

CHAPTER 53

CENSUS

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE TAKING FROM TIME TO TIME
OF A CENSUS OF THE POPULATION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

4 of 1949
LN 46A of 1978
6 of 1987

[11th July 1959]

1. This Act may be cited as the Census Act.

Short title

2. It shall be lawful for the Prime Minister, whenever he may deem it expedient, by order, to direct that a census be taken of the inhabitants of Solomon Islands, and by such order to appoint a Census Commissioner, and to prescribe the time in relation to which the particulars required by the census shall be stated, and the dates between which the census is to be taken.

Order directing
taking of census
and appointing
Census
Commissioner
LN 46A of 1978

3.—(1) The Census Commissioner shall make arrangements and do all such things as are necessary for the taking of a census in accordance with the provisions of this Act and for that purpose shall arrange for the preparation and issue of the necessary forms and instructions and for the collection of the forms when completed.

Powers and
duties of Census
Commissioner
LN 46A of 1978

(2) The Census Commissioner shall in the exercise of his powers and the performance of his duties under this Act be subject to the control of and comply with any directions given by the Prime Minister.

4. All expenses incurred in the taking of a census including such allowances, if any, as may be approved by the Prime Minister for payment to any of the persons employed in the taking of the census shall be paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

Expenses
LN 46A of 1978

5. For the purpose of enabling any order directing the taking of a census to be carried into effect the Census Commissioner may make rules—

Rules for the
taking of a
census
LN 46A of 1978

(a) providing for the division of Solomon Islands into areas or districts for the purpose of the census;

(b) providing for the appointment or engagement of persons to assist in the taking of the census, whether as superintendents, supervisors, enumerators, or otherwise and for the assignment to them of their duties;

(c) prescribing the persons by whom and in respect to whom the returns for the purpose of this Act are to be made;

(d) requiring the person in charge of any institution, whether public or private, to make returns in respect of the inmates thereof;

(e) requiring any persons employed for the purpose of the census to make a statutory declaration with respect to the performance of his duties before a magistrate or before such officer appointed to supervise the taking of the census as the Census Commissioner may authorise to take such declaration;

(f) prescribing the particulars to be stated on the census returns;

(g) making provision in respect to any other matters with respect to which it is necessary to make provision for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act:

Provided that no particulars shall be required to be stated on any census return other than the particulars with respect to such matters as are specified in the Schedule:

Provided further that no person shall be compelled to state particulars relating to his religion if he objects thereto.

6. It shall be lawful for a person who is employed in the taking of the census or who is required in pursuance of the provisions of this Act to fill in any return to ask of any other person such questions as may be necessary for obtaining any of the particulars required in pursuance of the provisions of this Act and such other person shall to the best of his ability give such information.

7. Upon completion of the census the Census Commissioner shall make such reports of the census and abstracts of the returns as the Prime Minister may direct.

8.—(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after making such reports of the census and abstracts of the returns under section 7, the Census Commissioner shall deliver such abstracts and any other documents comprised in the returns to the Government Statistician appointed under the Statistics Act.

(2) Sections 6, 7 and 13 of the Statistics Act shall apply in relation to any abstract, document or information comprising or

Schedule

Obtaining of information

Report
LN 46A of 1978Delivery of returns to Government Statistician
6 of 1987, s. 3

Cap. 54

contained in any returns delivered to the Government Statistician pursuant to subsection (1).

9.—(1) If any person —

(a) refuses or neglects to comply with or acts in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act; or

(b) being a person required under this Act to make a statutory declaration with respect to the performance of his duties, makes a false declaration; or

(c) being a person required by this Act to make, sign, or deliver any document, makes, signs, or delivers, or causes to be made, signed, or delivered, a false document; or

(d) being a person required in pursuance of this Act to answer any question, refuses to answer or gives a false answer to that question; or

(e) being a person required in pursuance of the provisions of this Act to perform any duties in connection with the taking of the census refuses, without reasonable cause, to carry out his duties;

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for two months or to a fine of six hundred dollars.

(2) If any person —

(a) being a person employed in taking a census publishes or communicates without lawful authority to any person otherwise than in the ordinary course of such employment any information acquired by him in the course of his employment; or

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

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for six months or to a fine of one thousand two hundred dollars.

Penalties
6 of 1987, s. 3

SCHEDULE
(Section 5)

MATTERS IN RESPECT OF WHICH PARTICULARS MAY BE REQUIRED

1. Names, sex, age.
2. Occupation, profession, trade, employment.
3. Nationality, birthplace, race, language, health.
4. Place of abode, character of dwelling and fittings.
5. Condition as to marriage, relation to head of family, issue born in marriage.
6. Religion.
7. Coconut trees and livestock.
8. Any other matters with respect to which it is desirable to obtain statistical information with a view to ascertaining the social or civil condition of the population.

(Subsidiary Legislation made under this Act has had effect and is now spent.)