



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS ACT

(CHAPTER 239)

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Preservation of Monuments Act

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation

PART II

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF BOARD UNDER THIS ACT

3. Board to administer Act
4. Functions of Board under this Act
5. Powers of Board under this Act
6. Directions by Minister
7. Appointment of National Monuments Advisory Committee

PART III

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

8. Appointment of Director of National Monuments
9. Appointment of Monument Inspectors
10. Public servants

PART IV

PROVISIONS FOR PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

11. Power of Minister to make preservation orders
12. Saving for dwelling-house
13. Duty to maintain national monument
14. Execution and costs of works required by preservation notice
15. Control over work
16. Power to require information about activities affecting national monument or proposed national monument
17. Non-compliance with information notice
18. Enforcement notice

Section

19. Appeal to Minister against enforcement notice
20. Non-compliance with enforcement notice
21. Injunctions
22. Defacing, damaging or interfering with national monuments or proposed national monuments
- 22A. Interface with other laws and statutory authorities

PART V

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

23. Interpretation of this Part
24. Transfer of property, assets and liabilities to National Heritage Board
25. Existing contracts
26. No breach or default because of transfer

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS

27. Powers of entry and enforcement
28. Powers of arrest
29. Offences by bodies corporate, etc.
30. Jurisdiction of court
31. Composition of offences
32. General exemption
33. Authentication of documents
34. Service of documents
35. Regulations
36. Saving and transitional provisions

An Act to provide for the preservation and protection of national monuments by the National Heritage Board and for matters connected therewith.

[1st July 2009]

PART I
PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Preservation of Monuments Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Board” means the National Heritage Board established under the National Heritage Board Act (Cap. 196A);

“Director” means the Director of National Monuments appointed under section 8;

“enforcement notice” means a notice issued by the Board under section 18;

“information notice” means a notice served by the Director or a Monument Inspector under section 16;

“inland waters” means any river, stream, reservoir, lake or pond (whether natural or artificial) within the limits of the territorial waters of Singapore;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“land” includes any foreshore, site or underground space;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“monument” means the whole or any part of —

(a) any building, structure, erection, statue, sculpture or other work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation;

(aa) any site;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure, erection, statue, sculpture or other work or of any cave or excavation; or

(c) any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other movable

structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument within paragraph (a),

and includes any machinery attached to or forming part of a monument which cannot be detached from the monument without being dismantled;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“Monument Inspector” means any person appointed under section 9 to be a Monument Inspector for the purposes of this Act;

“national monument” means any monument that is subject to a preservation order and includes any land containing or adjacent to such monument that is specified in the preservation order under section 11(3);

“occupier”, in relation to any monument or land, means the person in occupation of, or having the charge, management or control of, such monument or land, whether on his own account or as an agent of another person, but does not include a lodger;

“owner” —

(a) in relation to any monument or land, means the person for the time being receiving the rent of the monument or land whether on his own account or as agent or trustee or as receiver, or who would receive the same if the monument or land were let to a tenant, and the person whose name is entered in the Valuation List prepared under section 10 of the Property Tax Act (Cap. 254) as the owner of the monument or land; and

(b) in relation to the common property of any subdivided building, means the person receiving any rent or charge for the maintenance of that common property;

“preservation notice” means a notice issued by the Board under section 13;

“preservation order” means an order made by the Minister under section 11 placing a monument under the protection of the Board;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“proposed national monument” means a monument covered by a notice under section 11(7)(a) of the Minister’s intention to make a preservation order protecting the monument;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“site” means —

- (a) any open space;
- (b) any inland waters; or
- (c) an area of land (including any building, structure, erection, statue, sculpture or other work, vegetation, inland waters or physiographical formation, or any combination thereof) containing anything that evidences human activity, present or past,

but excludes a site falling within paragraph (b) or (c) of the definition of “monument”;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

“statutory authority” means a body established or constituted by or under a public Act to perform or discharge a public function, and includes a Town Council.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

PART II

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF BOARD UNDER THIS ACT

Board to administer Act

3. The Board shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Act.

Functions of Board under this Act

4. Without prejudice to section 6 of the National Heritage Board Act (Cap. 196A), the functions of the Board under this Act shall be —

- (a) to identify monuments that are of such historic, cultural, traditional, archaeological, architectural, artistic or symbolic significance and national importance as to be worthy of preservation under this Act, and to make recommendations to the Minister for the preservation under this Act of the monuments so identified;
- (b) to undertake, commission, sponsor or facilitate research on monuments which have been identified for preservation or which are being preserved under this Act;
- (c) to determine standards and issue guidelines for the restoration, preservation or maintenance of monuments under this Act and for the proper control, management and use of such monuments;
[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]
- (d) to determine the best method for the preservation or maintenance of any national monument, and to cause or facilitate the preservation or maintenance of such national monument in accordance with such method;
[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]
- (e) to protect national monuments and proposed national monuments in accordance with this Act;
[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]
- (f) to promote and stimulate public interest and support in the preservation or maintenance of monuments, and public knowledge, appreciation and understanding of national monuments;
[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]
- (g) to record, preserve and disseminate information relating to national monuments; and
- (h) to advise the Government in respect of matters relating to the preservation or maintenance of monuments.
[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Powers of Board under this Act

5. Without prejudice to section 7 of the National Heritage Board Act (Cap. 196A), the Board, in discharging its functions under this Act, shall have and may exercise the following powers:

(a) advise on, supervise, control and require alterations, repairs, maintenance, renovations or construction of any kind to be made to any national monument or proposed national monument for the purpose of ensuring the better preservation of the national monument or proposed national monument;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) contribute by grant or loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred in the restoration, repair, maintenance or management of a national monument or proposed national monument to ensure its proper preservation;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(c) publish or sponsor the publication of information and other works relating to monuments which have been identified for preservation or which are being preserved under this Act, or to any other matter concerning the functions of the Board;

(d) organise such activities and other programmes as the Board thinks necessary or desirable for the discharge of its functions under this Act;

(e) carry out promotional activities or publicity in any form;

(f) arrange for or provide professional and technical services in relation to the preservation of monuments, on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Board;

(g) charge fees or commissions for any service provided by the Board under this Act; and

(h) generally do all such matters and things as may be incidental to or consequential upon the exercise of its powers or the discharge of its functions under this Act.

Directions by Minister

6.—(1) The Minister may give such directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as to the performance of the functions and the exercise of its powers by the Board and the Board shall give effect to any such directions.

(2) The Board shall furnish the Minister with such information or facilities for obtaining information with respect to its functions in such manner and at such times as the Minister may reasonably require.

Appointment of National Monuments Advisory Committee

7. Without prejudice to section 8 of the National Heritage Board Act (Cap. 196A), the Board, on such terms as it may determine, may appoint a committee, to be known as the National Monuments Advisory Committee, to advise the Board in the discharge of its functions under this Act.

PART III

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

Appointment of Director of National Monuments

8.—(1) The Board shall appoint one of its officers as the Director of National Monuments who shall be responsible for the performance of the duties and functions assigned to the Director under this Act.

(2) The Board may give such directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as to the performance of the duties and functions of the Director and the Director shall give effect to any such directions.

Appointment of Monument Inspectors

9.—(1) The Director may in writing appoint any public officer or any officer or employee of the Board or of any other statutory authority to be a Monument Inspector for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every Monument Inspector shall, when exercising his powers and carrying out his duties under this Act, comply with such general or special directions as may, from time to time, be given to him by the Director or the Board.

(3) Every Monument Inspector when exercising any powers under this Act shall, if not in uniform, declare his office and shall, on demand, produce to any person affected by the exercise of those

powers such identification card as the Director may direct to be carried by the Monument Inspector when exercising such powers.

Public servants

10. The Director and all Monument Inspectors shall be deemed to be public servants for the purposes of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).

PART IV

PROVISIONS FOR PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS

Power of Minister to make preservation orders

11.—(1) Subject to subsection (7), the Minister may, after consulting the Board, make a preservation order to place any monument under the protection of the Board.

(2) A monument which is subject to a preservation order and any land containing or adjacent to the monument that is specified in that preservation order shall be known as a national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) A preservation order shall specify the monument protected by it and shall extend to —

- (a) all the land containing the monument; and
- (b) such land adjacent to the monument which is in the same ownership as the monument and which the Minister is satisfied should also be protected under this Act in order —
 - (i) to preserve the monument in its setting;
 - (ii) to provide or facilitate access to the monument; or
 - (iii) to provide for the exercise of proper control or management with respect to the monument.

(4) A preservation order shall —

- (a) be published in the *Gazette*;
- (b) take effect as from the date specified therein; and

- (c) remain in force until revoked by the Minister under subsection (6) or until it otherwise ceases to have effect by virtue of section 12.

(5) A copy of the preservation order together with a notice stating the effect thereof shall be served upon the owner and the occupier (if he is a different person from the owner) of the monument and the land to which the order extends.

(6) Subject to subsection (7), the Minister may, after consulting the Board, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend or revoke a preservation order.

(7) Before the Minister makes, amends or revokes a preservation order, the Board shall —

- (a) give notice in writing of the Minister's intention to do so to the owner and occupier of the monument and any land adjacent thereto which will be affected by the making, amendment or revocation (as the case may be) of the preservation order;
- (b) in such notice specify a reasonable period within which such owner and occupier may submit to the Board their objections (if any) to the making, amendment or revocation (as the case may be) of the preservation order; and
- (c) consider every objection received under paragraph (b) and make its recommendations to the Minister in relation thereto.

(7A) To avoid doubt, the Minister is not prevented from —

- (a) amending or revoking a preservation order relating to a national monument; or
- (b) making a preservation order in relation to a proposed national monument,

if no objection is submitted to the Board under subsection (7)(b) in relation to that national monument or proposed national monument, as the case may be.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(8) A preservation order shall bind all subsequent owners and occupiers of, and persons interested in, the land to which it applies and —

- (a) if it affects registered land, shall be regarded as if it were a statutory obligation under section 142 of the Land Titles Act (Cap. 157); and
- (b) if it affects unregistered land, shall be regarded as if it were an instrument affecting land under the Registration of Deeds Act (Cap. 269).

(9) For the purposes of subsection (8), upon the Minister making a preservation order under subsection (1), the Board shall —

- (a) if the preservation order affects registered land, notify the Registrar of Titles of the preservation order in accordance with section 142 of the Land Titles Act and the Registrar of Titles shall thereupon give effect to the preservation order in accordance with that section of the Land Titles Act as if the preservation order were a statutory obligation; and
- (b) if the preservation order affects unregistered land, present a copy of the preservation order to the Registrar of Deeds in accordance with section 5 of the Registration of Deeds Act and the Registrar of Deeds shall thereupon register the preservation order under that section of the Registration of Deeds Act as if the preservation order were an instrument affecting land.

(10) Any person who intends to transfer, assign, demise or otherwise deal with any proposed national monument, monument or land affected by a preservation order shall give to the Board —

- (a) not less than 2 weeks' notice in writing of the intended transfer, assignment, demise or dealing, as the case may be; and
- (b) notice in writing of the completion of the transfer, assignment, demise or dealing within 2 weeks of the completion thereof.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(11) Any person who contravenes subsection (10) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

(12) The Board shall publish, in such manner as it thinks fit, a list of all national monuments and proposed national monuments.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Saving for dwelling-house

12. Where a preservation order is made in respect of any structure that appears to the Board to be occupied as a dwelling-house and that structure has not been vested in the Board or the Government, as the case may be, then, if the structure is not acquired under the Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 152) within the period of one year from the date of the preservation order, the preservation order shall cease to have effect in relation to that structure.

Duty to maintain national monument

13.—(1) It shall be the duty of the owner and the occupier of any national monument to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the national monument is properly maintained at all times in accordance with such guidelines as may be issued by the Board.

(2) The Board may by notice in writing (referred to hereinafter as a preservation notice) require the owner or occupier of a national monument to carry out, at his own expense and within the time specified in the notice, such works for the preservation, maintenance or repair of the national monument as may be specified in the notice.

(3) The owner or occupier of a national monument may, within 14 days of service on him of a preservation notice or within such longer period as the Minister may allow, appeal to the Minister against the requirements of the preservation notice and the Minister may —

- (a) dismiss the appeal;
- (b) allow the appeal unconditionally; or
- (c) allow the appeal in whole or in part and subject to such conditions as he considers fit,

and may give such directions as he thinks necessary to give effect to his decision on the appeal.

(4) The decision of the Minister under subsection (3) shall be final.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), a preservation notice shall take effect from the date specified therein notwithstanding that any appeal under subsection (3) is pending.

(6) If the Minister is satisfied that the execution of the preservation notice may be delayed without resulting in any danger or damage to the national monument, the Minister may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose on the appellant, direct that the preservation notice shall not take effect until the determination or abandonment of the appeal.

(7) Subject to any direction of the Minister under subsection (6), any person who fails to comply with the requirements of a preservation notice shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$200 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

Execution and costs of works required by preservation notice

14. If the requirements of a preservation notice are not complied with to the satisfaction of the Board —

- (a) the Director or a Monument Inspector may, at any reasonable time, enter the national monument to which the preservation notice relates and cause any of the works specified in the preservation notice and such other works which are in the Board's opinion necessary for the preservation of the national monument to be carried out; and
- (b) the expenses reasonably incurred by the Director or Monument Inspector in the exercise of his powers under paragraph (a) and such other reasonable expenses as may be incidental thereto shall be recoverable by the Board as a civil debt from the person who is, on the date of the

preservation notice, the owner or occupier of the national monument.

Control over work

15.—(1) No person shall, without the prior written permission of the Board, and whether as principal or agent —

(a) demolish, reconstruct, alter or make additions to a national monument or proposed national monument or any part thereof;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) repair, renovate, repaint or redecorate a national monument or proposed national monument or any part thereof;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(c) deposit any waste material on or pollute or flood the land or site on which a national monument or proposed national monument stands or any part thereof; or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(d) do in relation to the national monument or proposed national monument or any part thereof or to the land on which the national monument or proposed national monument is located such other act as may be prescribed as an act to which this section applies.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(1A) A person must not, without the prior written permission of the Board, and whether as principal or agent —

(a) clear, dig up, excavate or cultivate any plant or tree on or in a national monument or proposed national monument which is a site;

(b) extract, mine, quarry or interfere with any earth, stone, clay, gravel, sand, shell, minerals, mineral oil, natural gas, or any thing or group of things that evidence human activity (present or past), found on, in or forming part of a national monument or proposed national monument which is a site;

(c) destroy the relationship of a building and its environment that is incompatible with the character of the

neighbourhood in a national monument or proposed national monument which is a site;

- (d) park or leave any vehicle or vessel on or in a national monument or proposed national monument which is a site; or
- (e) damage or enclose a national monument or proposed national monument which is a site,

knowing or reckless as to whether it is a national monument or proposed national monument, as the case may be.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2) In granting any permission required under subsection (1) or (1A), the Board may impose such conditions as it thinks necessary for the protection of the national monument or proposed national monument, including —

- (a) conditions requiring any works affecting the national monument or proposed national monument to be carried out in accordance with the specifications of the Board; and
- (b) conditions requiring the person to whom the permission is granted to restore the national monument or proposed national monument in accordance with the specifications of the Board in the event that any damage is caused to the national monument or proposed national monument as a result of the works.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) The Board may refuse to grant any permission as required under subsection (1) or (1A) if it is of the opinion that the works proposed to be done in relation —

- (a) to a national monument or any part of a national monument, or to the land or site on which the national monument is located, would affect the character or appearance of the national monument in a manner which is inappropriate or unbecoming a national monument; or

- (b) to a proposed national monument or any part of a proposed national monument, or to the land or site on which the proposed national monument is located, would irreparably alter the historic, cultural, traditional, archaeological, architectural, artistic or symbolic significance attached to it or any other condition of the proposed national monument before a decision whether or not the proposed national monument should be protected by a preservation order.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(4) Any person who —

- (a) contravenes subsection (1) or (1A); or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

- (b) fails to comply with any condition imposed by the Board under subsection (2),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (i) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$5,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction; or
- (ii) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), the court before which a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (4) may, in addition to punishing him in accordance with subsection (4), make an order requiring him —

- (a) at his own expense and within such time as may be specified in the order, to restore the national monument or proposed national monument in accordance with the specifications of the Board; or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) to pay to the Board a sum equivalent to the cost of restoring the national monument or proposed national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(6) Where the person convicted of an offence under subsection (4) is a body corporate (as defined in section 29(5)), a partnership or an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), the court may make the additional order referred to in subsection (5) against any person who, by virtue of section 29 is also guilty of that offence as an officer or a partner (as the case may be) of the body corporate, partnership or unincorporated association.

(7) In determining the amount of any fine to be imposed on a person convicted of an offence under this section, the court shall, in particular, have regard to any financial benefit which has accrued or appears likely to accrue to him in consequence of the offence.

(8) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (4), it is a defence if the person proves, on a balance of probabilities, that the act done or omitted to be done in relation to a national monument or proposed national monument —

(a) was done or omitted —

- (i) urgently or immediately for the safety of persons or property; and
- (ii) with all reasonable care to ensure that the act or omission would have no more effect on the character or appearance of the national monument or proposed national monument (as the case may be) than was necessary in the circumstances; or

(b) was done or omitted —

- (i) in good faith; and
- (ii) for the purpose of complying with or giving effect to any order or requirement of the Government or a statutory authority (other than the Board) given in the performance of any function, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty of the

Government or statutory authority (as the case may be) under any written law other than this Act.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(9) Where the court makes an order requiring any person to pay a sum to the Board under subsection (5)(b), such sum, if unpaid, shall be recoverable from that person by the Board as if the sum were a judgment debt due to the Board.

(10) The Director or a Monument Inspector may enter, at any reasonable time, a national monument or proposed national monument or any part thereof in order —

- (a) to ascertain whether any works being carried thereon comply with the conditions imposed by the Board under subsection (2); and
- (b) to take such action and give such direction as the Director or Monument Inspector considers necessary for the protection of the national monument or proposed national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Power to require information about activities affecting national monument or proposed national monument

16.—(1) Where it appears to the Director or a Monument Inspector that there may have been a contravention of section 15(1) or (1A) in respect of any national monument or proposed national monument, he may serve a notice to that effect (referred to hereinafter as an information notice) on any person who —

- (a) is the owner or occupier of the national monument or proposed national monument;
- (b) has any other interest in the national monument or proposed national monument;
- (c) is carrying out any operation or activity on the national monument or proposed national monument; or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(d) is using the national monument or proposed national monument for any purpose,

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

and may by such notice require that person to give such information as to —

(i) the operation or activity that has been or is being carried out on the national monument or proposed national monument; or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(ii) the purposes for which the national monument or proposed national monument has been or is being used.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2) In particular, the information notice may require the person on whom it is served —

(a) to state whether or not the national monument or proposed national monument has been or is being used for any of the purposes specified in the notice, or whether or not any operation or activity specified in the notice has been or is being carried out on the national monument or proposed national monument;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) to state when any such use, operation or activity began;

(c) to give the name and address of any person whom he knows has used or is using the national monument or proposed national monument for any purpose, or has carried out or is carrying out any operation or activity on the national monument or proposed national monument;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(d) to give any information he holds as to any written permission of the Board for any work or any reason for such written permission not being required for any work; and

(e) to state the nature of his interest (if any) in the national monument or proposed national monument and the name and address of any other person known to him to have an

interest in the national monument or proposed national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) Any requirement of an information notice shall be complied with by giving the information in writing to the Director or a Monument Inspector or to such officer or employee of the Board as may be specified in the information notice.

(4) The service of an information notice does not affect any other power exercisable by the Board, the Director or a Monument Inspector in respect of any breach of the provisions of this Act.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Non-compliance with information notice

17.—(1) If, at any time after the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which an information notice has been served on any person, such person has not complied with the requirements of the notice, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, the information required.

(3) A person shall be guilty of an offence if he —

(a) makes any statement purporting to comply with a requirement of an information notice which he knows to be false or misleading in a material particular; or

(b) recklessly makes such a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular.

(4) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$100 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

Enforcement notice

18. If the Board is satisfied —

- (a) that section 15(1) or (1A) has been or is being contravened in respect of a national monument or proposed national monument; or
- (b) that a national monument or proposed national monument is, due to any operation or activity by any person, at risk of or is actually being destroyed, removed, damaged or altered,

the Board may, by notice in writing (called an enforcement notice), require —

- (c) the owner or occupier of the national monument or proposed national monument;
- (d) the person who committed or is committing the contravention; or
- (e) the person who carried out or is carrying out the operation or activity,

to do all or any of the following within the time specified in the enforcement notice:

- (f) to stop carrying out in relation to the national monument or proposed national monument any operation or activity that may be specified in the enforcement notice;
- (g) to stop using the national monument or proposed national monument for any purpose that may be specified in the enforcement notice;
- (h) to take, at the own expense of the owner, occupier or person given the enforcement notice, any protective, remedial or other measures in relation to the national monument or proposed national monument that may be specified in the enforcement notice.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Appeal to Minister against enforcement notice

19.—(1) Any person aggrieved by any requirement of an enforcement notice may, within 14 days of service on him of the enforcement notice or within such longer period as the Minister may allow, appeal to the Minister against such requirement.

(2) Where an appeal is made under subsection (1), the Minister may —

- (a) dismiss the appeal;
- (b) allow the appeal unconditionally; or
- (c) allow the appeal in whole or in part and subject to such conditions as he considers fit,

and may give such directions as he thinks necessary to give effect to his decision on the appeal.

(3) The decision of the Minister under subsection (2) shall be final.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), an enforcement notice shall take effect from the date specified therein notwithstanding that any appeal under subsection (2) is pending.

(5) If the Minister is satisfied that the execution of the enforcement notice may be delayed without resulting in any danger or damage to the national monument or proposed national monument, the Minister may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose on the appellant, direct that the enforcement notice shall not take effect until the determination or abandonment of the appeal.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Non-compliance with enforcement notice

20.—(1) Subject to any direction of the Minister under section 19(5), if a person on whom an enforcement notice has been served fails to comply with the notice —

- (a) that person shall be guilty of an offence;
- (b) the Director or a Monument Inspector may enter the national monument or proposed national monument and

take such measures as may be necessary to secure the compliance with the enforcement notice; and

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

- (c) the expenses reasonably incurred by the Director or Monument Inspector in the exercise of his powers under paragraph (b) and such other reasonable expenses as may be incidental thereto shall be recoverable by the Board as a civil debt from the person who failed to comply with the enforcement notice.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1)(a) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$5,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction; or
- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

(3) In determining the amount of any fine to be imposed on a person convicted of an offence under this section, the court shall, in particular, have regard to any financial benefit which has accrued or appears likely to accrue to him in consequence of the offence.

Injunctions

21.—(1) Where the Director or a Monument Inspector considers it necessary or expedient for any actual or apprehended contravention of the provisions of this Act to be restrained by injunction, he may apply to the General Division of the High Court for an injunction, whether or not he has exercised or is proposing to exercise any of his other powers under this Act.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

(2) Where the Director or a Monument Inspector applies for an injunction under subsection (1), the General Division of the High Court —

- (a) shall not be bound to require an undertaking in damages from him; and
- (b) may grant such injunction as it thinks appropriate in the circumstances.

[Act 40 of 2019 wef 02/01/2021]

Defacing, damaging or interfering with national monuments or proposed national monuments

22.—(1) Any person who wilfully defaces, damages or otherwise interferes with any national monument or proposed national monument shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2) The court before which a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (1) may —

- (a) make an order requiring him, at his own expense and within such time as may be specified in the order, to restore the national monument or proposed national monument in accordance with the specifications of the Board; or

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

- (b) order him to pay to the Board a sum equivalent to the cost of restoring the national monument or proposed national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) Where the court orders any person to pay a sum to the Board under subsection (2)(b), such sum, if unpaid, shall be recoverable from that person by the Board as if the sum were a judgment debt due to the Board.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

Interface with other laws and statutory authorities

22A. Nothing in Part 4 applies to prevent or restrict or render unlawful the Government or a statutory authority (other than the Board) doing or omitting to do anything in the performance of any function, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty, of the Government or statutory authority, as the case may be —

- (a) under any written law other than this Act; and
- (b) in relation to a national monument or proposed national monument that is, or is on or within —
 - (i) any State land; or
 - (ii) any other land or site vested in or under the care, control or management of the Government or that statutory authority.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

PART V**TRANSFER OF PROPERTY, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****Interpretation of this Part**

23. In this Part —

“National Heritage Board” means the National Heritage Board established under the National Heritage Board Act (Cap. 196A);

“Preservation of Monuments Board” means the Preservation of Monuments Board established under the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act (Cap. 239, 1985 Ed.) in force immediately before 1st July 2009.

Transfer of property, assets and liabilities to National Heritage Board

24.—(1) As from 1st July 2009, all movable and immovable property vested in the Preservation of Monuments Board and all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities and obligations of that

Board shall be transferred to and shall vest in the National Heritage Board without further assurance, act or deed.

(2) Any immovable property to be transferred to and vested in the National Heritage Board under subsection (1) shall be held by that Board upon such tenure and subject to such terms and conditions as the President may determine.

(3) Every proceedings by or against the Preservation of Monuments Board which are pending on 1st July 2009 may be continued, completed and enforced by or against the National Heritage Board.

(4) Every agreement relating to any of the transferred properties to which the Preservation of Monuments Board was a party immediately before 1st July 2009, whether or not of such nature that the rights and liabilities thereunder could be assigned, shall have effect as from that date as if —

- (a) the National Heritage Board had been a party to such an agreement; and
 - (b) for any reference to the Preservation of Monuments Board there were substituted in respect of anything to be done on or after 1st July 2009 a reference to the National Heritage Board.
- (5) It is hereby declared for the avoidance of doubt that —
- (a) any reference in this Part to property vested in the Preservation of Monuments Board is a reference to such property of that Board whether situated in Singapore or elsewhere; and
 - (b) any such reference to rights and liabilities of the Preservation of Monuments Board is a reference to such rights to which that Board is entitled or, as the case may be, such liabilities to which that Board is subject, whether under the laws of Singapore or any country outside Singapore and includes rights and liabilities arising under loans raised by that Board.

Existing contracts

25. All deeds, bonds, agreements, instruments and arrangements subsisting immediately before 1st July 2009 which the Preservation of Monuments Board is a party shall continue in force on and after that date and shall be enforceable by or against the National Heritage Board as if the National Heritage Board had been named therein or had been a party thereto instead of the Preservation of Monuments Board.

No breach or default because of transfer

26.—(1) The operation of this Part shall not be regarded —

- (a) as a breach of contract or confidence or otherwise as a civil wrong;
- (b) as a breach of any contractual provision prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment or transfer of assets or liabilities; or
- (c) as giving rise to any remedy by a party to a legal instrument, or as causing or permitting the termination of any legal instrument, because of a change in the beneficial or legal ownership of any asset or liability.

(2) The operation of section 24 shall not be regarded as an event of default under any contract or other legal instrument.

(3) Any provision in any existing contract, agreement, conveyance, deed, lease, guarantee, bond, indemnity and other instrument or undertaking to which the Preservation of Monuments Board is a party or may be bound prohibiting or having the effect of prohibiting the transfer of any property, rights, obligations or liabilities comprised in the undertaking transferred under this Part shall be deemed by this Act to have been waived.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Powers of entry and enforcement

27.—(1) The Director or a Monument Inspector may, at any reasonable time without warrant and without using force, enter upon any land or site for the purpose of —

(a) inspecting any national monument or proposed national monument thereon;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) investigating into any contravention or suspected contravention of this Act;

(c) ascertaining whether any of the functions or powers conferred by or under this Act on the Board should or may be exercised; and

(d) taking any action or carrying out any work authorised or required by or under this Act.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(1A) The power conferred on the Director or a Monument Inspector under subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) includes the following powers:

(a) to examine any thing or observe any activity conducted in or on the land or site in question without involving any search of any premises, thing or person, or any seizure of any thing, in or on that land or site;

(b) to make a sketch, photograph or still or moving image, or an audio or a video recording, of the land or site in question and any thing in or on that land or site;

(c) to make measurements of the land in question and any thing in or on that land;

(d) to take samples of water, soil, vegetation or other similar substances from the land or site in question and any thing in or on that land or site for the purposes of analysis.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(1B) The Director or a Monument Inspector entering any land or site for any purpose in subsection (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d) may be accompanied by a number of other persons reasonably necessary for that purpose.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2) In addition to the powers conferred on him by this Act, the Director or a Monument Inspector may, in relation to any offence under this Act —

- (a) require any person whom he reasonably believes to have committed that offence to furnish evidence of the person's identity;
- (b) require any person to furnish any information or produce any book, document or copy thereof in the possession of that person, and may, without fee or reward, inspect, copy or make extracts from such book or document; or
- (c) require, by order in writing, the attendance at such time and place as may be specified in the order of any person within the limits of Singapore who, from any information given or otherwise obtained by the Director or Monument Inspector, appears to be acquainted with the circumstances of the case.

(2A) However, where the Director or a Monument Inspector —

- (a) suspects on reasonable grounds that an offence under section 13(7), 15(4), 20(1)(a) or 22(1) has been or is being committed in relation to any land or site; and
- (b) is unable to enter, or is refused entry to, the land or site under subsection (1),

the Director or Monument Inspector may forcibly enter the land or site without warrant for any purpose in subsection (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), including by breaking open any outer or inner door or window leading to the land or site and removing by force any obstruction to the entry.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2B) If the owner or occupier of the land or site is present when the Director or a Monument Inspector seeks to enter the land or site under

subsection (1) or (2A), the Director or Monument Inspector (as the case may be) must, before entering —

- (a) declare his or her office to the owner or occupier; and
- (b) show to the owner or occupier the identification card that the chief executive officer of the Board directs to be carried by the Director or Monument Inspector as proof of identity.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2C) If the owner or occupier of the land or site is not present when entry under subsection (1) or (2A) to the land or site is sought, but some other person who appears to be in charge of the land or site is present, then subsections (1) and (2A) respectively, apply to that other person as if he or she were the owner or occupier of the land or site.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(2D) However, subsections (2B) and (2C) do not apply if the land or site in question is unoccupied at the time of entry.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) Any person who —

- (a) refuses to give access to, or assaults, obstructs, hinders or delays, the Director or a Monument Inspector in the discharge of his duties under this Act;
- (b) wilfully mis-states or without lawful excuse refuses to give any information or produce any book, document or copy thereof required of him by the Director or a Monument Inspector under subsection (2); or
- (c) fails to comply with a lawful demand of the Director or a Monument Inspector in the discharge of his duties under this Act,

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 6 months or to both.

Powers of arrest

28.—(1) The Director, a Monument Inspector or a police officer may arrest any person whom he has reason to believe to be

committing or to have committed an offence punishable under this Act if —

- (a) the name and address of the person are unknown to him;
- (b) the person declines to give his name and address; or
- (c) there is reason to doubt the accuracy of the name and address given.

(2) A person arrested under this section may be detained until his name and address are correctly ascertained.

(3) A person arrested under this section shall not be detained longer than is necessary for bringing him before a court unless the order of a court for his continued detention is obtained.

Offences by bodies corporate, etc.

29.—(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part,

the officer as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part,

the partner as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(4) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved —

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of such officer or member,

the officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(5) In this section —

“body corporate” includes a limited liability partnership which has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Cap. 163A);

“officer” —

- (a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, partner, member of the committee of management, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity; or
- (b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of such a committee and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

(6) The Minister may make regulations to provide for the application of any provision of this section, with such modifications as the Minister considers appropriate, to any body corporate or unincorporated association formed or recognised under the law of a territory outside Singapore.

Jurisdiction of court

30. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (Act 15 of 2010), a District Court shall have jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and shall have power to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

Composition of offences

31.—(1) The Director or any officer of the Board authorised by the Director may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding —

(a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence; or

(b) \$5,000,

whichever is the lower.

(2) On payment of such sum of money, no further proceedings shall be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) All sums collected under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

General exemption

32. The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, by order published in the *Gazette*, either permanently or for such period as the Board may think fit, exempt any monument or person or any class of monuments or persons from all or any of the provisions of this Act.

Authentication of documents

33.—(1) Where any notice, order or other document required or authorised by this Act to be served on any person requires authentication, the signature of the Director, a Monument Inspector or any other duly authorised officer or employee of the Board or an official facsimile of such signature appended to such notice, order or document shall be sufficient authentication.

(2) In any proceedings under this Act, the contents of any such notice, order or document shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved.

Service of documents

34.—(1) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act to be served on any person may be served on the person —

- (a) by delivering it to the person or to some adult member or employee of his family or household at his last known place of residence;
- (b) by leaving it at his usual or last known place of residence or place of business in an envelope addressed to the person;
- (c) by sending it by registered post addressed to the person at his usual or last known place of residence or place of business; or
- (d) in the case of an incorporated company, a partnership or a body of persons —
 - (i) by delivering it to the secretary or other like officer of the company, partnership or body of persons at its registered office or principal place of business; or
 - (ii) by sending it by registered post addressed to the company, partnership or body of persons at its registered office or principal place of business.

(2) Any notice, order or document sent by registered post to any person in accordance with subsection (1) shall be deemed to be duly served on the person at the time when the notice, order or document, as the case may be, would in the ordinary course of post be delivered and, in proving service of the notice, order or document, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the same was properly addressed, stamped and posted by registered post.

(3) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act to be served on the owner or occupier of any premises may be served by delivering it or a true copy thereof to some adult person on the premises or, if there is no such person on the premises to whom it

can with reasonable diligence be delivered, by affixing the notice, order or document to some conspicuous part of the premises.

(4) Any notice, order or document required or authorised by this Act to be served on the owner or occupier of any premises shall be deemed to be properly addressed if addressed by the description of the owner or occupier of the premises without further name or description.

Regulations

35.—(1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act and for any matter which is required under this Act to be prescribed.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the purposes for which regulations may be made under this section include the following:

(a) to prohibit or to control and regulate the carrying out of any work on or in relation to a national monument or proposed national monument;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(b) to prohibit or to control and regulate the use of a national monument or proposed national monument for any particular purpose;

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(c) to prohibit or to control and regulate the doing of any particular act in relation to a national monument or proposed national monument (including the placement or display of signs, banners, posters, buntings, flags or any other advertising material on a national monument or proposed national monument);

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(d) to provide for the preservation and protection of any fitting, fixture, artefact or other movable object that is found in, is attached to or forms part of a national monument or proposed national monument; and

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

- (e) to prescribe additional duties to be imposed on the owner or occupier of a national monument or proposed national monument in relation to the preservation, protection and use of such national monument or proposed national monument.

[Act 36 of 2021 wef 30/11/2021]

(3) Regulations made under this section —

- (a) may provide that any contravention of, or failure or neglect to comply with, any provision of such regulations shall be an offence;
- (b) may prescribe the fine with which the offence shall be punishable, except that no such fine shall exceed for any one offence, the sum of \$5,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, the sum of \$100 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction; and
- (c) may prescribe the offences which may be compounded under section 31.

(4) All regulations made under this Act shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

Saving and transitional provisions

36.—(1) For the avoidance of doubt —

- (a) every preservation order made under section 8 of the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act (Cap. 239, 1985 Ed.) shall be deemed to have been made under section 11 of this Act;
- (b) any permission, approval, decision, notice, order (not being a preservation order) or other document prepared, made, granted, issued and any act or thing done under or pursuant to the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act and valid immediately before 1st July 2009 shall be deemed to have been prepared, made, granted, issued or done under or pursuant to the corresponding provision of this Act and shall continue to have effect accordingly;

- (c) any application, request, objection or appeal made to the Preservation of Monuments Board or the Minister under any provision of the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act on which the decision of that Board or the Minister has not been made immediately before 1st July 2009 shall be deemed to have been made and shall be dealt with under the corresponding provision of this Act;
 - (d) the powers conferred on the National Heritage Board, the Director or a Monument Inspector by this Act may be exercised in respect of any breach, contravention or non-compliance of or under the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act as if it were a breach, contravention or non-compliance of or under the corresponding provision of this Act, except any offence committed under the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act before 1st July 2009 shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that Act as if this Act had not been enacted; and
 - (e) any enforcement process or proceedings commenced, pending or existing immediately before 1st July 2009 in connection with any breach, contravention or non-compliance of or under the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act may be continued and disposed of under the provisions of that Act as if this Act had not been enacted.
- (2) In so far as it is necessary for preserving the effect of any written law or document, any reference in such written law or document to the repealed Preservation of Monuments Act shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to this Act.

[38]

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS ACT
(CHAPTER 239)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Preservation of Monuments Act. It is not part of the Act.

1. Act 16 of 2009 — Preservation of Monuments Act 2000

Date of First Reading : 23 March 2009
(Bill No. 9/2009)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 13 April 2009

Date of commencement : 1 July 2009

Note: The Preservation of Monuments Act 2009 repealed and re-enacted with amendments the Preservation of Monuments Act (Chapter 239, 1985 Revised Edition).

2. 2011 Revised Edition — Preservation of Monuments Act (Chapter 239)

Date of operation : 31 December 2011

3. Act 40 of 2019 — Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2019

Date of First Reading : 7 October 2019 (Bill No. 32/2019 published on 7 October 2019)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 5 November 2019

Date of commencement : 2 January 2021

4. Act 36 of 2021 — Preservation of Monuments (Amendment) Act 2021
(Amendments made by the above Act)

Date of First Reading : 4 October 2021 (Bill No. 33/2021 published on 4 October 2021)

Second and Third Readings : 2 November 2021

Date of Commencement : 30 November 2021

COMPARATIVE TABLE
PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS ACT
(CHAPTER 239)

The following provisions in the Preservation of Monuments Act 2009 (Act 16 of 2009) have been renumbered by the Law Revision Commissioners in this 2011 Revised Edition.

This Comparative Table is provided for the convenience of users. It is not part of the Preservation of Monuments Act.

2011 Ed.	Act 16 of 2009
<i>Omitted</i>	36
<i>Omitted</i>	37
36	38
<i>Spent</i>	(3)