

# CHAPTER S3 - SECRET CULTS AND SECRET SOCIETIES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (PROHIBITION) LAW

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### SECTION

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## SECRET CULTS AND SECRET SOCIETIES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (PROHIBITION) LAW

A Law to proscribe, prohibit, the establishment (formation), membership, existence and activities of Secret Cults and Secret Societies in educational institutions in Kwara State and other matters connected therewith.

[Date of commencement: *23rd April, 2004*]

### PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS the menace of Secret Cults and Societies in Educational Institutions in Kwara State has assumed an alarming rate;

AND WHEREAS every effort made by the various Institutions to curb the activities of cultism has yielded little or no success;

AND WHEREAS the cult activities has resulted in the loss of lives and properties and disturbance of public peace on various occasions in the State;

AND WHEREAS the cultist activities have become dangerous to the good Government of the State and the respective Institutions where innocent lives become victims of the breach of peace during cult clashes;

AND WHEREAS it has become imperative and desirable to enact this Law to check the alarming rate and unbecoming activities of cultists in State Institutions;

**1. Declaration against and proscription of Secret Cults or Societies**

(1) The establishment, membership, operations, activities and existence of Secret Cults or Societies in Educational Institutions in the State is hereby declared as dangerous to the peace and good government of the State and its respective Institutions.

(2) Pursuant to subsection (1), of this Section, all existing Secret Cults or Societies by whatever name called, existing in Educational Institutions in the State are hereby proscribed.

**2. Power of Governing Council, etc., to proscribe unlawful Societies**

Where any Society, by whatever name called operating within any Educational Institution in the State is found to be pursuing activities relating to cultism, the Governing Council or any authority or person in charge or control of the Institution shall after conducting investigations with respect thereto proscribe any such society.

**3. Cessation of existence of Secret Cults or Societies**

Any proscribed Secret Cult or Society in accordance with subsection (2) of Section 1 and Section 2 of this Law shall forthwith cease to exist.

**4. Power of Security Personnel to apprehend and arrest**

The Security Personnel within an Educational Institution in the State shall on reasonable suspicion have the power to carry out random search on any person, building, shop, kiosk, hostel or classroom within and outside an Institution and shall have the power to apprehend and arrest any student or person found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon or suspicious object relating to cultism.

**5. Police to conduct investigation**

Any student or person arrested pursuant to Section 4 of this Law shall be handed over to the Police for further investigation.

**6. Prohibition of establishment of Secret Cult or Society**

(1) No person shall establish form a Secret Cult or Society.

(2) A Secret Cult or Secret Society that was in operation or existence before the commencement of this Law shall cease to exist immediately on the commencement of this Law.

**7. Prohibition of membership, etc., of Secret Cults and Societies**

(1) The membership, operations, activities and existence of Secret Cults or Societies in Educational Institutions in the State are hereby prohibited.

(2) No registered student in any Educational Institution in the State shall throughout his or her course of study in such Institution belong to, engage in or associate with any Secret Cult or Society whether within or outside the Institution.

**8. Prohibition of holding meetings**

Without prejudice to Departmental meetings, no Society or Group of persons shall hold meetings on the Campus without prior permission in writing of the Students Affairs Department of that Institution.

**9. Prohibition of use of any sign, etc., of Secret Cults or Societies**

No person shall use any sign, pass word, code, ring, bands, brooch, uniform, oaths, rites, symbols or anything related or associated to Cult or Secret Society.

**10. Aiding and abetting the establishment, membership or activities of Secret Cults or Societies**

No person shall under any circumstance aid, abet—

- (a) in the establishment or formation of a Secret Cult or Society;
- (b) or harbour any student found or suspected to be a member of a Secret Cult or Society;
- (c) participation of persons in Cultism;
- (d) activities of Secret Cult or Secret Society.

**11. Penalty**

(1) Any student or person who contravenes the provisions of Sections 6 (1), 7, and 9 of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to ten years imprisonment and to a fine of fifty thousand naira (#50,000.00).

(2) Any person whether or not a student who contravenes the provisions of Section 10 of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to six years imprisonment without an option of fine.

**12. Disciplinary measures by Institutions**

(1) The provisions of Section 11 of this Law shall be without prejudice to any other disciplinary measure that may be taken by the authority in control of the respective Institutions.

(2) Any person who has been—

- (a) convicted of an offence relating to the operations or activities of Secret Cult or Society;

- (b) expelled from any Educational Institution for activities relating to Secret Cult or Society,

shall not be admitted into any Educational Institution in the State.

**13. Trial for other offences**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 11—

- (a) any student or member of a Secret Cult or Society, who in the course of a cult attack, clash or disturbance, kills, injures, assaults or otherwise commits an offence;
- (b) where an act of cultist or a member of a Secret Society results to a bodily or physical injury or death of another person,

the student, cultist or member shall be so charged, tried and punished under the applicable Laws of the State.

**14. Possession of firearms or dangerous weapons**

Any student, person or member of a Secret Cult or Society in possession of firearms or any dangerous weapon shall be so charged, tried and punished under the applicable Laws of the State.

**15. Confiscation of building, etc.**

Any building, shop, kiosk, vehicle or any such receptacle in which a firearm or other dangerous weapon is found in pursuance of this Law shall be confiscated and forfeited and the owners of such building, shop, kiosk, vehicle or receptacle shall be charged, tried and punished under the applicable Laws of the State.

**16. Trial Court**

Any student or person who commits an offence under this Law shall be tried by the High Court of the State.

**17. Interpretation**

In this Law unless the context otherwise requires—

**"Educational Institution"** means a School, College, University or Institution for training students;

**"Government"** means the Government of Kwara State;

**"Member"** means member of a Secret Society or Cult;

**"Secret Cult" or "Secret Society"** includes a Cult or any Society, Association, Group or body of persons (whether registered or not)—

- (a) that uses Secret Signs, Oaths, Rites or Symbols and which is formed to promote a cause, the purpose or part of the purpose of which is to foster the interest of its members and to aid one another under any circumstance without due regard to merit, fair play or justice to the detriment of the legitimate interest of those who are not members;
- (b) whose activities are not known to the Public at large, the names of whose

members are kept secret and whose meeting and other activities are held in secret;

- (c) pursuing activities which are illegal, inimical, destructive or unlawful; and
- (d) not duly registered with the respective Educational Institution as a Club or Society.

**"State"** means Kwara State of Nigeria;

**"Student"** means a student of an Educational Institution in the State.

**18. Citation**

This Law may be cited as the Secret Cults and Secret Societies in Educational Institutions (Prohibition) Law, 2004.

CHAPTER S3

SECRET CULTS AND SECRET SOCIETIES IN EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS (PROHIBITION) LAW

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

*No Subsidiary Legislation*