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AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Right Department

'Muzaffarabad'
24th February, 2023

No. LD/Legis.-Act/01-13/2023. The following Act, passed by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on 26th day of January, 2023 and received the assent of the President on the 23rd day of February, 2023, is hereby published for general information.

[Act I of 2023]

An

Act

to ensure the publication of text of Holy Qur'an free from errors of printing

WHEREAS it is expedient to ensure publication of the text of the Holy Qur'an free from errors of printing, and matters connected therewith;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Publication of the Holy Qur'an (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 2023.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.**- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-
 - (a) "Ayah" means a sentence, clause or verse of the Holy Qur'an at the end of which the sign "O" is given in the standard copy;

- (b) "Committee of Ulema" means the Committee constituted under Section 4;
- (c) "Department" means the Religious Affairs and Auqaf Department;
- (d) "Damaged or Shaheed Copy of the Holy Qur'an" includes a sub-standard copy of the Holy Qur'an, damaged or worn-out pages of the Holy Qur'an and other pages containing Quranic verses;
- (e) "Disposal" means collection and storage of damaged or shaheed copy of the Holy Qur'an and includes its burial under the ground or its disposal in the sea or river or recycling it in such manner as conforms to its holiness and sanctity;
- (f) "Holy Qur'an" means the Holy Qur'an in the Arabic text, published in complete form, or the form of parts (paras) or Chapters (Surahs), but does not include extracts published in text-books or prayer-books or religious treaties;
- (g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (h) "Publisher" means a person or an association of persons, registered under Section 3 as Publisher of the Holy Qur'an;
- (i) "Record of the Holy Qur'an" means the Holy Qur'an recited in human voice and recorded by any modern means of recording conforming to the text thereof contained in the standard copy;
- (j) "Recording Company" means a person, or an association of persons, registered under Section 3 as a recording company;
- (k) "Standard Copy" means a copy of the Holy Qur'an authenticated by the Committee of Ulema as correct and free from errors of printing.

3. **Registration of Publishers and Recording Companies.-** (1) Any Publisher who intends to Publish and any Recording Company which intends to record, the Holy Qur'an shall get himself or itself

registered with the Department, on payment of such fee and on such terms and conditions as may be Prescribed.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a Publisher or Recording Company already registered in any area of Pakistan need not to be registered again in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. However, registration of such Publisher or company shall be endorsed by the Department on an application made in this behalf.

(3) The Committee may ban the circulation of a Publisher or Recording Company, who contravenes any provision of this Act, on its own accord or on an application made by any Muslim State Subject.

4. **Committee of Ulema.-** (1) The Government shall constitute a Committee from amongst the Muslims having such qualification as may be Prescribed.

(2) The Government shall in the Prescribed manner cause a copy of the Holy Qur'an to be prepared and shall forward it to the Committee of Ulema for authentication as a Standard Copy:

Provided that the Copy of Holy Qur'an already authenticated under a law in force in Pakistan shall be deemed to be a Standard Copy for the purposes of this Act.

(3) The Government shall in the Prescribed manner keep the Standard Copy in the Government archives for safe custody including to upload it on website of the Department (if any) to which business of religious affairs stands allocated.

(4) The Committee of Ulema shall recommend steps for error-free printing and publication or recording of the Holy Qur'an and shall, subject to the direction of the Government, supervise the work of error-free printing and publication and recording of the Holy Qur'an including uploading the copies on the internet.

(5) The Committee of Ulema shall perform such other functions as may be Prescribed.

5. **Publishing of Holy Qur'an.-** (1) A Publisher may print the Holy Qur'an in off-set, photostate, photo-block or any other modern system of printing but he shall not print it in litho process.

(2) In printing the Holy Qur'an, a Publisher shall use paper the use of which is not prohibited by the Government.

(3) Every Publisher shall get his specimen copy and every Recording Company shall get its specimen Record of the Holy Qur'an compared with the text of the Standard Copy by a person holding a diploma from a religious institution or a certificate of *Moulvi Fazil* or a qualified *Qari* who is also a *hafiz* or a person trained in the job of proof reading in Arabic and have a certificate recorded by such person at the end to the effect that the text and references do not contain any error.

(4) The Publisher shall ensure,-

- (a) that the serial number of every Chapter (*Surah*) is printed on every page and the serial number of every *Ayah* is inserted within the sign of conclusion (O) of every *Ayah*;
- (b) that the cover page of every edition of the Holy Qur'an clearly bears the name of the Publisher, the name of the printing press and the year of publication;
- (c) that every page of the Holy Qur'an bears the indication given in the illustration in the Schedule; and
- (d) that on detection of any error or omission in the printed Holy Qur'an the leaf on which it occurs is replaced by a fresh leaf free from such error and omission in each copy:

Provided that he shall not be penalized for non-compliance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (c) unless he is found negligent in the performance of his duty.

(5) No translation of the Holy Qur'an shall be published or recorded without its Arabic text.

(6) No Record of the Holy Qur'an which injures its sanctity in any form shall be prepared.

6. **Literal distortion of the text of Ayah.**- Where, in a copy or Record of the Holy Qur'an or in any extract thereof published in a

text-book, prayer-book, religious treatise or otherwise, an *Ayah* has been so literally distorted, either by change of a word, or of sequence, or of *Aarab*, as to alter its meaning, the printer or Publisher thereof, or, as the case may be, Recording Company, whether registered under this Act or not, shall, unless he or it can prove that such distortion occurred only due to a printing or mechanical error, be liable to the punishment provided for in Section 9.

7. **Translation or interpretation of the Holy Qur'an contrary to belief of Muslims.-** Where, in a copy or Record of the Holy Qur'an, or in any extract thereof published in a text book, prayer book, religious treatise or other book, an *Ayah* of the Holy Qur'an is translated, interpreted or commented upon by a non-Muslim contrary to the belief of Muslims, the author, printer or Publisher, or the person who prepared the record, whether registered under this Act or not, shall unless, he can prove that such translation, interpretation or commentary occurred only due to a printing or mechanical error, be liable to the punishment provided for in Section 9.
8. **Disposal of damaged or shaheed copies.-** A Publisher or a Recording Company shall make suitable arrangements in the Prescribed manner for disposal of Damaged or Shaheed Copy of the Holy Qur'an.
9. **Penalty.-** (1) A printer or Publisher who, or a Recording Company which, contravenes any provision of this Act or the rules made thereunder, or a person in whose voice a record is prepared, or a person who has certified, under sub-section (3) of Section 5, a specimen copy, or record, of the Holy Qur'an which is not in conformity with the provisions of this Act shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine amounting to not less than fifty thousand rupees, or with both. (2) The registration under Section 3 of a Publisher who, or Recording Company which, is convicted of an offence under sub-section (1) shall be cancelled.
10. **Offences by Corporation.-** If the person guilty of an offence under sub-section (1) of Section 9 is a company or other body

corporate, every director, manager, secretary or other officer thereof shall, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission thereof, be deemed to be guilty of such offence.

11. **Power to make rules.-** (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

- (a) the inspection of the copies and records of the Holy Qur'an printed or, as the case may be, prepared before the commencement of this Act;
- (b) the prohibition of the sale of copies and records containing errors;
- (c) the checking of all such copies and records of the Holy Qur'an as have not been certified under this Act as free from errors, at the expense of the Publisher or Recording Company;
- (d) the seizure of such copies or records of the Holy Qur'an in which there exist errors which cannot, in the opinion of Prescribed authority, easily be corrected in print or record;
- (e) the constitution and functions of the Committee of Ulema; and
- (f) the disposal of Damaged and Shaheed Copies of the Holy Qur'an.

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(Kh. Hashim Shaheen)
Section Officer (Legislation)

THE SCHEDULE
[See section 5(4) (c)]
Illustration

Upper side of the page

Serial number of Surah with caption as	Page number	Serial number of Para with opening words as
-----البقرة-----		-----تلك الرسل-----

Lower side of the page
Manzil

Serial number of Surah with serial number of the concluding Ayah on page		Serial number of Surah with opening Ayah on the page as
-----سورة آيت-----		-----سورة آيت-----

Sd/-Section Officer S&GAD
(Regulations-I)

No.12301-12400/P&S/2023

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