Kenya and should always be maintained in accordance with approved military standards.

13.26 Military Vehicles, Equipment and Installations

13.26.1 Military Vehicles

Official military vehicles used for ceremonial purposes may display authorized flags consistent with regulations approved by the Kenya Defence Forces.

Improvised or unauthorized displays shall not be permitted.

13.26.2 Armoured Vehicles

Operational armoured vehicles shall display national markings prescribed under military operational procedures.

Operational security considerations shall prevail during deployments.

13.26.3 Official Command Vehicles

Vehicles assigned to senior military commanders may display authorized command flags where officially prescribed.

The National Flag shall only be displayed on vehicles in accordance with approved regulations. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.26.4 Military Equipment

The National Flag shall not be painted or reproduced upon military equipment merely for decorative purposes. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Official national markings shall conform to approved military specifications.

13.26.5 Operational Integrity

All military displays of the National Flag shall balance: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Constitutional symbolism.
- Professional standards.
- Operational effectiveness.
- Personnel safety.

The Republic is best honoured when military professionalism and mission success are achieved together.

Military Education, Professional Training and International Military Engagement

13.27 Military Academies and Defence Education Institutions

13.27.1 Purpose

Military education institutions are responsible for developing officers, soldiers, sailors and airmen who possess not only professional competence but also an unwavering commitment to the Constitution of Kenya and the Republic. Respect for the ONE47 National Flag shall therefore form an integral part of military education and leadership development. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Every military academy shall promote the National Flag as the highest symbol of constitutional service and military honour.

13.27.2 Kenya Military Academy

The Kenya Military Academy shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the main entrance.
- At parade grounds.
- Within administration buildings.
- During commissioning ceremonies.
- During leadership courses.
- At official receptions.

Cadets shall receive formal instruction on the constitutional significance and proper protocol governing the National Flag.

13.27.3 Defence Staff College

The Defence Staff College shall use the National Flag during:

- Graduation ceremonies.
- Joint-service conferences.

- International military seminars.
- Defence policy forums.

The National Flag symbolizes the unity of all services engaged in higher military education.

13.27.4 Recruit Training Schools

Recruit training institutions shall introduce all recruits to:

- The symbolism of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems

and Names Act, 2027)

- Military flag etiquette.
- National ceremonial traditions.
- Constitutional values.
- Professional military conduct.

Respect for the National Flag should become a lifelong military habit from the earliest stages of service.

13.27.5 Specialist Training Schools

Military schools specializing in:

- Engineering.
- Signals.
- Intelligence.
- Medical services.
- Logistics.
- Aviation.
- Maritime operations.

shall integrate flag protocol into leadership and ethics training. (United Nations, 2020) Professional excellence begins with respect for national institutions.

13.28 Military Education and Leadership Development

13.28.1 Constitutional Education

Military leadership programmes shall include instruction concerning:

- The Constitution of Kenya.
- Civilian control of the military.
- National values.
- Democratic governance.
- Human rights.
- Military ethics.

The National Flag shall serve as the visual representation of these constitutional principles. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.28.2 Leadership by Example

Military instructors shall demonstrate exemplary respect for:

- The National Flag.
- Military Colours.
- National ceremonies.
- Public institutions.

13.28.3 Officer Development

Officer development programmes shall emphasize that command authority exists only within the framework of constitutional responsibility.

The National Flag reminds officers that authority is exercised in service of the Republic rather than personal interests.

13.28.4 Ethical Decision-Making

Military education should reinforce that:

- Integrity.
- Accountability.
- Professionalism.
- Respect for lawful authority.

are essential components of military leadership.

The National Flag represents these enduring values.

13.28.5 Continuous Professional Education

Senior officers should periodically receive refresher instruction concerning:

- National protocol.
- Constitutional developments.
- Military ceremonial procedures.
- International military etiquette.

Professional education remains a lifelong responsibility.

13.29 Recruit Training and Military Socialization

Upon entry into military service, recruits shall receive formal instruction concerning:

- National identity.
- Military traditions.
- Constitutional obligations.
- Respect for national symbols.

The ONE47 National Flag shall be introduced as the foremost symbol of military service. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.29.2 Daily Flag Ceremonies

Recruit establishments should conduct daily:

- Flag-raising ceremonies.
- Flag-lowering ceremonies.

These activities cultivate discipline, punctuality and institutional cohesion.

13.29.3 Military Oath

Before completion of recruit training, every member shall affirm allegiance to:

- The Constitution.
- The Republic.
- The People of Kenya.

13.29.4 Professional Identity

Military training should help recruits understand that they represent:

- Their service branch.
- The Kenya Defence Forces.
- The Republic of Kenya.

The National Flag unites these identities.

13.29.5 Lifelong Commitment

Respect for the National Flag acquired during recruit training should continue throughout every stage of military service and into retirement.

13.30 International Military Exercises

13.30.1 Purpose

The Kenya Defence Forces regularly participate in multinational exercises that strengthen regional cooperation, operational readiness and international peace.

During such engagements, the National Flag represents Kenya among partner nations.

13.30.2 Display

During international exercises:

- Kenya's National Flag shall be displayed together with participating national flags. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Equality and mutual respect shall govern display.
- International protocol shall be observed.

13.30.3 Joint Headquarters

Combined operational headquarters may display:

- The National Flag.
- Partner nation flags.
- International organization flags where appropriate.

The ONE47 National Flag shall identify Kenya's official military participation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.30.4 Professional Representation

Military personnel participating abroad should remember that: Their conduct reflects upon:

- Kenya.
- The Constitution.
- The Kenya Defence Forces.

Professional respect for the National Flag reinforces Kenya's international reputation.

13.30.5 International Cooperation

Military protocol should encourage:

- Mutual respect.
- Professional friendship.

- Operational excellence.

The National Flag represents Kenya's commitment to these principles.

13.31 Diplomatic Military Engagements

13.31.1 Defence Diplomacy

Military diplomacy strengthens international relationships through:

- Defence cooperation.
- Training exchanges.
- Strategic dialogue.
- Joint operations.

Official military ceremonies shall prominently display the National Flag.

13.31.2 Visits by Foreign Military Leaders

During official visits by foreign military commanders:

- Kenya's National Flag shall occupy the principal host position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Visiting national flags shall receive equal respect.
- Diplomatic protocol shall be strictly observed. (United Nations, 2020)

13.31.3 Defence Attachés

Military attachés serving within Kenya shall observe the official flag protocols governing diplomatic missions as provided elsewhere in this Manual. (United Nations, 2020) Military and diplomatic protocol should operate harmoniously. (United Nations, 2020)

13.31.4 International Conferences

Defence conferences hosted by Kenya shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Official organizational flags.
- Participating national flags.

The National Flag identifies Kenya as host nation.

13.31.5 Military Courtesy

Respect for foreign national symbols reflects:

- Professionalism.
- International law.
- Diplomatic goodwill.

Courtesy shown to other nations strengthens respect for Kenya's own National Flag.

13.32 Defence Cooperation and International Representation

13.32.1 Bilateral Cooperation

Defence cooperation programmes should display the National Flag during:

- Official signing ceremonies.
- Training programmes.
- Equipment handovers.
- Joint inspections.
- Defence consultations.

13.32.2 United Nations Operations

Kenyan contingents serving under United Nations mandates shall display the National Flag in accordance with UN regulations while preserving Kenya's national identity. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

13.32.3 African Union Missions

Military personnel serving under African Union operations shall observe AU procedures while continuing to honour the ONE47 National Flag as Kenya's sovereign national symbol. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

13.32.4 International Humanitarian Law

Respect for national flags forms part of broader military professionalism and compliance with international humanitarian law and accepted military customs.

13.32.5 Kenya's Military Reputation

Every appearance of the ONE47 National Flag abroad communicates: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Kenya's professionalism.
- Constitutional democracy.
- Commitment to peace.
- Military excellence.
- National dignity.

Members of the Kenya Defence Forces therefore bear personal responsibility for preserving the honour associated with the National Flag.

Inspection, Compliance, Maintenance and

CHAPTER 14: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FLAG PROTOCOL

Constitutional Foundation and Diplomatic Significance The ONE47 National Flag is the foremost symbol of the sovereignty, constitutional identity and international personality of the Republic of Kenya. Within diplomatic missions abroad, it represents not only the Government of Kenya but also the nation as a whole-its people, its Constitution, its history and its aspirations. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Every Kenyan embassy, high commission, consulate and permanent mission serves as an extension of the Republic beyond its territorial borders. Consequently, the proper display and use of the National Flag within these missions is a matter of constitutional importance, diplomatic courtesy and national dignity.

This chapter establishes the official standards governing the display, handling and ceremonial use of the ONE47 National Flag at all Kenyan diplomatic and consular missions, official residences, international organizations and diplomatic events. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter applies to:

- Embassies of the Republic of Kenya. (United Nations, 2020)
- High Commissions. (United Nations, 2020)
- Consulates-General. (United Nations, 2020)
- Consulates. (United Nations, 2020)
- Permanent Missions to international organizations.
- Official residences of Heads of Mission.
- Offices of Permanent Representatives.
- Temporary diplomatic premises.
- Official diplomatic vehicles.
- International conferences hosted by Kenya.
- Bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements.

It also applies to all officers of the Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and any other public officers representing the Republic in an official diplomatic capacity.

The National Flag displayed at a diplomatic mission signifies that the premises represent the sovereign authority of the Republic of Kenya.

Although embassies and high commissions are subject to the laws of the host State, they enjoy protections under international law, particularly the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963). Within this framework, the National Flag identifies the mission as the official representative of Kenya. (United Nations, 2020) The standards contained in this chapter complement and should be read together with:

- Chapter Three - Respect for the National Flag.
- Chapter Four - Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Chapter Five - Display of the National Flag.
- Chapter Seven - Half-Mast Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Chapter Eight - Indoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Chapter Nine - Outdoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

Where diplomatic customs require specialized procedures, the provisions of this chapter shall prevail, provided they remain consistent with the Constitution and applicable international law.

The objectives of diplomatic flag protocol are to: (United Nations, 2020)

- Protect the dignity of the Republic abroad.
- Promote uniform standards across all Kenyan missions.
- Ensure compliance with international diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020)
- Strengthen Kenya's international image.

- Foster mutual respect among nations.
- Reinforce constitutional values in foreign representation.

The National Flag should consistently communicate professionalism, stability and the enduring identity of the Kenyan state.

14.2 Purpose of Diplomatic Flag Protocol

14.2.1 Symbol of Sovereignty

The ONE47 National Flag is the visible manifestation of Kenya's sovereignty in foreign territories.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Its display at diplomatic missions signifies that the Republic is officially represented at that location through peaceful diplomatic relations and international cooperation. (United Nations, 2020)

14.2.2 Representation of the Republic

Diplomatic missions do not represent a government of the day alone. They represent: (United Nations, 2020)

- The Constitution.
- The Republic of Kenya.
- The Kenyan people.
- The continuity of the Kenyan State.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall never be used to advance partisan political interests. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.2.3 Diplomatic Neutrality

The National Flag shall always be displayed in a manner that reflects the political neutrality expected of Kenya's diplomatic service. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Diplomatic premises shall not permit the National Flag to be associated with:

- Political campaigns.
- Partisan activities.
- Commercial promotions.
- Personal causes.

The dignity of the Republic shall remain paramount.

14.2.4 Instrument of National Identity

For many foreign nationals, the National Flag may be the first and most recognizable symbol of Kenya.

Its proper display contributes to:

- International recognition. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- National branding.
- Diplomatic prestige.
- Public confidence.

Every mission should therefore maintain the National Flag in exemplary condition.

14.2.5 Promotion of International Friendship

Diplomatic flag protocol promotes respectful relations between Kenya and other nations by ensuring that Kenya observes internationally accepted standards concerning: (United Nations, 2020)

- Flag precedence.

- State ceremonies.
- Official visits.
- Multilateral diplomacy.

Respect shown to the flags of other nations encourages reciprocal respect for Kenya's own National Flag.

14.3 Constitutional and Legal Basis

14.3.1 Constitutional Foundation

The Constitution of Kenya establishes the Republic as a sovereign democratic state whose national symbols express its constitutional identity and unity.

The ONE47 National Flag, as established under the proposed Flags, Names and Emblems (Amendment) Act, shall therefore represent Kenya in all diplomatic engagements. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.3.2 Legislative Authority

The official display and use of the National Flag at diplomatic missions shall be governed by: (United Nations, 2020)

- The Constitution of Kenya.
- The Flags, Names and Emblems (Amendment) Act.
- Regulations made under that Act.
- This Official Flag Protocol Manual. (United Nations, 2020)
- Applicable international treaties.

14.3.3 International Law

Diplomatic flag protocol shall conform to:

- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961).
- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963).
- Applicable treaties establishing international organizations.
- Recognized principles of customary international law.

Where international obligations require specific diplomatic procedures, Kenyan missions shall observe them while preserving the dignity of the National Flag.

14.3.4 Ministry Responsibility

The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs shall issue operational guidelines consistent with this Manual to ensure uniform implementation across all diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020) Heads of Mission remain responsible for local compliance.

14.3.5 Uniform National Standard

Regardless of location, every Kenyan mission shall maintain consistent standards concerning:

- Flag dimensions.
- Placement.
- Maintenance.
- Ceremonial procedures.
- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

Uniformity strengthens Kenya's professional diplomatic image.

14.4 The ONE47 National Flag as the Symbol of Kenya Abroad

14.4.1 Representation of the Nation

Outside Kenya, the ONE47 National Flag represents: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Republic.
- The Constitution.
- National sovereignty.
- Democratic governance.
- Peaceful international cooperation.

It belongs equally to every Kenyan citizen.

14.4.2 Unity in Diversity

The symbolic representation of Kenya's forty-seven counties within the ONE47 National Flag reminds the international community that Kenya's strength lies in constitutional unity amid diversity. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Diplomatic representation should communicate this inclusive national identity. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

14.4.3 National Reputation

Every diplomatic display of the National Flag contributes to Kenya's international reputation.

Professional presentation demonstrates:

- Competence.
- Stability.
- Respect for international norms.
- Institutional maturity.

Neglect of the National Flag may adversely affect perceptions of the Republic.

14.4.4 Cultural Identity

The National Flag also represents Kenya's:

- History.
- Cultural richness.
- Democratic development.
- Economic aspirations.
- International partnerships.

Diplomatic missions should display the flag with pride while promoting Kenya's national interests. (United Nations, 2020)

14.4.5 Continuity of the State

Governments change through democratic processes, but the Republic endures.

The National Flag therefore symbolizes the permanent constitutional identity of Kenya rather than temporary political administrations.

14.5 Guiding Principles of Diplomatic Flag Protocol

14.5.1 Sovereignty

Every display of the National Flag shall affirm the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Kenya.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Diplomatic representation begins with respect for national identity. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

14.5.2 Dignity

The National Flag shall always be displayed with dignity appropriate to its status as the highest national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It shall never appear in damaged, faded or neglected condition.

14.5.3 Reciprocity

Kenya shall extend respect to the national symbols of other states equivalent to the respect it expects for its own National Flag.

Diplomatic courtesy strengthens peaceful international relations.

14.5.4 Professionalism

Diplomatic officers shall observe:

- Precision.
- Consistency.
- Proper etiquette.
- International standards.

Professional conduct reinforces Kenya's diplomatic credibility.

14.5.5 Political Neutrality

The National Flag shall remain above partisan politics. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Diplomatic missions represent the Republic as a whole rather than any political administration, ideology or movement. (United Nations, 2020)

14.5.6 Respect for International Law

Diplomatic flag protocol shall always comply with Kenya's obligations under international law while safeguarding the dignity of the Republic. (United Nations, 2020) Respect for international norms strengthens Kenya's standing among nations.

Official Diplomatic Display

14.6 Embassies of the Republic of Kenya

14.6.1 Purpose

An embassy is the principal diplomatic mission through which the Republic of Kenya conducts official relations with a foreign State. It serves as the highest permanent representation of the Republic in countries that are not members of the Commonwealth.

The ONE47 National Flag displayed at an embassy signifies the sovereign presence of the Republic of Kenya and its commitment to peaceful international relations. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.6.2 Permanent Display

Every Kenyan embassy shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the principal entrance.
- On the main flagpole.
- Within the reception area.
- In the Ambassador's office.
- In official conference rooms.
- During all diplomatic ceremonies.

The National Flag shall be displayed daily unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.6.3 Position of Honour

Where several flags are displayed, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the position prescribed under international diplomatic protocol and the official Order of Precedence established in this Manual. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) The National Flag shall always be clearly identifiable and shall never be obscured by banners, decorations or architectural features. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.6.4 Official Premises

The National Flag identifies embassy premises as the official diplomatic representation of Kenya. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) Accordingly, it shall be displayed only:

- On official embassy buildings.
- At officially designated annexes.
- During authorized embassy functions.

Its display shall not extend to privately leased premises unless officially designated for diplomatic use.

14.6.5 Standard of Presentation

Embassy flags shall always be:

- Clean.
- Properly proportioned.
- Correctly illuminated where appropriate.
- Securely mounted.
- Free from fading or damage.

The appearance of the National Flag reflects directly upon the reputation of the Republic.

14.7 High Commissions

14.7.1 Constitutional Role

High Commissions perform the same diplomatic functions as embassies but operate between Commonwealth member states. (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag displayed at a High Commission symbolizes Kenya's sovereign equality within the Commonwealth family of nations.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.7.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be flown:

- At the High Commission building.
- At the High Commissioner's official residence.
- During Commonwealth events.
- At official ceremonies.
- During diplomatic receptions.

14.7.3 Commonwealth Protocol

While observing Commonwealth diplomatic customs, Kenyan High Commissions shall preserve the constitutional dignity of the National Flag. (United Nations, 2020) Commonwealth traditions supplement but do not replace Kenya's national protocol.

14.7.4 Ceremonial Use

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- National Day celebrations.
- Commonwealth commemorations.
- Official visits.
- Bilateral meetings.
- Cultural diplomacy programmes.

14.7.5 Professional Representation

The High Commission shall ensure consistent adherence to official standards regardless of the host country.

Uniformity reinforces Kenya's professional diplomatic image.

14.8 Consulates and Consulates-General

14.8.1 Purpose

Consulates represent the Republic in specific regions of a foreign country and primarily provide: (United Nations, 2020)

- Consular services.
- Assistance to Kenyan citizens.
- Trade promotion.
- Cultural engagement.
- Local diplomatic liaison.

The National Flag identifies these offices as official institutions of the Republic.

14.8.2 Display

Every Consulate-General and Consulate shall display the National Flag:

- At the principal entrance.
- Inside the reception area.
- During official ceremonies.
- During public service hours.

14.8.3 Regional Representation

Although subordinate to embassies or high commissions in diplomatic hierarchy, consulates represent the Republic with equal constitutional dignity. (United Nations, 2020) The National Flag displayed at a consulate therefore carries the same national significance.

14.8.4 Public Accessibility

Because consulates receive large numbers of citizens, the National Flag serves as an important visual assurance that official government assistance is available. (United Nations, 2020)

14.8.5 Maintenance

Consular officials shall ensure that:

- Flags remain clean.
- Display follows approved specifications.
- Replacement occurs promptly where necessary.

14.9 Permanent Missions to International Organizations

14.9.1 Nature of Permanent Missions

Permanent Missions represent Kenya before international organizations such as:

- The United Nations. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- The African Union.
- The East African Community.
- COMESA.
- UNESCO.
- Other intergovernmental bodies.

14.9.2 Display of the National Flag

Permanent Missions shall prominently display the National Flag:

- At mission headquarters.
- In official meeting rooms.
- During international conferences.
- During official receptions.
- At diplomatic ceremonies.

14.9.3 Representation

The National Flag signifies Kenya's sovereign participation within the international community while respecting the equality of all member states.

14.9.4 Multilateral Environment

Display of the National Flag shall conform to: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Organizational protocol.
- International practice.
- Official host arrangements.

Mutual respect among member states shall guide ceremonial procedures.

14.9.5 National Identity

Participation in international organizations should reinforce rather than diminish Kenya's distinct constitutional identity symbolized by the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.10 Official Residences of Heads of Mission

14.10.1 Purpose

The official residence of an Ambassador, High Commissioner or Permanent Representative constitutes an extension of the diplomatic mission for official purposes.

Accordingly, the National Flag may be displayed at such residences in accordance with official diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

14.10.2 Authorized Display

The National Flag may be flown:

- During official receptions.
- During State functions.
- When the Head of Mission is in official residence.
- During National Day celebrations.
- During accredited diplomatic events.

14.10.3 Private Use

The National Flag shall not ordinarily be displayed during purely private activities occurring at the residence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Official display should correspond to official functions.

14.10.4 Official Hospitality

Diplomatic receptions hosted at official residences should prominently feature the National Flag in accordance with established ceremonial standards.

14.10.5 Respect

The dignity of the National Flag shall be maintained regardless of the size or nature of the diplomatic residence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.11 Official Diplomatic Vehicles

14.11.1 General Principle

Certain official diplomatic vehicles may display the ONE47 National Flag to identify the official presence of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Display shall be limited to vehicles specifically authorized under government regulations.

14.11.2 Authorized Vehicles

The National Flag may be displayed on vehicles used by:

- The Ambassador.
- The High Commissioner.
- Permanent Representatives.
- Visiting Heads of State.
- Senior government officials during official diplomatic visits.

14.11.3 Positioning

Vehicle-mounted flags shall:

- Be securely attached.

- Remain upright.
- Be of approved dimensions.
- Be displayed only while the authorized official occupies the vehicle or during officially

designated movements.

14.11.4 Temporary Use

Temporary display during official visits shall cease immediately after completion of the authorized engagement.

The National Flag shall not remain mounted unnecessarily. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.11.5 Misuse

Unauthorized use of diplomatic vehicle flags is prohibited.

No person may display the National Flag on a private vehicle in a manner suggesting official diplomatic status.

Such misuse undermines both national dignity and international protocol.

Diplomatic Ceremonies and Official State Functions

14.12 Presentation of Credentials

14.12.1 Constitutional Significance

The presentation of Letters of Credence is one of the most important diplomatic ceremonies undertaken by a Head of Mission. It formally establishes the Ambassador or High Commissioner as the accredited representative of the Republic of Kenya to the receiving State.

Throughout the ceremony, the ONE47 National Flag shall symbolize the sovereign authority of the Republic and the constitutional legitimacy of the diplomatic mission. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.12.2 Display of the National Flag

During the presentation of credentials, the ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the official venue where permitted by the host State.
- At the Embassy or High Commission before departure.
- On official diplomatic vehicles where authorized.
- During official photography and media coverage.
- During subsequent official receptions.

The National Flag shall always be displayed in accordance with the diplomatic protocol of the receiving State. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

14.12.3 Diplomatic Courtesy

The receiving State shall accord the National Flag the same dignity and respect extended to the national flags of other accredited diplomatic missions. (United Nations, 2020) Kenyan diplomatic personnel shall similarly respect the national symbols of the receiving State.

14.12.4 Conduct of Officers

Diplomatic officers participating in the ceremony shall:

Wear official attire prescribed for diplomatic occasions.

- Observe ceremonial protocol.
- Maintain professional decorum.
- Refrain from political statements.
- Uphold the dignity of the Republic.

Their conduct reflects directly upon Kenya.

14.12.5 Media Representation

Photographs and official broadcasts should ensure that the ONE47 National Flag is displayed respectfully and accurately. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Images that distort, obscure or improperly position the National Flag should not be used in official communications.

14.13 National Day Celebrations

14.13.1 Purpose

National Day celebrations hosted by Kenyan diplomatic missions provide an opportunity to commemorate the Republic's constitutional development, independence, national unity and international partnerships.

(United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag shall serve as the principal symbol of the occasion.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.13.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be prominently displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the entrance to the venue.
- Behind the principal podium.
- At reception areas.
- In official meeting halls.
- During cultural presentations.
- During official photography.

The flag shall occupy the position of highest honour.

14.13.3 National Anthem

Where the National Anthem is performed:

- The National Flag shall remain prominently displayed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Participants shall observe appropriate respect.
- Diplomatic guests shall be informed of ceremonial expectations where appropriate.

14.13.4 Cultural Representation

National Day events should present the National Flag together with:

- Kenyan cultural heritage.
- National achievements.
- Economic opportunities.
- Tourism promotion.
- Educational cooperation.

The National Flag symbolizes the unity underlying Kenya's diverse cultural identity.

14.13.5 Public Diplomacy

These celebrations strengthen:

- Kenya's international image.
- Bilateral friendship.
- Diaspora engagement.
- Cultural diplomacy.

The dignified display of the National Flag contributes significantly to these objectives.

14.14 State Visits

14.14.1 Official Visits

State Visits involving:

- The President of Kenya.
- Foreign Heads of State.
- Senior constitutional office holders.

shall observe the highest standards of diplomatic flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

14.14.2 Arrival Ceremonies

Upon official arrival:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed together with the flag of the host nation.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Equality between sovereign states shall be respected.
- The order of display shall follow internationally accepted protocol.

14.14.3 Official Meetings

Meeting venues shall display:

- Kenya's National Flag.
- The host nation's National Flag.
- Organizational flags where appropriate.

Flags shall be of equal size and dignity. (United Nations, 2020)

14.14.4 Signing Ceremonies

Treaty-signing ceremonies, memoranda of understanding and bilateral agreements should prominently feature the National Flag behind the official signing table.

The National Flag symbolizes the sovereign authority under which agreements are concluded.

14.14.5 Departure Ceremonies

The National Flag shall remain prominently displayed until the conclusion of the official visit. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Diplomatic protocol should maintain consistency from arrival to departure. (United Nations, 2020)

14.15 Diplomatic Receptions and Official Hospitality

14.15.1 Purpose

Diplomatic receptions promote:

- International friendship.
- Bilateral cooperation.
- Cultural exchange.
- Public diplomacy.
- Economic partnerships.

The National Flag provides the official identity of the Republic throughout such events.

14.15.2 Reception Venues

Official reception venues should display the National Flag:

- At the principal entrance.
- Behind the receiving line.
- Near the podium.
- At official dining areas.
- During speeches.

Display should remain elegant and dignified.

14.15.3 Speeches

Speakers addressing official diplomatic receptions should stand before the National Flag where appropriate.

The National Flag reinforces the official nature of the occasion.

14.15.4 Official Photography

Photographs taken during diplomatic receptions should present the National Flag clearly and respectfully.

Images used for official publication should accurately represent the dignity of the Republic.

14.15.5 Protocol Officers

Protocol officers should supervise:

- Placement of flags.
- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Ceremonial timing.
- Guest etiquette.
- Compliance with international protocol.

Professional preparation prevents ceremonial errors.

14.16 International Conferences and Multilateral Meetings

14.16.1 Representation

Kenya participates actively in international conferences involving governments, regional organizations and multilateral institutions.

The ONE47 National Flag identifies Kenya's official delegation. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.16.2 Conference Display

Conference organizers should display Kenya's National Flag:

- Alongside participating national flags.
- According to alphabetical or officially prescribed order.
- In equal dimensions with other national flags.

Equality among sovereign states should be preserved.

14.16.3 Conference Rooms

Conference tables should display miniature National Flags where international protocol provides.

Indoor displays should remain consistent with official diplomatic standards.

14.16.4 Press Conferences

Official press briefings conducted by Kenyan delegations should prominently display the National Flag.

It reinforces the authority of official statements.

14.16.5 International Respect

Kenyan delegates should always extend equal respect to the national flags of participating states.

Mutual respect strengthens diplomatic cooperation.

14.17 Military-Diplomatic Ceremonies

14.17.1 Nature

Certain diplomatic ceremonies involve cooperation between diplomatic missions and the Kenya Defence Forces. (United Nations, 2020) Examples include:

- Defence cooperation agreements.
- Military attaché ceremonies.
- Joint commemorations.
- Visiting naval vessels.
- Military honours for Heads of State.

14.17.2 Flag Display

During diplomatic and military ceremonies, Kenya’s official flags retain the following domestic order of precedence:

1. National Flag

2. Presidential Standard

3. State Flag

4. County Flags

5. Defence Forces Flags

6. Ceremonial Flag Standard The host nation’s National Flag is accorded appropriate equality and diplomatic courtesy under agreed international protocol; it is not inserted as a rank in Kenya’s domestic flag hierarchy.

14.17.3 Military Honours

Military honours rendered during diplomatic events shall remain consistent with:

- Diplomatic etiquette.
- International custom.

The National Flag remains the supreme national symbol throughout such ceremonies.

14.17.4 Visiting Warships and Military Aircraft

Official visits by Kenyan military vessels or aircraft should prominently display the National Flag in accordance with military regulations and international diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020)

14.17.5 National Prestige

Military-diplomatic ceremonies showcase:

- Kenya's professionalism.
- Constitutional governance.
- Peaceful international engagement.
- National unity.

The ONE47 National Flag serves as the visible embodiment of these values. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) International Organizations and Multilateral Representation

14.18 Permanent Missions to the United Nations

14.18.1 Purpose

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations represents Kenya's sovereign interests within the international community. It serves as the principal diplomatic channel through which Kenya participates in the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) The ONE47 National Flag displayed at the Permanent Mission symbolizes Kenya's constitutional identity, sovereign equality and commitment to international peace, cooperation and the rule of law. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.18.2 Official Display

The ONE47 National Flag shall be displayed:

- At the entrance to the Permanent Mission.
- Within reception areas.
- In conference rooms.
- In the office of the Permanent Representative.
- During official United Nations functions hosted by Kenya. (United Nations Protocol and

Liaison Service, 2026)

- During diplomatic receptions.

The National Flag shall remain the principal symbol of Kenya's representation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.18.3 Headquarters Flag Display

Where the United Nations Secretariat displays the national flags of Member States, Kenya's National Flag shall be displayed according to United Nations protocol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026) Kenyan officials shall ensure that official specifications of the National Flag are supplied to the Secretariat where required.

14.18.4 General Assembly Sessions

During sessions of the United Nations General Assembly: (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

- Kenya's National Flag identifies the official delegation.
- Delegates shall treat the National Flag with appropriate respect.
- The flag shall not be altered or supplemented with unofficial markings.

14.18.5 Symbol of Peace

Kenya's participation under the ONE47 National Flag affirms the Republic's commitment to: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- International peace.
- Collective security.
- Sustainable development.
- Human rights.
- Multilateral cooperation.

14.19 African Union Representation

14.19.1 Purpose

The Permanent Mission of Kenya to the African Union represents the Republic within the principal continental organization dedicated to African unity, peace, integration and development.

The National Flag symbolizes Kenya's commitment to African solidarity while preserving its sovereign constitutional identity.

14.19.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At Kenya's Permanent Mission.
- During African Union Summits.
- During ministerial meetings.
- During official receptions.
- During bilateral consultations held alongside AU meetings.

14.19.3 Equality of Member States

Within African Union institutions, Kenya's National Flag shall be displayed on an equal basis with the flags of other Member States. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Equality reflects the sovereign status of all participating nations.

14.19.4 Ceremonial Functions

Official ceremonies involving:

- Heads of State.
- Ministers.
- Permanent Representatives.
- AU Commissioners.

shall observe accepted African Union protocol concerning the display of national flags.

14.19.5 Continental Identity

The National Flag reminds participants that Kenya contributes to African unity while preserving its own constitutional traditions and national identity.

14.20 East African Community (EAC)

14.20.1 Representation

Kenya participates actively in the East African Community as a sovereign Partner State.

The ONE47 National Flag identifies Kenya's official delegation at all EAC institutions. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.20.2 Official Meetings

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Summit meetings.
- Council meetings.
- Sectoral committee sessions.
- Parliamentary engagements.
- Judicial conferences.
- Regional development forums.

14.20.3 Dual Identity

While promoting regional integration, Kenyan representatives shall ensure that the National Flag remains the primary symbol of Kenya's sovereign participation.

Regional symbols complement rather than replace national identity.

14.20.4 Bilateral Engagements

Meetings between Kenya and another Partner State should display:

- Kenya's National Flag.
- The partner state's National Flag.

Flags shall be equal in size and prominence.

14.20.5 Regional Cooperation

Display of the National Flag within EAC institutions demonstrates Kenya's commitment to regional cooperation founded upon sovereign equality and mutual respect.

14.21 COMESA and Other Regional Economic Organizations

14.21.1 Purpose

Kenya participates in regional economic organizations to promote:

- Trade.
- Investment.
- Infrastructure development.
- Economic integration.
- Regional prosperity.

The National Flag represents Kenya's official participation.

14.21.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall appear during:

- COMESA Summits.
- Ministerial meetings.
- Trade forums.
- Investment conferences.
- Official negotiations.

14.21.3 Economic Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy conducted under the National Flag represents the Republic's constitutional commitment to sustainable development and international cooperation.

14.21.4 Conference Protocol

Conference organizers should display Kenya's National Flag in accordance with established international protocol governing sovereign equality.

14.21.5 Public Representation

The National Flag reinforces confidence among investors, partners and international institutions regarding Kenya's stability and constitutional governance.

14.22 Commonwealth Representation

14.22.1 Membership

As a member of the Commonwealth, Kenya participates in numerous political, educational and developmental initiatives.

The National Flag symbolizes Kenya's sovereign membership within the Commonwealth.

14.22.2 Commonwealth Meetings

The National Flag shall be displayed during:

- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings.
- Ministerial conferences.
- Parliamentary forums.
- Judicial meetings.
- Educational programmes.
- Youth forums.

14.22.3 Commonwealth Protocol

Display of the National Flag shall follow:

- Commonwealth ceremonial practice.
- Host country protocol.
- Kenya's official Flag Protocol Manual. (United Nations, 2020)

These standards operate harmoniously.

14.22.4 National Identity

Participation in Commonwealth activities shall never diminish the constitutional prominence of Kenya's National Flag.

The Republic participates voluntarily while retaining full sovereignty.

14.22.5 Mutual Respect

Kenya shall extend equal respect to the national flags of fellow Commonwealth members.

Reciprocity strengthens international friendship.

14.23 Other International Organizations

14.23.1 General Principle

Kenya participates in numerous additional international organizations, including:

- UNESCO.
- World Health Organization.
- International Labour Organization.
- International Civil Aviation Organization.
- World Trade Organization.
- International Maritime Organization.
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
- Other recognized intergovernmental bodies.

The ONE47 National Flag identifies Kenya's official representation within each institution.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.23.2 Official Delegations

Kenyan delegations shall ensure that the National Flag:

- Meets official specifications.
- Is displayed correctly.
- Receives appropriate respect.
- Is used solely for authorized purposes.

14.23.3 International Equality

Kenya's National Flag shall always be displayed on the basis of sovereign equality with the national flags of other participating states. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) No distinction shall be made that diminishes Kenya's constitutional dignity.

14.23.4 Organizational Flags

Where organizational flags are displayed together with national flags:

- Organizational flags shall complement rather than replace national flags.
- The National Flag shall remain the primary symbol of Kenya's representation. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.23.5 Promotion of Kenya

Participation in international organizations provides opportunities to promote:

- Peace.
- Democracy.
- Trade.
- Innovation.
- Tourism.

The National Flag serves as the visual identity connecting these initiatives to the Republic of Kenya.

Diplomatic Protocol, Etiquette and Compliance

14.24 Order of Precedence

14.24.1 General Principle

The order of precedence governing the display of the ONE47 National Flag at diplomatic missions shall reflect the sovereignty of the Republic of Kenya while observing internationally accepted diplomatic protocol and the principle of equality among sovereign states. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Correct precedence promotes mutual respect, avoids diplomatic misunderstanding and demonstrates Kenya's commitment to international protocol.

14.24.2 National Flag

At every Kenyan diplomatic mission, the ONE47 National Flag shall occupy the principal position of honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Where the National Flag is displayed alone, it shall be positioned:

- At the main entrance.
- On the principal flagpole.
- Behind the principal speaker.
- In the central ceremonial position during official functions.

14.24.3 Bilateral Meetings

During bilateral meetings involving Kenya and another sovereign State:

- Kenya's National Flag shall be displayed together with the host nation's flag. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Both flags shall be equal in size.
- Both shall receive equal dignity.
- Placement shall follow the protocol agreed upon by the host nation and accepted diplomatic

practice.

Equality between sovereign states shall always be maintained.

14.24.4 Multilateral Meetings

During multilateral conferences:

- National flags shall normally be displayed in alphabetical order according to the working

language adopted by the conference or in accordance with the protocol of the organizing institution.

- Kenya's National Flag shall never be displayed in a manner that diminishes its dignity.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

14.24.5 Organizational Flags

Where organizational flags are displayed alongside national flags:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall identify Kenya's sovereign representation. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems

- Organizational flags shall symbolize institutional participation.
- Neither shall be interpreted as replacing the other.

The constitutional identity of the Republic remains paramount.

14.25 Indoor Diplomatic Flag Protocol

14.25.1 Reception Areas

Every embassy, high commission, permanent mission and consulate shall display the National Flag within its principal reception area.

The display shall provide immediate visual confirmation that the premises constitute an official representation of the Republic of Kenya.

14.25.2 Offices of Heads of Mission

The offices of:

- Ambassadors.
- High Commissioners.
- Permanent Representatives.
- Consuls-General.

shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag behind or adjacent to the official desk. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Where appropriate, the Ministry's official emblem may also be displayed in accordance with government regulations.

14.25.3 Conference Rooms

Official conference rooms used for:

- Bilateral negotiations.
- Treaty discussions.
- Official consultations.
- Diplomatic briefings.

shall display the National Flag in a dignified and unobstructed position.

14.25.4 Indoor Ceremonies

During indoor ceremonies, the National Flag should be positioned:

- Behind the principal podium.
- Beside the principal speaker.
- At the centre of official photography where appropriate.

The flag shall never obstruct visibility nor be obscured by decorative materials.

14.25.5 Interior Design

Diplomatic interiors should incorporate the National Flag in a manner that reflects:

- Simplicity.
- Elegance.
- Professionalism.
- Constitutional dignity.

Excessive decorative use shall be avoided.

14.26 Outdoor Diplomatic Flag Protocol

14.26.1 Embassy Compounds

The ONE47 National Flag shall be flown prominently outside every Kenyan diplomatic mission where permitted under the laws and diplomatic practice of the receiving State. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The flag shall be clearly visible from public approaches to the mission.

14.26.2 Flagpoles

Outdoor flagpoles shall:

- Be structurally secure.
- Be proportionate to the flag displayed.
- Be maintained in excellent condition.
- Be illuminated where local practice permits.

14.26.3 Raising and Lowering

The National Flag shall normally be:

- Raised at the beginning of the official working day.
- Lowered at sunset.

Where diplomatic practice or local regulations differ, the Head of Mission may authorize appropriate adjustments.

14.26.4 Weather Conditions

During severe weather likely to damage the National Flag, temporary removal may be authorized provided that the dignity of the Republic is preserved.

Protection of the National Flag constitutes responsible stewardship rather than disrespect.

14.26.5 Night Display

Where the National Flag remains flown during hours of darkness, it should be adequately illuminated in accordance with recognized international flag etiquette.

14.27 Half-Mast Observances Abroad

14.27.1 Purpose

Half-mast display signifies official mourning by the Republic. (United Nations, 2020) Diplomatic missions shall observe half-mast instructions issued by: (United Nations, 2020)

- The President.
- The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.
- Other authorized constitutional authorities.

14.27.2 National Mourning

During periods of national mourning, every Kenyan diplomatic mission shall lower the National Flag to half-mast in accordance with official instructions. (United Nations, 2020) This demonstrates national solidarity regardless of geographical location.

14.27.3 Foreign Mourning

Where the host State declares national mourning for its own Head of State or another distinguished figure, Kenyan missions may lower the National Flag where authorized by the Ministry and consistent with diplomatic practice.

Such observance reflects international courtesy.

14.27.4 Procedure

The National Flag shall first be raised to the peak before being lowered to the half-mast position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) At the conclusion of mourning, it shall again be raised fully before being lowered for the day.

This preserves established ceremonial tradition.

14.27.5 Diplomatic Coordination

Heads of Mission shall coordinate mourning observances with:

- The host government's foreign ministry.
- Other diplomatic missions where appropriate. (United Nations, 2020)
- The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

Consistency strengthens diplomatic professionalism.

14.28 Maintenance, Inspection and Compliance

14.28.1 General Standard

Every diplomatic mission shall maintain the National Flag in immaculate condition.

Flags that are:

- Torn.
- Faded.
- Dirty.
- Discoloured.
- Structurally damaged.

shall be replaced immediately.

14.28.2 Inspection

Heads of Mission shall ensure regular inspection of:

- Outdoor flags.
- Indoor displays.
- Flagpoles.
- Vehicle flags.
- Ceremonial equipment.

Inspection should form part of routine administrative management.

14.28.3 Replacement

Replacement flags shall:

- Conform to official specifications.
- Match approved colours.
- Maintain prescribed proportions.

14.28.4 Staff Training

Diplomatic personnel shall receive periodic instruction concerning:

- Flag etiquette.
- Diplomatic protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- International customs.
- National regulations.

Training promotes consistency throughout Kenya's global diplomatic network.

14.28.5 Common Diplomatic Protocol Errors

Heads of Mission should ensure that the following errors do not occur:

- Incorrect flag proportions.
- Improper order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Flying damaged flags.
- Displaying faded colours.
- Unauthorized commercial use.
- Improper vehicle display.
- Incorrect half-mast procedures. (United Nations, 2020)
- Neglect of maintenance.

Prompt correction protects the dignity of the Republic.

Institutional Responsibility, Compliance and Ceremonial standard The ceremonial standard uses a white field and a central handshake enclosed within the forty-seven-segment ring. Its two hands retain the prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades, symbolising diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation. These are emblem-specific colours, not additions to the five official national colours. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

CHAPTER 15: CEREMONIAL FLAG STANDARDS AND SPECIAL STATE OCCASIONS

Constitutional Foundation of Ceremonial Flag Standards The ONE47
National Flag is the supreme symbol of the Republic of Kenya and shall be displayed with the highest degree of dignity during occasions of exceptional national importance. Ceremonial flag standards establish uniform rules governing the display and use of the National Flag and other officially authorized state flags during constitutional, governmental, military, diplomatic and commemorative ceremonies.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Ceremonial occasions transcend routine official functions. They are solemn public expressions of the authority of the Constitution, the continuity of the Republic and the unity of the Kenyan people. The proper display of the National Flag during such events reinforces public confidence in national institutions and preserves the symbolic integrity of the State.

This chapter applies to all ceremonial occasions organized or sanctioned by the Republic of Kenya, including:

- Presidential inaugurations.
- Swearing-in ceremonies.
- State Opening of Parliament.
- National honours investitures.
- State banquets.
- National celebrations.
- National days of remembrance.
- State funerals.
- Official mourning ceremonies.
- Constitutional anniversaries.
- Military ceremonies involving the Head of State.
- Other ceremonies designated by the President or authorized constitutional authority.

It applies equally to all national and county institutions participating in such events.

The provisions of this chapter complement the standards established throughout this Manual, particularly those concerning:

- Respect for the National Flag.
- Order of Precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Indoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Outdoor Flag Protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Government Institutions.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)

Where ceremonial requirements impose additional obligations, those requirements shall prevail for the duration of the ceremony.

Ceremonial display differs from ordinary display because it represents moments of constitutional significance in the life of the Republic.

Such occasions include:

- Transfer of constitutional authority.
- National celebration.
- National mourning.
- Recognition of distinguished service.
- International representation. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)

Accordingly, ceremonial standards shall exceed ordinary display requirements in precision, presentation and protocol.

The objectives of ceremonial flag standards are to: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Preserve the dignity of national symbols.
- Promote consistency across State institutions.
- Enhance public understanding of constitutional symbolism.
- Strengthen national identity.
- Ensure professional ceremonial practice.
- Protect the historical significance of national ceremonies.

15.2 Constitutional Principles Governing Ceremonial Display

15.2.1 Constitutional Authority

The National Flag derives its authority from the Constitution of Kenya and the legislation governing national symbols.

During ceremonial occasions, the National Flag represents:

- The sovereignty of the Republic.
- The supremacy of the Constitution.
- Democratic legitimacy.
- National unity.
- Continuity of the Kenyan State.

Its ceremonial display therefore carries constitutional significance.

15.2.2 Symbol of National Unity

The ONE47 National Flag embodies the unity of all forty-seven counties under one sovereign Republic.

(Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) During ceremonial occasions, it symbolizes:

- Shared citizenship.
- Equality before the Constitution.
- National cohesion.
- Collective responsibility.
- Common destiny.

Its display reminds all participants that national institutions derive their legitimacy from the people of Kenya.

15.2.3 Political Neutrality

Ceremonial use of the National Flag shall remain strictly non-partisan. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) State ceremonies shall not use the National Flag to promote:

- Political parties.
- Electoral campaigns.
- Individual political leaders.
- Partisan slogans.
- Political organizations.

The National Flag belongs equally to every Kenyan regardless of political affiliation.

15.2.4 Constitutional Continuity

The ceremonial display of the National Flag therefore emphasizes continuity of constitutional government rather than temporary political administrations.

15.2.5 Public Confidence

Proper ceremonial display of the National Flag strengthens public confidence in constitutional institutions by demonstrating:

- Stability.
- Professionalism.
- Respect for tradition.
- Institutional continuity.

15.3 Categories of Official Ceremonial Flags

15.3.1 General Principle

Only officially authorized flags shall be displayed during State ceremonies.

No unofficial flag, emblem or banner shall be accorded ceremonial status equivalent to the National Flag.

15.3.2 The ONE47 National Flag

The ONE47 National Flag remains the supreme national symbol and shall be displayed at every State ceremony. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It shall always occupy the highest position of honour unless otherwise prescribed by this Manual. (United Nations, 2020)

15.3.3 Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard represents the constitutional office of the President as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It shall be displayed only:

- In the presence of the President.
- At locations officially occupied by the President.
- During ceremonies where presidential representation is constitutionally appropriate.

Its display shall cease immediately upon the President's departure.

15.3.4 State Flag

The State Flag identifies the institutional authority of the Government of the Republic of Kenya. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It may be displayed:

- At government-hosted ceremonial events.
- During official administrative ceremonies.
- At designated government venues.

It shall never outrank the National Flag.

15.3.5 Ceremonial Flag Standard

The Ceremonial Flag Standard serves as the official ceremonial flag for institutions authorized under law to conduct formal public ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) It may be displayed by:

- Public universities.
- National schools.
- County governments.
- Constitutional commissions.
- Religious institutions participating in State functions.

Ceremonial Flag Standards shall be manufactured in accordance with official specifications, including the prescribed gold fringe where applicable. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.3.6 Kenya Defence Forces Ensign

The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign identifies the unified military institution.

It shall be displayed during:

- Military ceremonies.
- Presidential military functions.
- State funerals involving military honours.
- National commemorations.
- Defence-related official events.

15.3.7 Service Ensigns

The official flags of:

- Kenya Army.
- Kenya Navy.
- Kenya Air Force.

shall be displayed only where authorized under military protocol.

15.4 General Standards for Ceremonial Display

15.4.1 Quality

Ceremonial flags shall be manufactured to the highest standards.

They shall exhibit:

- Accurate colours.
- Correct proportions.
- Superior fabric.
- Professional stitching.
- Excellent finish.

15.4.2 Cleanliness

Every ceremonial flag shall be:

- Spotless.
- Properly pressed.
- Free from stains.
- Free from damage.
- Properly mounted.

No worn or faded flag shall be displayed during State ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.4.3 Gold Fringe

Where prescribed by law or official specifications, ceremonial flags shall incorporate approved gold fringe.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Gold fringe represents ceremonial distinction and does not alter the constitutional status of the flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.4.4 Flagpoles

Ceremonial flagpoles shall:

- Be structurally sound.
- Be polished.
- Be proportionate.
- Carry appropriate finials where prescribed.

Indoor ceremonial poles should reflect the dignity of the occasion.

15.4.5 Lighting

Indoor ceremonial displays shall be adequately illuminated.

Outdoor displays conducted after sunset should incorporate dignified lighting that clearly presents the National Flag.

15.5 Guiding Principles of Ceremonial Protocol

15.5.1 Dignity

Every ceremonial display shall enhance the dignity of the Republic.

The National Flag shall never be treated as ordinary decoration. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.5.2 Precision

Ceremonial protocol requires meticulous attention to:

- Positioning.
- Timing.
- Uniformity.
- Presentation.
- Coordination.

Precision reflects institutional excellence.

15.5.3 Respect

Participants shall demonstrate respect through:

- Appropriate posture.
- Proper salutes where applicable.
- Silence during solemn moments.
- Compliance with ceremonial instructions.

15.5.4 Consistency

Uniform ceremonial standards shall apply across all State institutions to reinforce national identity and constitutional continuity.

15.5.5 Professionalism

Officials responsible for ceremonial arrangements shall receive appropriate training in:

- Flag etiquette.
- State protocol.
- Constitutional symbolism.

Professional competence protects the dignity of national ceremonies.

Presidential and National State Ceremonies

15.6 Presidential Inauguration

15.6.1 Constitutional Significance

The inauguration of the President of the Republic of Kenya is the highest constitutional ceremony conducted under the Constitution. It marks the peaceful transfer or renewal of executive authority following a democratic election and symbolizes the continuity of the Republic.

Throughout the inauguration, the ONE47 National Flag shall serve as the supreme emblem of the sovereignty of the Kenyan people, while the Presidential Standard shall signify the constitutional office of the President. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.6.2 Official Flags Displayed

The following official flags may be displayed during a Presidential inauguration:

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2. Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3. State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

1. Service Ensigns of the Army, Air Force and Naval (where military participation is authorized).

No other flag shall receive equal or greater prominence than the National Flag.

15.6.3 Venue Display

The inauguration venue shall prominently display the ONE47 National Flag: (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Behind the oath-taking platform.
- Adjacent to the Chief Justice during administration of the oath.
- At all ceremonial entrances.
- Along official processional routes.
- At public viewing areas.
- At media platforms.

The National Flag shall remain the central visual symbol of the ceremony. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.6.4 Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard shall:

- Be introduced only after the President-elect has taken the constitutional oath of office.
- Be raised immediately following the formal assumption of office.
- Be lowered immediately upon conclusion of the President's official presence at the

ceremony.

Its display signifies the constitutional authority of the Head of State rather than the individual officeholder.

15.6.5 Military Participation

- The National Flag shall receive the first military salute. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Guards of Honour shall conduct ceremonial honours in accordance with military protocol.
- Military Colours shall complement but never supersede the National Flag.

15.7 Swearing-in of the Deputy President

15.7.1 Constitutional Status

The swearing-in of the Deputy President constitutes a constitutional ceremony affirming the lawful succession framework established by the Constitution.

The ceremony shall prominently feature the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.7.2 Flag Display

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- Behind the oath-taking podium.
- Adjacent to the Chief Justice.
- Throughout official photography.
- During the signing of constitutional instruments.

The Presidential Standard shall not be displayed solely because of the Deputy President's swearing-in unless the President is officially present. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.7.3 Official Representation

Where the President attends:

- The Presidential Standard shall accompany the President. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027)

- The National Flag shall retain precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.7.4 Public Ceremony

Public participation should emphasize:

- Constitutional continuity.
- Democratic governance.
- National unity.

The National Flag symbolizes these constitutional principles.

15.7.5 Official Documentation

Official publications concerning the ceremony shall accurately reproduce the ONE47 National Flag in accordance with approved specifications. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.8 State Opening of Parliament

15.8.1 Constitutional Purpose

The State Opening of Parliament represents the formal commencement of a parliamentary session and symbolizes cooperation among the three arms of government under the Constitution.

The ceremony affirms:

- Constitutional supremacy.
- Democratic governance.
- Separation of powers.
- Institutional continuity.

15.8.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At Parliament Buildings.
- Inside the Parliamentary Chamber where appropriate.
- Along ceremonial approaches.
- During the Presidential procession.
- At official reception areas.

15.8.3 Presidential Standard

Where the President officially opens Parliament:

- The Presidential Standard shall accompany the President. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- It shall be displayed only during the President's official presence.
- It shall be removed immediately following departure.

15.8.4 Parliamentary Neutrality

Although Parliament comprises political representatives, ceremonial display of the National Flag remains entirely non-partisan.

The National Flag symbolizes the Republic rather than parliamentary majorities or political parties.

15.8.5 Broadcast Standards

Official broadcasts should ensure:

- Correct representation of the National Flag.
- Proper camera positioning.
- Respectful presentation during ceremonial proceedings.

15.9 State Banquets

15.9.1 Purpose

State Banquets honour:

- Visiting Heads of State.
- Distinguished foreign leaders.
- National constitutional occasions.
- Significant diplomatic events.

The National Flag provides the official identity of the Republic throughout such ceremonies.

15.9.2 Flag Arrangement

The banquet venue shall display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027)

- The guest nation's National Flag.
- Other authorized flags where appropriate.

Flags shall be:

- Equal in size.
- Properly illuminated.
- Correctly positioned.
- Respectfully presented.

15.9.3 Official Seating

Flag placement should correspond with:

- Official seating arrangements.
- Speaking positions.
- Reception protocol.

Consistency promotes ceremonial order.

15.9.4 Decorations

The National Flag shall not be incorporated into: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Tablecloths.
- Disposable decorations.
- Floral arrangements.
- Decorative drapery.

Its ceremonial dignity shall be preserved.

15.9.5 Toasts

Official toasts shall be delivered in the presence of the National Flag, reinforcing the constitutional significance of diplomatic hospitality.

15.10 Presidential Addresses to the Nation

15.10.1 Constitutional Nature

Addresses delivered by the President to the nation constitute official communications made in the President's constitutional capacity as Head of State.

The National Flag shall therefore accompany such addresses. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.10.2 Official Display

The ONE47 National Flag shall be positioned:

- Behind the President.
- Beside the official podium.
- Within official broadcast framing.
- During national emergency addresses.
- During constitutional announcements.

15.10.3 Presidential Standard

The Presidential Standard may accompany the President where the address is delivered in an official presidential capacity. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall nevertheless remain the supreme national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.10.4 National Unity

Presidential addresses often concern:

- National emergencies.
- Constitutional matters.
- Public policy.
- National celebrations.
- National mourning.

The National Flag reminds citizens that such communications concern the Republic as a whole.

15.10.5 Official Broadcast Standards

Government broadcasters shall ensure that:

- Colours remain accurate.
- Flag proportions remain correct.
- The National Flag is clearly visible.
- Digital reproductions comply with official specifications.

Improper reproduction shall be avoided.

National Honours, State Decorations and Official Recognition Ceremonies

15.11 National Honours Investiture Ceremonies

15.11.1 Purpose

National Honours Investiture Ceremonies are among the highest ceremonial occasions of the Republic. They recognize individuals who have rendered distinguished service to Kenya in public service, security, science, education, diplomacy, business, culture, sports, religion, humanitarian work and other fields that contribute significantly to national development.

The ONE47 National Flag shall be the principal ceremonial symbol throughout the investiture, representing the gratitude of the Republic and the constitutional authority under which national honours are conferred.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.11.2 Official Flag Display

During National Honours Investiture Ceremonies, the following flags may be displayed:

1. The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2. The Presidential Standard (where the President presides). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3. The State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4. The Ceremonial Flag Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

5. The Kenya Defence Forces Ensign (where military honours are involved).

The National Flag shall always occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names

15.11.3 Investiture Venue

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- Behind the investiture platform.
- Beside the official chair of the President.
- Adjacent to the official citation table.
- At the entrance to the ceremonial hall.
- During official photography.

Its placement shall reinforce the constitutional authority of the honours being bestowed.

15.11.4 Presentation of Decorations

Recipients shall receive honours in the presence of the National Flag.

The National Flag symbolizes that honours are conferred on behalf of the Republic rather than any individual office holder.

15.11.5 Official Photography

All official photographs shall prominently feature the National Flag while ensuring that:

- Flag proportions remain accurate.
- Colours are faithfully reproduced.
- The flag is unobstructed.

15.12 National Decorations and State Awards

15.12.1 Constitutional Significance

National decorations express the Republic's formal recognition of exceptional service.

The ceremonial display of the National Flag affirms that these honours derive their authority from the Constitution and the laws of Kenya.

15.12.2 Award Ceremonies

The National Flag shall be displayed during ceremonies involving: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Orders of Kenya.
- Presidential commendations.
- National medals.
- Distinguished civilian awards.
- State decorations.

15.12.3 Military Decorations

Military decoration ceremonies shall display:

- The National Flag.
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- Appropriate Service Ensigns.

Military Colours shall complement, but never supersede, the National Flag.

15.12.4 Civilian Recognition

Awards recognizing civilians should emphasize national unity rather than institutional affiliation.

Accordingly, the National Flag shall remain the dominant ceremonial symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.12.5 Official Publications

Certificates, citations and official programmes may reproduce the National Flag only in accordance with approved government design specifications.

15.13 National Prayer Services

15.13.1 Purpose

National Prayer Services provide opportunities for collective reflection during occasions of constitutional or national significance.

Such services shall maintain respect for Kenya's religious diversity while affirming the unity of the Republic.

15.13.2 Flag Display

During National Prayer Services, the National Flag shall be displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- At the principal altar or platform where appropriate.
- Beside the official podium.
- At ceremonial entrances.
- During national prayers.

The National Flag shall never be placed beneath religious symbols in a manner that diminishes its constitutional status. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.13.3 Interfaith Participation

Where multiple faith traditions participate:

- The National Flag shall symbolize the unity of the Republic above denominational

distinctions. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Religious symbols shall be displayed respectfully within their appropriate ceremonial

context.

15.13.4 National Reflection

Prayer services associated with:

- National crises.
- Constitutional anniversaries.
- National mourning.
- Thanksgiving occasions.

shall prominently feature the National Flag as the symbol of collective national identity.

15.13.5 Public Conduct

Participants shall treat the National Flag with the same dignity observed during all official State ceremonies.

15.14 Heroes Day (Mashujaa Day)

15.14.1 National Significance

Mashujaa Day honours the women and men whose sacrifice, courage and patriotism contributed to the development and protection of the Republic.

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the enduring unity for which these heroes served. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.14.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At all national commemorative venues.
- Along ceremonial routes.
- At memorial sites.
- During military parades.
- At official speeches.

15.14.3 Military Participation

Where military participation occurs:

- The National Flag shall receive the first ceremonial salute. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Military formations shall honour the National Flag before all Service Ensigns.

15.14.4 National Symbolism

During Heroes Day, the National Flag represents:

- Freedom.
- Unity.
- Constitutional democracy.
- National resilience.
- Collective sacrifice.

15.14.5 Public Participation

Citizens are encouraged to display the National Flag respectfully in accordance with this Manual.

Improper or commercialized display shall be discouraged.

15.15 National Recognition Ceremonies

15.15.1 Scope

National recognition ceremonies include official events honouring:

- Academic excellence.
- Scientific innovation.
- Cultural achievement.
- Sports excellence.
- Public service.
- Community leadership.
- Humanitarian contribution.

15.15.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed prominently throughout the ceremony. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) ceremonial and institutional display standards may also appear where authorized but shall remain subordinate to the National Flag.

15.15.3 Government Representation

Where Cabinet Secretaries or other constitutional office holders represent the President, the State Flag may accompany the National Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The Presidential Standard shall not be displayed unless the President is personally present. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.15.4 Youth Recognition

Recognition ceremonies involving young people should emphasize that achievement contributes to national development under one united Republic represented by the National Flag.

15.15.5 National Inspiration

Recognition ceremonies strengthen patriotism by demonstrating that distinguished service is honoured by the Republic itself.

The National Flag therefore becomes a powerful symbol of aspiration, excellence and national service.

National Commemorations and Constitutional Celebrations

15.16 Madaraka Day

15.16.1 Constitutional Significance

Madaraka Day, observed annually on 1st June, commemorates the attainment of internal self- government by Kenya in 1963 and marks an important milestone in the nation's constitutional evolution toward full independence.

The ONE47 National Flag shall serve as the principal ceremonial symbol throughout Madaraka Day celebrations, representing the sovereign authority that ultimately emerged from the constitutional journey of the Kenyan people. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.16.2 Official Flag Display

During Madaraka Day celebrations, the following flags may be displayed:

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2. Presidential Standard (when the President is present). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3. State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

1. Official Service Ensigns.

1. Ceremonial Flag Standards where authorized. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall occupy the position of highest honour. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.16.3 National Venue

At the principal national celebration venue, the National Flag shall be displayed: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Above the presidential dais.
- At ceremonial entrances.
- Along official processional routes.
- At parade grounds.
- Behind the official podium.
- Throughout public assembly areas.

15.16.4 County Celebrations

County Governments conducting Madaraka Day celebrations shall prominently display:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The County Flag.

The National Flag shall occupy the superior position in accordance with the constitutional order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.16.5 Public Participation

Citizens are encouraged to display the National Flag:

- At homes.
- Business premises.
- Educational institutions.
- Community centres.

Such display shall comply with the standards established in this Manual.

15.17 Jamhuri Day

15.17.1 National Importance

Jamhuri Day, observed annually on 12th December, commemorates Kenya's attainment of independence and the establishment of the Republic.

It is the Republic's foremost national celebration.

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the sovereign independence of Kenya and the constitutional unity of all citizens. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.17.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed prominently throughout all Jamhuri Day ceremonies. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Display shall include:

- National celebrations.
- County celebrations.
- Military parades.
- Public gatherings.
- Official receptions.
- National broadcasts.

15.17.3 Military Ceremonies

Where military parades are conducted:

- The National Flag shall receive the first ceremonial honours. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

- Military Colours shall follow the National Flag.
- Presidential Standard shall appear only when the President is officially present. (

National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.17.4 National Anthem

During the performance of the National Anthem:

- The National Flag shall remain prominently displayed. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- Military personnel shall salute.
- Civilians shall stand respectfully.
- Official dignitaries shall observe established protocol.

15.17.5 Symbol of the Republic

Jamhuri Day celebrates not only political independence but also constitutional nationhood.

The National Flag represents the enduring unity of Kenya beyond successive governments.

15.18 Utamaduni Day

15.18.1 Purpose

Utamaduni Day celebrates Kenya's rich cultural diversity while affirming national unity under one Constitution.

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes the shared citizenship that unites Kenya's many cultural communities.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.18.2 Official Display

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At cultural festivals.
- National museums.
- County cultural centres.
- Public exhibitions.
- Educational programmes.
- Official performances.

15.18.3 Cultural Equality

Display of the National Flag shall emphasize that: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Every culture contributes to national identity.
- No community enjoys constitutional superiority.
- Diversity strengthens national unity.

The ONE47 National Flag visually reflects this principle through its symbolic representation of all forty-seven counties. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.18.4 Traditional Symbols

Traditional cultural symbols may accompany official ceremonies provided that:

- They do not replace the National Flag.

- They do not obscure the National Flag.
- They remain consistent with constitutional values.

15.18.5 Cultural Diplomacy

Utamaduni Day provides opportunities to promote Kenyan culture internationally.

Diplomatic missions observing the occasion shall prominently display the National Flag during cultural exhibitions and official receptions. (United Nations, 2020)

15.19 National Memorial Services and Constitutional Anniversaries

15.19.1 National Memorial Services

National Memorial Services honour:

- Fallen national leaders.
- Victims of national tragedies.
- Military personnel.
- Public servants.
- Other individuals designated by the Republic.

The National Flag symbolizes collective remembrance and national solidarity.

15.19.2 Display During Memorials

The National Flag shall be displayed:

- At memorial sites.
- During wreath-laying ceremonies.
- At official prayer services.
- During commemorative processions.
- At remembrance monuments.

Where appropriate, half-mast procedures shall be observed. (United Nations, 2020)

15.19.3 Constitutional Anniversary Celebrations

Ceremonies commemorating the Constitution of Kenya shall prominently display the National Flag.

Such celebrations reaffirm:

- Constitutional supremacy.
- Democratic governance.
- Rule of law.
- National unity.

15.19.4 Educational Programmes

Schools, universities and public institutions conducting constitutional education programmes shall display the National Flag during official ceremonies associated with constitutional anniversaries.

The National Flag reinforces civic education concerning national identity.

15.19.5 National Reflection

Memorial and constitutional ceremonies should encourage reflection upon:

- Kenya's constitutional journey.
- National sacrifice.
  Democratic progress.

- Future aspirations.

The ONE47 National Flag serves as the visual embodiment of these shared national ideals. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) State Mourning, National Remembrance and Funeral Ceremonies

15.20 State Funerals

15.20.1 Constitutional Purpose

A State Funeral is the highest national ceremony of mourning conducted by the Republic of Kenya. It is held in honour of individuals whose service to the nation has been of exceptional constitutional, political, military or historical significance.

The ONE47 National Flag shall serve as the principal symbol of the Republic's collective gratitude, remembrance and constitutional continuity throughout the funeral proceedings. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) State funerals are not merely occasions of grief but solemn affirmations that the institutions of the Republic endure beyond the lives of individual office holders.

15.20.2 Eligibility for State Funeral Honours

State Funeral honours may be accorded, in accordance with the Constitution and applicable law, to:

- The President.
- A former President.
- The Deputy President, where authorized.
- Former Vice Presidents, where approved by the State.
- Speakers of Parliament, where appropriate.
- Chief Justices.
- Distinguished national leaders.
- Members of the Kenya Defence Forces killed in exceptional national service.
- Other individuals designated by Presidential Proclamation.

The decision to accord a State Funeral shall be made through the lawful constitutional process.

15.20.3 Official Flag Display

The following flags may be displayed during a State Funeral:

1. ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

2. Presidential Standard (only where the President is officially present). (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

3. State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

4. Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.

1. Relevant Service Flag where military honours are rendered.

The National Flag shall always remain the principal symbol of the Republic. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.20.4 Flag Draping

Where authorized by law, the coffin of an individual receiving a State Funeral may be draped with the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Flag shall:

- Remain clean and undamaged.
- Never touch the ground.
- Never be folded beneath the coffin.

The flag shall be removed respectfully before interment or cremation and preserved in accordance with official protocol.

15.20.5 National Representation

Throughout the funeral ceremony, the National Flag represents:

- The gratitude of the Republic.
- Constitutional continuity.
- National unity.
- The enduring sovereignty of Kenya.

15.21 National Mourning

15.21.1 Declaration of National Mourning

National Mourning may be declared by the President or another constitutionally authorized authority following:

- The death of a serving or former Head of State.
- National tragedy.
- Catastrophic disaster.
- Exceptional national loss.
- Other circumstances of profound national significance.

15.21.2 Period of Mourning

The duration of National Mourning shall be determined by official proclamation.

Government institutions shall observe the prescribed mourning period uniformly.

15.21.3 Official Flag Display

During National Mourning:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall be flown at half-mast. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- Government institutions shall comply immediately.
- Diplomatic missions shall observe instructions issued by the Ministry responsible for Foreign

and Diaspora Affairs. (United Nations, 2020)

- County Governments shall participate unless otherwise directed.

15.21.4 Public Participation

Citizens are encouraged to observe National Mourning respectfully.

Display of the National Flag at half-mast by private citizens shall follow official guidance where practical.

(United Nations, 2020)

15.21.5 National Unity

Periods of National Mourning remind the nation that constitutional institutions continue despite individual loss.

The National Flag symbolizes this continuity.

15.22 Half-Mast Protocol

15.22.1 Meaning

Flying the National Flag at half-mast signifies: (United Nations, 2020)

- National sorrow.
- Official mourning.
- Respect for the deceased.
- Collective remembrance.

It shall never be used casually or without lawful authority.

15.22.2 Procedure

The National Flag shall first be raised to the peak of the flagpole before being lowered slowly to the half-mast position. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) At the conclusion of the day's observance:

- The National Flag shall again be raised fully. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

)

- It shall then be lowered in the normal manner.

15.22.3 Indoor Display

Indoor ceremonial flags shall not normally be displayed at half-mast. (United Nations, 2020) Instead:

- Mourning ribbons.
- Appropriate floral arrangements.
- Official memorial symbols.

may be employed where authorized.

15.22.4 Multiple Flags

Where several flags are flown:

- The ONE47 National Flag shall be lowered to half-mast. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027

) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020)

- Other national flags shall follow the protocol agreed upon with the respective sovereign

states.

- Organizational flags shall comply with institutional protocol.

15.22.5 Unauthorized Half-Mast Display

No institution or individual shall lower the National Flag to half-mast without lawful authority. (United Nations, 2020) Unauthorized display undermines the solemnity of official mourning.

15.23 Military Funeral Honours and National Remembrance

15.23.1 Military Funeral Honours

Military funeral ceremonies shall observe both:

- Kenya Defence Forces ceremonial regulations.

- The provisions of this Manual.

The National Flag remains the foremost national symbol throughout military honours.

15.23.2 Military Coffin Draping

Where military personnel qualify for official honours:

- The National Flag may drape the coffin.
- Military Colours shall accompany but not replace the National Flag.
- The flag shall be folded ceremonially following established military tradition.

15.23.3 National Memorial Ceremonies

Official memorial ceremonies commemorating:

- Fallen soldiers.
- National heroes.
- Victims of terrorism.
- Public tragedies.

shall prominently display the National Flag.

15.23.4 Wreath-Laying

The National Flag shall remain prominently displayed during: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Presidential wreath-laying.
- Military remembrance.
- National memorial services.
- Official commemorative events.

The ceremony symbolizes the Republic's enduring gratitude.

15.23.5 National Reflection

National remembrance ceremonies shall encourage reflection upon:

- Sacrifice.
- Patriotism.
- Constitutional values.
- National resilience.
- Peace.

The ONE47 National Flag serves as the permanent symbol connecting past sacrifice with future national aspiration. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Ceremonial Compliance, Institutional Responsibility and Chapter Conclusion

15.24 Institutional Responsibility for Ceremonial Flag Protocol

15.24.1 General Responsibility

The responsibility for ensuring compliance with ceremonial flag protocol rests collectively upon all public institutions entrusted with organizing State ceremonies. Every ceremonial display of the ONE47 National Flag shall reflect the dignity, constitutional authority and sovereign identity of the Republic of Kenya.

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) Institutions shall ensure that ceremonial arrangements are planned well in advance and executed in accordance with this Manual.

15.24.2 Lead Institutions

Depending on the nature of the ceremony, responsibility shall rest primarily with:

- The Office of the President.
- The Ministry responsible for Interior and National Administration.
- The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.
- The Ministry responsible for Defence.
- Parliament of Kenya.
- The Judiciary.
- County Governments.
- Other constitutional commissions or public bodies authorized to organize official

ceremonies.

Each institution shall designate an officer responsible for ceremonial protocol and flag compliance.

15.24.3 Ceremonial Planning Committees

For major national events, a Ceremonial Planning Committee shall be established to coordinate:

- Flag procurement.
- Venue layout.
- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Processional arrangements.
- Military participation.
- Public seating.
- Media positioning.
- Security coordination.

The Committee shall ensure that flag protocol is integrated into every stage of ceremonial planning. (United Nations, 2020)

15.24.4 Inter-Agency Coordination

Where several institutions participate in a single State ceremony, one institution shall be designated as the lead coordinating authority to ensure uniform application of ceremonial standards.

The lead authority shall resolve protocol questions before the ceremony commences.

15.24.5 Accountability

Heads of institutions remain personally accountable for ensuring that official ceremonies conducted under their authority comply with this Manual.

Failure to maintain ceremonial standards may result in administrative review and corrective action in accordance with applicable laws and public service regulations.

15.25 Inspection, Maintenance and Preservation of Ceremonial Flags

15.25.1 Inspection Before Ceremonies

Every ceremonial flag shall undergo inspection prior to official use to confirm that it:

- Conforms to approved specifications.
- Is clean and free from damage.
- Displays accurate colours.
- Maintains correct proportions.
- Is securely mounted.

Inspection shall be completed sufficiently in advance to permit replacement where necessary.

15.25.2 Maintenance

Ceremonial flags shall be maintained in immaculate condition.

They shall not be used where they are:

- Torn.
- Frayed.
- Faded.
- Discoloured.
- Creased through improper storage.

Routine maintenance shall form part of institutional ceremonial planning.

15.25.3 Storage

Ceremonial flags shall be stored:

- In clean, dry environments.
- Folded or rolled in accordance with approved practice.
- Protected from moisture, sunlight and pests.
- Separate from ordinary equipment.

Proper storage preserves ceremonial quality and extends service life.

15.25.4 Retirement

Flags no longer suitable for ceremonial use shall be retired respectfully.

Retired ceremonial flags may:

- Be archived for historical purposes.
- Be preserved in museums or official collections.
- Be disposed of through approved dignified procedures where preservation is not appropriate.

The National Flag shall never be discarded as ordinary waste. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

15.25.5 Replacement

Replacement ceremonial flags shall be manufactured only in accordance with officially approved designs, colours, dimensions and construction standards prescribed under this Manual.

15.26 Training and Professional Development

15.26.1 Purpose

Uniform ceremonial practice requires continuous professional training.

Every institution responsible for official ceremonies shall ensure that designated personnel possess an adequate understanding of flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)

15.26.2 Target Groups

Training programmes shall be provided for:

- Protocol officers.
- Military ceremonial units.
- Government communication officers.
- County protocol officers.

- Judicial officers responsible for ceremonial events.
- Educational institution administrators.
- Event coordinators for official State functions.

15.26.3 Training Content

Training shall include:

- Constitutional symbolism.
- Order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Indoor and outdoor flag display.
- Ceremonial positioning.
- Half-mast procedures. (United Nations, 2020)
- Flag folding and handling.
- Inspection standards.
- International diplomatic practice. (United Nations, 2020)
- Management of special State occasions.

15.26.4 Simulation Exercises

Institutions should periodically conduct ceremonial rehearsals and simulation exercises to ensure preparedness for major national events.

These exercises should include complete flag protocol procedures. (United Nations, 2020)

15.26.5 Continuous Improvement

Lessons learned from major State ceremonies should be documented and incorporated into future training programmes to strengthen institutional capacity.

15.27 Common Ceremonial Protocol Violations

15.27.1 Improper Positioning

Common ceremonial errors include:

- Incorrect order of precedence. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Misaligned flag displays.
- Obstructed visibility.
- Inappropriate placement beside other symbols.

Such errors diminish ceremonial dignity and shall be corrected immediately.

15.27.2 Incorrect Specifications

Ceremonial flags shall never be displayed where:

- Colours differ from official standards.
- Ratios are incorrect.
- Emblems are distorted.
- Materials are unsuitable.

Uniformity protects national identity.

15.27.3 Unauthorized Display

The following shall be prohibited during official State ceremonies:

- Political party flags.

- Commercial advertising.
- Unofficial commemorative flags.
- Altered versions of the National Flag.

Only flags authorized by law shall participate in State ceremonial protocol.

15.27.4 Improper Handling

The National Flag shall never:

- Touch the ground.
- Be used as table covering.
- Be draped over furniture.
- Be worn as clothing during official ceremonies.
- Be folded carelessly.

Every ceremonial handling shall preserve the dignity of the Republic.

15.27.5 Failure of Coordination

Most ceremonial protocol failures arise from inadequate planning rather than deliberate misconduct.

Accordingly, institutions shall prioritize:

- Advance preparation.
- Inter-agency coordination.
- Staff training.
- Full ceremonial rehearsals.

This chapter has established the comprehensive ceremonial framework governing the display and use of the ONE47 National Flag and other authorized State flags during the Republic's highest constitutional, governmental and commemorative occasions. From Presidential inaugurations and the State Opening of Parliament to National Honours Investitures, National Days, State Funerals and periods of official mourning, the chapter has prescribed uniform standards designed to preserve the dignity, authority and symbolic integrity of Kenya's national emblems. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The provisions contained herein affirm that ceremonial flag protocol is not merely a matter of tradition or pageantry but an essential expression of constitutional governance. Every ceremonial display of the National Flag communicates the sovereignty of the Republic, the supremacy of the Constitution and the unity of the Kenyan people. The Presidential Standard, State Flag, Ceremonial Flag Standard, Kenya Defence Forces Ensign and other authorized flags perform important institutional functions, yet each operates within a clearly defined hierarchy that recognizes the ONE47 National Flag as the supreme national symbol. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (United Nations, 2020) By establishing standards for institutional responsibility, ceremonial planning, inspection, maintenance, staff training and compliance, this chapter provides the administrative framework necessary to ensure that every State ceremony is conducted with consistency and professionalism. It reinforces public confidence in Kenya's constitutional institutions while promoting respect for the values of democracy, service, unity, peace and national continuity that the National Flag represents.

Ultimately, the ceremonial life of the Republic reflects the character of the nation itself. When displayed with dignity and according to uniform standards, the ONE47 National Flag becomes more than a ceremonial object-it becomes the enduring expression of Kenya's collective history, constitutional order and aspirations for future generations. Every salute rendered, every procession conducted and every moment of national celebration or remembrance beneath the National Flag serves as a reaffirmation that the sovereignty of the Republic resides in one people, united under one Constitution and represented by one National Flag.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Colour and emblem technical standard The five official national colours remain black, white, red, green and gold (yellow). The central

handshake shall depict two hands in prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades, representing human diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation among the people of Kenya. The shades are integral to the approved emblem, distinguish the hands and preserve its recognisable appearance and intended symbolism. They are prescribed emblem-specific colours, not additional official national colours, and do not alter the five national colours. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Heraldic distinction The Presidential Standard features the Kenyan Shield and crossed spears on a deep ceremonial gold field. The Kenyan Shield is the principal and non-derogable presidential symbol; the Coat of Arms represents the Government.

CHAPTER 16: FLAG MANUFACTURE, TECHNICAL STANDARDS, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

Legal Framework and
Official Technical Standards The integrity of the ONE47 National Flag System depends not only upon proper ceremonial and institutional use but also upon the consistent manufacture of official flags that faithfully conform to approved national specifications. Every official flag represents the sovereignty, constitutional authority and national identity of the Republic of Kenya. Consequently, the manufacture, certification and distribution of official flags shall be subject to uniform technical standards established under this Manual and applicable legislation. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the national framework governing the design, manufacture, inspection, certification and technical control of all official Kenyan flags.

The provisions of this chapter apply to the manufacture of:

- The ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Presidential Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The State Flag. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- The Ceremonial Flag Standard. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Kenya Defence Forces Ensign.
- Army Ensign.
- Naval Ensign.
- Air Force Ensign.
- County Flags.
- Official Desk Flags.
- Official Vehicle Flags.
- Indoor Ceremonial Flags.
- Outdoor Ceremonial Flags.
- Diplomatic Mission Flags.
- Educational Institution Flags.
- Any other flag officially authorized by the Republic.

Uniform technical standards ensure that every official flag displayed anywhere in Kenya-or at Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad-presents a consistent and recognizable national image. (United Nations, 2020) Standardization promotes:

- Constitutional consistency.
- Visual uniformity.
- Public confidence.
- International recognition. (United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service, 2026)
- Manufacturing quality.
- Preservation of national symbolism.

Without standardization, inconsistent colours, dimensions and construction techniques may weaken the identity and dignity of the National Flag.

The preceding chapters have established the protocols governing the display and ceremonial use of official flags. This chapter provides the technical foundation that supports those protocols by ensuring that every official flag is manufactured to identical standards.

Accordingly, technical specifications contained in this chapter shall be observed by all manufacturers, suppliers, public institutions and authorized users.

The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Establish official manufacturing specifications.
- Protect the integrity of the ONE47 National Flag System. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Promote high-quality production.
- Prevent unauthorized alterations.
- Ensure durability and consistency.
- Facilitate government procurement.
- Establish a national certification framework.
- Support local manufacturing while maintaining international standards.

16.2 Legal Authority for Official Flag Specifications

16.2.1 Constitutional Authority

The official specifications of the ONE47 National Flag and all authorized State flags derive their authority from: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The Constitution of Kenya.
- The National Flag, Emblems and Names Act (as amended). (Republic of Kenya, 1963/2023)
- Regulations issued under the Act.
- Official Government Design Standards.
- This National Flag Protocol Manual. (United Nations, 2020)

No variation shall be made except as authorized by law.

16.2.2 National Ownership

The official design of the National Flag constitutes an official national symbol belonging to the Republic of Kenya.

It shall not be altered, distorted or reproduced inconsistently.

The State remains the custodian of official specifications.

16.2.3 Official Technical Drawings

The Government shall maintain official master technical drawings showing:

- Dimensions.
- Colour references.
- Construction grids. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Symbol placement.
- Approved tolerances.
- Manufacturing details.

Only these master drawings shall govern official production.

16.2.4 Legal Compliance

Manufacturers producing official flags shall comply fully with: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Technical specifications.
- Colour standards.
- Approved dimensions.
- Certification procedures.

Failure to comply may result in revocation of manufacturing authorization.

16.2.5 Intellectual Integrity

Although the National Flag is publicly displayed, its official design shall remain protected against unauthorized modification or commercial misuse.

Manufacturers shall reproduce the design faithfully and without embellishment.

16.3 Official Dimensions, Ratios and Construction Standards

16.3.1 Standard National Flag Ratio

The official ratio of the ONE47 National Flag shall be: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Height: Length = 2: 3 This ratio shall apply to:

- Outdoor flags.
- Indoor ceremonial flags.
- State flags. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Diplomatic flags.
- Educational institution flags.
- County ceremonial displays.

Alternative ratios shall be permitted only where specifically authorized by law.

16.3.2 Construction Grid

The official construction system shall follow the approved national grid:

- Height = 20 equal units.
- Width = 30 equal units.

This proportional grid shall govern placement of:

- Horizontal bands.
- White fimbriations.
- Central circular emblem.
- Forty-seven county segments.
- Central handshake emblem in its prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades.
- Presidential and Government emblems where applicable.

16.3.3 Dimensional Accuracy

Manufactured flags shall conform to approved tolerances.

Deviation from prescribed dimensions shall not exceed officially established manufacturing limits.

The proportions of all symbolic elements shall remain mathematically consistent regardless of flag size.

16.3.4 Standard Sizes

Official flags may be manufactured in approved standard sizes including:

- Building Flags.
- Parade Flags.
- Ceremonial Flags.
- Desk Flags.
- Vehicle Flags.
- Indoor Presentation Flags.

Each size shall preserve identical proportions.

16.3.5 Enlargement and Reduction

Scaling shall occur proportionately.

No element of the design shall be enlarged independently.

The relative dimensions of every symbolic component shall remain unchanged.

16.4 Official Colour Standards

16.4.1 Purpose

Colour consistency is essential to preserving the visual identity of the Republic.

All official manufacturers shall reproduce colours accurately using approved national colour references.

16.4.2 Official Colours

The official colours of the ONE47 National Flag are: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Black.
- Red.
- Green.
- White.
- Gold (where officially prescribed).
- Additional official colours applicable only to authorized State standards.

No substitutions shall be permitted.

16.4.3 Colour Specifications

Government shall maintain official colour specifications using internationally recognized systems including:

(National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) (ISO/CIE 11664-6:2022)

- Pantone Matching System (PMS).
- CMYK.
- RGB.
- HEX.
- Textile dye references.

These references shall be published within official technical appendices.

16.4.4 Colour Consistency

Colour consistency shall be maintained across:

- Fabric production.
- Printing.
- Embroidery.
- Digital reproduction.
- Official publications.
- Government websites.

Variations arising from inconsistent manufacturing shall not be accepted.

16.4.5 Environmental Resistance

- Ultraviolet radiation. (ISO 105-B02:2014)
- Rain.
- Humidity.
- Dust.
- Washing. (ISO 105-C06:2010)
- Normal outdoor exposure.

Long-term colour stability supports national dignity.

16.5 Technical Specifications for Symbolic Elements

16.5.1 Central Circular Emblem

The central circular emblem shall be reproduced precisely in accordance with official construction drawings.

Manufacturers shall not modify:

- Number of county segments.
- Segment proportions.
- Handshake positioning and prescribed two-shade colouring.
- Circular geometry.
- Symbol orientation.

16.5.2 County Ring

The ring shall contain:

- Forty-seven equal segments. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Uniform angular spacing.
- Accurate colour sequencing.
- Perfect circular geometry.

Each segment symbolizes one county of the Republic.

16.5.3 Handshake Emblem

The approved central handshake emblem shall:

- Depict two hands in prescribed light-brown and dark-brown shades.
- Maintain the approved proportions and upright orientation.
- Preserve the official vector geometry and the recognisable appearance of the two hands.
- Be centred precisely within the forty-seven-segment circular ring.

The light-brown and dark-brown shades are integral, emblem-specific colours symbolising human diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation. They are not additional official national colours and shall not alter black, white, red, green or gold (yellow). Unauthorised artistic reinterpretation or redesign is prohibited. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

16.5.4 Presidential Standard Elements

The Presidential Standard shall incorporate the following approved elements, in accordance with the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027:

- Approved ceremonial gold field.
- Central Kenyan Shield with crossed spears as the principal and non-derogable presidential symbol.
- Only approved subordinate ceremonial or decorative elements.
- Approved proportions, geometry and layout.

No decorative variation may replace the Kenyan Shield, alter national symbols or change the approved proportions, geometry or layout.

16.5.5 Technical Precision

Every official flag shall be manufactured with precision sufficient to ensure that no observer can distinguish differences between products manufactured by different certified producers.

Uniformity shall be regarded as an essential characteristic of the ONE47 National Flag System.

(Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Manufacturing Standards and Quality Assurance

16.6 Approved Materials and Fabrics

16.6.1 Purpose

The durability, appearance and symbolic dignity of the ONE47 National Flag depend significantly upon the quality of the materials from which it is manufactured. Approved materials (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) shall ensure that every official flag retains its colour, shape and structural integrity under normal conditions of use.

Only materials meeting the standards prescribed in this Manual shall be used for the manufacture of official Kenyan flags.

16.6.2 Approved Outdoor Fabrics

Flags intended for permanent or extended outdoor display shall be manufactured using durable weather-resistant materials such as:

- Heavy-duty woven polyester.
- Knitted polyester specifically designed for flag manufacture.
- High-grade nylon suitable for outdoor use.
- Other fabrics approved by the Government.

Outdoor fabrics shall possess: (ISO 105-B02:2014; ISO 139:2005)

- High tensile strength.
- Resistance to ultraviolet degradation. (ISO 105-B02:2014)
- Low water absorption.
- Resistance to tearing.
- Controlled wind permeability.

16.6.3 Approved Indoor Fabrics

Indoor ceremonial flags may be manufactured using:

- Premium woven polyester.
- Satin polyester.
- Silk of approved quality.
- High-grade ceremonial fabrics approved by the Government.

Indoor ceremonial fabrics should emphasize:

- Rich colour.
- Elegant drape.
- Smooth texture.
- Excellent embroidery compatibility.

16.6.4 Ceremonial Flag Standards

Ceremonial Flags, Presidential Standards and State Flags may include: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Gold fringe. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)
- Decorative tassels where authorized.
- Premium embroidery.
- Reinforced headers.
- Presentation-quality finishing.

These features distinguish ceremonial flags from ordinary display flags without altering official design.

16.6.5 Environmental Considerations

Manufacturing materials should promote environmental sustainability by encouraging:

- Recyclable fibres where practical.
- Responsible dye management.
- Reduced chemical waste.
- Sustainable production methods.

Environmental stewardship reflects responsible national manufacturing.

16.7 Manufacturing Processes

16.7.1 General Principle

Manufacturing shall combine precision engineering with skilled craftsmanship to ensure that every official flag conforms exactly to approved specifications.

Production shall follow documented quality-controlled procedures.

16.7.2 Cutting

Fabric cutting shall:

- Follow official construction drawings.
- Maintain dimensional accuracy.
- Prevent fraying.
- Preserve grain alignment.

Computer-assisted cutting systems may be employed where appropriate.

16.7.3 Colour Application

Colour may be applied through:

- Piece dyeing.
- Fabric printing.
- Digital textile printing.
- Other approved industrial methods.

All processes shall produce permanent colours matching official standards.

16.7.4 Embroidery

Where embroidery is required:

- Thread colours shall match approved specifications.
- Stitch density shall ensure clarity.

Decorative embroidery shall never distort official symbols.

16.7.5 Assembly

Assembly shall include:

- Accurate alignment of all panels.
- Precision joining of colour bands.
- Proper positioning of symbolic elements.
- Secure reinforcement of stress points.

Every completed flag shall undergo final dimensional verification.

16.8 Stitching, Reinforcement and Durability Standards

16.8.1 Stitching Quality

All seams shall be:

- Straight.
- Uniform.
- Secure.
- Neatly finished.

Loose threads shall not remain visible.

16.8.2 Reinforcement

Outdoor flags shall incorporate reinforcement at:

- Headers.
- Corners.
- Grommet positions.
- High-stress seams.

Reinforcement shall increase service life without altering appearance.

16.8.3 Grommets and Fastenings

Metal grommets shall:

- Resist corrosion.
- Be securely fixed.
- Permit safe attachment.
- Prevent tearing around mounting points.

Alternative fastening systems may be approved for specialized applications.

16.8.4 Wind Resistance

Outdoor flags shall withstand sustained exposure to wind without premature failure.

Manufacturers shall design reinforcement systems appropriate for expected operating conditions.

16.8.5 Service Life

Official flags should achieve reasonable service life under normal operating conditions.

Expected durability shall vary according to:

- Indoor or outdoor use.
- Climatic conditions.

- Frequency of display.
- Maintenance practices.

16.9 Quality Assurance Procedures

16.9.1 Purpose

Quality assurance ensures that every official flag accurately represents the Republic of Kenya.

Quality control shall occur throughout the manufacturing process rather than only after completion.

16.9.2 Production Inspection

Manufacturers shall inspect:

- Raw materials.
- Fabric colour.
- Cutting accuracy.
- Stitching quality.
- Embroidery.
- Finished dimensions.

Inspection records shall be maintained.

16.9.3 Final Inspection

Before release, every official flag shall be examined for:

- Colour accuracy.
- Dimensional compliance.
- Correct symbol placement.
- Structural integrity.
- Cleanliness.
- Manufacturing defects.

Flags failing inspection shall not be certified.

16.9.4 Documentation

Quality assurance documentation shall include:

- Production batch numbers.
- Material sources.
- Inspection reports.
- Colour verification.
- Certification status.

Documentation supports traceability and accountability.

16.9.5 Continuous Improvement

Manufacturers should periodically review production processes to improve:

- Consistency.
- Efficiency.
- Durability.
- Sustainability.
- Product quality.

Continuous improvement strengthens national manufacturing capability.

16.10 Official Inspection and Technical Testing

16.10.1 Government Inspection

Authorized Government inspectors may inspect manufacturing facilities producing official flags.

Inspection shall evaluate:

- Compliance with specifications.
- Equipment.
- Materials.
- Production records.
- Quality management systems.

16.10.2 Laboratory Testing

Where necessary, laboratory testing may assess: (ISO 139:2005; ISO 105-B02:2014; ISO 105- C06:2010;

ISO 105-X12:2016)

- Colour fastness.
- Fabric strength.
- UV resistance. (ISO 105-B02:2014)
- Water resistance.
- Tensile strength.
- Shrinkage characteristics.

Testing ensures long-term product reliability.

16.10.3 Colour Verification

Manufacturers shall verify colours using approved colour-management systems to ensure consistency between production batches. (ISO/CIE 11664-6:2022)

16.10.4 Random Sampling

Government inspectors may conduct random sampling of completed flags to verify continuing compliance.

Sampling promotes consistent national standards.

16.10.5 Non-Conforming Products

Flags that fail official inspection shall:

- Be rejected.
- Be corrected where feasible.
- Be destroyed where correction is impossible.
- Not enter official government supply chains.

Protection of national symbols requires zero tolerance for defective official products. (WIPO, n.d.) Storage, Maintenance, Repair, Retirement and Chapter Conclusion

16.15 Storage and Maintenance Standards

16.15.1 Purpose

Official flags of the Republic of Kenya are national assets entrusted to public institutions for the representation of the sovereignty, dignity and constitutional identity of the State. Proper storage and maintenance are therefore essential to preserving both the physical integrity and symbolic value of the ONE47 National Flag System. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act,

2027) Every institution responsible for official flags shall establish procedures to ensure that flags remain in excellent condition throughout their service life. (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

16.15.2 Storage Conditions

Official flags shall be stored in environments that are: (National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Clean.
- Dry.
- Well ventilated.
- Free from excessive humidity.
- Protected from direct sunlight.
- Free from pests and contaminants.

Storage facilities shall minimize exposure to conditions that accelerate deterioration.

16.15.3 Folding and Packaging

Flags shall be folded or rolled using approved procedures that prevent:

- Permanent creasing.
- Fabric distortion.
- Colour transfer.
- Damage to embroidered components.
- Fraying along edges.

Ceremonial flags intended for infrequent use should be stored in protective fabric sleeves or archival- quality containers.

16.15.4 Inventory Management

Every public institution shall maintain a register of official flags indicating:

- Flag type.
- Size.
- Date of acquisition.
- Manufacturer.
- Certification number.
- Current condition.
- Storage location.
- Date of last inspection.

Proper inventory management promotes accountability and facilitates timely replacement.

16.15.5 Routine Maintenance

Institutions shall periodically inspect official flags for:

- Fading.
- Fraying.
- Loose stitching.
- Damage to hoist attachments.
- Distortion of symbolic elements.
- Surface contamination.

Routine maintenance shall be undertaken before deterioration compromises the dignity of the flag.

16.16 Repair and Restoration

16.16.1 General Principle

Minor damage to official flags may be repaired where restoration preserves the original appearance and technical specifications.

Repairs shall never alter:

- Official proportions.
- Colours.
- Symbol placement.
- Construction standards.

16.16.2 Authorized Repairs

Acceptable repairs include:

- Reinforcement of seams.
- Replacement of damaged headers.
- Repair of grommets.
- Limited edge reinforcement.
- Minor stitching repairs.

Repairs shall be executed using materials matching the original construction.

16.16.3 Major Damage

Flags exhibiting:

- Significant fading.
- Large tears.
- Distorted proportions.
- Irreparable staining.
- Structural failure.

shall not be repaired for continued official display.

Such flags shall instead be retired in accordance with this Manual.

16.16.4 Restoration of Historic Flags

Historically significant flags may undergo professional conservation.

Restoration should prioritize:

- Preservation of original materials.
- Historical authenticity.
- Reversibility of conservation treatments.
- Archival documentation.

Historic flags should ordinarily be preserved for exhibition rather than returned to operational use.

16.16.5 Responsibility

Repair work shall be performed only by qualified personnel or organizations approved by the responsible Government authority.

Improper repair may compromise official certification.

16.17 Retirement and Respectful Disposal of Official Flags

16.17.1 Purpose

An official flag that has reached the end of its service life shall be retired with dignity befitting its status as a national symbol.

Retirement acknowledges the symbolic importance of the National Flag while ensuring that worn or damaged flags do not diminish the image of the Republic.

16.17.2 Criteria for Retirement

A flag shall be retired where it:

- Is faded beyond acceptable limits.
- Is torn beyond practical repair.
- Has suffered severe structural damage.
- No longer conforms to official specifications.
- Has become unsuitable for dignified display.

The decision to retire shall be recorded in institutional maintenance records.

16.17.3 Methods of Retirement

Official retirement may include:

- Placement in a Government archive.
- Transfer to an approved museum.
- Preservation for historical collections.
- Respectful destruction where preservation is not appropriate.

Destruction shall be conducted in a dignified manner that prevents misuse of the National Flag.

16.17.4 Ceremonial Retirement

Institutions may conduct simple ceremonial retirement events to reinforce respect for national symbols and educate staff regarding proper flag stewardship.

Such ceremonies should emphasize:

- National dignity.
- Constitutional respect.
- Institutional responsibility.
- Historical continuity.

16.17.5 Environmental Responsibility

Where flags are destroyed, institutions should employ environmentally responsible methods consistent with public safety and applicable environmental regulations.

This chapter has established the comprehensive technical governance framework for the manufacture, certification and life-cycle management of the ONE47 National Flag System. Beginning with the legal authority for official specifications and extending through manufacturing standards, quality assurance, certification, licensing, procurement, distribution and maintenance, the chapter provides the operational foundation necessary to ensure that every official Kenyan flag consistently reflects the dignity and constitutional identity of the Republic. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The chapter has emphasized that the National Flag is not an ordinary manufactured product but a constitutional symbol requiring exceptional precision and professional stewardship. Through standardized dimensions, approved colour systems, certified manufacturing processes, rigorous quality

displayed by its institutions. Equally important are the procedures governing storage, repair and retirement, which recognize that respectful treatment of the National Flag continues throughout its entire service life.

By establishing a unified national system for technical standards and quality control, this chapter promotes consistency across Government institutions, diplomatic missions, educational establishments, county governments and the Kenya Defence Forces. It also strengthens domestic manufacturing by encouraging certified local production while maintaining internationally recognized standards of quality and durability.

The resulting framework protects public (United Nations, 2020) confidence in Kenya's national symbols and ensures that every officially displayed flag embodies the values of excellence, professionalism and constitutional integrity.

Ultimately, the stewardship of the ONE47 National Flag extends beyond its ceremonial display to encompass every stage of its existence-from design and manufacture to inspection, maintenance and dignified retirement. Each certified flag serves as a tangible expression of the sovereignty of the Kenyan people and the enduring authority of the Constitution. Through the standards established in this chapter, the Republic affirms that the quality of its national symbols is inseparable from the quality of its institutions and the respect owed to the nation itself. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Compliance and legal status Penalties, enforcement and compliance mechanisms described in the 2027 reconciled proposal are proposed provisions only. They should not be represented as currently enforceable penalties without verified enactment.

CHAPTER 17: ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE, OFFENCES, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Legal Enforcement and
Institutional Compliance The effectiveness of the ONE47 National Flag System depends not only upon well-defined protocols and technical standards but also upon consistent enforcement and institutional compliance. National symbols derive their authority from law, yet their dignity is preserved only through faithful observance by public institutions, private organizations and individual citizens. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) This chapter establishes the legal, administrative and institutional framework necessary to ensure that the National Flag Protocol Manual is implemented uniformly throughout the Republic of Kenya. (United Nations, 2020) The provisions of this chapter apply to:

- National Government institutions.
- County Governments.
- Constitutional Commissions.
- Independent Offices.
- Parliament.
- The Judiciary.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- National Police Service.
- Public educational institutions.
- Diplomatic Missions. (United Nations, 2020)
- State Corporations.
- Public universities.
- Registered private educational institutions.
- Licensed manufacturers.
- Public event organizers.
- Citizens displaying official flags.

Every person responsible for the custody or display of an official Kenyan flag shall comply with this Manual.

Implementation shall be guided by the principles of:

- Constitutional supremacy.
- National unity.
- Equality before the law.
- Respect for national symbols.
- Accountability.
- Professionalism.
- Transparency.
- Public participation.
- Continuous improvement.

These principles shall govern every enforcement decision.

This Manual shall be read and applied together with the Constitution of Kenya, the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act (as amended), and all other relevant statutes, regulations and administrative instruments governing the use, protection and management of national symbols. It provides the operational and procedural framework through which those legal provisions are implemented consistently across all public institutions and authorized users. (Republic of Kenya, 1963/2023) Where this Manual prescribes detailed technical, ceremonial or administrative standards not expressly provided for in legislation, such standards shall be regarded as official Government policy issued under the authority of the responsible Cabinet Secretary or designated national authority, provided they are consistent with the Constitution and applicable law.

Nothing in this Manual shall be interpreted as limiting or derogating from:

- The Constitution of Kenya;
- The National Flag, Emblems and Names Act (as amended); (Republic of Kenya, 1963/2023)
- The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act;
- The Kenya Defence Forces Act;
- The National Police Service Act;
- The County Governments Act;
- The Basic Education Act;
- The Universities Act;
- The Public Service Commission Act; or
- Any other written law governing public administration, national security, public ceremonies

or official State symbols.

In the event of any inconsistency between this Manual and an Act of Parliament, the Constitution and the applicable written law shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. This Manual shall thereafter be interpreted and, where necessary, revised to maintain conformity with the prevailing legal framework.

Government institutions implementing this Manual shall therefore ensure that all policies, internal procedures, procurement practices, ceremonial protocols and operational guidelines relating to official flags are aligned with both this Manual and the applicable statutory framework. The Manual serves as the principal administrative reference for the practical implementation of Kenya's National Flag System and shall promote uniformity, legal certainty and institutional consistency throughout the Republic.

17.10 Protection, Offences and Penalty Framework

All official flags, the Kenyan Shield and the Coat of Arms require protection against desecration, misuse, counterfeit production and unauthorised reproduction. Enforcement should distinguish deliberate abuse from correctable technical or procedural non-compliance and should prioritise education, correction and proportionate sanctions.

For a future statutory enforcement model, serious contraventions may attract a maximum fine of KES 2,000,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both, subject to the Constitution, due process and the final terms of enacted law.

Manufacturers, procuring entities and custodians of official flags should maintain records that allow products to be traced, inspected, withdrawn or corrected where non-compliance is established.

Public Education, Civic Awareness and Capacity Building

17.11 National Civic Education Programme

17.11.1 Purpose

The long-term success of the ONE47 National Flag System depends not solely upon legal enforcement but upon widespread public understanding and voluntary respect for Kenya's (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) national symbols. Civic education shall therefore constitute a permanent component of the Republic's national identity programme.

The National Civic Education Programme shall cultivate informed citizenship by promoting knowledge of:

- The history of Kenya's national symbols.
- The constitutional significance of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National

Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- The symbolism embodied in the flag's colours and design.
- Proper flag etiquette and protocol.

17.11.2 Objectives

The National Civic Education Programme shall seek to:

- Strengthen patriotism.
- Promote constitutional literacy.
- Foster national cohesion.
- Encourage respect for public institutions.
- Build appreciation for Kenya's cultural diversity.
- Enhance understanding of the symbolic representation of all forty-seven counties within the

ONE47 National Flag. (Republic of Kenya, 2010) (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

17.11.3 National Coordination

The programme shall be coordinated by the Government through collaboration among:

- The Ministry responsible for Interior and National Administration.
- The Ministry responsible for Education.
- The Ministry responsible for Culture and Heritage.
- The Ministry responsible for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy.
- The National Cohesion and Integration Commission.
- Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.
- County Governments.

Other institutions may participate where appropriate.

17.11.4 Target Audiences

Public education initiatives shall reach:

- School learners.
- University students.
- Public officers.
- Community organizations.
- Youth groups.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Civil society organizations.
- Business associations.
- The general public.

Educational materials shall be adapted to different age groups and learning environments.

17.11.5 Educational Resources

Government shall develop and periodically update:

- Official publications.
- Teacher guides.
- Multimedia resources.
- Public information booklets.
- Digital learning materials.
- Mobile applications where appropriate.
- Official online repositories of approved flag specifications and protocol guidance.

These resources shall promote accurate understanding and consistent practice.

17.12 Schools, Universities and Educational Institutions

17.12.1 Curriculum Integration

The study of Kenya's national symbols, including the ONE47 National Flag, should be incorporated into relevant educational curricula at: (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

- Primary schools.
- Junior schools.
- Senior schools.
- Technical and vocational institutions.
- Universities.
- Teacher training colleges.

Instruction should connect national symbols with constitutional values, citizenship and civic responsibility.

17.12.2 School Ceremonies

Educational institutions shall use official ceremonies to reinforce respect for the National Flag through:

- Flag-raising ceremonies.
- National Anthem observance.
- Civic education assemblies.
- Constitutional commemorations.
- National holiday celebrations.

These activities shall comply with the protocols established in this Manual.

17.12.3 Student Leadership

Student leaders should receive orientation on:

- Proper flag handling.
- Ceremony management.
- Respectful conduct during official functions.
- The symbolism of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Leadership training promotes peer education and institutional continuity.

17.12.4 Higher Education

Universities and research institutions are encouraged to undertake scholarly work relating to:

- National symbolism.
- Constitutional identity.
- Public policy on national symbols.
- Comparative flag studies.
- Design and heritage conservation.

Research findings may inform future revisions of national policy.

17.12.5 Educational Competitions

Government may organize national competitions encouraging learners to demonstrate knowledge of:

- National flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Constitutional history.
- Civic responsibility.
- National identity.

- Symbolism of the Republic.

Such programmes strengthen civic engagement.

17.13 Public Awareness Campaigns

17.13.1 National Campaigns

Government shall periodically conduct nationwide awareness campaigns promoting:

- Proper display of the National Flag.
- Respect for national symbols.
- National holidays.
- Constitutional anniversaries.
- Civic participation.

Campaigns should emphasize the unifying role of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

17.13.2 Digital Communication

Official communication shall utilize:

- Government websites.
- Social media platforms.
- Mobile communication.
- Digital public information systems.
- Online educational portals.

Official digital resources shall provide accurate and easily accessible guidance.

17.13.3 Print and Broadcast Media

Television, radio and print media shall be encouraged to support civic education through:

- Public service announcements.
- Educational documentaries.
- Interviews with experts.
- National history programming.
- Coverage of official ceremonies.

Media participation strengthens public understanding.

17.13.4 National Celebrations

National holidays provide valuable opportunities for civic education.

Government shall integrate educational messaging into:

- Madaraka Day.
- Jamhuri Day.
- Mashujaa Day.
- Utamaduni Day.
- Constitutional anniversaries.
- Other official commemorations.

These occasions reinforce the living significance of national symbols.

17.13.5 Accessibility

Educational materials should be made available in formats accessible to persons with disabilities and, where appropriate, translated into Kenya's official and national languages to maximize public understanding.

17.14 Professional Training and Institutional Capacity Building

17.14.1 Purpose

Professional competence is essential to the consistent implementation of national flag standards.

Government shall establish continuous training programmes for personnel responsible for flag management and protocol.

17.14.2 Target Personnel

Training shall be provided to:

- Protocol officers.
- County administrators.
- Public communication officers.
- Military ceremonial personnel.
- Police officers.
- School administrators.
- Event coordinators.
- Diplomatic officers.
- Procurement officers.
- Museum and heritage professionals.

17.14.3 Training Content

Training programmes shall include:

- Constitutional significance of national symbols.
- Flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Ceremonial procedures.
- Technical standards.
- Procurement requirements.
- Quality assurance.
- Inspection procedures.
- Public communication.

17.14.4 Certification

Government may establish professional certification programmes for protocol officers and other specialists involved in the management of official flags.

Certification promotes professional standards and institutional consistency.

17.14.5 Continuous Development

Institutions should regularly update training materials to reflect:

- Legislative amendments.
- Technological developments.
- International best practice.
- Lessons learned from official ceremonies.

Continuous learning supports excellence.

17.15 Partnerships with Civil Society, Media and the Private Sector

17.15.1 Collaborative Approach

The promotion of respect for national symbols is a shared national responsibility. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Government shall encourage constructive partnerships with:

- Civil society organizations.
- Professional associations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Community groups.
- Media organizations.
- Private sector institutions.

17.15.2 Civil Society Participation

Civil society organizations may contribute through:

- Civic education programmes.
- Community forums.
- Public dialogue.
- Educational publications.
- Volunteer initiatives.

Participation should remain non-partisan and consistent with constitutional values.

17.15.3 Media Responsibility

Media organizations are encouraged to:

- Reproduce the National Flag accurately.
- Observe official protocol during broadcasts.
- Promote civic understanding.
- Correct misinformation concerning national symbols.

Responsible journalism contributes to informed citizenship.

17.15.4 Private Sector Engagement

Businesses may support civic education by:

- Respectfully displaying the National Flag during national celebrations.
- Supporting educational initiatives.
- Sponsoring civic programmes consistent with official standards.

Commercial participation shall never diminish the dignity of the National Flag.

17.15.5 International Cooperation

Kenya may cooperate with international organizations and friendly states in promoting:

- Heritage conservation.
- Flag preservation.
- Museum development.
- Protocol training.
- Comparative research into national symbols.

Such cooperation shall respect Kenya's constitutional identity and sovereign authority over its national symbols.

National Implementation Framework, Monitoring, Stewardship and Conclusion

17.16 National Implementation Strategy

17.16.1 Purpose

The successful implementation of the ONE47 National Flag System requires a coordinated, phased and well-resourced national strategy. While this Manual establishes the legal, technical and ceremonial standards governing Kenya's official flags, effective implementation depends upon institutional commitment, public participation and sustained administrative oversight. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) The National Implementation Strategy shall provide the framework through which all provisions of this Manual are progressively integrated into the operations of Government institutions and public life.

17.16.2 National Coordination

Overall responsibility for implementation shall rest with the National Government through the Ministry designated by law to administer matters relating to national symbols.

The coordinating authority shall:

- Develop implementation schedules.
- Issue operational directives.
- Coordinate inter-agency collaboration.
- Monitor institutional compliance.
- Publish implementation guidance.
- Maintain official technical standards.
- Facilitate periodic review of this Manual.

17.16.3 Institutional Implementation Plans

Every institution subject to this Manual shall prepare an internal implementation plan identifying:

- Existing flag assets.
- Compliance status.
- Procurement requirements.
- Training needs.
- Budgetary implications.
- Timelines for compliance.
- Responsible officers.

Implementation plans should be reviewed annually.

17.16.4 Phased Implementation

A national transition should allow twelve months from formal commencement for institutions to complete replacement, procurement, training and public-awareness requirements. Existing flags may continue in service during the transition period so that implementation is orderly, financially manageable and institutionally consistent.

The transition programme should include inventories of existing flags, replacement priorities, procurement planning, staff training, public communication, disposal or archival arrangements and verification that new official flags meet the approved technical standards.

Implementation may occur in phases to ensure orderly transition.

Illustrative phases include: Phase I

- Publication of official standards.

- Appointment of coordinating officers.
- Development of educational materials.

Phase II

- Institutional training.
- Procurement of certified flags.
- Replacement of obsolete flag stock.

Phase III

- Full operational compliance.
- Public awareness campaigns.
- Comprehensive inspection programme.

17.16.5 Financial Planning

Implementation shall be incorporated into normal institutional budgeting processes.

Government should prioritize:

- Procurement of certified flags.
- Training programmes.
- Public education.
- Inspection systems.
- Technical standardization.

17.17 Monitoring, Evaluation and Periodic Review

17.17.1 Purpose

The effectiveness of the National Flag System shall be evaluated continuously to ensure that implementation remains consistent with constitutional objectives and public expectations.

Monitoring promotes accountability while identifying opportunities for improvement.

17.17.2 Institutional Monitoring

Each institution shall periodically evaluate:

- Compliance with flag protocol. (United Nations, 2020)
- Condition of official flags.
- Procurement practices.
- Staff competence.
- Public interaction with national symbols.

Monitoring reports should be submitted to the designated national authority where required.

17.17.3 National Evaluation

The coordinating authority may undertake periodic nationwide assessments examining:

- Institutional compliance.
- Manufacturing standards.
- Public awareness.
- Training effectiveness.
- Enforcement outcomes.
- Supply chain integrity.

These assessments support evidence-based policy development.

17.17.4 Periodic Review of the Manual

This National Flag Protocol Manual should be reviewed periodically to: (United Nations, 2020)

- Reflect legislative amendments.
- Incorporate technological developments.
- Address operational experience.
- Improve clarity.
- Align with evolving international best practice.

Reviews shall preserve the constitutional identity of the ONE47 National Flag. (Explanatory Memorandum to National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027)

17.17.5 Stakeholder Consultation

Future revisions should involve consultation with:

- Government institutions.
- County Governments.
- Kenya Defence Forces.
- Educational institutions.
- Manufacturers.
- Civil society.
- Cultural organizations.
- Constitutional experts.
- Members of the public.

Consultation strengthens legitimacy and public ownership.

17.18 Research, Innovation and Continuous Improvement

17.18.1 Encouraging Research

Government shall encourage continued academic and professional research concerning:

- National symbolism.
- Constitutional identity.
- Flag manufacture.
- Heritage preservation.
- Public administration.
- Civic education.

Research strengthens long-term policy development.

17.18.2 Innovation

Innovation should improve:

- Manufacturing quality.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Digital communication.
- Public education.
- Preservation techniques.

Innovation shall never compromise the official design of authorized flags.

17.18.3 International Best Practice

Kenya may study international experience regarding:

- Flag conservation.
- Museum preservation.
- Protocol administration.
- Manufacturing standards.
- Public education.

Comparative learning supports institutional excellence while preserving Kenya's unique constitutional identity.

17.18.4 Documentation

Government should maintain comprehensive historical documentation concerning:

- Evolution of national symbols.
- Legislative reforms.
- Technical specifications.
- Official ceremonies.
- Historical flag collections.

These archives contribute to national heritage.

17.18.5 National Knowledge Centre

Government may establish a National Centre for Flag Studies and National Symbols to:

- Preserve official records.
- Conduct research.
- Provide technical advice.
- Support museums.
- Train protocol officers.
- Promote civic education.

Such a centre would strengthen institutional memory.

17.19 National Stewardship of the ONE47 National Flag System

17.19.1 Shared Responsibility

The preservation of Kenya's National Flag is a shared responsibility.

Government provides leadership, but every citizen contributes to safeguarding national dignity.

17.19.2 Institutional Stewardship

Public institutions shall:

- Protect official flags.
- Maintain ceremonial standards.
- Ensure legal compliance.
- Promote civic education.
- Demonstrate respect for national symbols.

Leadership by example encourages voluntary public compliance.

17.19.3 Citizenship

Citizens are encouraged to:

- Display the National Flag respectfully.
- Observe official protocol.

- Report counterfeit official flags.
- Participate in national celebrations.

Patriotism is strengthened through informed participation.

17.19.4 National Unity

The ONE47 National Flag symbolizes:

- One Republic.
- One Constitution.
- One sovereign people.
- forty-seven counties represented by equal segments.
- Shared national destiny.

Its stewardship belongs collectively to every Kenyan.

17.19.5 Legacy

Every generation holds the National Flag in trust for those who follow.

Respect shown today strengthens national identity for future generations.

Volume II and Final Reflections This chapter has established the comprehensive framework through which the ONE47 National Flag System shall be implemented, monitored, enforced and sustained throughout the Republic of Kenya. It has prescribed institutional responsibilities, administrative enforcement mechanisms, public education strategies, professional capacity-building programmes and a structured national implementation framework that collectively ensure the practical realization of the standards contained in this Manual. By combining legal authority with civic education and institutional coordination, the chapter recognizes that enduring respect for national symbols depends as much upon informed public participation as upon statutory compliance. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Throughout Volume II, the National Flag has been presented not merely as a ceremonial object but as a living constitutional institution. From the technical standards governing its manufacture to the protocols regulating its display in Government offices, county governments, schools, diplomatic missions, the Kenya Defence Forces and State ceremonies, every provision has been directed toward preserving the dignity, consistency and symbolic authority of Kenya's national emblems. The implementation measures established in this concluding chapter ensure that these standards become an enduring feature of public administration rather than temporary administrative guidance. (United Nations, 2020) The ONE47 National Flag embodies the constitutional principle that the Republic is founded upon the equal dignity of all its people and all its counties. Its forty-seven equal segments symbolize the indivisible unity of Kenya’s counties within one sovereign nation, while the central handshake, rendered in its prescribed light-brown and dark-brown emblem-specific shades, expresses human diversity, equality, mutual respect, unity and cooperation. These shades do not alter the five official national colours.

Republic for harmony, justice and shared prosperity. Every certified flag manufactured, every protocol observed, every ceremony conducted and every citizen educated contributes to strengthening the constitutional identity expressed through this national symbol. (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) Accordingly, the stewardship of the ONE47 National Flag extends beyond Government institutions to encompass every Kenyan. Respect for the National Flag is ultimately respect for the Constitution, for democratic governance and for the collective achievements and aspirations of the nation. By faithfully implementing the provisions of this Manual, the Republic affirms its (Explanatory Memorandum to the National Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2027) commitment to preserving the integrity of its national symbols while promoting patriotism, civic responsibility and national cohesion for present and future generations.

PRODUCTION STANDARD REFERENCE

All procurement, commissioning, deployment and replacement of official flags shall identify the applicable authorised Production Fidelity Class and comply with the requirements below.

Reference	Production requirement
Official Master Design	Use the authorised master design and artwork prescribed in Volume III.
Production Fidelity Class	Identify the applicable authorised Production Fidelity Class for each flag.
Manufacturing Standards	Comply with the manufacturing requirements prescribed in Volume III.
Quality Assurance	Apply the prescribed inspection and quality-assurance requirements.
Official Certification	Meet the applicable certification requirements before official deployment.

Controlling references: Volume III, Chapters 9–15.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sammywilliam Michael Mwangi Njoroge is an Architect, Economist, Policy Developer and Community Empowerment Advocate committed to advancing a united, prosperous and modern Kenya.

As an architect, he brings an understanding of genius loci — the spirit and identity of place — and of the influence of design, symbolism, form and colour in shaping collective identity. His multidisciplinary perspective connects architecture, economics, policy and national development.

He is the founder of the Sammywilliam Foundation, a charitable organisation supporting vulnerable children through initiatives in food, education and healthcare. He also participates in community empowerment programmes, with particular emphasis on youth development and opportunity creation.

Through his work, Sammywilliam advocates for a Kenya where unity and prosperity move beyond political rhetoric to become part of the nation’s identity and lived reality. His enduring vision is a united, prosperous, modern Kenya, confident in its identity and determined to build a first-world future.

ABOUT THE SERIES

The ONE47 National Civic Education Manual Series is the principal educational publication programme of ONE47. The series consists of eight volumes designed as an integrated body of civic-education knowledge. The volumes are intended to provide progressively structured material through which readers can explore Kenya's citizenship, national identity, constitutional principles, institutions, public participation, national symbols and the responsibilities associated with building the country's future.

The series is intended for students and young people, teachers and educators, community leaders, civic-education practitioners, public institutions, civil-society organizations, professionals, families, individual citizens and readers interested in Kenya's national development.

Eight Volumes. One Civic Education Framework.

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