

Public Order Bill

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Bill No: 8/2009

Read the first time: 23rd March 2009

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Public Order Bill

Bill No. 8/2009

Read the first time on 23rd March 2009.

An Act to regulate assemblies and processions in public places, to provide powers necessary for preserving public order and the safety of individuals at special event areas, to supplement other laws relating to the preservation and maintenance of public order in public places, and to make consequential and related amendments to certain other written laws.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Order Act 2009 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“act of terrorism” means any of the following:

- (a) a terrorist bombing offence within the meaning of the Terrorism (Suppression of Bombings) Act (Cap. 324A);
- (b) a terrorist act within the meaning of the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act (Cap. 325);

“assembly” means a gathering or meeting (whether or not comprising any lecture, talk, address, debate or discussion) of persons the purpose (or one of the purposes) of which is —

- (a) to demonstrate support for or opposition to the views or actions of any person, group of persons or any government;
- (b) to publicise a cause or campaign; or
- (c) to mark or commemorate any event,

and includes a demonstration by a person alone for any such purpose referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c);

“authorised officer”, in relation to any provision in this Act or the regulations, means any police officer authorised in that behalf by the Commissioner for the purposes of that provision;

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Police appointed under the Police Force Act (Cap. 235);

“copy”, in relation to a film, means any article or thing in which the visual images or sounds comprising the film are embodied;

“declaration” means a declaration made under section 21;

“event” includes any rehearsal, sound and light testing and other ancillary activities necessary and incidental to an event;

“permit” means a permit granted under section 7 in respect of a public assembly or public procession;

“place” includes any motor vehicle, train, vessel, aircraft or other conveyance;

“procession” means a march, parade or other procession (whether or not involving the use of vehicles or other conveyances) —

- (a) comprising 2 or more persons gathered at a place of assembly to move from that place substantially as a body of persons in succession proceeding by a common route or routes; and