

THE PAKISTAN CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1958

(XL of 1958)

23rd September, 1958

An Act to repeal and re-enact, with certain amendments, the Pakistan Criminal Law amendment Act, 1948.

Preamble--WHEREAS it is expedient to repeal and re-enact, with certain amendments, the Pakistan Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1948, providing for the more speedy trial and more effective punishment of certain offences;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement--(1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1958.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan and applies to all citizens of Pakistan and public servants wherever they may be.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions-- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

- a. “ appropriate Government” means in relation to a person serving in connection with the affairs of (Center) and any other person employed by the Federal Government or (by a Corporation or other body or organization (set-up, controlled or administered by, or under the authority of), the Federal Government, the Federal Government and in other cases, the Provincial Government concerned:
- b. “public servant” means a public servant as defined in section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code (and includes an employees of any cooperation or other body of organization (setup controlled or administrated by, or under the authority of) the Federal Government.
- c. “Special Judges” means a Special Judge appointed under sub section (1) of Section 3.

3. Appointment of Special Judges --(1) The appropriate Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint as many Special Judges as may be necessary to try and punish offences specified in the Schedule.

(2) No person shall be appointed a Special Judge unless he -

- a. is, or is qualified to be, a Judge of a High Court or
- b. is or has been a session Judge or an Additional Sessions Judge or a District Magistrate or an Additional District Magistrate and has not retired from Government Service or at any time been removed or dismissed from such service;

Provided that no Assistant Session Judge shall be appointed as Special Judge unless he has been an Assistant Session Judge for not less than three years.

Provided further that no District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate shall be appointed a Special Judge unless he has exercised either the powers of a Magistrate 1st Class for not less than 10 years of Powers under section 30 of Criminal Procedure Code for not less than 3 years.

4. Jurisdiction of Special Judges and cognizance of cases by them—(1) A Special Judge shall have jurisdiction within such territorial limits as may be fixed by the appropriate Government by notification in the official Gazette and may take cognizance of any offence committed or deemed to have been committed within such limits and triable under this Act upon receiving a complaint of facts which constitute such offence or upon a report in writing of such facts made by any police officer.

(2) Two or more Special Judges have jurisdiction, wholly or partly in the same territorial limits, the appropriate Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, declare one of them to be the Senior Special Judge for that area.

(3) An offence shall be tried by the Special Judge within the territorial limits of whose jurisdiction it was committed or deemed to have been committed, or where there are more Special Judges than one having jurisdiction within the same territorial limits, by such one of them as may specified; in this behalf by the Senior Special Judge.

(4) When an offence triable under this Act is committed outside Pakistan, it shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been committed within the territorial limits of the jurisdiction of the Special Judge in which the person committing the offence is found.

5. Offences to be tried by Special Judges--(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the code of Criminal procedure, 1898, or in any other law, the offences specified in the Schedule shall be triable exclusively by a Special Judge.

(2) The appropriate Government may, from time to time by notification in the official Gazette, Include in the Schedule such other offences as it deems necessary or expedient.

(3) All cases relating to the offences specified in the Schedule and pending; in any Court other than the Court of a Special Judge immediately before the commencement of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1953, or this Act shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the Court of the Special Judge having jurisdiction over such cases.

(4) Whenever an offence is included in the Schedule by a notification of the appropriate Government made under subsection (2), all cases relating to that offence pending in any court other than the Court of a Special Judge Immediately before such notification shall stand transferred to the court of the Special Judge having jurisdiction over such cases.

(5) In respect of cases transferred to a Special Judge under the provisio to sub section (3) or sub Section (4) or by virtue sub section (3) or

subsection (4) of this section, such Judge shall not, by reason of the said transfer, be bound to recall and rehear any witness who has given evidence in the case before transfer and may act on the evidence already recorded by or produced before the court which tried the case before the transfer.

(6) For the purpose of trial before a Special Judge the provision of Chapter XVIII of the Court of Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall not be applicable, but a special Judge may, in any case; where he deems it necessary, or any investigation by any police officer in who's jurisdiction the offence was wholly or partly committed.

(7) When trying an offence under this Act a Special Judge may also charge with and try other offences not so triable with which the accused may, under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, relating to the joinder of charges, be charged at the same trial.

6. Procedure in trial of cases and powers of Special Judges – (1)
The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, except those of chapter XXXVIII of the Court shall, in so far as they are not inconsistent with this Act, apply to the proceedings of the Court of a Special Judge and for the purposes of the said provisions, the Court of a Special Judge shall be deemed to be a Court of Session trying cases without the aid of assessors or jury, and a person conducting prosecution before the court of a Special Judge shall be deemed to be a public prosecutor.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, in the case of any offence punishable under (Section 161 to 165, Section 165-A, Sections 406 to 409, Section 420, Sections 465 to 468 or Section 477-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, or under Section 5 of the Prevention to Corruption Act, 1947, at any stage of investigation, enquiry, a District Magistrate of Sub Divisional Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class, and at any stage of trial the Special Judge, with a view to obtaining the evidence of any person supposed to have been directly or indirectly concerned in or privy to the offence, may for reasons to be recorded in writing tender pardon to such person on condition of his making a full and true disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within his knowledge relative to the offence and to every other person concerned, whether as principal or a better, in the commission thereof and any pardon so tendered shall, for the purposes of sections 339 and 339-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be deemed to have been tendered under section 337 or, as the case may be under section 338 of that Code;

Provided that in every case where a person has accepted a pardon deemed to have been tendered under section 337, the Magistrate shall, without making any further enquiry, send the case for trial to the Court of the Special Judge having jurisdiction over such case.

(3) The provisions of Chapter XX of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, shall apply to trial of cases under this Act in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Special Judge may convict the accused of any offence which from the facts admitted or proved he appears to have committed.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or any other Law, previous sanction of the appropriate Government shall be required for the prosecution of a public servant for an offence under this Act and such sanction shall be sufficient for the prosecution of a public servant for an offence tribal under this Act;

Provided that in cases where the complaint or report referred to in subsections (1) of section 4 is not accompanied by such sanction the Special Judge shall, immediately on receipt of the complaint or report, address, by letter, the appropriate Government in the matter, and if the required sanction is neither received not refused with sixty days of the receipt of the letter by the appropriate Government, such sanction shall be deemed to have been duly accorded;

Provided further that no such sanction shall be required in respect of a case transferred under the proviso to subsection (3) of section 4 or by virtue of sub section (3) or sub- section (4) of section 5, if such sanction in respect thereof, has been duly accorded before the case is so transferred.

Explanation - For the purpose of this subsection,

“appropriate Government” shall mean the Government which at the time of the commission of the offence was the appropriate Government.

(6) The Federal Government in cases sent up by the Pakistan Special Police Establishment for trial, and in all other cases, the Provincial Government, or an officer authorized in this behalf by the Federal or the Provincial Government, as the case may be, shall, by general or special order, appoint one or more persons to conduct prosecution before any Special Judge.

(7) The previous statements of witnesses to be examined for the prosecution at the trial shall be supplied to the accused at least one week before the commencement of the trial.

7. Special rules of evidence -- (1) When any person is charged before a Special Judge with an offence triable under this Act, the fact that such person or any other person through him or on his behalf, is in possession, for which he cannot satisfactorily account, of pecuniary resources, or property disproportionate to his known sources of income, or that such person has, on or about the time of offence with which he is charged, obtained an accretion to his pecuniary resources or property for which he cannot satisfactorily account, may be proved, and may be taken into consideration by the Special Judge as a relevant fact in deciding whether he is guilty of the particular offence with which he is charged.

(2) Where in any trial before a Special Judge of an offence punishable under sections 161 to 165 of the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860), it is proved that an accused person has accepted or obtained, or has agreed to accept or attempted to obtain, for himself or for any other person, any gratification (other than legal remuneration) or any valuable thing, or any pecuniary advantage from a person or the agent of a person, for any favour shown or promised to be shown by the accused person, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that he accepted or obtained, or agreed to accept or attempted to obtain, that gratification, or that valuable thing, or pecuniary advantage to himself or some other person, as the case may be, as a motive or reward such as is mentioned in sections 161, 162 and 163 of the

West Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860), or as the case may be, without consideration, or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate.

(3) Where in any trial of an offence punishable under section 165 of the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860), it is proved that any gratification (other than legal remuneration) or any valuable thing has been given or offered to be given or attempted to be given by an accused person, it shall be presumed unless the contrary is proved that he gave or offered to give or attempted to give the gratification or valuable thing, as the case may be, as a motive or reward such as is mentioned in section 161 of the said Code or, as the case may be, without consideration or for a consideration which he knew to be inadequate.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (2) and (3), the Court may decline to draw the presumption referred to in either of the said sub-sections, if the gratification or thing aforesaid, in its opinion, so trivial that no inference of corruption may fairly be drawn.

8. Bar on trial de novo – A Special Judge, unless he otherwise decides, shall not be bound to recall or rehear any witness, whose evidence has already been recorded, or to re-open proceedings already held, but may act on the evidence already produced or recorded and continue the trial from the stage which the case has reached.

9. Punishment of offences – When any person charged before a Special Judge with an offence triable under this Act is found guilty of the offence the Special Judge shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, whether or not he imposes a sentence of imprisonment, impose a sentence of fine which shall not be less than the gain found to have been derived by the accused by the commission of the offence.

10. Appeal, revision and transfer of cases -- An appeal from the judgment of a Special Judge shall lie to highest court having appellate jurisdiction in the territorial limits in which the offence is tried by the Special Judge, and the same court shall also have powers of revision.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 417 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, (V of 1898), in any case tried by a Special Judge appointed by the Federal Government under section 3, in which such Special Judge has passed an order of acquittal, the Federal Government may direct the Public Prosecutor to present an appeal to such Court as aforesaid.

(3) The aforesaid court shall have authority to transfer any case from the Court of a Special Judge to the Court of another Special Judge:

Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, (V of 1898), the Special Judge from whose Court a transfer is desired, shall not be bound to adjourn the case, but if he rejects a request for adjournment, he shall record his reasons for doing so.

(4) No prosecution under this Act against any person either generally or in respect of any one or more of the offences for which he is being tried shall be withdrawn except under the orders in writing of the appropriate Government.

11. Bail and Imprisonment -- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Second Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or any other

law for the time being in force, offences triable by a Special Judge under this Act shall be deemed to be non-bailable.

(2) Any offence triable under this Act which is punishable with simple imprisonment shall be deemed to be punishable with imprisonment of either description.

12. **Power to make rules --** (1) The appropriate Government may frame rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for any of the following matters, namely:-

- a. Authorization of person to exercise the power to sanction persecution on behalf of the appropriate Government in respect of various grades of public servants.
- (b) The emoluments of the Special Judges, and their appointment;
- (c) Territorial limits of the jurisdiction of Special Judges and the place and time of sitting of the Courts presided over by the Special Judges.
- (d) The summoning of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and the penalty for disobeying, or evading the same, in addition to or substitution of the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.
- (e) Matters incidental to the above.

13. **Military, naval and air force law not to be affected --** Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction exercised by, or the procedure applicable to, any Court or other authority under any military, naval, or air force law.

14. **Repeal and savings --** (1) The Pakistan Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1948, is hereby repealed.

(2) Anything done or action taken before the commencement of this Act during any trial or proceedings before a Special Judge or otherwise under the aforesaid Act shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act as if this Act was in force at the time such thing was done or action taken.

The Schedule

(See Section 5)

- a. Offences punishable under sections 161 to 166, 168, 217 and 218 of the Pakistan Penal Code, and as attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation thereto or connected therewith.
- b. Offences punishable under section 403 to 409 to 420, 463, 471-A and 477-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, and as attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation thereto or connected therewith, when committed by any public servant as such or by the person acting jointly with or abetting or attempting to abet or acting in conspiracy with any public servant as such.

- c. Offences punishable under the prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, and as attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation there to or connected therewith.