

CHAPTER 190

THE GENERAL STATISTICS ACT

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SCHEDULE

GENERAL STATISTICS

(15th August, 1975.)

13/1975.

1. This Act may be cited as the General Statistics Act. **short title.**
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — **Interpretation.**

“person” where the term is used in relation to a person furnishing or required to furnish any information under this Act means and includes all or any of the individuals constituting a firm or the person having the control or management of a partnership business and, in the case of a company or corporation, association or body of persons, includes any director, manager or secretary of the company or corporation or head, by whatever title called, of the association or body of persons;

“Schedule” means Schedule to this Act;

“Statistics Authority” means the Chief Statistician and includes an officer acting in that capacity or performing for the time being the duties of head of Statistics Division; and

“statistics” means information in connection with or incidental to any or all of the subjects specified in the Schedule to this Act.

3. (1) There shall be established a Statistics Division **Statistics division and its functions.** in the Ministry of the Minister with portfolio responsibility for statistics, the duties of which shall be—

(a) to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistics portraying various aspects of the social, demographic and economic conditions of the people of Antigua and Barbuda;

(b) to compile and publish national income accounts and estimates of Antigua and Barbuda; and

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(c) to carry out such censuses and surveys in relation to subjects listed in the Schedule hereto as may be necessary from time to time for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

(2) The head of the Statistics Division shall act as the Statistics Authority for Antigua and Barbuda and shall be responsible for taking, from time to time, appropriate measures to organize and develop a national statistical system capable of meeting effectively the statistical needs of social and economic planning.

Delegation of functions.

4. (1) The Statistics Authority may, by notice in the Gazette, delegate to a specified official or organization any of the functions mentioned in section 3 insofar as these pertain to a specified area of work or a duly defined special statistical operation.

(2) When a notification as referred to in subsection (1) has been made, the specified official or the head of the specified organization shall, in respect of the delegated functions, have all the enabling powers vested in the Statistics Authority by virtue of this Act.

Standardization and coordination of statistics.

5. The Statistics Authority shall, from time to time, take appropriate measures—

(a) to arrange through a system of committees and technical panels mutual consultation between users and producers of statistics in the State and in the light of these consultations—

- (i) set up statistical goals and standards for different fields of activities; and
- (ii) draw up operating instructions for the implementation of various statistical programmes;

(b) to develop the coordinative role of the Statistics Division as the focal point for inter-agency statistical coordination thereby eliminating duplication and overlapping in statistical activities;

(c) organize suitable training facilities for various levels of statistical staff; and

(d) advise the relevant administrative authorities concerned regarding qualifications and conditions of service in relation to statistical staffs and their postings and transfers.

6. The Minister may by Order direct that a census of population shall be taken for Antigua and Barbuda or any part thereof or any class of inhabitants thereof and any such Order shall prescribe—

Population census.

(a) the date on which or the dates between which such census is to be taken; and

(b) the information to be obtained in such census.

7. The Statistics Authority may, by notice in the Gazette, order that a census or survey in respect of any matter, other than population, included in the Schedule shall be taken for Antigua and Barbuda or any part thereof or any class of inhabitants thereof and any such notice shall prescribe—

Census and surveys other than population census.

(a) the date on which or the dates between which such census or survey is to be taken;

(b) the information to be obtained in such census or survey, and

(c) the procedures to be followed for the execution of the proposed census or survey.

8. (1) Upon the making of an order under section 6 the Statistics Authority shall take all necessary steps, subject to the provisions of this Act and regulations made thereunder, to carry out such a census;

Collection of statistics.

(2) After the publication of a notice under section 7 the Statistics Authority shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and regulations made thereunder, take all necessary steps to collect the requisite data according to the prescribed procedures.

9. The Statistics Authority shall cause the statistics collected under this Act to be compiled, tabulated and analysed and, subject to the provisions of this Act, may cause

Compilation and publication of statistics.

such statistics or abstracts thereof to be published in a suitable form.

Power to obtain information.

10. (1) The Statistics Authority or any person acting on his behalf may require, by notice in writing, any person or class of persons to furnish in such form and manner and within such time as may be specified in the notice any information, estimates, or returns concerning such of the matters set out in the Schedule as may be so specified and may, when deemed appropriate, obtain the required information by personal interview.

(2) Any person having the custody or charge of any public record or document or the records or documents of any corporation, partnership, firm, company, society or association which, in the opinion of the Statistics Authority, can be used as a source of statistical information in respect of any of the matters listed in the Schedule shall, notwithstanding any provisions of any other law, allow to the Statistics Authority or any person acting in his behalf access to such records or documents for the purpose of obtaining the requisite statistics.

(3) The Statistics Authority may, by notice in the *Gazette* and in such newspapers as may appear to him sufficient for notifying the persons concerned, publish a list of any classes or descriptions of businesses or callings in relation to which information is required for the purpose of a statistical inquiry under this Act and upon such publication, it shall be the duty of every person carrying on any of the specified classes or descriptions of businesses or callings who has not received notice under subsection (1) to inform the Statistics Authority or any person specified in the notice within such period being not less than 28 days after the publication of the notice in the *Gazette* as may be specified therein that he is carrying on such a business or calling as specified and provide the specified information in respect of his business or calling as may be relevant for the purpose of the statistical inquiry as aforesaid.

Powers of entry.

11. The Statistics Authority or any person acting on his behalf may, after giving reasonable notice and upon production of his authorization to collect information in connection with any of the matters listed in the Schedule, enter

any dwelling or business premises and may make such enquiries as may be necessary for the performance of his duties.

12. (1) Information collected through inquiries conducted under this Act may not be published in a manner which enables the identification of the cost of production, capital employed and profits arising in any particular undertaking or business or which discloses the affairs of an individual household or person.

Security of information.

(2) Except for the purposes of proceedings for an offence under this Act—

(a) no individual return or part thereof, made for the purposes of this Act;

(b) no answer to any question put for the purposes of this Act; or

(c) no report, abstract, working sheets or other documents containing particulars of statistical information so arranged as to enable identification with any person, undertaking or business,

shall be published, admitted in evidence or shown to any person not employed in the execution of a duty under this Act unless the previous consent in writing thereto has been obtained from the person making such return or giving such answer.

13. (1) Any person being a person employed in the execution of any duty under this Act, who comes into possession of any information by virtue of such employment and who—

Offences and penalties.

(a) without lawful authority publishes or communicates it to any person otherwise than in the ordinary course of such employment;

(b) knowingly falsifies or misrepresents it; or

(c) attempts to use it for his own pecuniary advantage,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifteen hundred dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

(2) Any person, being in possession of any statistics which to his knowledge have been obtained or disclosed in contravention of this Act, who publishes or communicates them to any person not authorized by the Statistics Authority or someone acting on his behalf to receive or obtain such information, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifteen hundred dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

(3) Any person who—

(a) hinders or obstructs the Statistics Authority in the execution of any power conferred under this Act;

(b) refuses or neglects to fill up or otherwise supply particulars of information in any schedule or form prescribed under the authority of this Act or fails to comply with the requirements laid down in section 10(3);

(c) knowingly makes a statement, when answering any question asked him under the authority of this Act, which is untrue in any material particular;

(d) without lawful authority destroys, defaces or otherwise mutilates any documents containing particulars collected under this Act; or

(e) contravenes any other provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on summary conviction be liable to a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars and to imprisonment for three months.

Regulations.

14. The Minister may make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

Power to amend
Schedule.

15. The Minister may from time to time by Order published in the *Gazette* add to, delete from or otherwise amend the Schedule or substitute a new Schedule therefor.

SCHEDULE

1. Population
2. Housing
3. Births, deaths and morbidity
4. Immigration and emigration
5. Manpower and labour force
6. Employment, unemployment and under-employment
7. Agriculture
8. Livestock
9. Forestry
10. Fishing
11. Mining and Quarrying
12. Manufacturing
13. Construction
14. Electricity, gas and water
15. Internal and external trade
16. Hotel and restaurants
17. Tourism
18. Transport and connected services
19. Communications
20. Banking, insurance and related services
21. Public finance
22. Health services
23. Educational services and vocational training

24. Recreational and cultural services
 25. Real estate
 26. Business and professional services
 27. Community and social services
 28. Personal and domestic services
 29. Wages and prices
 30. Family incomes and expenditures
 31. Savings and investments
 32. Profits, dividends and rents
 33. International balance of payments
 34. National income accounts
 35. Industrial relations and disputes
 36. Industrial injuries, occupational diseases and compensation
 37. Hours of work
 38. Social Security and insurance.
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