I assent.

(L.S.)

AGATHA BARBARA
President

6th June, 1984

ACT No. XII of 1984

AN ACT further to amend the Traffic Regulation Ordinance, Cap. 105.

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 Traffic Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1984, and shall be read and construed as one with the Traffic Regulation Ordinance, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

(2) This Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister responsible for police may appoint by notice in the Gazette.

Addition of new section 15A to the principal law.

2. Immediately after section 15 of the principal law there shall be added the following new section:

"Proper use of taxi-meter.

15A. (1) Every taxi-car shall be fitted with an appropriate taxi-meter for ascertaining the number of kilometers covered and the relative legal charges of each trip.

(2) Every taxi-meter which is fitted in a taxi-car shall be placed in a position which is easily visible to the passengers.

(3) Every person who carries passengers in a taxi-car shall ensure at the commencement of any hire that the taxi-meter of such car is in proper order for correct registering in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(4) No person shall carry passengers in a taxi-car if the taxi-meter of such car is not in proper order as required by this section or if such taxi-meter has its seals broken or is in any way tampered with.

(5) No person shall whilst carrying passengers in a taxi-car fail to operate the taxi-meter during any hire, or charge any amount in excess of the correct fare, or break the seals of the taxi-meter.

(6) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable —

(a) for a first offence to a fine (*multa*) of not less than fifty Maltese liri but not exceeding one hundred Maltese liri and to the confiscation of the taxi-car for a period of not less than one month but not exceeding three months and the disqualification from holding a taxi-car driving licence for the same period;

(b) for a second offence to a fine (*multa*) of not less than one hundred Maltese liri but not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri and to the confiscation of the taxi-car for a period of not less than three months but not exceeding six months and the disqualification from holding a taxi-car driving licence for the same period; and

(c) for a third or any subsequent offence to a fine (*multa*) of not less than five hundred Maltese liri but not exceeding one thousand Maltese liri and to the confiscation of the taxi-car for a period of not less than six months but not exceeding one year and the disqualification from holding a taxi-car driving licence for the same period.

(7) The confiscation of the taxi-car as provided in subsection (6) of this section shall take place irrespective of whether the offender is the owner, or his employee or substitute, of such motor vehicle.

Act XII of 1957

(8) The Probation of Offenders Act, 1957 and section 23A of the Criminal Code, shall not be applicable in respect of an offence against any of the provisions of this section.".

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 176 of the 4th June, 1984.

DANIEL MICALLEF
Speaker

C. MIFSUD
Clerk to the House of Representatives

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