

CHAPTER 55.

CENSUS.

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CHAPTER 55.

CENSUS.

42 of 1952.

An Ordinance to make Provision for the taking of a Census from time to time as may be necessary.

[19TH MARCH, 1953.]

Short title
and
application.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Census Ordinance, and shall apply to the Colony and Protectorate.

Interpreta-
tion.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—
 “appointed day” in relation to a census directed to be taken under section 3 means the day fixed under the said section for the commencement of the taking of such census;
 “the Census Commissioner” in relation to a census directed to be taken under section 3 means the Census Commissioner appointed under section 5 for the purposes of such census;

“ census district ” in relation to a census directed to be taken under section 3 means one of the areas into which Sierra Leone is divided under paragraph (b) of section 6 for the purposes of such census;

“ persons employed in the execution of this Ordinance ” in relation to a census directed to be taken under section 3 includes census officers, supervisors and enumerators appointed, and officers and servants employed, under sections 6 and 7 for the purposes of such census;

“ premises ” includes any vessel or train, any plantation, mine or other place where persons are employed, any part of a house occupied separately, and any hut.

3. (1) The Governor in Council may from time to time, as he considers necessary, by order direct a census to be taken of the inhabitants of Sierra Leone or of any part thereof or of any class of such inhabitants.

Governor may order taking of census.

(2) The taking of a census directed to be taken by order under sub-section (1) of this section shall be commenced on such day as shall be fixed in such order.

4. When a census is directed to be taken under section 3, the provisions set out in sections 5 to 19 inclusive shall apply.

Sections 5 to 19 to apply in respect of any census ordered.

5. The Governor may appoint a Census Commissioner for the purposes of the census.

Appointment of Census Commissioner.

6. Subject to the control of the Governor, the Census Commissioner—

Duties and functions of Census Commissioner.

(a) shall have the general supervision and management of the census;

(b) shall for the purposes of the census divide Sierra Leone into such areas, to be called census districts, as he may determine;

(c) shall appoint for each census district a census officer;

(d) may employ such number of officers and servants as he shall consider necessary for the purposes of the census;

(e) may issue such directions as he shall consider necessary for the better carrying into effect of the census;

(f) shall cause to be prepared and printed, for the use of the persons employed in the execution of this Ordinance, such forms and instructions as he may deem necessary, and in particular forms of schedule to be filled up with such particulars as the Governor may consider necessary in order to

ensure as far as possible the completeness and accuracy of the census returns.

Duties of
census
officers.

7. Every census officer—

(a) shall act under the supervision and control of the Census Commissioner;

(b) shall divide his census district into enumeration areas and shall appoint an enumerator for each such area;

(c) may appoint and employ such number of supervisors and other officers and servants as shall be necessary for the taking of the census in his census district.

Control of
supervisors
and other
officers and
servants.

8. Without prejudice to the powers of the Census Commissioner, every supervisor and every other officer and servant appointed by a census officer under this Ordinance shall be subject to the immediate supervision and control of the census officer for the census district for which he is appointed.

Distribution,
collection and
completion of
form of
schedule.

9. (1) Subject to the directions of the census officer, every enumerator shall not later than the appointed day deliver to every occupier or person in charge of premises within his area an appropriate form of schedule to be completed as provided in sub-section (2) of this section and shall collect the same, when so completed, from such occupier or person without delay.

(2) Every occupier or person in charge of any premises to whom a form of schedule has been delivered under sub-section (1) of this section shall on the appointed day or within a reasonable time thereafter complete the said form of schedule, or cause the same to be completed, by entering thereon particulars to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, of all matters as to which information is required by such form of schedule, and shall sign his name thereto and shall deliver the same so completed to the enumerator when required by him so to do:

Provided always that when any person required to complete such form of schedule is illiterate, such form of schedule may be completed and signed by the enumerator.

(3) The provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section shall not apply to the Protectorate:

Provided that—

(a) the Governor may, by Order, apply the said provisions—

(i) to the Protectorate or to such area, district or place therein as may be specified in the Order;

(ii) to any specified class or classes of persons in the Protectorate or in any specified area, district or place therein; and

(b) any Order made under the foregoing proviso to this sub-section may apply the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section as aforesaid either generally or for the purposes of a particular census.

10. Every enumerator whose duty it is under this Ordinance to take a census in any area, district or place in the Protectorate or in respect of any class or classes of persons therein to which or to whom the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 9 have not been applied shall, within such time and in such manner as the Census Commissioner may direct, complete a form of schedule, or cause the same to be completed, by entering thereon all the particulars required thereby in respect of every premises in such area, district or place or, as the case may require, in respect of every premises therein the owner or person in charge of which is a member of such class or of one of such classes of persons and shall sign every such form.

Census in the Protectorate where section 9 not applied.

11. Any person, not holding a post below that of an enumerator and who shall produce an identification card duly signed by a census officer and who is employed in the execution of this Ordinance, shall have authority to ask of any person whom they shall have reasonable cause to believe to be able to afford the information desired all such questions as may be necessary for obtaining any particulars required for the purposes of this Ordinance, and every person refusing to answer, or knowingly giving a false answer to, any such question, shall for every such refusal or false answer be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Obtaining information.

12. (1) Every enumerator shall without delay deliver to the census officer or any supervisor for the census district in which his area is situate all the forms of schedule collected or completed by him in accordance with the provisions of section 9 or section 10, and shall certify in writing that all instructions issued to him under this Ordinance have been duly complied with and that the particulars on the said forms of schedule have been truly and faithfully taken and that to the best of his knowledge they are correct as far as may be known.

Enumerators to deliver completed forms of schedule to census officer or supervisor and to give certificate.

(2) If any enumerator shall give any certificate under sub-section (1) of this section which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be false or inaccurate he shall be guilty of an

offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Census officers to transmit forms of schedule to Census Commissioner.

13. After receiving the forms of schedule and the certificates in respect thereof from all of the enumerators of his census district every census officer shall cause the same to be transmitted and delivered to the Census Commissioner without delay.

Returns as to travellers.

14. The Census Commissioner shall obtain returns of any particulars required under this Ordinance with respect to persons who, during the taking of the census, were travelling by rail, ship or otherwise within Sierra Leone or for any reason were not dwelling on any premises of which account was to be taken by the enumerators, and shall include such returns in the report to be made under section 15.

Census Commissioner to report.

15. Upon receipt of the forms of schedule and certificates from all of the census officers and of all other returns required by him for the purposes of the census, the Census Commissioner shall as soon as may be practicable prepare and furnish to the Governor a report in such form and containing such particulars as to matters provided for under this Ordinance as the Governor may require.

Penalties.

16. (1) If any of the persons employed in the execution of this Ordinance makes wilful default in the performance of any of his duties under this Ordinance or wilfully makes any false declaration or return he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

(2) If any occupier or person in charge of premises to whom a form of schedule is delivered under section 9—

(a) wilfully refuses or without lawful excuse neglects to fill up the form of schedule or cause it to be filled up to the best of his knowledge, information and belief or to sign or deliver it as therein required; or

(b) wilfully makes signs or delivers or causes to be made, signed or delivered any false return of any matter of which particulars are required by the form of schedule,

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall for each such offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

(3) If any person—

(a) being one of the persons employed in the execution of this Ordinance publishes or communicates to any person,

without lawful authority, any information acquired in the course of his employment; or

(b) having possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this Ordinance, publishes or communicates that information to any other person,

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to both such imprisonment and fine.

17. Any person not holding a post below that of an enumerator and who shall produce an identification card duly signed by a census officer and who is employed in the execution of this Ordinance may enter upon any premises for the purpose of performing any duties or exercising any powers imposed or conferred upon him by or under this Ordinance.

Powers of entry.

18. Any person who shall hinder or obstruct the Census Commissioner or any of the persons employed in the execution of this Ordinance in the lawful performance of any duties or in the lawful exercise of any powers imposed or conferred upon him by or under this Ordinance shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

Penalty for obstruction.

19. All expenses incurred, with the approval of the Governor, for the purposes of the census shall be paid out of the general revenue of Sierra Leone.

Expenses.

20. The Governor in Council may make rules for the better carrying into effect of the purposes of this Ordinance or of any census directed to be taken thereunder.

Rules.