

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



VISITING POLICE FORCES (ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2024) BILL, 2024

No. of 2024

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An Act to regulate the performance of official duties in Antigua and Barbuda by members of police forces visiting Antigua and Barbuda and civilian personnel attached to those forces during the period of Cricket World Cup 2024 and for related matters.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows:

Preliminary

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Visiting Police Forces (ICC Cricket World Cup 2024) Act, 2024.

2. Interpretation

In this Act,

“CARICOM” means the Caribbean Community established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas signed in the Bahamas on 5th July, 2001;

“civilian personnel” means the civilian component of a visiting police force;

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Police of Antigua and Barbuda;

“court” means a court of ordinary criminal jurisdiction in Antigua and Barbuda and includes a court of summary jurisdiction;

“designated state” means a state that is designated under section 4;

“Police service” means The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda;

“Member State” means a Member State of CARICOM or the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS);

“Treaty on Security Assistance” or “the Treaty” means the Treaty on Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States signed at Basseterre in St. Kitts and Nevis on 6th July 2006 and enacted in Antigua and Barbuda as a Schedule to the Security Assistance Act 2007, No. 3 of 2007.

“visiting police force” means the members of any police force of a designated state present in Antigua and Barbuda in connection with official duties for the purposes of this Act.

Application of the Act

3. Application

This Act applies in respect of visiting police forces and the civilian personnel of a state-designated pursuant to section 4.

4. Designated States

- (1) The countries listed in the *Schedule* are designated states for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The Minister may by order amend the *Schedule*.

5. Operational direction

For the purposes of this Act and Article 10-1(a) of the Treaty, the Commissioner shall be responsible for the operational direction of the visiting police forces.

Powers and Immunities of Visiting Police Forces

6. Status of members of visiting police forces

- (1) Any member of a visiting police force who is sent to Antigua and Barbuda to perform police duties similar to duties performed by him in his State during Cricket World Cup 2024 shall, while on duty in Antigua and

Barbuda, perform the same duties under and in accordance with the directions of the Commissioner in the same manner and in all respects as if he were a member of the Police service.

(2) Subject to this Act, the members of a visiting police force shall have the same rights, powers, privileges and immunities as are conferred by law on members of the Police service in Antigua and Barbuda as may be necessary for the performance of their duties.

7. Immunity from prosecution

(1) Notwithstanding section 6(2), the members of a visiting police force shall be immune from prosecution in criminal court proceedings in Antigua and Barbuda in respect of actions taken in the course of their official duties.

(2) The immunity specified in subsection (1) may be waived in respect of any member of a visiting police force, by the competent authority of the designated state of the visiting police officer.

Jurisdiction

8. Criminal Jurisdiction

(1) Subject to subsection (2) and section 7, the court has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any act that constitutes an offence against any law in force in Antigua and Barbuda that is committed by a member of a visiting police force.

(2) With respect to the alleged commission of an offence by a member of a visiting police force in relation to—

- (a) the property or security of the State of Antigua and Barbuda; or
- (b) the person or property of another member of the visiting police force,

the competent court of Antigua and Barbuda has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction.

9. Certificate concerning official duty

A certificate of the Commissioner that anything alleged to have been done by a member of a visiting police force of a designated state was or was not done in the performance of official duty, is receivable in evidence in any court and for the purposes of this Act is *prima facie* proof of that fact.

10. Trial by court having primary right

Where under section 8 a competent court of a designated state has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction, the court having the primary right has the right to deal with charges against alleged offenders in the first instance, but that right may be waived by the designated state.

11. Firearms

Members of a visiting police force acting in the course of their duties, may, if authorized to do so by the Commissioner, possess and carry explosives, ammunition and firearms.

Claims Against Visiting Police Forces

12. Claims against designated States

For the purposes of the *Crown Proceedings Act*, Cap. 121—

- (a) a tort committed by a member of a visiting police force while on official duties in Antigua and Barbuda shall be considered to have been committed by an officer within the meaning of section 2 of the *Crown Proceedings Act*, Cap. 121;
- (b) property owned, occupied, possessed or controlled by a visiting police force shall be deemed to be owned, occupied, possessed or controlled by the State; and
- (c) a service motor vehicle of a visiting police force shall be deemed to be owned by the State.

13. Enforcement of judgment

A member of a visiting police force is not subject to any proceedings for the

enforcement of any judgment given against him in Antigua and Barbuda in respect of a matter that arose while he was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment.

14. Ships

Except where section 12 may be made applicable by order of the Minister in respect of the ships of any particular designated state, that section does not apply to a claim arising out of or in connection with the navigation, operation or salvage of a ship or the loading, carriage or discharge of cargo, unless the claim is a claim arising out of death or injury to the person.

15. Official duty

Where a question that cannot be settled by negotiation between the parties arises under sections 12 to 16 as to whether—

- (a) a member of a visiting police force was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment; or
- (b) a matter in respect of which judgment was given against a member of a visiting police force arose while he was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment,

the question must be submitted to an arbitrator appointed in accordance with section 16, and for the purposes of sections 12 to 16, the decision of the arbitrator is final and conclusive.

16. Arbitration

(1) An arbitrator must be appointed for the purposes of section 15 by agreement between the designated state concerned and Antigua and Barbuda from among the nationals of Antigua and Barbuda who hold or have held high judicial office.

(2) If the designated state and Antigua and Barbuda are unable, within 2 months, to agree upon an arbitrator, either the designated state or the Government of Antigua and

Barbuda may request any person designated in an agreement with the designated state or acceptable to the designated state and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to appoint the arbitrator from among the nationals of Antigua and Barbuda who have held high judicial office.

Taxation

17. Tax and residence

Where the liability for any form of taxation in Antigua and Barbuda depends upon residence or place of abode, a period during which a member of a visiting police force is in Antigua and Barbuda by reason of his being a member of the visiting police force shall, for the purposes of that taxation, be deemed not to be a period of residence in Antigua and Barbuda and not to create a change of residence or domicile.

18. Salaries

(1) A member of a visiting police force is exempt from taxation in Antigua and Barbuda on the salary and emoluments paid to him as a member of a visiting police force by a designated state and in respect of any tangible movable property that is in Antigua and Barbuda temporarily by reason of his presence in Antigua and Barbuda in that capacity.

(2) For the purposes of section 17 and this section, the term "member of a visiting police force" does not include a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda who is resident or ordinarily resident in Antigua and Barbuda.

19. Service vehicle

No tax or fee is payable in respect of the licensing or registration of service vehicles of the visiting police force or in respect of the use of those vehicles on any road in Antigua and Barbuda.

20. Customs duties and other taxes

(1) A visiting police force may import into Antigua and Barbuda, equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods for the exclusive use of the visiting police force free of customs duty and any tax.

(2) A member of a visiting police force may, at the time of his first arrival to take up service in Antigua and Barbuda, import his personal effects free of customs duty and any tax.

(3) No customs duty or any tax is payable on any fuel, oil or lubricants intended for use exclusively in the service vehicles, aircraft or vessels of a visiting police force during the performance of the official duties of the members of the visiting police force.

Miscellaneous

21. Enactments relating to the police service

(1) Where under any enactment a power is exercisable by any authority or person:

- (a) respecting the police service, its members, or any person connected therewith; or
- (b) respecting any property used or to be used for the purposes of the police service, or for taking possession of any property to be so used, or for acquiring, whether by agreement or compulsorily, any property so used or to be so used,

the Minister may by order provide that the power be exercisable by that authority or person, as the case may be, in the case of a visiting police force to any extent to which it would be exercisable if the visiting police force were a part of the Police service.

(2) The Minister may by order—

- (a) exempt a visiting police force or its members, or any other person connected therewith or any property used or to be used for the purposes thereof from the operation of any enactment specified in the order to any extent to which the force, members, persons or property would be, or would be capable of being exempted, if the visiting police force were a part of the police service; and

- (b) confer on that visiting police force or any members, persons or property referred to in paragraph (a) any other privilege or immunity specified in the order, being a privilege or immunity that would be enjoyed by or would be capable of being conferred on the visiting police force, members, persons or property, if the force were part of the police service.
- (3) Where under any enactment the doing of anything is prohibited, restricted or required in relation to—
- (a) the police service, its members, or any other person connected therewith; or
- (b) any property used or to be used for the purposes of the police service,
- the Minister may by order extend the prohibition, restriction or requirement to any visiting police force in the same manner as if the visiting police force were a part of the police service.
- (4) An order made under this section may contain such incidental, consequential and supplementary provisions as the Minister thinks necessary for the purposes of the order, including provisions for applying, modifying, adapting or suspending any enactment.
- (5) Subsections (1) and (4) apply whether the power is exercisable, or the prohibition, restriction or requirement is imposed, by a provision expressly relating to the police service or by a more general provision.
- (6) Subsection (3) applies whether the exemption, privilege or immunity subsists, or is capable of being conferred, by virtue of such a provision or by reason of any enactment not binding the State.

22. Coroner's inquest

- (1) Where a coroner who has jurisdiction to hold a coroner's inquest into a death is satisfied that the deceased person at the time of his death had a relevant association with a visiting police force, then, unless the Minister otherwise directs, the coroner may not hold the inquest, or, if the coroner has started the inquest but has not completed it, the coroner shall adjourn the inquest.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), a coroner referred to in that subsection shall, unless the Minister otherwise directs, adjourn the inquest if the coroner is satisfied—

- (a) that a person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the competent courts of a designated state has been charged before such court with the homicide of the deceased person referred to in subsection (1), whether or not that charge has been dealt with; or
- (b) that a person referred to in paragraph (a) is being detained by an authority of a visiting police force with a view to being so charged.

(3) Where an inquest is adjourned under this section, the coroner may resume the inquest only on the direction of the Minister.

(4) Where an inquest that was adjourned under this section is resumed, the coroner shall proceed in all respects as if the inquest had not been previously begun.

(5) In this section—

- (a) "homicide" includes murder, manslaughter, infanticide and any offence under the law of the country in question that is analogous to any of those offences;
- (b) references to a person having a relevant association with a visiting police force are references to his being at the time:
 - (i) a member of the visiting police force or a member of a civilian component of that force; or
 - (ii) a person who, not being a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda or a permanent resident thereof within the meaning of *The Immigration And Passport Act, 2014*, is a member of the visiting police force or of a civilian component of that force.

(6) In determining for the purposes of this section whether a person is, or was at any time, a permanent resident of Antigua and Barbuda, no account shall be taken of any period during which he has been, or intends to be present in Antigua and Barbuda,

- (a) as a member of a visiting police force or of a civilian component of such a force; or
- (b) as a dependant of a member of a visiting police force or of a civilian component of such a force.

23. Act to bind the State

This Act binds the State.

24. Expiry of Act

This Act expires on 30th June, 2024.

SCHEDULE

(Section 4(1))

Designated States

1. Member States of the Caribbean Community
2. Associate Members states of the Caribbean Community
3. South Africa
4. Canada
5. United Kingdom
6. France
7. The Netherlands Antilles

No. of 2024

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Visiting Police Forces (ICC Cricket World Cup, 2024) Bill, 2024

Passed the House of Representatives on
The day of , 2024.

Passed the Senate on the day of
, 2024.

Speaker

President

Clerk to the House of Representatives

Clerk to the Senate

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to provide a legal framework allowing police officers from countries participating in the ICC Cricket World Cup, 2024, to operate within Antigua and Barbuda. These provisions are necessary to ensure an effective security collaboration between local and international forces, enhancing the event's safety and addressing potential cross-border security concerns.

Clause 1 (Short title)

This is the name by which this pending Act will be referred.

Clause 2 (Interpretation)

This clause provides for the meaning of specific words in the Bill.

Clauses 3-5 (Application of the Act)

This clause deals with how this Act should be applied when dealing with the visiting police forces and the civilian personnel of Antigua and Barbuda.

Clauses 6-7 (Powers and Immunities of Visiting Police Forces)

This clause provides visiting police forces with the Powers of a local police officer and shall be under the instruction of the Commissioner of Police of Antigua and Barbuda at all times. It also provides for the necessary immunity of Visiting Police Forces in executing his or her role to the similar extent of a local police officer.

Clauses 8-11 (Jurisdiction)

This clause deals with how the court has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any act that constitutes an offence against any law in force in Antigua and Barbuda that is committed by a member of a visiting police force.

Clauses 12-16 (Claims Against Visiting Police Forces)

This clause deals with torts being committed by a member of a visiting police force while performing official duties in Antigua and Barbuda where such torts shall be deemed to have been committed by an officer within the meaning of section 2 of the Crown Proceedings Act, Cap. 121. It also deals with Arbitration matters and claims arising in shipping matters.

Clauses 17-20 (Taxation)

This clause provides that taxation would not ordinarily apply to a member of the visiting police force who is in Antigua and Barbuda during the period of ICC Cricket World Cup 2024 who is not domiciled or permanently resident in Antigua and Barbuda.

Clauses 21-24 (Miscellaneous)

This clause deals with various miscellaneous provisions such as the expiration of this Bill.