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THE PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES ORDINANCE, 2001
ORDINANCE No. VI OF 2001

[7th February, 2001]

An ordinance to provide for regulation of private security companies in the Islamabad Capital Territory

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for regulation, licensing and control of private security companies in the Islamabad Capital Territory and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly and the Senate stand suspended in pursuance of the Proclamation of Emergency of the fourteenth day of October, 1999 and Provisional Constitution Order No.1 of 1999;

AND WHEREAS the President is Satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of Emergency of the fourteenth day of October, 1999, read with the Provisional Constitution (Amendment) Order No.9 of 1999, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Ordinance may be called the Private Security Companies Ordinance, 2001.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Islamabad Capital Territory, Islamabad.
(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— (1) In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “company” means a company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984(XLVII of 1984);

(b) “Competent Authority” means the Chief Commissioner Islamabad Capital Administration;

(c) “licence” means a licence granted under this Ordinance for carrying on the business of a private security company by providing for consideration, security guards or security arrangements for the protection of persons or property or to prevent the theft or unlawful taking of property;

(d) “licensee” means the holder of a licence;

(e) "Licensing Officer" means the licensing officer appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Islamabad Capital Administration, and shall include an Assistant Licensing Officer;

(f) "private security company" means any company, registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1984(XLVII of 1984) carrying on, maintaining or engaged in the business of providing for consideration security guards or making other arrangements for the security of other persons and their property functioning under a valid licence issued by the competent authority;

(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance; and

(h) "security guard" includes any watchman or other person engaged by the licensee for the protection of persons or property or to prevent the theft or robbery at the protected places.

3. Ordinance not to apply to Civil and Armed Forces, etc.— (1) The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to—

(a) any member of Armed Forces, police or any civil armed force; and

(b) any inspector, guard, watchman, or other persons employed by an individual employer for inspection, protection, guarding of his residence or commercial or business premises or for the protection of persons or property of such employer who is not engaged in the business of private security company.

4. Private security companies' employees not to wear certain uniform.— The persons employed by the private security company shall not wear uniform akin to uniform of armed forces, police or any civil armed force and shall wear the uniform as may be prescribed.

5. Prohibition of maintenance of a company without a licence.— No person shall carry on the business of a private security company or maintain or provide security guards or security arrangements for consideration unless holds a licence for the purpose issued under this Ordinance.

6. Procedure for grant and renewal of licence, etc.— (1) Whoever desires to engage in the business of maintaining a private security company shall, after he has got such company registered under the Companies Ordinance 1984(XLVII of 1984), make an application for grant of a licence to the Licensing Officer and shall, with his application, furnish such information, attach documents and pay such fee in the form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) On receipt of an application under sub-section (1), the Licensing Officer may after such verification and enquiry as he may deem necessary and subject to such condition including furnishing of security as may be prescribed, grant or refuse to grant the licence.

(3) A licence issued under sub-section (2) shall be—

(i) valid for such period as may be prescribed; and

(ii) renewable on an application made in the form and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(4) A licence shall not be granted if

(a) satisfactory evidence has not been produced of the good moral character of the officer of the company holding managerial or executive positions or any of its officers holding a managerial or an executive positions has been convicted of an offence involving fraud or moral turpitude;

(b) it is not in the public interest to do so;

(c) security-clearance is not provided as may be prescribed; or

(d) the private security company is not registered under the company Ordinance, 1984(XLVII of 1984);

Provided that the reasons for refusal to grant a licence shall be recorded in writing and shall be communicated to the applicant.

(5) The Licensing Officer may, at any time, under the directions of the Federal Government, vary or revoke any of the conditions of a licence or impose any additional conditions thereto.

(6) The Licensing Officer shall, before taking any action under sub-section (5), notify to the licensee his intention of the proposed action and provide him an opportunity to show cause against such action.

7. Appeal.— Any person aggrieved by any order made by the Licensing Officer under section 6 may, within thirty days, appeal against such order to the Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, whose decision shall be final

8. Exhibition of licence.— Every licensee shall exhibit his licence or a certified copy thereof in a conspicuous place at his principal place of business and at every branch where the licensee carries on the business of private security company.

9. Penalties.— Any person who—

(a) carries on the business of private security company without a licence;

(b) fails to comply with the conditions of the licence;

(c) fails to exhibit the licence or certified copy thereof at a conspicuous place in the office or place of business of the private security company;

(d)

(e)

(f)

not being the holder of a licence keeps, uses or exhibits any sign, writing, painting or other mark implying that he holds a licence to carry on the business of a private security company;

being a licensee, or an applicant for grant of licence, knowingly makes a false or incorrect statement or omits to furnish any particular which he is required to furnish; and

being a licensee, violates the relevant provisions of the Companies Ordinance, 1984(XLVII of 1984).

Shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to two hundred thousand rupees, or with both, and in case of default in payment of fine, the offender shall be liable to imprisonment which may extend to one year.

10. Revocation of licence.— (1) The Licensing Officer may, by an order in writing, revoke a licence—

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

if he is satisfied that the licensee

(i) has ceased to carry on the business for which he has obtained the licence or has applied for liquidation, winding up of the company or the company has been dissolved;

(ii) has obtained the licence by providing false information in contravention of the provision of this Ordinance;

(iii) has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude or, any of the officer of the licensee holding a managerial or executive position, partner, employee or security guard has been convicted of any offence involving fraud or moral turpitude;

(iv) is contravening, or has contravened, any of the provisions of this Ordinance or the rules made thereunder; or

if it is found that the security guards employed by him do not possess the prescribed qualification or training;

if the company fails to provide services to its clients as per agreement signed by it or as per the prescribed procedure; and

if it is considered necessary to do so in the public interest.

(2) The Licensing Officer shall, before revoking any licence under sub-section (1), give the licensee a notice to show cause in writing specifying a date, not less than thirty days from the date of the notice, on which the revocation shall take effect unless the licensee satisfies the Licensing Officer that the licence was not liable to be revoked.

(3) When the Licensing Officer revokes a licence under sub-section (1), he shall forthwith inform the licensee by notice in writing of such revocation specifying date thereof and the Registrar of Companies concerned.

(4) The person whose licence has been revoked may, within thirty days of the receipt of the notice referred to in sub-section (3), prefer appeal in writing against the revocation to the Secretary Ministry of Interior whose decision thereon shall be final.

11. Effect of revocation of licence, etc.— (1) Where an order of revocation becomes effective under section 10, the licensee shall cease to carry on the business of a private security company.

(2) Notwithstanding the revocation of licence, the enforcement of right or claim of any against the licensee or by the licensee of any right or claim against person arising out of, or concerning, any matter or thing done prior to the revocation of the licence shall not be affected.

12. Employment of staff by the licensee.— The licensee may, in the conduct of his business, employ as many persons as he may consider necessary to be security guards and members of staff and shall at all times during such employment be responsible for the good conduct of each and every person employed by him.

(2) The licensee shall not employ as a security guard any person who—

(a) has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude or dismissed from Government service on charges of misconduct; and

(b) is, in the opinion of the Licensing Officer, not a fit and proper person to be employed as security guard.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no person shall be employed by a licence as a security guard until he has submitted to the Licensing Officer a statement containing complete particular and other information of such person in the prescribed form and the Licensing Officer has conveyed his no objection in writing to the recruitment of such security guard by the licensee.

(4) Every licensee shall maintain a list of all the persons employed by him with their full particular and antecedents at the place of his business.

13. Possession or arms and ammunition by the licensee.— (1) A licensee may possess and keep arms, ammunition and other equipments which may be necessary for performance of the functions of the private security company in accordance with the law and rules applicable for possessing and keeping of arms and ammunition and shall use and retain such arms and ammunition and equipments in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A licence to retain any arms, ammunition and other equipments may be issued by the Islamabad Capital Administration on the recommendation of the Licensing Officer

14. Identification papers.— (1) Every security guard shall at all times carry proper identification papers issued by the licensee in such form and containing such particulars as may be prescribed and produce such papers for inspection when so required by the Licensing Officer or any police officer duly authorized in this behalf and shall surrender the identification papers to the licensee when he ceased to be such security guard with the licensee.

(2) Any person, other than security guard, or who has ceased to be a security guard, carrying identification papers of a security guard shall, in addition to any other punishment to which he may be liable under any other law for impersonation, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month and fine which may extend to thirty thousand rupees.

15. Power to inspect and search.—(1) Where the Licensing Officer is satisfied, upon receipt of any information or after such enquiry as he may think necessary, that there is sufficient reason to believe that any premises is used for carrying on business of a private security company by a person who is not the holder of a licence, he may, by warrant or writing under his hand, authorize any person named therein, or any police officer not below the rank of an Inspector, with such assistance and by such force as is necessary to enter for searching the premises and all persons found therein, to seize all documents and things reasonably supposed to have been used or intended to be used in connection with the business of a private security company which are found in such premises or on such persons.

(2) The powers of inspection and search of Licensing Officer specified in sub-section (1) and sub-section (1) of section 14 may also be exercised by the District Magistrate or the Superintendent of Police, Islamabad Capital Territory, Islamabad, either by himself in person or through a Police Officer authorized by him, in writing:

Provided that no female shall be searched except by a female Police Officer.

(3) The District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police, Islamabad Capital Territory, as the case may be, shall, without delay, inform, the Licensing Officer of the result of the inspection and search carried out under this Ordinance.

(4) For the purposes of any enquiry, the Licensing Officer or any person authorized by him not below an officer of BPS-16 may, for furtherance or such enquiry—

(a) enter, inspect and examine by day or by night the place of business of every licensee; and

(b) require the production of records, account and documents kept by a licensee and to inspect, examine and obtain copies thereof.

(5) Any person who—

(a) refuses the Licensing Officer or any person authorized by him to enter or search any place;

(b)

(©)

(d)

assaults, obstructs, hinders or delays him, or the person authorized by him, entry in execution of his duty under this Ordinance; or

fails to comply any lawful demand of the Licensing Officer or the authorized person in execution of his duty under this Ordinance; or

refuses or neglects to give any information which may reasonably be required of him and which has in his power to give,

Shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or fine which may extend two hundred thousand rupees, or with both.

16. Liability of directors officers, etc.— Where an offence under this Ordinance has been committed by the Company or any person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a director, secretary, manager, partner or an officer of the company or who was purporting to act in any such capacity, shall, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his consent or knowledge and that on learning he exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence, be deemed to have abetted such offence.

17. Cognizance of offences.—Notwithstanding anything in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898(Act V of 1898)—

(a)

(b)

an offence punishable under this Ordinance shall be triable by a Magistrate of the first class; and

it shall be lawful for any Magistrate of the first class to pass any sentence authorised by this Ordinance.

18. Power to make rules.— (1) The Competent Authority may, with the approval of the Federal Government, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following, namely :—

(a)

(b)

(©)

(d)

the information and documents to be furnished by an applicant for a licence;

the taking and recording of photographs and fingerprints of the persons applying for licence and of every person employed by a licensee;

the form of a licence and the identification papers to be issued to the security guards;

the uniform, badge or emblem to be worn by the employees of licensee;

relating the use of any arms, ammunition and equipment by a licensee; and his employees;

(f) regulating the activities of a licensee and the manner in which the business of a licensee shall be conducted;

(g) training for security guards; and
(h) matters incidental to the above.

19. Ordinance not to derogate from other laws.— The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to, and not derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

20. Licensees or their employees not exercise powers exercisable by a certain Government functionaries.— Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as conferring on a licensee or his employees any of the powers which by any law are conferred on or exercisable by a police officer or officers of customs, immigration, prisons, or any other public officer.

21. Private security company not to be private military organization.— The private security company shall not be construed as private military organization for the purposes of Private Military Organization (Abolition and Prohibition) Act, 1974(IV of 1974).