

**Public Order (Preservation) Act  
(CHAPTER 258)**

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## **PUBLIC ORDER (PRESERVATION) ACT**

### **(CHAPTER 258)**

**(Original Enactment: M Ordinance 46 of 1958)**

**REVISED EDITION 1985**

**(30th March 1987)**

An Act relating to the maintenance and restoration of public order.

[16th September 1963]

## **PART I**

### **PRELIMINARY**

#### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Order (Preservation) Act.

#### **Interpretation**

2. In this Act, except in so far as the context otherwise requires or it is otherwise expressly provided —

- “Commissioner of Police” includes any police officer for the time being lawfully authorised to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed upon the Commissioner of Police by this Act;
- “corrosive substance” means any of the acids and substances specified in the First Schedule and shall be deemed to include all substances which are capable on application to the human body of causing hurt through corrosive action;
- “document” includes any substance on which is recorded any matter, whether by letters, figures, marks, pictorial or other representation, or by more than one of these means;
- “explosive substance” shall be deemed to include any materials for making any explosive substance and any bomb, grenade, apparatus, machine, implement or material used or intended to be used or adapted for causing or aiding in causing any explosion in or with any explosive substance and any part of such bomb, grenade, apparatus, machine or implement;
- “hurt” means hurt as defined in the Penal Code [Cap. 224];
- “Minister” means the Minister charged with responsibility for internal security;
- “offensive weapon” includes any instrument which if used as a weapon of offence is likely to cause hurt;
- “police officer” includes an auxiliary police officer and a special police officer appointed in accordance with any written law for the time being in force;
- “proclaimed area” means an area in respect of which a proclamation made or renewed under section 3 is for the time being in force;
- “subversive document” means any document which contains —
- (a) any matter which is seditious within the meaning of the Sedition Act [Cap. 290];
  - (b) any matter likely to be prejudicial to the maintenance or restoration of public order;
  - (c) any matter counselling or likely to lead to disobedience to the law of Singapore or to any lawful order therein;
  - (d) any matter inciting or likely to lead to unlawful violence or the promotion of feeling of ill-will or hostility between different races or classes of the population in Singapore; or
  - (e) any matter likely to bring into hatred or contempt or to excite

disaffection against any public servant in the execution of his duties or any class of public servants or against any armed force lawfully in Singapore or any member of such force in the execution of his duties.

## PART II

### PROCLAMATION OF DANGER TO PUBLIC ORDER

#### **Proclamation of state of danger to public order**

3.—(1) If, in the opinion of the Minister, public order in any area in Singapore is seriously disturbed or is seriously threatened the Minister may, if he considers it to be necessary for the purpose of maintaining or restoring public order in that area to do so, proclaim the existence in that area of a state of danger to public order.

(2) Every proclamation made under subsection (1) shall apply only to such area as is therein specified and shall remain in force until it is revoked by the Minister or ceases to have effect in accordance with subsection (3).

(3) Every proclamation made under subsection (1) shall, but without prejudice to anything previously done by virtue thereof, cease to have effect upon the expiration of one month from the date upon which it was made:

Provided that a proclamation in force may be renewed by declaration of the Minister from time to time for such period, not exceeding one month at a time, as may be specified in the declaration.

(4) A proclamation made under subsection (1) and a declaration of renewal made under subsection (3) shall be published in such manner as the Minister thinks necessary for bringing it to the notice of all persons who in his opinion ought to have notice thereof and shall have effect as soon as such notice has been given, without publication in the *Gazette*.

(5) A copy of every proclamation made under subsection (1) and of every declaration of renewal made under subsection (3) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after it has been made and if a resolution is passed by Parliament annulling the proclamation or declaration, it shall cease to have effect, notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3), but without prejudice to anything previously done by virtue thereof.

## PART III