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19th March, 2020

EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19)(NO. 1) ORDER, 2020

Arrangement of Order

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OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S.I. No. 23 of 2020

**EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19) REGULATIONS, 2020
(CHAPTER 34)**

EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19)(NO. 1) ORDER, 2020

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by regulation 14 of the Emergency Powers (Covid 19) Regulations, 2020, I HEREBY make the following Order —

1. Citation and duration.

- (1) This Order may be cited as the Emergency Powers (Covid 19)(No. 1) Order, 2020.
- (2) This Order shall come into force at 9:00 a.m. on the 20th day of March, 2020 and shall expire at 9:00 a.m. on the 31st day of March, 2020.

2. Curfew.

A curfew is hereby imposed extending each night from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. with such exception as may approved by the Commissioner of Police.

3. Imposition of orders.

For every island and cay of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, for a period of eleven days commencing the 20th day of March, 2020 —

- (1) All establishments, institutions, businesses, offices, stores and organizations shall suspend operations to the general public except for the following —
 - (i) wholesale or retail grocery stores and Farmers' Markets from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
 - (ii) doctor's offices, hospitals or medical facilities;
 - (iii) pharmacies from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
 - (iv) gas stations from 6:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.;
 - (v) medical supply establishments;
 - (vi) hotels;
 - (vii) banks from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;

- (viii) commercial ports and related businesses from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (ix) airports;
- (x) laundromats and wash houses for hygienic purposes from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (xi) drive thru or take away food vendors from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
- (xii) construction companies carrying out any construction work from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (xiii) such other businesses or undertakings as may be specifically exempted in writing by the Competent Authority,

Provided that the owner or operator of the establishment specified in (i) – (xiii) restrict the number of customers inside their place of business at any one time so that each customer is enabled to distance himself at least three to six feet (3 - 6 ft.) from any other person.

Every person in such establishment or business must distance themselves from other persons at a minimum of three to six (3 - 6 ft.) feet from any other such person.

- (2) No person shall host or attend —
 - (i) a private party which includes any person from outside of the immediate household of the house occupant;
 - (ii) a recreational or competitive sporting event;
 - (iii) a wedding which hosts ten or more persons other than the bride, bridegroom, official witnesses and the marriage officer;
 - (iv) a banquet, ball or reception;
 - (v) any social event;
 - (vi) a funeral, except ten members of the immediate family and at least one officiant and essential mortuary staff; or
 - (vii) a meeting of a fraternal society, private or social club or civic association or organization.
- (3) No person shall offer for hire or seek to travel on any —
 - (i) public bus transportation;
 - (ii) mail boat, sailing inter island, except for transport of freight; or
 - (iii) inter island private commercial sea transport that is non-essential;

Provided that the Competent Authority may vary any of the requirements above by Order.

- (4) No person shall visit any place of quarantine or isolation station.
- (5) No person shall be permitted to visit any detainee in a correctional facility nor more than one person at any time shall visit a patient in a hospital or residential care establishment or facility.
- (6) Subject to the provisions of this Order, every person shall remain in the confines of their dwelling home, inclusive of their yard space.

I HEREBY further order that —

- (7) Nothing in this Order shall —
 - (a) affect the function by essential officers of the The Royal Bahamas Police Force, The Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Fire Services, the Department of Correctional Services, the National Insurance Board, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Environmental Health Services, the Department of Immigration, the Customs Department, waste and sanitational workers, and staff within any hospital or health care or medical facility;
 - (b) affect the function by essential officers of any water, electricity or other sector encompassing the provision of electronic communications including print and electronic media;
 - (c) prohibit religious or educational instruction, worship or other activity by electronic or virtual means;
 - (d) prohibit individual attendance at a church for private individual prayer while maintaining social distancing.
- (8) Subject to paragraph 3(1) herein, all other establishments, institutions, businesses or offices inclusive of the Public Service (as may be authorised by the respective Permanent Secretary) shall work from home and such establishments, institutions, businesses or offices shall maintain only essential staff for the performance of core functions while adhering at all times to social distancing as prescribed above.
- (9) Any person, company or organization who contravenes any order given herein is liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding eighteen months or to both.

Made this 19th day of March, 2020.

Signed
HUBERT A. MINNIS
Prime Minister
