

CHAPTER 149

THE EMIGRANT LABOURERS PROTECTION ACT

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EMIGRANT LABOURERS PROTECTION

(19th March, 1924.)

9/1924.
S.R.O. 22/1956.
1811989.
S.I. 3911989.

1. This Act may be cited as the Emigrant Labourers Protection Act. **Short title.**

2. In this Act— **Interpretation.**

"labourer" includes mechanics, artisans, grooms, gardeners, labourers, domestic servants and other persons working at manual labour.

Cabinet may prohibit emigration of labourers to certain places.

3. Where the Cabinet is satisfied that the conditions of employment of manual labour in any country or place out of Antigua and Barbuda are such as would be detrimental to the labourers from Antigua and Barbuda by reason of their ill-treatment or otherwise, the Cabinet may by order prohibit absolutely the emigration of such labourers to that country or place.

Police may board vessel carrying labourers.

4. (1) Any police officer may board any ship by which labourers are about to leave Antigua and Barbuda for service out of Antigua and Barbuda, in order to ascertain whether such labourers are leaving Antigua and Barbuda in contravention of any order, prohibition or regulation made or imposed under this Act, and for that purpose to require the master of the ship to muster all such labourers on board.

(2) In the absence of a police officer the Minister may appoint a person to perform the duties of a police officer under this Act.

(3) Any person who resists, obstructs, molests or assaults any such police officer or appointed person when acting in the exercise of his powers under the provisions of this section, and the master of any such ship who fails to take all reasonable steps to muster all the labourers on board of such ship when required so to do by such police officer or appointed person for the purpose aforesaid shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Arrest without warrant.

5. Any police officer or person appointed as aforesaid may arrest without warrant and bring before any Magistrate—

(a) any labourer who has left Antigua and Barbuda and is found within the territorial sea of Antigua and Barbuda;

(b) any labourer whom a police officer or person appointed as aforesaid has reason to suspect to be attempting to leave Antigua and Barbuda;

(c) any person who aids or abets any labourer to leave or attempt to leave Antigua and Barbuda;

in contravention of any order, prohibition or regulation made or imposed under this Act.

6. (1) Any person who acts in contravention of or **Offences.** fails to comply with any order, prohibition or regulation made or imposed under this Act shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

(2) Any person who aids or abets any person in any contravention of any order, prohibition or regulation made or imposed under this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

7. (1) The Cabinet may make regulations generally **Regulations.** for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette* and a newspaper, if any, in Antigua and Barbuda, and when so published shall have the force and effect of law.

8. Any person who is guilty of an offence against this **Penalty.** Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding three thousand dollars.
