

Broadcasting and Television Ordinance

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Bill No: 208/1963

Read the first time: 13th June 1963

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Expenditure of Public Money

Broadcasting and Television Ordinance

Bill No. 208/1963

Read the first time on 13th June 1963.

An Ordinance to provide for the control of broadcasting and television services and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by the Yang di-Pertuan Negara with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Singapore, as follows: —

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Broadcasting and Television Ordinance, 1963, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may by notification in the *Gazette* appoint.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Ordinance.

Interpretation

2. In this Ordinance —

“broadcasting apparatus” means any apparatus capable of, or designed or constructed for the transmission or reception of, broadcast matter by radio waves, wire or cable;

“broadcast matter” means any signs or signals transmitted by a broadcasting station, whether for aural or visual reception or both, and includes any music, theatrical or other entertainment, concert, lecture, speech, address, news and information of any kind so transmitted;

“broadcasting station” means a station which transmits broadcast matter by radio waves, wire or cable for reception by the general public;

“radio waves” means electromagnetic waves of frequencies lower than 3,000 gigacycles per second propagated in space without artificial guide;

“wire” or “cable” means any wire or cable used for the purpose of transmitting or receiving broadcast matter with any casing, coating, tube or pipe enclosing the same, and any appliances and apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of fixing or insulating the same.

Exclusive privilege

3. The Government shall have the exclusive privilege of establishing any broadcasting station and installing and working any apparatus for the purpose of —

- (a) transmitting broadcast matter within Singapore whether by radio waves, wire or cable; and
- (b) transmitting broadcast matter to any place, ship, aircraft or vehicle outside Singapore; and
- (c) receiving in Singapore any broadcast matter transmitted from any place, ship or aircraft outside Singapore.

Licensing

4. The Minister may, whenever he deems it expedient to do so, license the establishment of any broadcasting station or the installation or working of any broadcasting apparatus in any place in Singapore or on board any ship, aircraft or vehicle registered in Singapore:

Provided that no licence shall be granted for the licensing of any broadcasting station on board any ship registered in Singapore for the purposes of carrying out transmission of broadcast matter outside the territorial waters of Singapore.

Minister may delegate his powers

5.—(1) The Minister may delegate all or any of his powers under this Ordinance, except the power to make regulations, to such officer or officers as he thinks fit, and may appoint officers for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) All such officers shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 119).

Prohibitions

6.—(1) No person shall —

- (a) establish any broadcasting station or install or work any broadcasting apparatus in any place in Singapore or on board any ship, aircraft or vehicle registered in Singapore; or
- (b) offer for sale, sell or have in his possession, with a view to sale, any broadcasting apparatus,

except under and in accordance with a licence granted under this Ordinance.

(2) Every such licence shall be in such form and for such period and may contain such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine.

Penalties

7.—(1) Any person who establishes a broadcasting station or installs or works any broadcasting apparatus without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under this Ordinance and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, and in either case shall be liable to forfeit any broadcasting apparatus installed or worked without a licence.

(2) Any person who is in possession of any broadcasting apparatus or the occupier of any dwelling house or premises in which is installed broadcasting apparatus in respect of which a licence is not in force shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to have worked the same:

Provided that it shall be a defence to a prosecution for an offence under this subsection that such occupier was not aware and could not with reasonable diligence have become aware of the existence in the dwelling house or premises of the broadcasting apparatus in question.

Power of search

8.—(1) Any officer, being generally authorised, or being specially authorised in writing, in that behalf by the Minister, may at any reasonable hour enter and search any broadcasting station, ship, aircraft, vehicle or place where such officer has reasonable cause to believe that an offence under this Ordinance or any regulations made thereunder has been or is being committed.

(2) Any person who refuses such officer access to such broadcasting station, ship,