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CHAPTER 238

LEPERS

An Act relating to lepers.

[Commencement 5th June, 1928]

*10 of 1928
G.N. 7(9) of 1964
18 of 1965
E.L.A.O., 1974
5 of 1987*

1. This Act may be cited as the Lepers Act. Short title.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpretation.
 - “leper” means any person suffering from any variety of leprosy;
 - “leper asylum” means any part of New Providence set apart for the segregation and confinement of lepers;
 - “magistrate” means a stipendiary and circuit magistrate or the commissioner of any district whom the Governor-General may by Order to be published in the *Gazette* from time to time appoint to exercise any jurisdiction conferred by this Act;
 - “medical officer” includes the Chief Medical Officer, the medical officer or a district medical officer;
 - “medical practitioner” means a duly qualified medical practitioner within the meaning of the Medical Act; Ch. 224.
 - “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Medical, Nursing and Health Services. *E.L.A.O., 1974.*
3. (1) The Minister may by Order to be published in the *Gazette* set apart any portion of New Providence as a leper asylum, and any lepers may lawfully be detained therein any law to the contrary notwithstanding. Portion of New Providence to be set apart for leper asylum.
E.L.A.O., 1974.
 - (2) The medical officer shall be the medical superintendent of the leper asylum.
4. (1) Every person residing in any house used for human habitation who knows or has good reason to suspect that any inmate therein is a leper, and every person who knows or reasonably suspects that any person employed by him is a leper, and every person who knows Duty to give notice of case of leprosy.

or has good reasons to suspect that any person residing in the same district with him is a leper, shall forthwith give notice thereof to a medical officer and if there is no medical officer of the district to the commissioner. In New Providence such notice shall be given to the Chief Medical Officer.

(2) On receiving such notice a medical officer shall forthwith visit and examine such inmate, employee or other suspected person and send a full report in writing to the Minister with a written certificate, stating whether, in his opinion such inmate, employee or other suspected person is or is not afflicted with leprosy.

(3) The Chief Medical Officer may have such inmate, employee or other suspected person visited, examined and reported upon, and such visit, examination and report shall be made under such rules as the Minister may prescribe; and such report shall be made to the Minister.

Neglect to give notice.
5 of 1987, Sch.

5. Every person wilfully neglecting to give such notice as aforesaid shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of fifty dollars.

Segregation, etc., of Lepers

Application for removal to leper asylum.

6. (1) After the receipt of such report, as provided for by section 4 of this Act as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Minister, if he shall think fit, to apply to a magistrate for an order that the leper or alleged leper be removed to or detained in a leper asylum.

Power to make order for removal of leper to asylum.

(2) It shall be lawful for a magistrate, upon application being made to him by the Minister for an order that the leper or alleged leper be removed to, or detained in, a leper asylum, to make such an order:

Evidence required to prove leprosy.

Provided that no such order shall be made and no person shall be committed or removed to or detained in a leper asylum under the provisions of this Act unless a certificate shall have been given by two medical practitioners that such person is actually suffering from the disease of leprosy.

Abstinence from making order if bond given.

7. (1) If on the hearing of the case the leper or any one on his behalf gives security by a bond to the satisfaction of the magistrate that such person shall be properly isolated

and maintained and treated in private and shall not be suffered to be at large, the magistrate may abstain from making an order of removal.

(2) If it afterwards be proved to the satisfaction of a magistrate that any leper as to whom security has been given under subsection (1) of this section is not maintained in a state of isolation from the general public, such bond shall be forfeited and it shall thereupon be lawful for such magistrate by warrant under his hand to order such leper to be removed to and detained in a leper asylum until he is discharged by order of the Minister under the provisions of this Act.

Forfeiture of bond.

8. The Chief Medical Officer or the medical superintendent may, on the application of any leper able to support himself, and with the approval of the Minister admit such leper to a leper asylum, and such admission shall be on such terms and conditions as to payment for maintenance and in other respects as to the Minister may seem meet. Such leper shall remain in a leper asylum until discharged therefrom under the provisions of this Act.

Admission to leper asylum of leper able to support himself.

9. (1) Upon the application of the Minister a magistrate may order a leper detained in a leper asylum or any person legally bound to maintain a leper so detained to contribute such sum either by weekly payments or otherwise and whether in respect of past or future maintenance, as the magistrate may deem reasonable in view of all the circumstances of the case, and any sum so ordered to be contributed shall be recoverable as a debt due to the Minister, and shall, in the case of the leper himself, be a charge upon any real property vested in him at the time of his admission to a leper asylum or to which he may become entitled during his detention therein, and no conveyance or other disposition of real property by him while so detained shall be valid without the consent of the Minister:

Order of contribution for leper's maintenance may be made.

Provided that no such order of contribution shall be made unless it is proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate that such leper or person legally bound to maintain is able to contribute to the cost of maintenance.

(2) Any sums recovered by the Minister under this section shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund and shall be accounted for annually to Parliament.