



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

No. 31—1960

[L.S.]

I ASSENT,

SOLOMON HOCHOY

*Governor.*

12th November, 1960.

AN ORDINANCE to authorize the Registration of certain Persons resident in Trinidad and Tobago for purposes of election and for other matters incidental thereto.

[17th November, 1960.]

ENACTED by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Electoral Registration Ordinance, 1960.

Commence-  
ment.

Enactment.

Short title.

- Interpretation.      **2. In this Ordinance—**
- (a) "central register" means the central register of persons compiled under subsection (5) of section 4;
  - (b) "Municipal Council" means the Council of the Port-of-Spain Corporation or the San Fernando Corporation or the Arima Corporation;
  - (c) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules;
  - (d) "registration area" means a registration area set out in the First Schedule to this Ordinance;
  - (e) "rules" means the rules made under this Ordinance;
  - (f) "Supervisor" means the Supervisor of Elections appointed under the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, or any person acting in that office;
  - (g) "Territory" means Trinidad and Tobago;
  - (h) "unit register" means the register of persons compiled in a registration unit from the original records of registration.
- Ch. 2. No. 2.

- Registration.      **3. (1) On the commencement of this Ordinance, the Supervisor shall, in accordance with this Ordinance and the rules, cause to be registered—**
- (a) all persons who have been resident in the Territory for a period not less than six months and who are otherwise qualified under the Legislative Council (Qualification of Electors) Ordinance, 1957, to be electors in the Territory, and
  - (b) all other persons.
- Ord. No. 16.  
1957.

(2) The names and descriptions of persons referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section shall be kept clearly distinct in any such registration from those of persons referred to in paragraph (b) of the said subsection (1).

- Division into registration areas &c.      **4. (1) For the purpose of this Ordinance, the Territory shall be divided into the registration areas set out in the First Schedule hereto, and the registration areas shall be sub-divided in accordance with the rules into such number of registration units as the Supervisor may consider necessary and expedient.**

(2) A person required to be registered under this Ordinance shall be registered in the registration unit in which he has his place of residence.

(3) A duplicate record of the registration shall be transmitted to the Supervisor in accordance with the rules.

(4) The original records of registration shall be kept in the original unit register until required by the rules to be transferred to another unit register.

(5) The duplicate records of registration when gathered together as prescribed shall constitute and be known as the central register.

5. For the purpose of this Ordinance the place of residence of a person shall be determined in accordance with the rules and no person shall be taken to reside in two places in the Territory. Residence determined by rules.

6. There shall be recorded in the registration records such particulars as may be prescribed in respect of the persons required to be registered under this Ordinance. Particulars to be recorded.

7. Whenever the Supervisor is satisfied that a person who is registered under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 3 has become qualified to be registered under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 3 he shall register such person under paragraph (a) of the said subsection. Transfer of registration.

8. (1) The Governor in Council may make rules providing for such matters as may be necessary or expedient for carrying the purposes of this Ordinance into effect and, in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may make rules— Rules for initiation and maintenance of register.

- (a) providing, in connection with the collection, reception and recording of the information required in relation to the persons required to be registered under this Ordinance, for the sub-division of registration areas into registration units and for the preparation of lists of the persons registered;
- (b) providing for the employment of such clerks and other persons as may be necessary to carry out a registration in the several registration units;
- (c) prescribing the duties of persons, including scrutineers appointed under section 18, engaged in carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance;
- (d) requiring persons employed to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance to make statutory declarations with respect to the performance of their duties and designating the persons before whom such declarations are to be made;

- (e) providing for a form of objection to and for the determination of all claims for registration of any person;
- (f) with respect to the removal or transfer of a registration in accordance with section 7;
- (g) prescribing the remuneration and travelling allowances to be paid to persons, including scrutineers, engaged in carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) The Governor in Council may make rules providing for such matters as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of maintaining the unit and central registers; and, in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may make rules—

- (a) for the making, in respect of any registered person, of returns containing particulars of any change of circumstances affecting the accuracy of such of the particulars recorded in the unit and central registers in relation to that person as may be prescribed;
- (b) for the collection of such particulars with respect to registered persons dying or leaving the Territory as may be prescribed;
- (c) for the recording of particulars obtained under this Ordinance in such manner at such places and by such persons as may be prescribed.

(3) Rules made under this section may provide that a person who commits any breach of the rules shall be guilty of an offence and upon summary conviction for such offence shall be liable to—

- (i) a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars; or
- (ii) a term of imprisonment of six months; or
- (iii) both such fine and such imprisonment.

(4) Rules made under this section have no force or effect until they are approved by the Legislative Council.

**9.** (1) The Supervisor may cause a card containing the prescribed particulars, in this Ordinance referred to as an "identity card" to be issued with respect to every registered person in accordance with rules made under this section.

(2) The Governor in Council may make rules—

- (a) prescribing the form of identity card and requiring to be entered therein such particulars as may be prescribed;

- (b) providing for the issue of an identity card, either directly or otherwise, to the person to whom it relates or to such other person as is deemed under the rules to be in charge of the person to whom it relates;
  - (c) providing for the surrender of an identity card relating to a person who dies, and in such cases as may be prescribed, for the surrender of an identity card relating to a person who leaves the Territory.
- (3) Rules made under this section may provide penalties for any breach thereof, but no such rule shall prescribe any greater penalty than the penalties provided under subsection (3) of section 8.
- (4) Rules made under this section have no force or effect until they are approved by the Legislative Council.

#### ADMINISTRATION

**10.** (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance the Supervisor <sup>Supervisor</sup> shall be deemed to be the servant of the Legislative Council and shall, before entering upon his duties under this Ordinance, take and subscribe before the Clerk to the Legislative Council an oath in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto.

(2) The Supervisor, while he holds that office, shall be registered under this Ordinance as a person coming within paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 3.

**11.** The Supervisor shall make such arrangements and do <sup>Duties of Supervisor.</sup> such things as are necessary for the initiation and maintenance of the unit and central registers in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and of the rules, and shall for that purpose make arrangements for the preparation and issue of the necessary forms and instruments and for the collection or reception of the forms when filled in and for the keeping of such records as may be necessary.

**12.** (1) The Governor may, on the recommendation of the Supervisor, appoint a registration officer for each registration area, other than the registration areas referred to in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. <sup>Registration Officers.</sup>

(2) The Town Clerks of the Port-of-Spain Corporation and the San Fernando Corporation are *ex officio* the registration officers for the registration areas of the City of Port-of-Spain and the Borough of San Fernando respectively.

(3) The Town Clerk of the Arima Corporation is the registration officer for the registration area of Arima.

Itinerant  
Assistant  
Registration  
Officers.

**13.** (1) The Supervisor may, on the recommendation of a registration officer, appoint as many itinerant assistant registration officers as he may deem necessary for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) A member of a Municipal Council shall not be appointed to the post of registration officer or itinerant assistant registration officer.

(3) A registration officer or itinerant assistant registration officer shall, before entering on his duties under this Ordinance, take and subscribe an oath in such form and before such person as may be prescribed.

Unit Register

**14.** A registration officer shall prepare a unit register of persons for each registration unit in his registration area.

Offence to  
omit entitled  
person from  
register.

**15.** A registration officer or an itinerant assistant registration officer appointed under the provisions of this Ordinance who wilfully or without reasonable excuse omits to register the name of any person entitled to be registered is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction therefor to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, and in addition, shall forfeit his right to payment for his services as a registration officer or as an itinerant assistant registration officer and shall be incapable during a period of seven years from the date of his conviction—

(a) of being a qualified elector or of voting at any election of a member of the Legislative Council;

(b) of being elected a member of the Legislative Council or, if elected before his conviction, of retaining his seat as such member,

and in the event of any appeal the incapacity shall continue until the appeal is determined and thereafter, unless the conviction is quashed, remain in force for a period of seven years from the determination of the appeal except the court hearing the appeal shall direct that the period of seven years shall run from the date of conviction.

Vouching  
information.

**16.** A registration officer, itinerant assistant registration officer or any person appointed to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance may require a person who has given information in pursuance of this Ordinance or rules to furnish such documentary or other evidence of the truth of that information as it is within the power of that person to furnish.

Offence to give  
false statement.

**17.** If any person giving information for the purposes of this Ordinance knowingly and wilfully makes any statement that is false in a material particular, he is guilty of an offence under

this Ordinance, and liable on summary conviction therefor to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to a term of imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

18. Each political party having a member or members in the Legislative Council is entitled to nominate one person for appointment as a scrutineer in respect of each registration unit and the Supervisor shall appoint each person so nominated to be a scrutineer. Scrutineers.

19. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance shall be defrayed out of general revenue. Expenses.

FIRST SCHEDULE (Section 4)  
REGISTRATION AREAS

- City of Port-of-Spain
- Borough of San Fernando
- Arima which comprises the Borough of Arima, and the Arima, Blanchisseuse and San Rafael Wards in the County of St. George.
- The Diego Martin and Tacarigua Wards in the County of St. George.
- The St. Ann's Ward in the County of St. George.
- Counties of St. Andrew and St. David
- County of Caroni
- County of Victoria exclusive of the Borough of San Fernando
- County of St. Patrick
- Counties of Nariva and Mayaro
- Tobago which comprises the islands of Tobago, Little Tobago, Goat Island, St. Giles or Melville and other small islands and rocks as lie in close proximity to the island of Tobago.

SECOND SCHEDULE (Section 10)  
Oath of Supervisor of Elections

I, .....  
having been appointed Supervisor of Elections for the Territory of Trinidad and Tobago, do swear that I will to the best of my ability faithfully perform all the duties of Supervisor of Elections in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Registration Ordinance, 1960, and of any rules made thereunder.

Sworn before me,

*Clerk to the Legislative Council*

Passed in Council this twenty-first day of October in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty.

G. R. LATOUR  
*Clerk of the Council.*