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BALOCHISTAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT.

NOTIFICATION.

Dated Quetta, 06th February, 2014.

No. PAB/Legis:V(05)/2014/4083. The Balochistan Compulsory Education, Bill 2014, (Bill No. 05 of 2014), having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 28th January, 2014 and assented to by the Governor, Balochistan on 04th February, 2014 is hereby published as an Act of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

THE BALOCHISTAN COMPULSORY EDUCATION ACT, 2014 (ACT NO. V OF 2014)

(First published after having received the assent of the Governor Balochistan in the Balochistan Gazette (Extra-ordinary) dated 4th February, 2014).

AN ACT

to provide for the free & compulsory education in the Province of Balochistan.

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Preamble.

WHEREAS, it is expedient in the public interest provide for compulsory education in the province of Balochistan pursuant of Article 25A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973;

WHEREAS, the current financial and physical limitations as well as the socio-cultural attitudes obstruct the education children, especially the female child;

ANDWHEREAS, the economic limitations obstruct continuing education for children who may contribute to household income, therefore, to provide for both persuasive and per approaches and recognize the current imitation of the state effectively implement the fundamental right of the children to the education as provided in the Constitution, in the short run.

Short title, extent and Commencement.

1. It is hereby enacted as follows:-
- (1) This Act may be called the Balochistan Compulsory Education Act, 2014.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Balochistan except the Tribal Areas.
 - (3) It shall be deemed to have come in force as and from the 12th day of June, 2013.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,
- (a) "Act" means the Balochistan Compulsory Education Act, 2014;
 - (b) "Area" means a geographical area of up to a 2 kilometers radius from a child's place of residence;
 - (c) "Child" means a child of either sex whose age at the beginning of the school year is not less than five years and not more than sixteen years;
 - (d) "Education" means The education pertaining to all or any of the class I to X in a school, of a minimum quality as per prescribed standards;
 - (e) "Employer" means a person who has employed a child as laborer for his benefit at home, shop, factory or any other place of economic gain;
 - (f) "Free Education" means that the state shall charge no fee for tuition either directly or through any other head that imposes a financial burden on the parent/guardian of the child and the state shall provide the child with free textbooks, stationery, one meal in school and transport facilities;

- (g) **“Government”** means the Government of Balochistan;
- (h) **“Management Committee”** means the Parent Teacher School Management Committee as formed / notified under Section 4 of this Act;
- (i) **“Parent”** includes a guardian or any other person who has the custody of a child; or is in-charge of a child;
- (j) **“Prescribed”** means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (k) **“Prescribed Authority”** means an authority notified as such by the provincial Government whether generally or for a particular purpose with specific nomenclature;
- (l) **“School”** means a school established and maintained by the provincial Government and includes school / section of a school / Madrassa registered by the Government in which education is imparted;
- (m) **“Standards”** mean any standards on educational inputs, processes and outputs developed and notified by the Prescribed Authority; and
- (n) **“To attend a school”** means to be enrolled and present for instructions at such school, on such days in the year, at such times or time and for so many hours on each day of attendance, as may be fixed by the prescribed authority.

Compulsory Education.

3. The parent of a child shall except in the case of a reasonable excuse, cause a child to attend a school until the child has completed the highest level of education course, offered in the school;

Provided that in the case of a mental or physical disability the parent shall cause the child to attend a special education school within the 'area' of his residence.

Formation of Parent School Management Committee.

4. (1) The prescribed authority shall notify one or more committees of the school to be formed through democratic process of elections for the purpose of exercising the powers and performing the duties of the Parent Teacher School Management Committee under this Act.

(2) The constitution and composition of the Management Committee, the procedure of the nomination and removal of its members, their term of office, their qualifications and disqualifications for continuing as a member, the filling of vacancies, the dissolution of the Committee and the procedure for the conduct of its business, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made there-under, the Management Committee shall exercise and discharge the following powers and functions:-

- (a) to motivate parents and children to take admission in the school for spread of education in its area;
- (b) to recommend any changes which may seem, to the Management Committee, to be necessary in the hours of work, holidays and occasions in the schools in its area;
- (c) to plan and implement such schemes which may facilitate the children in the school including mid-day meal scheme etc;
- (d) to recommend to the authority exemptions from compulsory attendance at school under this Act;
- (e) to maintain and up date the list of children liable to attend the school in its area and to obtain and keep record of such other information as may be necessary for the purpose of enforcing the attendance of the children at school and of preventing interference with such attendance;
- (f) to report the cases of the absence or late attendance of school teachers and non-teaching staff posted in schools, in its area;
- (g) to render all necessary help to Government officials engaged in the work of compulsory Education in its area;
- (h) to facilitate the school and local area education management in looking after the day to day matters relating to developmental, academic and co-curricular activities;

- (i) to ensure maintenance of healthy educational environment which encourages the parent and child to attend the school and stay till completion of the specific level;
- (j) to take care of discipline and physical structures, other assets of the school and to carry out minor / petty repairs etc;
- (k) to sanction one day casual leave in favor of teacher of the school and make alternate arrangements in case the teacher is on leave; and
- (l) to open and operate a joint bank account for utilization of funds made available by the Government or from any other source for school's developmental activities.

Issue of attendance order by the Management Committee.

5. Where the Management Committee is satisfied that a parent who is bound under the provisions of Section 3 to cause the child to attend a school has failed to do so, the parent school management committee may, after giving the parent an opportunity Parent an opportunity of being heard, and after such inquiry as it considers necessary, pass an order directing the parent to cause child to attend a school from a date which shall be specified in the order.

Reasonable excuse for non-attendance.

6. Reasonable excuse for the purpose of Section 3 shall include any of the following cases:-

- (a) where the Prescribed Authority is satisfied that the child is incapable of attending school be reason of sickness or infirmity or that by reason of the child's mental incapacity it is not desirable that the child should be compelled to carry on his study further;
- (b) where the child is receiving otherwise than in a school, instruction which in the opinion of the Prescribed Authority, is sufficient; or
- (c) where there is no school within a distance of two kilometers measured via nearest route from the residence of the child.

**School
Attendance
Authority.**

7. (1) Government may constitute one or more School Attendance Authorities for the purposes of this Act.

(2) A School Attendance Authority shall ensure that every child required to attend a school and in case his / her name is struck off required to get readmitted under this Act and for this purpose it shall take such steps as may be considered necessary by the Authority or as may be specified by Government.

(3) where a School Attendance Authority is satisfied that a parent who is required under the Act to cause a child to attend a school has failed to do so, the Authority, after giving the parent an opportunity of being heard and after such enquiries as it considers necessary, shall pass an order directing the parent to cause such child to attend a school on and from a date which shall be specified in the order. In case the parent or employer still avoids sending the child to school, Attendance Authority shall register a case against the accused in the court of Magistrate.

Offences.

8. (1) Any parent who fails to comply with an order issued under sub-section (3) of Section 7, shall on conviction before a Magistrate first class be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees to the minimum and with further fine which may extend to fifty rupees for every day to the minimum after the conviction for which the failure continues or with imprisonment which may extend to one week or with both.

(2) The parent of a child or an employer of such a child who, after receiving due warning from the School Attendance Authority continues to employ a child whether on remuneration or otherwise required under this Act to attend a School shall on conviction before a Magistrate, be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees to the minimum and with a further fine which may extend to fifty rupees for every day to the minimum after the conviction for which the non-attendance at a school continues or with imprisonment which may extend to one month or with both.

Cognizance of offence.

9. No court other than a Magistrate 1st class having territorial Jurisdiction where the cause of action occurred, shall take cognizance of an offence under Section 8, except on the complaint of or on information received from the Management Committee, or from such person as may be authorized by the Management Committee or by the provincial Government by general or special order in this behalf.

Provision of Education by the Provincial Government.

10. The Government shall make facilities for Education available in the Province.

Power of Provincial Government to make rules.

11. The Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Repeal and Saving.

12. (1) The Balochistan Primary education Ordinance, 1962 (W.P. Ordinance No. XXIX of 1962) and the Balochistan Compulsory and Free Education Ordinance, 2013 (Ordinance No. 11 of 2013) are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the enactment maintained in sub section (1) anything done or action taken, obligation, liability incurred, penalty or punishment imposed, inquiry or proceeding commenced, or powers conferred, rule made and orders issued under any of the said enactment shall if not inconsistent with the provision of this Act, be continued and, so far as may be deemed to have been respectively done, taken, incurred, commenced, conferred, made or issued under this Act.

Secretary.