



# REPUBLIC OF NAURU

## CENSUS ACT 1973

(No. 11 of 1973)

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**AN ACT**

***To make provision for a census of the population of Nauru  
to be taken from time to time.***

***(Certified: 30th October, 1973)***

***Enacted by the Parliament of Nauru as follows:***

**SHORT TITLE**

1. This Act may be cited as the Census Act 1973.

**INTERPRETATION**

2. In this Act "the Minister" means the Member of Cabinet responsible for Island Development & Industry.

**ORDER FOR CENSUS**

3. It shall be lawful for the Cabinet, whenever it may deem it expedient, by an order published in the Gazette, to direct that a census be taken of the inhabitants of Nauru, and to prescribe —

- (a) the date on which that census is to be taken;
- (b) the persons by whom and with respect to whom the returns for the purpose of that census are to be made; and
- (c) the particulars to be stated in the returns:

Provided that no particulars shall be required to be stated on any census return other than the particulars with respect to such matters as are specified in the Schedule to this Act and no person shall be compelled to state particulars relating to his religion if he objects thereto.

**POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE MINISTER**

4. (1) The Minister shall make arrangements and do all such things as are necessary for any census to be taken in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the order directing that the census be taken and for that purpose shall arrange for the preparation and issue of the necessary forms and instructions and for the collection of the forms when completed.

(2) The Minister may appoint persons to assist in the taking of the census, whether as superintendents, supervisors or enumerators or otherwise, and shall assign their duties to them in writing.

**EXPENSES**

5. All expenses incurred in the taking of a census ordered under Section 3, including such fees and allowances, if any, as may be approved by the Cabinet for payment to any of the persons appointed to assist in the taking of the census, shall be paid out of the Treasury Fund in accordance with an appropriation made by Parliament for the purpose:

Provided that any public officer serving in any department of the public service for which the Minister is for the time being responsible may be required by the Minister to assist in the taking of the census as part of his duties as a public officer.

**REGULATIONS**

6. For the purpose of enabling any order directing the taking of a census to be carried into effect the Minister may make regulations —
- (a) providing for the division of Nauru into areas or districts for the purpose of the census;
  - (b) requiring the person in charge of any institution, whether public or private, to make returns in respect of the inmates thereof;
  - (c) requiring any person employed for the purpose of the census to make a statutory declaration before a magistrate or before a Commissioner of the Supreme Court for taking affidavits;
  - (d) making provision in respect to any other matters with respect to which it is necessary or desirable to make provision for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

**NECESSARY QUESTIONS MAY BE ASKED**

7. It is lawful for a person who is concerned with the taking of a census or who is required in pursuance of the provisions of this Act to fill in any return to ask of any other person such questions as may be necessary for obtaining any of the particulars required in pursuance of the provisions of this Act and such other person is required to the best of his ability to give such information.

**REPORT**

8. Upon completion of the census the Minister shall make such reports of the census and abstracts of the returns as the Cabinet may direct, and every such report shall be laid on the table of Parliament and the whole or any part of it may, if the Cabinet so authorises or directs, be published in the Gazette.

**OFFENCES**

9. (1) Any person who —
- (a) refuses or neglects to comply with or acts in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act;
  - (b) being a person required under this Act to make a statutory declaration with respect to the performance of his duties, makes a false declaration;
  - (c) being a person required by this Act to make, sign or deliver any document, makes, signs or delivers or causes to be made, signed or delivered, a false document; or
  - (d) being a person required in pursuance of this Act to answer any question, refuses to answer or gives a false answer to that question,
- is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

- (2) Any person who —
- (a) being a person concerned with taking a census, without lawful authority publishes or communicates to any person otherwise than in the ordinary course of such employment any information acquired by him in the course of such employment; or
  - (b) having possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this Act, publishes or communicates that information to any other person,
- is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine of five hundred dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

**REPEAL**

10. The Census Ordinance 1961-1967 is hereby repealed.

**SCHEDULE  
(Section 3)****MATTERS IN RESPECT OF WHICH PARTICULARS MAY BE REQUIRED**

1. Names, sex, age
2. Occupation, profession, trade, employment
3. Nationality, birthplace, race, language, health
4. Place of abode, character of dwelling and fittings
5. Condition as to marriage, relation to head of family, issue
6. Religion
7. Livestock
8. Any other matters with respect to which it is desirable to obtain statistical information with a view to ascertaining the social or civil condition of the population.