

I assent.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

28th April, 2017

ACT No. XIX of 2017

AN ACT to amend the Civil Protection Act, Cap 411.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. The short title of this Act is the Civil Protection (Amendment) Act, 2017, and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Civil Protection Act, hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the principal Act".

Short title.

Cap. 411.

2. In article 2 of the principal Act the definition "the Force" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

" "the Force" means the Rescue and Assistance Force established by article 8 consisting of the Director, the Deputy Director, the Chief Assistance and Rescue officers, the Station Officers, the Leading Assistance and Rescue Officers, the Assistance and Rescue Officers and the Fire Safety Inspectors

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or any officers in equivalent grades performing equivalent duties;"

Amendment of
article 4 of the
principal Act.

3. Article 4 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph (b) thereof, for the words "as aforesaid;" there shall be substituted the words "as aforesaid, in accordance with the provisions of the Academy of Disciplined Forces Act:", and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following new proviso:

"Provided that training which does not fall within the scope of the Academy of Disciplined Forces Act may be provided subject to a written approval from the Academy;"

(b) paragraph (d) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(d) to establish general guidelines in relation to vulnerability and risk assessment studies:

Provided that, the responsibility for the carrying out of vulnerability and risk assessments in relation to such public events, shall always lie on the organizer, notwithstanding the guidelines that the Department of Civil Protection may from time to time establish;"

(c) in paragraph (g) thereof, for the words "as aforesaid; and" there shall be substituted the words "as aforesaid;"

(d) in paragraph (h) thereof, for the words "assign to it." there shall be substituted the words "assign to it;" and

(e) immediately after paragraph (h) thereof there shall be added the following new paragraphs:

"(i) to take all necessary action, initiatives and setting of standards and code of practice as well as inspect and enforce regulations made in accordance with this Act for the prevention of fire in buildings of whatever nature, use or dimension; and

(j) make and enforce regulations in relation to health and safety procedures in activities to be listed in regulations made under this Act wherein the public attends."

4. In sub-article (3) of article 5 of the principal Act, for the words "the Commander Armed Forces," there shall be substituted the words "the Commander Armed Forces, the Head Security Service,".

Amendment of article 5 of the principal Act.

5. Article 6 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 6 of the principal Act.

(a) sub-article (2) thereof shall be re-numbered as sub-article (3); and

(b) immediately after sub-article (1) thereof, there shall be added the following new sub-article:

"(2) (a) For the purposes of sub-article (1)(d) and (f), there shall be a Strategic Committee made up of the Director, Civil Protection Department, and representatives of the Ministry responsible for Civil Protection, as appointed by the Minister, as well as other members from the Department and other entities as may be appointed by the Minister from time to time in consultation with the entity concerned.

(b) The Committee shall be responsible for the drafting of standard operating procedures and other documents relating to emergency response."

6. Sub-article (1) of article 7 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 7 of the principal Act.

(a) in paragraph (g) thereof, for the words "of an administrative nature." there shall be substituted the words "of an administrative nature;"; and

(b) immediately after paragraph (g) thereof there shall be added the following new paragraphs:

"(h) for establishing provisions and procedures with a view to promoting fire safety;

(i) for prescribing provisions and procedures with a view to maintaining a high level of health and safety during public events:

Provided that the organiser of the public event shall be responsible for the carrying out of vulnerability and risk assessments in relation to such public events, notwithstanding any regulations that the Minister may prescribe from time to time;

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(j) for prescribing, amending or repealing the Schedules to this Act."

Amendment of article 8 of the principal Act.

7. In sub-article (2) of article 8 of the principal Act, for the words "headed by a Chief Assistance and Rescue Officer" there shall be substituted the words "headed by the Director or by any other officer as the Minister may prescribe".

Deletion of article 11 of the principal Act.

8. Article 11 of the principal Act shall be deleted.

Addition of new article to the principal Act.

9. Immediately after article 19 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article:

"Animals used by the Force.

20. (1) The Force may make use of animals in the performance of certain operations and in ceremonial functions.

(2) The Director shall ensure that these animals are treated in the best way possible and compatibly with the nature of such animals, and that they are not subjected to any cruel treatment.

(3) Unless otherwise advised by a veterinary surgeon, an animal that is no longer of use to the Force, for any reason whatsoever, shall preferably be donated to any person or body that can continue to treat the animal well in its retirement. The Force shall never put down an animal merely because no suitable person has been immediately found to take care of that animal."

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 507 of the 12th April, 2017.

ĊENSU GALEA
Deputy Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House of Representatives

