

National Monuments Act, 1980

(Act 19 of 1980, 29th July)

An Act to provide for the better preservation of monuments and other objects of aesthetic, historical, archaeological or scientific interest; and to provide for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith

Enacted by the President and the People's Assembly—

This Act may be cited as the National Monuments Act, 1980.

in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

"ancient monument" means any building, ruin, pillar, statue, grave or other site or thing of a similar kind, or any remains thereof, which is known or believed to have been erected, constructed or used before 1st January, 1900;

«Board» means the Board established under section 3;

«monument» means—

any ancient or national monument;

any area of land which is of archaeological or historical interest or which contains objects of such interest;

any old building or other structure;

any other object (whether natural or constructed by man) of aesthetic, archaeological, historic or scientific value or interest;

«national monument» means any monument declared to be a national monument under section 5;

«relic» means—

any fossil of any kind;

any object of aesthetic, archaeological, historical or scientific value or interest;

any anthropological or archaeological contents of any monument.

There is hereby established a board, to be known as the National Monuments Board, which shall be constituted and shall operate in accordance with the Schedule.

(1) The Board may—

make a list of all monuments whose declarations as national monuments it considers desirable;

take steps to ascertain the owner of any such monument;

recommend to the Minister the declaration of any monument as a national monument;

purchase or otherwise acquire any monument or relic;

assume control over any monument or relic if so requested by the person having ownership or control thereof, and accept any such monument or relic which the owner thereof desires to give or has bequeathed to the Government;

preserve, repair, restore or insure any monument, whether or not it is owned by it or is under its control;

lend any relic to any museum or other public institution;

undertake the excavation of any ancient monument and authorize any act it may deem necessary for the excavation, exploration or safe preservation of any ancient monument or relic wherever situate or found or by whosoever owned or controlled;

erect or cause to be erected tablets in suitable places giving information about historical events which occurred at such places;

through any of its members, have reasonable access at all time to any monument or relic;

subject to the rights of any owner or occupier of property, do such things as may be necessary to facilitate the access of the public to any relic or monument which is owned or controlled by the Board or the Government;
make provision for Catering facilities Within any area or place which hits been declared to be a national monument.

The Board shall—

when required by the Minister, investigate and report on any matter relating to any monument or relic and upon the desirability of declaring any monument to be a national monument;

on or before 1st March in every year furnish to the Minister, for presentation to the People's Assembly, a report upon its work during the year immediately preceding year ending 31st December, and on any other matters connected with the preservation of monuments and relics which it may wish to bring to the attention of the Minister;

make and maintain a register of all monuments and relics which it has acquired or which have been brought to its notice.

- (1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, by order published in the Gazette, declare any monument to be a national monument.

If a monument is situate on land not belonging to the Government. a declaration shall be made in accordance with the following procedure—

at least one month before recommending to the Minister the declaration of any monument which does not belong to the Government, the Board shall notify the owner thereof in writing that it proposes to make such recommendation and such owner may thereupon lodge with the Board objections in writing to the proposal;

in making its recommendation. the Board shall submit to the Minister proof that such notice was sent to the owner by registered post to his last known address, and shall also transmit to the Minister any objections which may have been lodged against such recommendation.

- (1) The discovery of any ancient monument or relic shall be notified in writing to the Board without delay by the discoverer thereof and also by the owner or occupier of the land on which such ancient monument or relic is discovered upon the discovery coming to his notice.

On receipt of a notice under subsection (1), the Board shall have the right of option to acquire the ownership of the ancient monument or relic so discovered upon payment to the owner thereof of a sum of money to be agreed upon as fair and reasonable compensation, or, failing agreement, by reference to an arbitrator appointed by the Supreme Court.

If within 6 months after receipt of the first notice of discovery under subsection (1) the Board has failed to notify the owner of the ancient monument or relic that it intends to exercise its right of Option, such right of option shall lapse.

No person shall, without the written consent of the Board and subject to such conditions as it may impose or as may be prescribed, excavate any ancient monument.

- (1) No person shall, without the Written consent of the Board, --
make any alteration to, destroy or damage;
move from its original site or export from Seychelles; or
carry out any cultivation or other work so as to cause or be likely to cause injury or disturbance to, any ancient monument, national monument or relic, or any part thereof.

Any person who wishes to remove from its original site or to export from Seychelles any ancient monument, national monument or relic or any part thereof, shall when applying to the Board for its consent, supply the Board with a photograph or drawing of the monument or relic or part thereof and shall state the exact locality

in which it is situate and the place to which and the purpose for which he wishes to remove or export it.

(1) Any person who—

defaces, damages or destroys any tablet erected by the Board under section 4(i);
contravenes section 6, 7 or 8;

in any application to the Board for its consent under section 7 or 8, makes any statement which is false in any material respect or supplies any photograph or drawing which is false in any material particular,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of R. 5,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years.

if any person is convicted of an offense under this Act which has resulted in any damage to, destruction or removal of, any ancient monument, national monument or relic or any part thereof or any tablet erected by the Board, the court may, in addition to any penalty imposed, order him to pay to the Board such sum as the court may determine for the purpose of repairing such damage or for the value of any article or thing removed or destroyed and may, in the case of any article which has been removed and which is still in the possession of any person, order such person to restore such article to the Board.

The Minister may, on the advice of the Board, make regulations for the better carrying out of the purposes and provisions of this Act and in particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing may make regulations—

regulating, the access of the public to any monument or relic which is the property of the government or the Board or which is held or controlled by the Board with the agreement of the owner;

prescribing fees which shall be payable for such access;

safeguarding national monuments, ancient monuments, tablets and relics from disfigurement, alteration, destruction, damage or export;

regulating the excavation of monuments; or

prohibiting or regulating any specific act in or in respect of any monument.

SCHEDULE

(Section 3)

The Board

The Board shall be composed of a Chairman and four other members appointed by the Minister for such period as he may determine.

Notice of appointments to the Board shall be published in the Gazette.

A quorum of the Board shall be 3 members.

The Board shall meet not less than 4 times a year.

Except as otherwise provided, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill that was confirmed by the People's Assembly on the 15th day of July, 1980.

Mrs. M. Chelty,
Clerk to the People's Assembly.