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**SCHEDULE.****CHAPTER 35.****UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES.**

28 of 1909.  
17 of 1912.  
35 of 1913.

**An Ordinance to Facilitate the Detection of Crime and to Provide for the Deportation of Persons found guilty of crimes committed in connection with the Human Leopard and Alligator Societies.**

[10TH DECEMBER, 1909.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Unlawful Societies (Human Leopard and Alligator) Ordinance, and shall apply to the Colony and Protectorate.

Interpreta-  
tion.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—  
“unlawful society” means the Human Leopard Society, the Human Alligator Society, or any other society existing

for the purpose of committing or encouraging or procuring the commission of murder;

“ alien ” means a person who is a natural born subject of a foreign state or has been naturalised as such.

3. Any person who, either before or after the commencement of this Ordinance, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the party accused), has had or has in his possession or custody, or under his control, any of the articles mentioned in the schedule hereto, or who shall have been, or shall be, found wearing or carrying any one or more of the said articles, shall, unless he can prove that he had it or them in his possession or under his control for a lawful purpose, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Persons found in possession of any article in schedule.

4. When any Magistrate, or Justice of the Peace, is satisfied, by information on oath, that any one or more of the articles mentioned in the schedule hereto are being kept or concealed in any place, or in the possession, custody, or control of any person, he may grant a warrant, by virtue of which it shall be lawful for any person named in such warrant to enter at any time, and, if need be, by force, on Sundays, as well as on other days, any place named in such warrant, and examine the same, and search for the said articles therein, and seize and detain the same.

Search warrant.

5. Any member of the Police Force or Royal West African Frontier Force, or other person authorised by a District Commissioner, who has reasonable cause to believe that any articles mentioned in the schedule hereto are being carried, kept, or concealed, contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, may arrest any person, enter, inspect and examine any place, and shall, for the purposes of this section, have the same powers, and be in the same position, as if he were authorised by a search warrant.

Persons empowered to search premises on reasonable suspicion without warrant.

6. When any person is alleged to have been murdered by members of any unlawful society, whether known or unknown, it shall be lawful for any of the persons mentioned in section 5 hereof to enter at any time, and, if need be, by force, on Sundays, as well as on other days, and inspect and examine any place in the neighbourhood of the scene of any such alleged murder, and search for any one or more of the articles mentioned in the schedule hereto, and seize and detain the same.

Search after a murder.

General search when ordered.

7. The Governor in Council may, from time to time, by Order, empower any officer of the Police Force or Royal West African Frontier Force to search any town, village, or *fakai*, or other place in the Colony or Protectorate, by virtue of which Order it shall be lawful for the officer named in such Order, or other person acting in his aid, to enter at any time, and, if need be, by force, on Sundays, as well as on other days, any houses, buildings or premises situate in any town, village, *fakai* or other place named in such Order, and to examine and search for the articles mentioned in the schedule hereto, and to seize and detain the same.

Penalty for obstruction.

8. Every person who fails to admit, or who hinders, molests or obstructs any such person or officer mentioned in the last three sections, shall be liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a penalty, not exceeding fifty pounds, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding twelve months.

Interpretation of criminal possession.

9. When the possession, custody or control of any article is in this Ordinance expressed to be an offence, if any person shall have any such article in his personal custody or possession, or shall knowingly and wilfully have any such article in the actual custody or possession of any other person, or shall knowingly and wilfully have any such article in any dwelling house or other building, lodging, apartment, field or other place, open or enclosed, whether belonging to, or occupied by, himself or not, and whether such article shall be had for his own use, or for the use or benefit of another, every such person shall be deemed and taken to have such article in his custody or possession within the meaning of this Ordinance.

Chief abetting.

10. Any chief, sub-chief or headman, who directly or indirectly permits, encourages or abets, or is concerned in the celebration in any town, village or place under the authority of such chief, sub-chief, or headman, of any unlawful society customs, or who, knowing of any such celebration or intended allowance, does not, with all reasonable despatch, report the same to a District Commissioner or some member of the Police Force or Royal West African Frontier Force, shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be liable to a fine, not exceeding five hundred pounds, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding twelve months.

Power to arrest and detain chiefs.

11. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, to order the arrest and detention, as prisoner or otherwise, of any such chief or sub-chief, as may be deemed expedient