

POLICE BILL

- Introduction and title 1. (a) This Act lays down the objectives, purpose, role, responsibilities, functions, rules and regulations to be abided by, the powers and immunities and all other principles that apply to the police of the Republic of Maldives.
- (b) This Act shall be cited as the “Police Act”.
- Objectives of the police 2. The main objectives of the Police are stated below:-
- (a) to uphold and implement the law in order to maintain continued public order and national security;
- (b) to respect and uphold the fundamental rights of citizens;
- (c) to prevent all criminal acts and to take action against all such acts;
- (d) to identify, ascertain and investigate criminal acts and to seize and arrest the perpetrators of all such acts;
- (e) to assist the general public and to act in concert with the general public in provide policing services.
- Establishment of the police 3. There must be established an organisation to carry out the role of the police in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- Oath of policemen 4. (a) Every policeman must take an oath to carry out his responsibilities and duties in a responsible/accountable manner.
- (b) Every policeman working in the Maldives Police Services on the date this Act comes into effect is deemed to have taken the oath in sub-section (a) of this section.
- (c) It is the solemn duty of every policeman to continually abide by the oath he has taken
- The role of the police 5. (a) The role of the police includes their combined objectives, responsibilities, duties and powers.
- (b) The role of the police is that of a civil service.
- Responsibilities 6. (a) The responsibilities of the police are those stated below:-

of the police

- (i) to protect and uphold the constitution of the Republic of Maldives;
- (ii) to establish and maintain the internal security of the Republic of Maldives and the security of the community within the Republic of Maldives;
- (iii) to protect the lawfully elected government and the Maldivian state from any internal conflict or act that may undermine the lawfully elected government and the state;
- (iv) to protect and maintain public order and peace;
- (v) to enforce and maintain the laws and regulations of the Republic of Maldives;
- (vi) to ascertain, identify and investigate acts done in contravention of the laws and regulations of the Republic of Maldives and to seize and arrest persons who commit crimes;
- (vii) to police and oversee gatherings and rallies held at roads and other public places;
- (viii) to maintain law and order at public places and public gatherings and rallies;
- (ix) to oversee and control road traffic and to remove any object that obstructs the passage of traffic on the street;
- (x) to implement and enforce the laws and regulations with regard to road traffic;
- (xi) to assist persons to protect their lives, dwelling places and property;
- (xii) to be active in assisting in the protection of life, property and dwelling places and those made homeless when natural disasters and other dangers strike the country;
- (xiii) to carry out and implement, court orders and administrative orders;
- (xiv) to be responsible for ownerless property or property found and to ascertain the ownership of and return such property to the owners;

(xv) to collect, investigate and research information necessary to carry out the role and functions of the police and to take the necessary action with regard to the acquired information;

(b) The police have the authority to carry out acts conducive to the carrying out of their duties, and acts related to the carrying out of their duties and acts that are essential for the carrying out of their responsibilities and acts that are advantageous in the carrying out of their responsibilities.

(c) The police have the power to acquire, possess and use all manner of equipment and weapons necessary for the carrying out of their responsibilities.

The rights and duties of the police

(a) The matters stated below are a duty of each and every policeman:-

(i) to fully abide by and comply with the constitution of the Maldives and the laws and regulations of the Maldives;

(ii) to protect and respect the constitutional rights of citizens while carrying out the role and functions of the police;

(iii) to ensure that the lawful powers conferred upon the police are not utilised except within the sphere of their powers and influence;

(iv) to ensure that in carrying out the role and function of the police the powers and discretions conferred upon the police are exercised with impartiality and without favour or bias towards any person;

(v) to remain constant in truthfully, honestly and responsibly carrying out the duties of a policeman;

(vi) to remain constant in safeguarding the duties and responsibilities of a policeman;

(vii) to carry out all official duties to the best of one's capabilities and knowledge;

(viii) to be constantly vigilant at all times, in assisting any individual who is in need of assistance due to personal, economic or a social problem or other emergency and to protect all persons from unlawful and illegal activities;

(ix) to protect and respect the humanity of every person and to protect

and maintain the human rights of every person while carrying out the role and functions of the police;

- (x) to use and utilise only the minimum amount of force necessary to carry out the duties of a policeman;
- (xi) to keep confidential and not to disclose to any person information that the police has received unless it is absolutely necessary in order to carry out the role and functions of the police or in the interests of ensuring justice;
- (xii) to ensure that no person is treated cruelly, inhumanely or in a degrading manner, or to make another person to do so or allow another person to do so;
- (xiii) to be responsible for the medical condition of the persons under the care and custody of the police and to ensure that where any such person needs medical attention immediate steps are taken to provide such assistance;
- (xiv) not to carry out any acts of corruption and to be active in taking actions against all such acts;
- (xv) to work towards preventing any activities that are contrary to the duties and responsibilities of the police and to report without delay to the appropriate authorities where it is believed that such an activity has taken place or may be about to take place;
- (xvi) to obey all rules and regulations pertaining to the police and the commands of superior officers without hesitation;
- (xvii) not to obey any notices or commands that are inconsistent with and in contravention of the duties and functions of a police man;
- (xviii) to take full responsibility for all acts and omissions, and for all acts carried out pursuant to orders or commands given by oneself, while carrying out the role and function of a policeman.

(b) The rights available to each policeman are those stated below:-

- (i) compensation will be provided for any physical or monetary loss or damage suffered while carrying out the role and function of a police man;

- (ii) the state will provide medical care and treatment for any physical loss or injury suffered while carrying out the role and function of a police man;
- (iii) disciplinary action will not be taken against a policeman without being given appropriate opportunity to respond to the complaint brought against him;
- (iv) where a complaint is lodged against a policeman, the policeman has the right to request that the complainant be barred from being present at the proceedings and that the complainant not be allowed to exercise any undue influence over such proceedings;
- (v) the penalty will always be commensurate to the crime committed;
- (vi) any disciplinary or administrative action taken against a policeman will be appealable to the Police Integrity Commission or the relevant court;
- (vii) no disciplinary or administrative action will be taken against a policeman pursuant to any report made by him to the appropriate authorities, in order to prevent acts that contravene the duties of a police officer;
- (viii) no disciplinary or administrative action will be taken against a policeman's refusal to act in accordance with an order or a command that is in direct contravention of the duties of a policeman;
- (ix) the relevant authorities will take appropriate action against all unjustified claims made against a policeman pursuant to his role and function as a police man.

Maldives Police Service 8. (a) For the purposes of this Act, the Maldives Police Services created on 1st September 2004, is deemed the organisation that is established under this Act to carry out the role and the functions of the police.

(b) The work of the Maldives Police Services will be carried out under the ministry determined by the President of the Republic of Maldives.

Minister 9. (a) Until such time as the President of the Republic of Maldives determines otherwise, the person mandated with the responsibility of setting the policies for the role and the functioning of the police and upholding the

levels of service provided by the police will be the Minister.

- (b) Provided that the Minister does not exceed the authority granted to him by the President and does not contravene any orders of the President, the Minister has authority to do the following:-
- (i) to make use, at any time, of the powers and discretions available to any of senior office of the police;
 - (ii) to be able at all instances to give direct orders to the whole police force or a group of police men or to an individual policeman;
 - (iii) make and issue regulations and give orders that the Minister deems necessary from time to time to ensure compliance with this Act and the achievement of the purpose of this Act.

Responsibilities
of the Minister

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For the purposes of this Act, the Ministers responsibilities are:-

to ensure that in maintaining the standard of service provided by the police and in discharging his ministerial responsibilities and in using the lawful powers and discretions available to the Minister, there responsibilities are discharged and powers and discretions exercised in the manner that in the view of the Minister maximises the standards of service of the police;

to compile the necessary policies, procedures and regulations, and issue the rules relating to these and taking all other required steps to adequately oversee and be answerable for the role and function of the police and the maximisation of the standards of service provided by the police;

to formulate and implement rules and regulations for the Maldives Police Service with regard to the following:

- (i) general regulations;
- (ii) code of conduct and code of ethics;
- (iii) regulation on weapons and the use of weapons;
- (iv) regulation relating to employment;
- (v) regulation relating to uniforms;
- (vi) training regulation;

(vii) regulation relating to disciplinary and administrative misconduct and penalties for such misconduct.;

(viii) regulation relating to promotions, awarding rank/honour badges and de-motions;

(ix) regulation relating to leave and holidays;

(x) regulation relating to the possession and use of police identity cards;

(xi) regulation relating to investigating and taking action with regard to complaints brought against the employees of the Maldives Police Services;

(xii) regulation relating to the determination of the service station and re-assignment;

(xiii) regulation relating to the use of police powers and discretions;

(xiv) regulation relating to the care, utilisation and use of equipment made available to the police in order for them to discharge their responsibilities.

(d) the regulations cited in sub-section (c) of this section, must be implemented within 6 (six) months from the effective date of this Act.

Police Integrity Commission 11 (a) Within 6 (six) months of the coming into effect of this Act, a commission by the name of the Police Integrity Commission must be formed in order to fulfil the purposes stated in sub-section (b) of this section.

(b) The purposes of the Police Integrity Commission are:-

(i) to investigate complaints brought against the employees of the Maldives Police Services;

(ii) to identify, ascertain and investigate the offences committed by employees of the Maldives Police Service during the carrying out of their role and function;

(iii) to minimise and bring to an end corruption, excessive use of force and the commission of other offences by the police in carrying out

their duties and functions;

(iv) to appeal any disciplinary or administrative action brought against an employee of the Maldives Police Services;

- (c) The establishment of the Police Integrity Commission is a responsibility of the Minister.
- (d) The Police Integrity Commission will be administered by its members.
- (e) The Police Integrity Commission has the authority to determine the administrative rules and regulations necessary for the operation of the Police Integrity Commission.
- (f) In order to fulfil the purposes of the Police Integrity Commission it has the powers of investigations and arrest that the police has in the carrying out of its role and functions.

Commissioner of
Police 12

- (a) A person must be appointed to the rank of Commissioner of Police, as the senior most officer of the police responsible for the organisation and management of the day to day affairs of the police in carrying out its role and functions.
- (b) The President of the Republic of Maldives will appoint and remove persons from the post of Commissioner of Police.
- (c) The Commissioner of Police will be the highest ranking officer of the police and the highest ranking employee of the Maldives Police Service.
- (d) The Maldives Police Services and its employees will operate and function under the supervision and command of the Commissioner of Police.
- (e) The Commissioner of Police will be accountable to the Minister with regard to the operation and function of the Maldives Police Service, its employees and the work carried out by its employees and the standard of the of the services provided.
- (f) The Commissioner of Police will be accountable to the Minister with regard to, the use of all the legal powers and the discharge of his responsibilities.
- (g) The powers of the Commissioner of Police derive from and are limited by, this Act and the regulations made hereunder and within the field determined pursuant to any other Acts or regulations relating to the role and the

functions of the police

The responsibilities of the Commissioner of Police

13 The responsibilities of the Commissioner of Police are:-

- (a) to organise and operate the functioning of the police in accordance with the constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Maldives;
- (b) to establish and implement the rules, regulations, guidelines, policies and principles for the use of the powers and discretions granted to the police;
- (c) create and implement a mechanism for the investigation of complaints brought against employees of the Maldives Police Service;
- (d) formulate and implement the rules and regulations necessary for the proper functioning of the police and the maintenance and advancement of the standards of service provided by the police;
- (e) to foster and maintain the level of discipline necessary within the force for the police to carry out its functions;
- (f) to organise the Maldives Police Service in the manner best suited for the optimisation of the functions and duties of the police and to divide the employees of the Maldives Police Service into administrative departments, appoint department heads and to determine the work to be carried out by these departments;
- (g) make appropriate use of the facilities and budget allocated to the Maldives Police Service.

Deputy Commissioner of Police

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- (a) A person or persons must be appointed to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police, to assist the Commissioner of Police organise the functioning and the duties of the police and implement the day to day administration of the police.
 - (b) The President of the Republic of Maldives will appoint and remove a person or persons from the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police.
 - (c) the Deputy Commissioner of Police will be the second highest ranking officer of the police and the second highest ranking employee of the Maldives Police Service.

- (d) where more than one person has been appointed to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police, it must be determined who amongst them shall be the person who will carry out the responsibilities of and to whom the powers of the Commissioner of Police shall be delegated, in the instances specified in sub-section (e) of this section.
- (e) In discharging the responsibilities assigned to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of Police may authorise the Deputy Commissioner of Police to utilise certain of the powers and discretions available to the Commissioner of Police.
- (f) The Deputy Commissioner of Police has the authority to utilise the powers and exercise the responsibilities, assigned to the Commissioner of Police pursuant to this Act the regulations made hereunder, in any of the following instances:-
 - (i) where the Commissioner of Police is not available for any reason; or
 - (ii) where the Commissioner of Police has been suspended; or
 - (iii) where the post of Commissioner of Police is vacant; or
 - (iv) where the Commissioner of Police is incapable of carrying out his responsibilities due to any reason.

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| The employees of the Maldives Police Service | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Minister shall establish, and determine the rank and position of employees of the Maldives Police Service and make appointments. (b) The Commissioner of Police shall oversee the employment, assignment of posts, promotions and de-motions, determination of place of work or employment and changes to the place of work or employment in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act. (c) All persons employed in the Maldives Police Service on the date this Act comes into force, are deemed to have been employed in accordance with this Act and the regulations made hereunder. |
| Training | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commissioner of Police must organise, carry out and oversee the training of the employees of the Maldives Police Service as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act. |
| Awarding badges | 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Minister will determine the award of badges of honour to the police in |

of honour to the police		accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
	(b)	The Minister must establish a board to advise the Minister with regard to the award of badges of honour to the police and to assist, organise and implement the same as provided for in sub-section (a) of this section.
Use of the police uniform and badge of honour without authorisation	18	A person who acts in the manner stated in sub-section (a), (b) and (c) of this section, shall be penalized under this Act, unless he acted with permission from a person authorised to give such permission under the regulations made pursuant to this Act:-
	(a)	the production, sale or use of an official uniform or badge of honour authorised for use by the police;
	(b)	to produce or use an official uniform or badge of honour authorised for use by the police or a duplicate of the same with the intention of deceiving a person or persons;
	(c)	to give an official uniform or badge of honour authorised for use by the police to a person who is not authorised to make use of the same.
Resignation	19	<p>(a) Any policeman, except for the Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, may resign from his employment by submitting a resignation in writing, to the Minister specifying the reason for the resignation. Such person must carry out his duties until such time as the Minister informs him that his resignation has been accepted.</p> <p>(b) The Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police may resign from their employment by submitting a resignation in writing, to the President of the Republic of Maldives, specifying the reason for the resignation. Such person must carry out his duties until such time as the President informs him that his resignation has been accepted.</p>
Discharge with honour	20	(a) The Minister has the authority, pursuant to regulations made under this Act, to declare as persons discharged with honour any policeman, except those who are dismissed from the police.
	(b)	With regard to sub-section (a) of this section, the Minister has the authority, to grant special privileges and immunities, to policemen discharged with honour, in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
Dismissal	21	A person who has been dismissed from employment due to, absconding/ absence without leave or disciplinary issues or due to the commission of an

offence or due to failure to comply with this Act or the regulations made hereunder, shall not be granted any of the privileges or immunities provided for under this Act.

Absconding/ absence without leave	22	(a)	Any policeman who absconds from work or attempts to do so will be penalised as provided for in this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
		(b)	A policeman is deemed absent without leave, as provided for in sub-section (a) of this section, where he fails to report for work for 14 (fourteen) days without consent, or where he fails to report to work or objects to report to work where a superior officer gives such an order in an emergency in accordance with this Act.
		(c)	Any person who motivates, assists, solicits or incites a policeman to be absent without leave from work as provided for in sub-section (a) of this section, will be penalized under this Act.
Privileges afforded to policemen	23		The Minister shall as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act, provide for all the privileges to be afforded to policemen.
Injuries sustained in the course of employment	24		Where a policeman is injured or crippled during the course of his employment, just compensation will be provided according to the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
Welfare fund	25	(a)	The Minister has the authority to create a welfare fund in order to improve the welfare of police, and to authorise spending from such fund for the welfare purposes of the police.
		(b)	The Minister where he sees fit, may at his discretion, assign to the Commissioner of Police the creation and the operation of the welfare fund, mentioned in sub-section (a) of this section.
		(c)	In order to improve and expand the welfare fund, it may engage in business activities in accordance with law and regulation.
		(d)	The Minister has the discretion to authorise, as provided for in the relevant laws, the formation of companies, associations and organisations from within the police, to carry out the business activities stated in sub-section (c) of this section.
Punishment for administrative	26	(a)	Any policeman who contravenes this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, will be subject to the administrative penalty

offences
committed by
policemen

commensurate to the offence as provided for in the regulation made pursuant to this Act.

(b) The regulation mentioned in sub-section (a) of this section, may provide for any of the below penalties:-

(i) a fine of no less than Mrf 10 (ten) and not exceeding Mrf17,500 (seventeen thousand five hundred);

(ii) arrest for a period of not less than 5 (five) days and not more than 90 (ninety) days, in a police station, such that the person can carry out his duties;

(iii) re-locate his place of employment to an island other than the usual island of domicile for a maximum of 180 (hundred and eighty) days;

(iv) ensure no promotions are awarded for a maximum of 5 (five) years;

(v) de-mote to a lower rank;

(vi) terminate his employment.

27 (a) It is the solemn duty of every policeman, to carry out, all the duties and responsibilities that have been determined by law, to be those of policemen.

(b) Every policeman must carry out those duties and responsibilities that have been determined by law, to be those of policemen in accordance with the instructions and orders given by his superior officer.

Scope of police
powers and
discretions

28 (a) Powers and discretions are available to every employee of the Maldives Police Service, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, the laws and regulations pertaining to the role and functions of the police and within the arena of lawful or court orders.

(b) Each task assigned to an employee of the Maldives Police Service, is assigned for it to be carried out within the scope of the powers and discretions available to him and to complete to the best of his abilities.

(c) Each employee of the Maldives Police Service should utilise the powers and discretions available to him within the ambit of the regulations governing the use of such powers and discretions.

- (d) Each employee of the Maldives Police Service will be accountable to the Commissioner of Police with regard to the utilisation of the powers and discretions available to him and the discharge of his responsibilities.
- (e) Any employee of the Maldives Police Service, who in discharging his responsibilities or in carrying out the role and function of a policeman, intentionally and knowingly exceeds the ambit of the powers and discretions available to him, exerts influence/ force over another person or uses it for any other purpose, commits a crime.
- Immunities
afforded to the
police
- 29 (a) No legal action will be brought against an employee of the Maldives Police Service, for acts or omissions, conducted in good faith, without any contravention of the law, in the course of carrying out his official duties and responsibilities while carrying out the role and function of a policeman as provided for in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) No employee of the Maldives Police Service shall be held responsible by another employee, for an act or omission of his resulting in injury or damage, conducted in good faith, without any contravention of the law, in the course of carrying out his official duties and responsibilities while carrying out the role and function of a policeman as provided for in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (c) A person, whose refusal to comply with a lawful order, given by a policeman in the course of carrying out his duties and functions, necessitates the use of the powers and discretions available to the police, leading to injury or damage to the person or another or to his property or to that of another, shall be fully responsible for all loss occurring due to such injury or damage.
- (d) The immunities provided to the police pursuant to this Act and the regulations made hereunder shall remain available to a policeman even after leaving office.
- 30 It is an offence for any policeman, even in his personal capacity to carry out any of the following:-
- (a) to do any act or engage in any activity that will compromise his ability to carry out his duties with impartiality and neutrality;
- (b) to do any act or engage in any activity that will create doubts in the minds of the public as likely to compromise his ability to carry out his duties with

impartiality and neutrality;

- (c) to be a member of any political party or to be actively engaged in the activities of any political party or to financially support any political party.

Right to vote 31 The exercise by a policeman, of the right to vote, which is a right available to all citizens pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives shall not be deemed as active involvement in the activities of a political party.

Obstruction or hindrance of the police 32 (a) It is an offence to obstruct or hinder or attempting to obstruct or hinder police work.

- (b) The following shall be deemed obstructing or hindering or attempting to obstruct or hinder the police:-

- (i) to obstruct or commit an act that could obstruct in any manner or organise, participate, incite or assist to obstruct, the police in the exercise of their legal powers and discretions;

- (ii) refusal to comply with an order of the police made pursuant to their lawful powers and discretions or inciting or supporting the person to whom such order is directed to disobey such order or in any other manner assisting or participating in or attempting to or organising such a refusal.

- (c) The police have the power to arrest any person who obstructs or hinders or attempts to obstruct or hinder the implementation of the role and functions of the police.

- (d) The penalty for obstructing or hindering or attempting to obstruct or hinder the implementation of the role and functions of the police shall be the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) or imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year, or the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) and imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year.

Assaulting a policeman on duty 33 (a) It is an offence to assault or attempt to assault a policeman carrying out the role and functions of the police.

- (b) The penalty for committing the offence stated in sub-section (a) of this section, shall be shall be imprisonment in jail for a period not less than 1 (one) year and not more than 4 (four) years or the imposition of a fine that is not less than Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) and not more than Mrf

100,000 (one hundred thousand) or the imposition of a fine that is not less than Mrf 25,000 (twenty five thousand) and not more than Mrf 100,000 (one hundred thousand) and imprisonment in jail for a period not less than 1 (one) year and not more than 4 (four) years.

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| Power to request proof of identity | 34 | <p>(a) The police have the power to request any person, to provide proof of his identity, where such person is at a dwelling place or premises or in the vicinity of such place, and the police have reasonable grounds for suspecting the commission of an unlawful act, at such place.</p> <p>(b) The production by the person to whom the order stated in sub-section (a) of this section is directed, of his Maldivian national identity card or passport or other official identity document, shall be deemed compliance with the said order.</p> |
| Power to disperse and order not to return | 35 | <p>(a) Where the police believe that in the absence of taking the steps specified in this section, the implementation of the role and functions of the police will be obstructed, or that an unlawful activity is happening or will happen in a place or in the vicinity, they have the power to order any person on the street or any public place or any other place accessible to the public, to disperse and not return to such place for a determined period of time.</p> <p>(b) The maximum period that a policeman can order a person to stay away from a street or any other public place or any other place accessible to the public, pursuant to sub-section (a) of this section is for a continuous period of 24 (twenty four) hours.</p> |
| Temporary closure of streets and places | 36 | <p>(a) Where the police believe that in the absence of taking the steps specified in this section, the implementation of the role and functions of the police will be obstructed, or that an unlawful activity is happening or will happen on a street or in the neighbourhood, the police have the power to temporarily close off that street or neighbourhood, and to order person or persons not to access such place except in the manner determined by the police.</p> <p>(b) The maximum period that a policeman can temporarily order a closure of a street or the neighbourhood, is for a continuous period of 72 (seventy two) hours.</p> <p>(c) Any such order may only be issued by an officer of the rank of the Assistant Commissioner of Police or a senior rank.</p> |
| Power to disperse a lawfully | 37 | <p>(a) The police have the power to order the dissolution of an assembly convened lawfully and to order the participants at such assembly, gathering or</p> |

convened assembly		meeting to disperse peacefully, prior to the assembly, gathering or meeting turning into an unlawful assembly, provided there is a belief that, the assembly, gathering or meeting, may turn into an unlawful assembly.
Requesting the assistance of the public		<p>(b) The police have the right when necessary, in order to carry out the role and functions of the police, to request the assistance of the general public and to make use of the property, vehicle or other items belonging to the general public.</p> <p>(c) Compensation must be provided, for any injury caused to the person assisting or any damage caused to the property used, pursuant to sub-section (b) of this section.</p> <p>(d) It is an offence under this Act for any person to refuse to provide the assistance requested for by the police pursuant to sub-section (a) of this section.</p>
Use of reasonable force to obtain compliance	39	The police are, pursuant to their powers and discretions, authorised to use the amount of force necessary, to achieve the purpose of restraining any person or ensuring compliance of any person, who refuses to comply with or shows aggression in the face of a lawful order made by a policeman, in carrying out the role and functions of the police.
Null and void orders	40	<p>(a) Any order or part of an order that is contrary to this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act, shall to the extent that they are contrary to this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, be null and void.</p> <p>(b) It is an offence for any employee of the Maldives Police Service to knowingly and with intent, issue an order that is null and void.</p> <p>(c) It is an offence for any employee of the Maldives Police Service to knowingly and with intent, comply with an order that is null and void.</p>
Penalties for offences for which a specific penalty is not specified	41	The penalty for any offence for which a specific penalty has not been specified in this Act is, the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 12,000 (twelve thousand) or imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months, or the imposition of a fine not exceeding Mrf 12,000 (twelve thousand) and imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months.
Interpretation	42	(a) Except as otherwise provided for in sub-section (b) of this section, the sections of this Act shall be given the natural ordinary meaning as understood from the use of the phrasing of each section.

(b) The following terms and phrases shall be interpreted as provided below:-

(i) “Minister” shall mean the minister or senior most official in charge of the operation of the Ministry mandated by the President, to be responsible for the Maldives Police Service;

(ii) “Police” shall mean all employees of the Maldives Police Service who have taken the oath of a policeman.

Date of coming into effect of this Act 43

This Act shall come into force, 6 (six) months from the date on which this Act is passed into law, assented to and published in the gazette.

This bill was submitted by the government of the Republic of Maldives, as there was perceived a need for the existence of a police force in the Maldives to protect the constitution of the Republic of Maldives, maintain internal security and the security of the community, and to specify the duties and responsibilities of the police, and to provide and determine the operations of the police, and to safeguard and maintain the privileges and immunities of the police and as it was felt important that these should be provided for in an Act, and to state these matters and for the purpose of organising and improving these matters.

14th February 2006