

BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

Dated Quetta, 20th March, 2015.

No. PAB/LEGIS: V (02)/2015. The Balochistan Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) Bill, 2015 (Bill No. 02 of 2015, having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 9th March, 2015 and assented to by the Governor, Balochistan Provincial Assembly on 18th March, 2015 is hereby published as an Act of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

THE BALUCHISTAN HOLY QURAN (PRINTING AND RECORDING) Act, 2015 Act NO. II OF 2015

(First published after having received the assent of the Governor Balochistan in the Balochistan Gazette (Extra-ordinary dated 18th March, 2014).

An

Act

to ensure publication of the text of the Holy Quran free from errors of printing and recording and proper disposal of damaged or Shaheed copies of the Holy Quran in Balochistan.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for publication of the text of the Holy *Quran* free from errors of printing and recording, for proper disposal of damaged or *Shaheed* copies of the Holy *Quran*, and for ancillary matters;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called as the Balochistan Holy *Quran* (Printing and Recording) Act, 2015.
- (2) It extends to the whole of Balochistan, except the Tribal Areas.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—
 - (a) “**Act**” means the Balochistan Holy *Quran* (Printing and Recording) Act, 2015;
 - (b) “**Ayah**” means a sentence, clause or verse of the Holy *Quran* at the end of which the small round circle is given in the standard copy;
 - (c) “**damaged or Shaheed copy of the Holy Quran**” includes a sub-standard copy of the Holy *Quran*, damaged or worn out pages of the Holy *Quran* and other pages containing Quranic verses or illegal writing or sub-standard binding of copies of the Holy *Quran*;
 - (d) “**disposal**” means collection, storage and preservation of a damaged or *Shaheed* copy of the Holy *Quran* or pages containing Quranic verses, its burial underground or its disposal in the sea or river or recycling it in such a manner as conforms to its holiness and sanctity for reuse exclusively for printing of the Islamic Books ;
 - (e) “**Government**” means the Government of Balochistan;
 - (f) “**Holy Quran**” means the Holy *Quran* in Arabic text, published in a complete form, or in the form of parts (*Paaras*) or chapters (*Surahs*), but does not include extract published in a text-book, a prayer-book or a religious treatise;
 - (g) “**prescribed**” means prescribed by the rules made under the Act;
 - (h) “**publisher**” means a person or an association of persons registered under section 3 as publisher of the Holy *Quran*;

- (i) “**Quran Board**” means the *Quran* Board constituted under section 4;
- (j) “**record of the Holy Quran**” means the Holy *Quran* recited in human voice and recorded by any modern means of recording, conforming to the text contained in the standard copy;
- (k) “**recording company**” means a person or an association of persons registered under section 3 as a recording company; *and*
- (l) “**standard copy**” means a copy of the Holy *Quran* authenticated by the *Quran* Board as corrected and free from errors of printing.

Registration of publishers and recording companies.

3. The Government may, in the prescribed manner and on payment of prescribed fee and fulfillment of the prescribed terms and conditions, register a publisher or a recording company for the purposes of publishing or recording the Holy *Quran*.

Quran Board.

4. (1) The Government shall constitute a *Quran* Board comprising prominent *Ulama*, *Huffaz* and *Qaris* of all schools of thought amongst Muslims.

(2) The Government shall cause a copy of the Holy *Quran* to be prepared, and shall forward it to the *Quran* Board for authentication as a standard copy.

(3) The Government shall keep the standard copy in the Government archives for safe custody.

(4) The *Quran* Board shall recommend steps for error-free printing and publication or recording of the Holy *Quran* and shall, subject to the direction of the Government, supervise the work of error-free printing and publication or recording of the Holy *Quran*.

(5) The Government shall make suitable arrangements including earmarking infrastructure for disposal of damaged or *Shaheed* copies of the Holy *Quran* at a suitable place and maintain sanctity at every step until such disposal is complete.

(6) The *Quran* Board shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

Publishing of the Holy Quran.

5. (1) A publisher may print the Holy *Quran* in off-set, Photostat, photo-block or any other modern system of printing but he shall not print it in litho process.

(2) In printing the Holy *Quran*, a publisher shall not use paper prohibited by the Government.

(3) The publisher shall get its specimen copy and every recording company shall get its specimen record of the Holy *Quran* compared with the text of the standard copy by a person holding a diploma from a religious institution or a certificate of *Moulvi Fazil* or a qualified *Qari* who is also a *Hafiz* or a person trained in the job of proof reading in Arabic and have a certificate recorded by such a person at the end to the effect that the text and references do not contain any error.

(4) The publisher shall ensure—

- (a) that the serial number of every chapter (*Surah*) is printed on every page and the serial number of every *Ayah* is inserted within the small round circle of every *Ayah*;
- (b) that the cover page of every edition of the Holy *Quran* clearly bears the name of the publisher, the name of printing press, and the year of publication;
- (c) that every page of the Holy *Quran* bears the indication given in the Schedule; *and*
- (d) on detection of any error or omission in the printed Holy *Quran*, the leaf on which it occurs is replaced by a fresh leaf free from such error or omission, in each such copy.

(5) The publisher shall not be penalized for non compliance with the provisions of clauses (a) and (c) of sub-section (4) unless he is found negligent in the performance of his duty.

(6) No translation of the Holy *Quran* shall be published or recorded without its Arabic text; and

(7) No record of the Holy *Quran* which injures its sanctity, in any form, shall be prepared.

Literal distortion of the text of *Ayah*.

6. Where, in a copy or record of the Holy *Quran* or in any extract thereof published in a text-book, a prayer book, a religious treatise or otherwise, any *Ayah* has been literally distorted, either by change of a word, or of sequence, or of *Ea'rab*, as to alter its meaning, the printer or publisher thereof, or, as the case may be, the recording company, whether or not registered under this Act shall, unless he or it proves that such distortion occurred only owing to a printing or mechanical error, be liable to the punishment provided for in section 9.

Translation or interpretation of the Holy *Quran* contrary to belief of Muslims.

7. Where, in a copy or record of the Holy *Quran*, or in any extract thereof published in a text book, a prayer book, a religious treatise or any other book, an *Ayah* is translated, interpreted or commented upon by a non-Muslim contrary to the belief of Muslims, the author, the printer or publisher, or the person who prepared the record, whether or not registered under this Act, shall, unless he proves that such translation, interpretation or commentary occurred only owing to a printing or mechanical error, be liable to punishment provided for in section 9.

Disposal of damaged or *Shaheed* copies

8. A publisher or a recording company shall make suitable arrangements in the prescribed manner for disposal of a damaged or *Shaheed* copy of the Holy *Quran* and shall comply with the directions of the Government issued for proper disposal of a damaged or *Shaheed* copy of the Holy *Quran*.

Penalty.

9. (1) A printer, publisher or a proprietor of a recording company who contravenes any provision of this Act or the rules made there under, or a person in whose voice a record is prepared, or a person who has certified under sub-section (3) of section 5, a specimen copy or record of the Holy *Quran* which is not in conformity with the provisions of this Act, shall be liable to rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine of not less than twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) The Government shall cancel the registration under section 3 of a publisher who or a recording company which is convicted of an offence under sub-section (1).

Offences by corporations.

10. If a person guilty of an offence under sub-section (1) of section 9 is a company or other body corporate, every proprietor, director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company or body corporate shall, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence, be deemed to be guilty of such offence.

Power to make rules.

11. (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for—

- (a) the constitution and functions of the *Quran* Board;
- (b) the inspection of the copies and records of the Holy *Quran* printed or prepared before the commencement of this Act;
- (c) the prohibition of the sale of copies and records of the Holy *Quran* containing errors;
- (d) the checking of all such copies and records of the Holy *Quran* as have not been certified under this Act as free from errors, at the expense of the publisher or recording company;
- (e) the seizure of such copies or records of the Holy *Quran* in which there are errors which cannot, in the opinion of the prescribed authority, easily be corrected in print or record; and
- (f) the disposal of a damaged or *Shaheed* copy of the Holy *Quran*.

Repeal.

12. (1) The Publication of Holy *Quran* (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act 1973 (Act No. LIV of 1973), in its application to the extent of Province of Balochistan, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Publication of Holy *Quran* (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act 1973 (LIV of 1973), anything done or action taken under the repealed Act, shall have the same effect as if it was done or taken under this Act.

Secretary,

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Dated Quetta 20th March,2015