

CHAPTER 153.

MIDWIVES.

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CHAPTER 153.

MIDWIVES.

An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the training, registration and practice of midwives and to regulate the training, enrolment and practice of other persons engaged in midwifery.

19 of 1955.
12 of 1957.

[Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 15,
19, 24 and 25—

15TH NOVEMBER, 1956.

Remainder—

14TH MAY, 1959.]

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Midwives Ordinance and shall come into operation on such day as the Governor may by Order appoint: Short title.

Provided that the Governor may, if he considers it necessary or expedient, either by one Order or different Orders, appoint different days for the coming into operation of different provisions hereof.

2. (1) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpreta-
tion.

“Auxiliary Roll” means the Auxiliary Roll of village maternity assistants kept by the Registrar in terms of section 4;

“Board” means the Midwives’ Board established under section 3;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“enrolled” with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions means enrolled in the Auxiliary Roll under the provisions of this Ordinance;

“midwife” means a woman who holds any of the qualifications specified in section 5;

“midwifery” means the attendance on a woman for the purpose of delivering her of a child;

“Register” means the Midwives’ Register kept by the Registrar in terms of section 4;

“registered” with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, except in the expression “registered medical practitioner”, means registered in the Register under the provisions of this Ordinance;

“ Registrar ” means the Registrar of Midwives appointed in terms of section 4;

“ Supervisory Authority ” means a Supervisory Authority appointed by the Board under the provisions of section 14;

“ village maternity assistant ” means a woman enrolled as such.

(2) Every person shall be deemed to practise midwifery within the meaning of this Ordinance who for the sake of gain holds himself or herself out, whether directly or by implication, as practising, or being prepared to practise, midwifery.

Establishment of Board.

3. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance there shall be constituted a Midwives' Board consisting of the following persons—

(a) the Director of Medical Services;

(b) one registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the Minister of Health;

(c) one registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the professional association which in the opinion of the Minister of Health represents the majority of medical practitioners registered as such in Sierra Leone;

(d) one Senior Nursing Sister or Sister Tutor, who shall also be a registered midwife, or a registered midwife possessing the Midwife Teacher's Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board of the United Kingdom, to be appointed by the Minister of Health;

(e) one person to be appointed by the Minister of Education;

(f) one registered midwife to be appointed by the Medical Workers' Association;

(g) two other persons registered in the United Kingdom as State Certified Midwives or holding qualifications recognised by the Central Midwives' Board of the United Kingdom, to be appointed by the Minister of Health;

(h) one person to be appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

(2) The period of appointment of the persons referred to in paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) of sub-section (1) of this section shall be three years, but such persons shall be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that on the inability to act or absence from Sierra Leone of any such person the Minister who appointed such

12 of 1957.

person, or in the case of a person appointed in accordance with paragraph (f) of sub-section (1) the Medical Workers' Association, may appoint temporarily or otherwise, to fill the vacancy caused thereby, any person qualified in the manner respectively indicated by such paragraphs.

(3) The Director shall be President of the Board and shall be the Chairman of all meetings which he attends. In his absence from any meeting the members present at that meeting shall elect a Chairman out of their number for that meeting.

(4) The Board shall meet at such places and times as the President thereof may appoint and at any meeting four members shall form a quorum.

(5) The Board, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and any rules made under section 11, shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

(6) Every question which comes before the Board at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present.

(7) In the case of an equality of votes on any question at any such meeting the Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as an original vote in respect of such question.

4. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance there shall be—

(a) a Registrar of Midwives;

(b) a Midwives' Register;

(c) an Auxiliary Roll of village maternity assistants.

Appointment
of Registrar,
etc.

(2) The Registrar, who shall be the Deputy Director of Medical Services, shall keep the Register and the Auxiliary Roll, making from time to time all necessary alterations and corrections therein, and shall perform such other duties in connection with the Register and the Auxiliary Roll as may be prescribed by rules made under section 11.

(3) (a) The Register shall contain the names of all midwives registered by reason of the provisions of section 5.

(b) The Auxiliary Roll shall contain the names of all village maternity assistants enrolled by reason of the provisions of section 6.

(c) Every entry into the Register shall indicate the qualifications by virtue of which registration is made.

Persons
entitled to
registration.

5. Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, any woman shall be entitled to be registered as a midwife if—

(a) she holds a valid certificate of competency in midwifery issued by the Board in pursuance of rules made under section 11; or

(b) she holds a diploma or certificate which entitles her to be registered as a State Certified Midwife in the United Kingdom; or

(c) she produces satisfactory evidence that she has been registered as a midwife in the Gambia, Ghana or the Federation of Nigeria in which there is for the time being any law in force for the certification or registration of midwives:

Provided that the standard of training and examination required in that country is, in the opinion of the Board, whose decision thereon shall be final, equal to the standard adopted by the Board; or

(d) she was registered as a midwife by the Director of Medical Services prior to the commencement of this Ordinance.

Persons
entitled to
enrolment.

6. Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, any woman shall be entitled to be enrolled in the Auxiliary Roll if she holds a valid certificate of competency in general assistant midwifery, issued by the Board in pursuance of rules made under section 11.

Registration
and
enrolment.

7. (1) Any person entitled to be registered or enrolled may apply to the Registrar for registration or enrolment, as the case may be. Every such application shall be made in such manner and shall be accompanied by such documents, photographs and particulars as may be prescribed. Proof of identity shall be furnished in each case to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

(2) Upon compliance with the provisions of sub-section (1), and with any rules relating thereto, and on payment of the prescribed fee, the name of such person shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), be entered in the Register, or on the Auxiliary Roll, as the case may be, by the Registrar upon direction of the Board.

(3) If any person has been or is convicted of any offence which in the opinion of the Board renders such person unfit to be registered or enrolled, the Board may direct the Registrar to refuse to register or enrol such person, or, if such person is already registered or enrolled, to remove the name of such person from the Register or Auxiliary Roll, as the case may be.