

THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

NEWSPAPER AND PRINTING PRESSES ACT
(CHAPTER 206)

Act
12 of 1974

Amended by
6 of 1977
9 of 1981
22 of 1986
4 of 1988
19 of 1990

REVISED EDITION 1991

Newspaper and Printing Presses Act

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An Act for the licensing of newspaper companies and for matters connected therewith.

[1st January 1975]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be cited as the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act. Short title.

2. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context — Interpre-
tation.
22/86.

“chief editor” includes the executive editor, the managing editor and any other person who controls the policy of a newspaper;

“company” means a company incorporated or registered under the Companies Act or under any corresponding previous written law; Cap. 50.

“declared foreign newspaper” means any newspaper published outside Singapore which has been declared by the Minister under section 17 (1) to be engaging in the domestic politics of Singapore;

“document” means any printed newspaper or sheet of paper or other material and any printed pamphlet, leaflet, map, chart and plan, and includes any documents bound together;

“journalist” includes an editor, sub-editor, editorial writer, reporter and any other person whose business it is to edit or write for a newspaper;

“newspaper” means any publication containing news, intelligence, reports of occurrences, or any remarks, observations or comments, in relation to such news, intelligence, reports of occurrences, or to any other matter of public interest, printed in any language and published for sale or free distribution at regular intervals or otherwise, but does not include any publication published by or for the Government;

“newspaper company” means a public company limited by shares which has complied with section 9;

“newspaper register” means the books which are to be kept by the Registrar under section 23;

“place”, in the phrases “place of business” and “place of residence”, means the street, square or other place and the number or other designation of the house;

“proprietor” includes the chief executive officer of a newspaper company;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Newspapers and includes any Deputy or Assistant Registrar of Newspapers appointed by the Minister under section 22;

expressions referring to printing shall be construed as including writing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words or objects in a visible form.

PART II

PRINTING PRESSES

Licence to
use printing
press.

3.—(1) The Minister may in his discretion grant to any person in Singapore a licence to keep and use a press for the printing of documents and may at any time withdraw the licence either permanently or for such period as he thinks fit.

(2) The licence shall be in the prescribed form.

(3) Any person to whom a licence is refused or whose licence is withdrawn may appeal to the President whose decision shall be final.

(4) No person shall keep for use or use any printing press without a licence.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the occupier of any premises on which any printing press is found shall be deemed to have kept it for use until he proves the contrary.

(6) Every licence granted under subsection (1) shall ordinarily be for one year from the date of its issue.

(7) The withdrawal of any licence shall be deemed to be sufficiently communicated to the licensee if a notice of withdrawal is personally served on the person in charge of the printing press.

Register of
printing
presses.

4. The Registrar shall keep a register of printing presses, in which he shall enter such particulars as may be prescribed

relating to persons licensed under section 3 and to printing presses or any document or class of documents exempted under section 34 from the provisions of the whole or any part of this Act.

Documents

5.—(1) Every document printed within Singapore shall have printed legibly on its first or last printed leaf the name of its printer and publisher.

Printed document to bear name of printer and publisher.

(2) No person shall print or publish or distribute or assist in distributing any document which does not comply with the requirements of this section.

6. Every person who prints any document shall, during 6 months from the date of the printing thereof, keep one copy on which he shall write or print the name and place of residence of the person by whom he is employed to print it, and produce the document to any person authorised by the Minister in that behalf if required to do so.

Printer to keep copy of document and to produce it to an authorised person.

PART III

NEWSPAPER COMPANIES

7.—(1) No newspaper to which this Part applies shall be published in Singapore except by a newspaper company unless the newspaper has been exempted from the provisions of this Part.

Publisher of newspaper to be newspaper company unless exempted from this Part.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), a newspaper shall be deemed to be published outside Singapore if its contents and editorial policy are determined outside Singapore and its sales or distribution are not intended primarily for Singapore.

22/86.

8. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Companies Act, no memorandum or articles of association of a proposed newspaper company shall be presented for registration unless there is lodged with them the written approval of the Registrar; and the memorandum and articles of association of a newspaper company shall not be altered without the written approval of the Registrar.

Memorandum and articles to be approved. Cap. 50.

Special
features of
newspaper
company.

9.—(1) Subject to subsection (12), in every newspaper company —

- (a) all the directors shall be citizens of Singapore;
- (b) there shall be two classes of shares, namely, management shares and ordinary shares; and
- (c) no management shares shall be issued or transferred except to citizens of Singapore or corporations who or which have been granted the written approval of the Minister.

(2) No newspaper company shall refuse to issue or to accept the transfer of management shares to any person who has been granted the written approval of the Minister to purchase or hold the shares except for reasons to be given in writing acceptable to the Minister, and in respect of any decision of the Minister in this regard an appeal shall lie to the President whose decision shall be final.

(3) As soon as practicable after 1st January 1975, every newspaper company shall issue for cash and in accordance with the terms laid down in this section and —

- (a) in the case of a newspaper company the shares of which are quoted on a stock exchange in Singapore or elsewhere at a price that is equivalent to the market price of the ordinary shares prevailing at the date of the issue;
- (b) in the case of a newspaper company the shares of which are not quoted on a stock exchange in Singapore or elsewhere at such fair and reasonable value as may be determined by the Minister,

such number of management shares as is equal to 1% or more of its issued and paid-up capital; and whenever any subsequent issue of shares is made by the newspaper company, 1% of every such issue shall consist of management shares.

(4) Upon the determination by the Minister under subsection (3) (b) of a fair and reasonable value to be placed upon management shares, a newspaper company shall be bound to issue the management shares as soon as practicable at that determined value.

(5) No person shall continue to hold management shares of a newspaper company if the approval of the Minister

given under subsection (1) (c) or (12) has been revoked, and on the revocation of the approval he shall cease to have any voting rights under those management shares; and the newspaper company shall, as soon as practicable, arrange for the person to be issued with one ordinary share in exchange for each management share held by him.

(6) The directors of a newspaper company shall, on the requisition of the holders of not less than one-quarter of its issued management shares, forthwith proceed to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the company to be held as soon as practicable but in any case not later than two months after the receipt by the company of the requisition; and section 210 of the Companies Act (other than subsection (1) thereof) shall have effect in relation to such requisition. Cap. 50.

(7) The holders of both the management and the ordinary shares of a newspaper company shall rank *pari passu* in respect of all dividends declared by the company (except those declared for the financial year of the newspaper company that is current at 1st January 1975), and in respect of all bonus and rights issues made by the company as well as in the right to return of capital and to participation in all surplus assets of the company in liquidation.

(8) The holder of management shares shall be entitled either on a poll or by a show of hands to 200 votes for each management share held by him upon any resolution relating to the appointment or dismissal of a director or any member of the staff of a newspaper company but shall in all other respects have the same voting rights as the holder of ordinary shares.

(9) Voting on the appointment or dismissal of a director shall be by means of a poll and not by a show of hands.

(10) The holder of management shares shall not deal in or in any way mortgage the shares except with the approval of the Minister.

(11) Management shares shall have the same par value as ordinary shares but shall not —

(a) be offered, before issue, to ordinary shareholders;
or

(b) be quoted or dealt in on a stock exchange in Singapore or elsewhere.

(12) The Minister may in writing grant his approval for the purchase or acquisition or the holding of management shares by any person who is not a citizen of Singapore and for the appointment of any such person as a director of a newspaper company.

(13) This section shall have effect notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law or of the memorandum or articles of association of a newspaper company.

(14) In this section, “surplus assets” means all the assets of a newspaper company remaining after the liabilities of the company have been discharged and after the costs of the winding up have been paid or provided for, but before any capital has been paid to the ordinary shareholders or any profits distributed to them.

No person to hold more than 3% ordinary shares without approval. 9/81.

10.—(1) No person shall, without the prior approval of the Minister, hold either directly or indirectly through his nominees more than 3% of the ordinary shares issued by a newspaper company.

(2) The Minister may grant his approval under subsection (1) subject to such conditions as he sees fit to impose.

(3) Any person who, directly or indirectly, holds more than 3% of the ordinary shares issued by a newspaper company without having obtained the prior approval of the Minister shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 28 and any surplus shares held by him shall be forfeited to the Government.

(4) The Minister may at any time revoke any approval given under subsection (1) without assigning any reason.

(5) Before the Minister revokes any approval given under subsection (1), the Minister shall give the person concerned a reasonable time to dispose of his surplus shares.

(6) Any nominee company which is registered as the holder of ordinary shares issued by a newspaper company shall, at the request of the Registrar, disclose to him the names and addresses of the persons on whose behalf it is holding those shares, and if the information is not furnished

within 14 days of the request the company and every officer of the company who is in default shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 28.

(7) In this section, “surplus shares” means all the ordinary shares of a newspaper company held by, and on behalf of; a person in excess of the 3% limit prescribed by subsection (1).

(8) Any person who has been exempted from subsection (2) of section 9B* which was in force immediately before 24th April 1981 shall be deemed to have been granted the approval of the Minister under subsection (1). 9/81.

11.—(1) Subject to this section, no person shall, on or after the grant or renewal of a permit under section 14, receive on behalf or for the purposes of any newspaper to which this Part applies any funds from a foreign source without the prior approval of the Minister. Funds from foreign source for the purposes of a newspaper other than commercial purposes prohibited.

(2) The Minister may grant such approval if he is satisfied, on such information as he may require to be furnished to him, that the funds from a foreign source are intended for bona fide commercial purposes.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) where any funds from a foreign source are sent to a person without his prior knowledge, consent or solicitation and the funds are intended for or given by the donor for the purposes of the newspaper, that person shall, within 3 days of the receipt thereof, report the circumstances and particulars of the receipt of the funds and the purposes for which the funds were received to the Minister.

(4) Where funds from a foreign source have been received by a person for the purposes of the newspaper under subsection (3) and the Minister refuses his approval for the retention of those funds, the person shall, within such time as is specified by the Minister, return them to the sender thereof or, if the sender cannot be traced, the funds shall be donated to any charity specified by the Minister.

*This section was repealed by Act 9 of 1981.

(5) For the purposes of this section —

“foreign source” includes —

- (a) the government of a country outside Singapore or the agent of any such government, whether resident in Singapore or otherwise;
- (b) any company, association or society incorporated or constituted under any law in force outside Singapore whether or not it has a branch office or place of business in Singapore;
- (c) any person who is not a citizen of Singapore whether or not he is resident in Singapore; or
- (d) such other source outside Singapore as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare to be a foreign source for the purposes of this section;

“funds” means money, securities, movable or immovable property or other valuable consideration.

(6) Nothing in this section shall apply to any dealing by any person in the shares of a newspaper company quoted on a stock exchange in Singapore.

(7) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1), (3) or (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both and the Court may, in addition to any other penalty that it may impose, order the forfeiture to the Government of any funds which are the subject of the charge.

(8) (a) Any journalist who, having received any funds from a foreign source for printing or publishing any news item or article or for adopting a particular line or bias in respect of any news item or article, fails to report in writing within 7 days to the managing director of his newspaper company the receipt of those funds shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 28.

(b) Any funds received from outside Singapore by a journalist shall be presumed to be from a foreign source unless proved to the contrary.

12. Any person aggrieved by any refusal by the Minister to grant his approval under any section in this Part may appeal to the President whose decision shall be final.

Appeal to President.

13. This Part shall apply to any newspaper published at intervals not exceeding one week unless such newspaper has been exempted from the provisions of this Part.

Application of this Part.

PART IV

NEWSPAPERS

14.—(1) No person shall print or publish or assist in the printing or publishing of any newspaper in Singapore unless the chief editor or the proprietor of the newspaper has previously obtained a permit granted by the Minister authorising the publication thereof, which permit he may in his discretion grant, refuse or revoke, or grant subject to conditions to be endorsed thereon:

No newspaper to be published without permit. 19/90.

Provided that no permit shall be granted to the chief editor or the proprietor of any newspaper whose publication will constitute an offence under section 7.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Minister may direct that the newspaper shall be printed in such language as may be specified in the permit, and may before granting the permit require the applicant to execute a bond with or without sureties to secure the payment of any penalties which may be imposed upon the newspaper company, proprietor or editor of the newspaper under this Act or under any other written law.

(3) Every such permit unless sooner revoked shall ordinarily be for one year from the date of its issue, and may be renewed for further periods not exceeding 12 months in respect of each renewal.

(4) Notice of the withdrawal of a permit to publish a newspaper shall be published in the *Gazette*.

6/77.

(5) The Minister may make rules prescribing the particulars to be supplied by an applicant for a permit under this section.

(6) A permit under this section shall be in addition to any licence granted under section 3 in respect of the printing press at which any newspaper is to be printed.

(7) Any person dissatisfied with any decision of the Minister or with any condition imposed by the Minister under this section may appeal to the President whose decision shall be final.

(8) Any person who contravenes this section or fails to comply with any condition attached to the grant of a permit under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 28.

19/90.

(9) This section shall not apply to any offshore newspaper within the meaning of section 16.

Permit
required for
sale and dis-
tribution in
Singapore of
newspapers
printed or
published in
Malaysia.
19/90.

15.—(1) No newspaper printed in Malaysia shall be published, sold, offered for sale or distributed in Singapore unless the proprietor of the newspaper or his agent has previously obtained and there is in force a permit granted by the Minister authorising the publication, sale or distribution of the newspaper in Singapore, which permit the Minister may in his discretion grant, refuse or revoke, or grant subject to conditions to be endorsed thereon:

Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the publication, sale, offer for sale or distribution of any newspaper in respect of which a permit has been granted under section 14.

(2) Every such permit shall have effect only in respect of the proprietor to whom it was granted and shall unless sooner revoked ordinarily be for one year from the date of its issue, and may be renewed for further periods of 12 months.

(3) It shall be a condition of the grant of any permit under this section that any newspaper to which it refers shall have printed legibly in the English or Malay language on its first or last printed leaf the name and address of its printer, its publisher, and the place or places where it is printed and published and an address within Singapore for the service of legal process upon the printer and the publisher or of a person or persons authorised by the printer and the publisher to accept service on their behalf.

(4) The Minister may in his discretion impose as conditions of the grant of a permit that the proprietor shall establish and maintain a place of business within Singapore, that he shall appoint persons within Singapore authorised to

accept service of any notice or legal process on his behalf and on behalf of the printer or the publisher and that he shall furnish the Registrar with the names and addresses of the persons so appointed.

(5) Notice of the grant, refusal or revocation of a permit to sell and distribute a newspaper shall be published in the *Gazette*.

(6) Any person dissatisfied with the decision of the Minister as to the grant, refusal or revocation of a permit or with any condition imposed by the Minister as a condition of the grant of a permit under this section may appeal to the President whose decision shall be final.

16.—(1) No person shall sell or distribute, or import for or possess for sale or distribution any offshore newspaper in Singapore unless there is in force a permit granted by the Minister to the proprietor of the newspaper or his agent authorising the sale or distribution of that newspaper in Singapore.

Permit
required for
sale and
distribution
in Singapore
of offshore
newspapers.

(2) The Minister may grant the permit subject to such conditions as he may impose or may refuse to grant or revoke the permit without assigning any reason.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2), the Minister may in imposing conditions under that subsection —

- (a) specify that the maximum number of copies for each issue of the newspaper which may be sold or distributed in Singapore shall be determined from time to time by the Minister;
- (b) require the proprietor of the newspaper to appoint a person within Singapore authorised to accept service of any notice or legal process on his behalf and on behalf of the publisher and to furnish the Registrar with the name and address of the person so appointed; and
- (c) require the proprietor of the newspaper to furnish to the Registrar a deposit or some other form of security of such amount as the Minister may determine for the purpose of meeting any liability or costs arising out of any legal proceedings in connection with the publication of the newspaper.

(4) Every such permit shall have effect only in respect of the proprietor to whom it was granted and shall unless sooner revoked ordinarily be for one year from the date of its issue, and may be renewed for further periods not exceeding 12 months in respect of each renewal.

(5) Notice of the grant or revocation of a permit to sell or distribute an offshore newspaper shall be published in the *Gazette*.

(6) In any proceedings under this section, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that any person found in possession of more than 5 copies of the same issue of an offshore newspaper had possession of them for sale or distribution.

(7) In this section —

(a) “offshore newspaper” means a newspaper published outside Singapore at intervals not exceeding one week which contains news, intelligence, reports of occurrences, or any remarks, observations or comments, pertaining to the politics and current affairs of any country in South-East Asia, except where the circulation of every issue of the newspaper in Singapore is less than 300 copies;

(b) for the purposes of paragraph (a), a newspaper is published outside Singapore if, and only if, its contents and editorial policy are determined outside Singapore.

(8) This section shall not apply to any newspaper in respect of which there is in force a permit granted under section 15 or to any copy of a newspaper reproduced with the approval of the Minister under section 18.

(9) Any permit granted under section 14 in respect of any offshore newspaper and in force immediately before 1st December 1990 shall upon such date be deemed to have expired. [15A

Declared
foreign
newspapers.
22/86.

17.—(1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, declare any newspaper published outside Singapore to be a newspaper engaging in the domestic politics of Singapore.

(2) No person shall, without the prior approval of the Minister, sell or distribute or import for or possess for sale or distribution any declared foreign newspaper.

(3) The Minister may grant his approval under subsection (2) subject to such conditions as he may impose or may refuse to grant or revoke such approval without assigning any reason.

(4) The Minister may restrict the sale or distribution of each issue of any declared foreign newspaper granted approval under subsection (2) to such number of copies as he thinks fit, and may require such copies to be marked in such manner as he may direct.

(5) Any person who contravenes subsection (2) or fails to comply with the conditions imposed under subsection (3) or who sells or distributes any copy of a declared foreign newspaper which is not marked in accordance with subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(6) In any proceedings under this section, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that any person found in possession of more than 5 copies of the same issue of a declared foreign newspaper had possession of them for sale or distribution. [16

18.—(1) No person shall reproduce for sale or distribution in Singapore any copy of a declared foreign newspaper without the prior approval of the Minister.

Prohibition on reproduction of declared foreign newspapers for sale or distribution. 4/88.

(2) The Minister may grant his approval under subsection (1) subject to such conditions as he may impose or may refuse to grant or revoke such approval without assigning any reason.

(3) Any person who has been granted approval by the Minister under subsection (2) to reproduce copies of a declared foreign newspaper shall not make any profit as a result of the sale or distribution of copies of the declared foreign newspaper so reproduced but shall be permitted to recover the cost of production and services connected with the sale and distribution of such copies.

(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (3), or fails to comply with any of the conditions imposed under subsection (2), shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(5) Copies of a declared foreign newspaper reproduced with the approval of the Minister pursuant to subsection (2) shall not constitute an infringement of copyright. [17]

Examination
of persons
entering
Singapore.
22/86.

19.—(1) Any person entering Singapore shall, if he is required to do so by the Registrar or any authorised officer —

- (a) declare whether or not he has with him any declared foreign newspaper; and
- (b) produce such declared foreign newspaper for examination.

(2) The Registrar or any authorised officer may examine or search any person entering Singapore or any article which the person has with him for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has in his possession any declared foreign newspaper and may seize any such newspaper which is not marked in accordance with section 17 (4).

(3) Any newspaper seized under subsection (2) may be detained for so long as the Registrar or authorised officer considers necessary and the Registrar or authorised officer may, if such newspaper is a declared foreign newspaper, confiscate such newspaper and may in his discretion destroy it or cause it to be destroyed or permit it to be sent to a destination outside Singapore.

(4) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement made by the Registrar or authorised officer under subsection (1) 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.

(5) In this section, “authorised officer” means any person authorised by the Registrar or any police officer or officer of customs. [18]

Power to
examine
packages.
22/86.

20.—(1) Any —

- (a) officer of the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore not below the rank of postal superintendent;
- (b) officer of customs;
- (c) police officer; and
- (d) other officer authorised in that behalf by the Minister,

may detain, open and examine any package or article which he suspects to contain any declared foreign newspaper and if such newspaper, which is not marked in accordance with section 17 (4), is found in the package or article, the whole package or article may be impounded and retained by the officer who shall deliver it to the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar may destroy any declared foreign newspaper delivered to him under subsection (1) or may dispose of such newspaper in such manner as may be directed by the Minister. [19

21.—(1) No person shall subscribe to any declared foreign newspaper except through a distributor who is authorised by the Minister.

Subscription of declared foreign newspapers. 22/86.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) 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. [20

22.—(1) The Minister may appoint a Registrar of Newspapers and such Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars of Newspapers as he thinks necessary for the proper administration of this Act.

Registrar of Newspapers.

(2) The Registrar shall be charged with the general administration of this Act and the exercise of functions imposed upon him by this Act.

(3) The Registrar may authorise or appoint any person to assist him in the exercise of his functions and duties under this Act whether generally or in any particular case.

(4) The Registrar and any person authorised or appointed by him pursuant to subsection (3) shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code. [21

Cap. 224.

23. The Registrar shall keep a newspaper register in books consisting of copies of the applications for permits and of the permits granted under section 14. [22

Newspaper register. 6/77.

24. Any person may search and inspect the newspaper register during normal working hours on payment of a fee of \$1 for every such search and inspection; and any person may obtain a copy of any entry in that register certified by the Registrar on payment of a fee of \$2 for every such copy.

Right to inspect newspaper register.

[23

Copy of entry
in register to
be evidence.

25. Every such certified copy shall be received as conclusive evidence of the contents of the entry of which it purports to be a copy; and every such certified copy shall in all proceedings, whether civil or criminal, be accepted as sufficient evidence of all the matters and things thereby appearing, until the contrary is proved. [24

PART V

GENERAL

Offences.

26.—(1) Any person who publishes, sells, offers for sale or distributes or abets the sale, offer for sale or distribution of any newspaper the printing, publication, sale or distribution of which is unlawful under any of the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both:

Provided that no person shall be convicted of any offence under this subsection if he proves that the newspaper in respect of which he is charged was published, sold, offered for sale or distributed, as the case may be, without his authority, consent and knowledge and without any want of due care on his part.

(2) Any person who, without lawful excuse, has in his possession, custody or control for the purpose of publication, sale or distribution any newspaper the printing, publication, sale or distribution of which is unlawful under any of the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 28.

(3) It shall be presumed until the contrary is proved that any person found in possession, custody or control of any such newspaper had it for the purpose of the publication, sale or distribution thereof.

(4) Where any person is convicted of any offence under this section, any newspaper to which the proceedings relate shall be forfeited and shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the court directs. [25

Power to
seize and
detain illegal
newspapers.

27.—(1) Any officer of the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore not below the rank of postal superintendent or any officer of customs not below the rank of Assistant

Superintendent of Customs and Excise or any police officer not below the rank of Inspector may detain, open and examine any package or article which he suspects to contain any newspaper which is being or has been brought into Singapore for the purpose of publication, sale or distribution in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of any condition imposed in respect of any permit.

(2) Any police officer or any officer of customs may seize and detain any newspaper found in the possession of any person which the police officer or the officer of customs has reasonable cause to believe has been printed, published, sold or distributed or is intended to be printed, published, sold or distributed in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of any conditions imposed in respect of any permit and any such newspaper which has been so printed, published, sold or distributed shall, whether or not any person has been convicted of any offence in respect thereof, be forfeited by order of a court and shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the court directs.

(3) A District Judge or a Magistrate may issue a warrant empowering any police officer not below the rank of sergeant to enter upon and search for any newspaper the printing, publication, sale or distribution of which is unlawful under any of the provisions of this Act in any premises where any such newspaper is known or reasonably suspected to be.

(4) Whenever it appears to any police officer not below the rank of Inspector that there is reasonable cause to believe that in any premises there is concealed or deposited any newspaper the printing, publication, sale or distribution of which is unlawful under any of the provisions of this Act and he has reasonable grounds for believing that by reason of the delay which would be entailed by obtaining a search warrant the object of the search is likely to be frustrated, he may enter and search the premises as if he were empowered to do so by a warrant. [26

28.—(1) Except where otherwise herein provided, any person who fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction before a District Court or a Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both. Penalty.

- Cap. 68. (2) Such Courts, notwithstanding anything in the Criminal Procedure Code, may award the full penalty provided for the offence. [27]
- Sanction for prosecution. **29.** No prosecution shall be instituted under this Act without the previous sanction in writing of the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General. [28]
- Presumption. **30.** For the purpose of any proceedings under this Act, a newspaper shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have been printed or published at the place, if any, at which it is stated in any printing thereon to have been printed or published, as the case may be. [29]
- Persons to act for company or firm. **31.** For any of the purposes of this Act, a company may act by a director or its secretary, and a firm may act by any of its members. [30]
- Search for unlicensed printing presses. **32.** Any person authorised by the Minister in that behalf who has reason to believe that any printing press is used or kept for use in any place without a licence granted under this Act, or in any place not mentioned in that licence, may with such assistance and by such force as may be necessary by night or day enter into and search any such place and seize any printing press and all the types, documents and other articles found therein. [31]
- Search when requirements of this Act not complied with. **33.** Any person authorised by the Minister in that behalf who has reason to believe that any of the provisions of this Act is not being complied with by a person who is in possession of a licensed printing press, may with such assistance and by such force as may be necessary by night or day enter into and search any place where he believes the printing press to be kept and may seize any documents which do not comply with the provisions of this Act. [32]
- Power to exempt documents, etc., from provisions of this Act. **34.** The Minister may by notification in the *Gazette* exempt any document or any class of documents, or any printing press, from the provisions of the whole or any part of this Act. [33]
- Exemptions. **35.** Nothing in this Act shall extend to the impression of any engraving or to the printing of any visiting or business card, bill-head or letter heading. [34]

36. The Minister may make rules —

- (a) for fixing the fees to be charged for permits and licences;
- (b) for prescribing the forms for permits and licences to be used under this Act; and
- (c) generally for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Rules.
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