

THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT
(CHAPTER 182)

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Military Manœuvres Act

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title.
2. Notice of manœuvres.
3. Powers of persons engaged in manœuvres.
4. Compensation for damage.
5. Assessment of compensation.
6. Offences.
7. Manœuvres not to be held in catchment area of waterworks.
8. Manœuvring and firing grounds.
9. Powers of Armed Forces Council with respect to manœuvring ground.
10. Powers of Armed Forces Council in respect of firing ground.
11. Rules for firing grounds.
12. Compensation.
13. Form and assessment of compensation.
14. Time limit for claim to compensation.

An Act to facilitate military manœuvres and firing exercises.
[16th September 1963]

1. This Act may be cited as the Military Manœuvres Act. Short title.

2.—(1) Whenever the number of troops to be engaged in military manœuvres exceeds 500 notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary to the Armed Forces Council at least one month before the date on which it is proposed to execute such manœuvres, specifying the date of the commencement of the manœuvres, the period not exceeding 3 months during which and approximately the limits within which the manœuvres are to be executed. The notice shall also specify a date not earlier than one month from the conclusion of the manœuvres within which claims for compensation arising from the putting in force of the provisions of this Act shall be sent to the Secretary to the Armed Forces Council.

Notice of
manœuvres.
8/83.

Publication
of notice.

(2) The Secretary to the Armed Forces Council shall cause copies of such notice to be posted in every village and at other convenient places within the limits therein mentioned at least 14 days before the day named for the commencement of the manœuvres.

When no
notice is
necessary.

(3) Whenever the number of troops to be engaged in the manœuvres does not exceed 500 no such notice as mentioned in subsection (1) shall be necessary:

Provided that where no such notice is given the manœuvres shall not extend beyond a period of 48 hours.

Powers of
persons
engaged in
manœuvres.

3.—(1) When any military manœuvres are being executed under this Act such persons as are engaged in the manœuvres may within the limits specified in the notice, if any, as aforesaid and during the specified period —

- (a) pass over and encamp, construct military works not of a permanent character and execute military manœuvres on any land;
- (b) supply themselves with water from any sources of water, public or private, and for that purpose dam up any running water:

Provided that such damming does not interfere with any trade or industry and that nothing in this Act shall authorise the taking of water from any source of supply belonging to a private owner or public authority except subject to the supply shown to be required by those entitled to use the water supply.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall authorise entry on or interference with any dwelling-house, place of worship, school, factory, store or premises used for the carrying on of any business or manufacture or any ground attached to any place of worship or school or any premises enclosed within the curtilage of or attached to any dwelling-house.

Compensa-
tion for
damage.
8/83.

4. Full compensation shall be paid for any injury or damage to persons or property or interference with rights or privileges arising from putting in force any of the provisions of this Act, whether or not occasioned by the acts or defaults of the forces engaged in the manœuvres, including therein all expenses reasonably incurred in the protection of persons, property, rights and privileges, and any damage by reason of excessive weight or extraordinary traffic caused to

any highway for the repair of which any public body or any individual is responsible. The compensation shall be paid to all persons who send in their claims to the Secretary to the Armed Forces Council within the period named in the notice or, if there is no such notice, to the Secretary within one month from the conclusion of the manœuvres.

5.—(1) If the amount of compensation is not settled by agreement between the Armed Forces Council and the claimant, the difference between them shall be referred to arbitration, and the sending in of a claim for compensation shall be treated as a submission to arbitration under the Arbitration Act. Assessment of compensation. 8/83. Cap. 10.

(2) The reference shall be to two arbitrators having power to appoint an umpire under that Act.

6.—(1) If within a manœuvring ground and during the continuance of any military manœuvres under this Act, any person — Offences. 8/83.

- (a) wilfully and unlawfully interferes with the execution of the manœuvres;
- (b) without due authority enters or remains in any camp;
- (c) without due authority moves any flag or other mark distinguishing for the purposes of the manœuvres any lands; or
- (d) maliciously cuts or damages any telegraph or telephone wire laid down by or for the use of the forces engaged in the manœuvres,

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(2) Such person may be arrested without a warrant and any animal or vehicle under his charge may be removed by any police officer or by order of any commissioned officer of the forces engaged in the manœuvres.

7. No military manœuvres shall be executed and no military encampment made on any land forming part of the catchment area in connection with the impounding reservoir of any public waterworks or on any land set apart for the collection of water for the supply of any public waterworks. Manœuvres not to be held in catchment area of waterworks.

Manœuvring
and firing
grounds.

8.—(1) It shall be lawful for the President from time to time by proclamation to declare —

- (a) that any area specified in the proclamation shall be a manœuvring ground;
- (b) that any area specified in the proclamation shall be a firing ground;

and from time to time in the like manner to declare that any such area or part of that area shall cease to be a manœuvring ground or a firing ground, as the case may be.

(2) A manœuvring ground may include any land, sea, tidal water or shore on which or over which aircraft can manœuvre or from which they can take off or on which they can alight.

(3) A firing ground may include any land, sea, tidal water or shore on which or over which artillery or rifle practices, air firing, bomb dropping or torpedo dropping practices can be carried out, whether from weapons on the ground or from aircraft in flight.

Powers of
Armed
Forces
Council
with respect
to manœuvr-
ing ground.
8/83.

9.—(1) The Armed Forces Council shall have the following powers in respect of any manœuvring ground so declared under this Act:

- (a) it may at any time direct military or air force manœuvres to be carried on within the manœuvring ground without giving the notice required by section 2;
- (b) it may exercise with respect to the performance of manœuvres within the manœuvring ground all the powers for the purpose of military manœuvres as set out in section 3.

(2) All the provisions in this Act with regard to —

- (a) the powers exercisable for the purpose of military manœuvres;
- (b) compensation for damage and assessment of compensation; and
- (c) offences,

shall be applicable to all manœuvres carried on in and over the manœuvring ground.

10.—(1) The Armed Forces Council shall have the following powers in respect of any firing ground so declared under this Act:

Powers of Armed Forces Council in respect of firing ground. 8/83.

- (a) it may at any time cause firing exercises, either on the ground or from the air, or experiments in gunnery, or any act or practice incidental to such exercises or experiments, or bombing or torpedo practices, or any other military or air force exercises to be carried out in or over the firing ground, giving not less than 24 hours' notice thereof to the occupiers of land in or over which such exercises, experiments, acts or practices are to take place, by the hoisting of a red flag in a conspicuous position within the firing area;
- (b) it may cause to be removed all or any buildings within the firing ground or any trees or other things which may hinder or interfere with the full exercise of the rights given by this Act and may prohibit the erection of any new building within the firing ground.

(2) All the provisions in this Act with regard to —

- (a) the powers exercisable with regard to military manœuvres;
- (b) compensation for damage and assessment of compensation; and
- (c) offences,

shall be applicable to any military or air force exercises carried on in and over the firing ground.

11.—(1) The Armed Forces Council may make rules for securing the safety of the public during the use of any firing ground for the purposes of military or air force exercises, and may, by those rules, among other things —

Rules for firing grounds. 8/83.

- (a) exclude all persons not engaged in the military or air force exercises from the whole or any part of the firing ground;
- (b) regulate the conduct of any persons permitted to be within the firing ground while the exercises are being carried on; and
- (c) prescribe a penalty not exceeding \$2,000 or 6 months' imprisonment or both for any contravention of any rule.

(2) All such rules shall be published in the *Gazette*, and copies thereof in Malay, Chinese, Tamil and English shall be posted in at least 3 conspicuous places within or near the firing ground.

(3) If any such rules injuriously affect or obstruct the exercise of any private right of any person in or over any sea, tidal water or shore, that person shall be entitled to compensation, and the compensation shall, in case of dispute, be ascertained in the manner provided by section 13.

(4) Any such rules which affect any public right shall be presented to Parliament and shall not come into force until approved, with or without amendment, by a resolution of Parliament. For the purposes of this subsection, "public right" means any right of navigation, anchoring or fishing.

8/83. (5) Where an area to which rules made under this section apply consists of any sea or tidal water, or the shore thereof, and the boundaries of the area cannot, in the opinion of the Armed Forces Council, be conveniently marked by permanent marks, those boundaries shall be deemed to be sufficiently marked for the purposes of this Act if sufficient means are taken to warn the public from entering the area.

8/83. (6) Any officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or military policeman of the Singapore Armed Forces or any police officer may arrest without warrant any person found in any firing ground in contravention of the rules made under this section and may remove him and any animal or vehicle under his charge.

Compensa-
tion. **12.** Compensation shall be paid to the owners or occupiers or both of land within any firing ground for any loss or damage arising from the land owned or occupied by them being proclaimed a firing ground under this Act, such compensation to be independent of and in addition to any compensation in respect of damage for which compensation may be awarded to them under section 4.

Form and
assessment
of compen-
sation.
8/83. **13.—(1)** Such compensation, unless otherwise agreed, shall be in the form of an annual rent payable to every person entitled to the compensation so long as the land in respect of which it is paid continues to be a firing ground.

(2) The amount of such compensation shall be such as is agreed upon between the Armed Forces Council and the claimant, and if the amount of the compensation cannot be settled by agreement, the difference between the parties shall be referred to arbitration, and the sending in of a claim for compensation shall be treated as a submission to arbitration under the Arbitration Act.

Cap. 10.

(3) The reference shall be to two arbitrators having power to appoint an umpire under that Act.

14.—(1) Every claim for compensation under section 11 (3) or 12 shall be made in writing to the Secretary to the Armed Forces Council, within two months after the land, sea, tidal water or shore, as the case may be, in respect of which the claim is made has been used as a firing ground for the purposes of military or air force exercises by virtue of a declaration under this Act.

Time limit
for claim
to compen-
sation.
8/83.

(2) No compensation shall be granted for any building erected or commenced after the posting of the rules as provided in section 11 (2).