I assent.

(L.S.)

ĊENSU TABONE
President

21st May, 1993

ACT No. XIII of 1993

AN ACT to amend the Public Meetings Ordinance, Cap. 68.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Public Meetings (Amendment) Act, 1993, and shall be read and construed as one with the Public Meetings Ordinance, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

(2) This Act shall come into force three days after its publication in the Gazette.

Substitution of section 2 of the principal law.

2. For section 2 of the principal law there shall be substituted the following:

"Interpretation.

2. In this Ordinance —

"demonstration" or "public demonstration" means any assembly or gathering of more than twenty persons in any public street, square or open space, having for its object the common public manifestation of welcome, approval or condemnation; and except for the purposes of sections 20 to 23 of this Ordinance does not include a spontaneous demonstration;

"meeting" or "public meeting" means any gathering of more than twenty persons assembled for the public discussion of any matter, in any public street, square or open space and includes a demonstration;

"spontaneous demonstration" means a demonstration which is not organised or advertised beforehand.".

3. In section 3 of the principal law:

Amendment of section 3 of the principal law.

(a) for the words "Every citizen of Malta possessing the qualifications required by law to be a voter" there shall be substituted the words "Every person over the age of eighteen years of age and every association of such persons";

(b) for the words "he gives notice thereof in writing" there shall be substituted the words "notice thereof in writing is given".

4. For section 4 of the principal law there shall be substituted the following:

Substitution of section 4 of the principal law.

"Particulars to be stated in notice.

4. The said notice shall specify:

(a) whether the object of the notice is a demonstration or any other meeting;

(b) the place, date and time of the meeting;

(c) the name and surname of the person giving the notice, and his address:

Provided that where the meeting is to be held by an association, the notice shall be given by the secretary or his representative, who shall together with his name, surname and address also specify his office, the name of the association he represents and its address.".

5. Section 5 of the principal law shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of section 5 of the principal law.

(a) in subsection (2) thereof immediately after the words "specifying the name of the person" there shall be added the words "or association"; and

(b) in subsection (3) thereof immediately after the words "two or more persons" there shall be added the words "whether as individuals or on behalf of an association".

6. Section 8 of the principal law shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of section 8 of the principal law.

(a) subsection (2) thereof shall be deleted; and

(b) the present subsection (1) shall be renumbered as section 8.

Amendment of section 9 of the principal law.

7. Subsection (1) of section 9 of the principal law shall be amended as follows:

(a) the words "to proceed to a public meeting or return therefrom" shall be deleted and substituted by the words "to return from a public meeting"; and

(b) the provisos thereto shall be deleted.

Amendment of section 10 of the principal law.

8. For the words "public meeting or demonstration" in section 10 of the principal law, there shall be substituted the words "public meeting, and for prescribing the giving of notice in respect of activities referred to in section 7 of this Ordinance, including the time when and the place where such notice is to be given. Regulations under this section may prescribe among other things, the length of time that public meetings may take, and the times during which public meetings may commence or continue.".

Amendment of section 12 of the principal law.

9. Section 12 of the principal law shall be amended as follows:

(a) subsection (2) thereof shall be deleted; and

(b) subsection (1) thereof shall be renumbered as section 12.".

Amendment of section 14 of the principal law.

10. In paragraph (a) of section 14 of the principal law for the words "allowed to hold the meeting" there shall be substituted the words "the person, or the representative of the association allowed to hold the meeting.".

Amendment of section 15 of the principal law.

11. For subsection (1) of section 15 of the principal law there shall be substituted the following:

"(1) The order to disperse shall be given by distinct formal intimations given by such means as the senior member of the Police Force present may deem adequate. For the purpose of giving such intimation any member of the Police Force may use any Public Address System which may be in use at the meeting.".

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 135 of the 11th May, 1993.

LAWRENCE GONZI
Speaker

RICHARD J. CAUCHI
Clerk to the House of Representatives

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