

REGISTERED LAND BILL, 2024

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REGISTERED LAND BILL, 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES TO LAND AND FOR DEALINGS IN LAND SO REGISTERED, AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

PART I — PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Registered Land Act, 2024.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on such date to be appointed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette*.

2. Interpretation.

In this Act —

- “**application book**” means the application book for the purposes of section 5(d);
- “**base parcel**” means the parcel in relation to which a volumetric plan has been registered;
- “**charge**” means an interest in land securing the payment of money or money’s worth or the fulfilment of any condition, and includes a sub-charge and the instrument creating a charge or sub-charge;
- “**chargee**” means the proprietor of a charge;
- “**chargor**” means the proprietor of charged land or of a charged lease or charge;
- “**counsel and attorney**” has the meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Legal Profession Act (*Ch. 64*);

“**court**”, save as is otherwise expressly provided, means the Supreme Court;

“**dealing**” includes disposition and transmission;

“**disposition**” means any act *inter vivos* by a proprietor whereby his rights in or over his land, lease or charge are affected, but does not include an agreement to transfer, lease or charge;

“**easement**” means a legal proprietary right benefiting a parcel of land which allows the proprietor of the parcel either to use and or enter the land of another in a particular manner or to restrict the use to a particular extent, but does not include a profit;

“**encumbrance**” means a proprietary right held by one person over the property of another which limits the ways in which the proprietor may use or deal with the property;

“**guardian**” means any person responsible for protecting the interests of any person who is under a disability, whether by reason of age, unsoundness of mind or any other cause;

“**instrument**” includes any deed, judgment, decree, order or other document requiring or capable of registration under this Act;

“**interest in land**” means any estate, right or interest in, on, under or over land which is capable of being registered under this Act;

“**land**” means the surface of the earth, the space above it and the things below it and includes —

- (a) houses and other structures whatsoever and parts of structures, whether the division is horizontal, vertical or made in any other way;
- (b) mines and minerals, whether or not held apart from the surface;
- (c) land covered by water;
- (d) a legal estate, whether or not it gives a right to possession of the soil;
- (e) a legal interest in land;
- (f) an equitable interest in land;
- (g) an undivided share in land;

“**Land Register**” means the Land Register compiled under Part II;

“**lease**” means the grant, with or without consideration, by the proprietor of land of the right to the exclusive possession of his land, and includes the right so granted and the instrument granting it, and also includes a sublease but does not include an agreement for a lease;

“**lessee**” means the holder of a lease;

“**lessor**” means the proprietor of leased land;

- “**licence**” means a permission given by the proprietor of land or a lease which allows the licensee to do some act in relation to the land or the land comprised in the lease which would otherwise be a trespass, but does not include an easement or a profit;
- “**parcel**” means an area of land separately delineated on the Registry Map and given a number;
- “**periodic tenancy**” means a tenancy from year to year, half year to half year, quarter to quarter, month to month, week to week or the like;
- “**personal representative**” means executor of the will or administrator of the estate of a deceased person;
- “**profit**” means the a non-possessory interest in land which gives the holder the right to go on the land of another and take a particular substance from that land, whether the soil or products of the soil;
- “**proprietor**” means the person registered under this Act as the owner of land, a lease or a charge;
- “**the register**” means the Land Register kept in respect of land or a lease;
- “**to register**” means to make an entry, note or record in the register under this Act;
- “**registered**”, “**unregistered**” and “**registration**” bear a corresponding meaning;
- “**Registrar**” means the Registrar of Lands appointed under section 6;
- “**registration section**” means a registration section established under section 18;
- “**registry**” means the land registry established under section 5;
- “**Registry Map**” means the map or series of maps referred to in section 18;
- “**transfer**” means the passing of land, a lease or a charge by act of the parties and not by operation of law, and also the instrument by which such passing is effected, but does not include an agreement to transfer;
- “**transmission**” means the passing of land, a lease or a charge from one person to another *inter vivos*, or by operation of law on death or insolvency or otherwise howsoever, and includes the compulsory acquisition of land under any written law;
- “**trustee**” means a person who has power over the administration of land and is legally obligated to administer the land for the purposes set out in the trust and includes personal representative;
- “**valuable consideration**” may include a non-monetary consideration if it is of some value and includes marriage, but does not include a nominal consideration;

“**volumetric parcel**” means a unit as defined in section 2 of the Law of Property and Conveyancing (Condominium) Act (*Ch. 139*) and shown on a volumetric plan as a parcel;

“**volumetric plan**” means a plan that defines land using three-dimensionally located points to identify the position, shape and dimensions of each bounding surface and may contain one or more volumetric parcels consisting of or including volumetric space.

3. Reconciliation with other laws.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and except as otherwise provided in this Act, no other law and no practice or procedure relating to land shall apply to land registered under this Act so far as it is inconsistent with this Act.
- (2) Except where a contrary intention appears, nothing in this Act shall be construed as permitting any dealing which is forbidden by express provisions of any other law or as overriding any other law requiring the consent or approval of any authority to any dealing.

4. Application of Act.

- (1) This Act shall apply to the registration of parcels of land adjudicated in accordance with the Land Adjudication Act, 2024.
- (2) The Registration of Records Act (*Ch. 187*) shall have no application in respect of any document evidencing any transaction in respect of any parcel of land, lease or charge registrable under this Act.

PART II — ADMINISTRATION OF ACT

LAND REGISTRIES AND OFFICERS

5. The Land Registry.

There shall be established and maintained, a land registry in which there shall be kept —

- (a) a register, to be known as the Land Register, in accordance with this Part;
- (b) a map to be known as the Registry Map, in accordance with this Part;
- (c) mutation forms containing alterations to the Registry Map by the Registrar in accordance with section 20;
- (d) parcel files containing the instruments which support subsisting entries in the Land Register and any filed plans and documents;

- (e) a book, to be known as the application book, in which shall be kept a record of all applications numbered consecutively in the order in which they are made at the registry;
- (f) an index, in alphabetical order, of the names of the proprietors of land, leases and charges showing the numbers of the parcels in which they are interested; and
- (g) a register and a file of powers of attorney.

6. Appointment of Registrar of Lands, etc.

- (1) The Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission shall appoint a Registrar of Lands (hereinafter referred to as “the Registrar”) who shall be responsible for the administration of the Land Registry, and he and shall be assisted by such number of Deputy or Assistant Registrars and Registration Officers as are necessary for the purpose of carrying out his functions under this Act.
- (2) A person may not be appointed as —
 - (a) Registrar unless he has been practising as a counsel and attorney for not less than **ten** years;
 - (b) a Deputy Registrar unless he has been practising as a counsel and attorney for not less than **seven** years;
 - (c) an Assistant Registrar unless he has been practising as a counsel and attorney for not less than **five** years.

7. Powers of Registrar.

In the exercise of his function under section 6(1), the Registrar may, in addition to any other powers conferred on him by this Act —

- (a) require any person to produce any instrument, certificate or other document or plan relating to the land, lease or charge in question, and that person shall produce the same;
- (b) summon any person to appear and give any information or explanation respecting land, a lease or a charge or any instrument, certificate or other document or plan relating to the land, lease or charge in question, and such person shall appear and give such information or explanation;
- (c) refuse to proceed with any registration if any instrument certificate, or other document, plan, information or explanation required to be produced or given is withheld or any act required to be performed under this Act is not performed;
- (d) administer oaths or take a declaration in lieu thereof, and may require that any proceedings, information or explanation shall be verified on oath or by statutory declaration; and

- (e) order that the costs, charges and expenses incurred by him or by any person in connection with any investigation or hearing held by him for the purposes of this Act shall be borne and paid by such person in such manner and in such proportions as he may think fit, and the amount of such costs, charges and expenses as shall have been incurred by the Registrar shall be deemed to be a fee to which sections 164 and 165 apply.

8. Registrar may delegate powers.

The Registrar, without divesting himself of any of his own powers or duties may, in writing, authorise a Deputy Registrar or an Assistant Registrar to exercise and perform any of such powers and duties and may at any time, in writing, vary or revoke such authorisation.

9. Officers of the Land Registry.

The Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Public Service Commission, may appoint such clerks and other officers as he deems necessary in the Land Registry.

10. Indemnity of officers.

The Registrar shall not, nor shall any other officer of the registry, be liable to any action or proceeding for or in respect of any act or matter done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise or supposed exercise of the powers of this Act, or any regulations made hereunder.

11. Seal of registry.

The registry shall have a seal, and every instrument purporting to bear the imprint of such seal shall be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is shown, shall be deemed without further proof to be issued by or under the direction of the Registrar.

THE LAND REGISTER

12. The Land Register.

- (1) The Land Register shall comprise —
 - (a) a register in respect of every parcel which has been adjudicated in accordance with the Land Adjudication Act, 2024; and
 - (b) a register in respect of each lease required by this Act to be registered.

- (2) Each register shall show whether the land is private land or Crown land and, in respect of private land, whether the title is absolute or provisional, and shall be divided into three sections as follows —
 - (a) the property section, containing a brief description of the land or lease, together with particulars of its appurtenances and, where the title is provisional, of the information recorded in the adjudication record under section 23(1)(d) of the Land Adjudication Act, 2024 and a reference to the Registry Map and filed plan, if any;
 - (b) the proprietorship section, containing the name and, where possible, address of the proprietor and a note of any inhibition, caution or restriction affecting his right of disposition; and
 - (c) the encumbrances section, containing a note of every encumbrance and every right adversely affecting the land or lease.
- (3) No entry shall be required, in the proprietorship section, of land which is described as Crown land.

13. Compilation of the Land Register.

Whenever an adjudication record has become final under section 22 of the Land Adjudication Act, 2024 and the Adjudicator has delivered the adjudication record to the Registrar, the Registrar shall prepare a register for each parcel shown in the adjudication record and for any lease required to be registered, and shall register therein any of the particulars on the adjudication record which requires registration.

14. First registration.

The first registration of any parcel shall be effected by the preparation of a register in accordance with section 12 and the signing by the Registrar of the particulars of the ownership and the particulars of encumbrances, if any, appearing thereon.

15. Subsequent registration.

Every subsequent registration shall be effected by an entry in the register in such form as the Registrar may from time to time direct, and by the cancellation of the entry, if any, which it replaces.

16. Cancellation of obsolete entries.

The Registrar may cancel any entry in the register which he is satisfied has ceased to have any effect.

17. New editions of Register.

The Registrar may, at any time, open a new edition of a register showing only subsisting entries and omitting therefrom all entries that have ceased to have any effect.

MAPS, PARCELS AND BOUNDARIES

18. Registry map.

- (1) There shall be a Registry Map which shall be compiled from the demarcation maps made under the Land Adjudication Act, 2024 and shall be divided into registration sections which, so far as is possible, shall have the same boundaries and names as the adjudication sections.
- (2) The registration sections, where the adjudication sections are so divided, shall be divided into blocks which shall be given the same letters or numbers or combinations of letters and numbers as are given on the demarcation maps.
- (3) The parcels in each registration section or block shall be numbered consecutively following the numbering in the adjudication proceedings, and the name of the registration section and the number or letter of the block (if any) and the number of the parcel shall together be a sufficient reference to any parcel.
- (4) The Registrar may, at any time, cause registration sections or blocks to be combined or divided, or cause their boundaries to be varied.
- (5) A plan may be filed in respect of a particular parcel to augment the information available from the Registry Map, and the filing of the plan shall be noted in the register.

19. Correction of the Registry Map and new editions.

- (1) The Registrar may cause to be made a survey of any land for the purposes of this Act and, after informing every person affected thereby, may cause the Registry Map to be corrected as a result of such survey.
- (2) The Registrar may, at any time, direct the preparation of a new Registry Map or any part thereof, and there may be omitted therefrom any matter which the Registrar considers obsolete.

20. Mutation.

- (1) On the application of a proprietor of land, and subject to the agreement of all persons affected thereby, the Registrar may order, in accordance with subsection (2), the alteration of the Registry Map.

- (2) The alteration shall be effected only on the instructions of the Registrar in the prescribed form, (hereinafter referred to as the “mutation form”), which shall be filed in the registry.
- (3) Whenever the boundary of a parcel is altered on the Registry Map, the parcel number shall be cancelled and the parcel shall be given a new number.

21. General boundaries.

- (1) Except where, under section 22, it is noted in the register that the boundaries of a parcel have been fixed, the Registry Map and any filed plan shall be deemed to indicate the approximate boundaries and the approximate situation only of the parcel.
- (2) Where any uncertainty or dispute arises as to the position of any boundary, the Registrar, on the application of any interested party, shall, on such evidence as the Registrar considers relevant, determine and indicate the position of the uncertain or disputed boundary.
- (3) Where the Registrar exercises the power conferred by subsection (2), he shall make a note to that effect on the Registry Map and in the register and shall file such plan or description as may be necessary to record his decision.
- (4) No court shall entertain any action or other proceedings relating to a dispute as to the boundaries of registered land unless the boundaries have been determined as provided in this section.
- (5) Except where, as aforesaid, it is noted in the register that the boundaries of a parcel have been fixed, the court or the Registrar may, in proceedings concerning the parcel, receive such evidence as to its boundaries and situation as it or he thinks fit.

22. Fixed boundaries.

- (1) If the Registrar, in his discretion, considers it desirable to indicate on a filed plan, or otherwise to define in the register, the precise position of the boundaries of a parcel or any parts thereof, or if any interested person makes application to the Registrar, the Registrar shall give notice to the owners and occupiers of the land adjoining the boundaries in question of the intention to ascertain and fix the boundaries.
- (2) The Registrar shall, after giving all persons appearing by the register to be affected an opportunity of being heard, cause to be defined by survey the precise position of the boundaries in question, file a plan containing the necessary particulars and make a note in the register that the boundaries have been fixed, and thereupon the plan shall be deemed to define accurately the boundaries of the parcel.

23. Maintenance of boundary features.

- (1) Every proprietor of land shall maintain in good order any feature which demarcates his boundaries, whether established pursuant to the requirements of any other law or pursuant to an order of the Registrar or of the proprietor's own accord.
- (2) The Registrar may, in writing, order within a specified time, the demarcation of any boundary in such permanent manner as he may direct, and whoever, fails to comply with such an order commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty dollars.
- (3) The Registrar may, in writing, order which of adjoining proprietors shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of any feature demarcating a common boundary, and any proprietor so ordered to be responsible who allows the boundary feature or any part of it to fall into disrepair or to be destroyed or removed, commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty dollars.

24. Interference with boundary features.

- (1) Any person who wilfully defaces, removes, injures or otherwise impairs any boundary feature or any part of it unless authorised to do so by the Registrar, commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months.
- (2) Any person convicted of such an offence, whether or not any penalty therefor is imposed upon him is liable to pay the cost of restoring the boundary feature, and such cost shall be recoverable as a civil debt by any person responsible under section 23 for the maintenance of the feature.

25. Combinations and subdivisions.

- (1) Where contiguous parcels are owned by the same proprietor and are subject in all respects to the same rights and obligations, the Registrar, on application by the proprietor, may combine those parcels by closing the registers relating to them and opening a new register or registers in respect of the parcel or parcels resulting from the combination.
- (2) Upon the application of the proprietor of a parcel for the division of his parcel into two or more parcels, the Registrar shall effect the division by closing the register relating to the parcel and opening new registers in respect of the new parcels resulting from the divisions, and recording in the new registers all subsisting entries appearing in the closed register.
- (3) Upon the application by a proprietor of a parcel for the division of his parcel into a base parcel and one or more volumetric parcels, in accordance with a volumetric plan, the Registrar shall —
 - (a) file the volumetric plan and assign it a volumetric plan number;

- (b) open a new register in respect of each volumetric parcel shown on the volumetric plan; and
 - (c) in respect of the register relating to the base parcel, note in the encumbrances section, the easements in favour of the volumetric parcels that have been opened.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) —
- (a) nothing shall be done under this section which would be inconsistent with this or any other law;
 - (b) subject to the consent of the lessee, no parcel which is subject to a lease shall be subdivided so as to subdivide the land comprised in such a lease; and
 - (c) where a proprietor is subdividing his parcel for the purpose of a building development, the Registrar may require him to submit an authenticated survey plan of the proposed subdivisions prepared by a surveyor authorised under the Land Surveyors Act (*Ch. 251*) and certified by the appropriate authority as conforming with the requirements of any planning law.

26. Division of land for estate purposes.

- (1) Upon an application by the —
- (a) personal representative of an estate;
 - (b) beneficiary of an estate; or
 - (c) proprietors where the parcel was previously transferred by a personal representative to persons entitled under a will or on intestacy,
- for the division of a parcel into two or more parcels, the Registrar shall effect the division by closing the register relating to the parcel and opening new registers in respect of the new parcels resulting from the divisions and recording in the new registers all subsisting entries appearing in the closed register.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a plan prepared by a surveyor authorised under the Land Surveyors Act (*Ch. 251*).
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, where a division of a parcel has been effected under this section, any application for development purposes in relation to any of the new parcels shall be subject to the requirements of any planning law.
- (4) The Minister may make regulations prescribing anything necessary or convenient for giving effect to the purposes of this section.

27. Reparcellation.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Registrar may, on the application of the proprietors of contiguous parcels who are desirous of changing the layout of their parcels, and with the consent in writing of all other persons in whose names any right or interest in such parcels is registered, and of any cautioner, cancel the registers relating to such parcels and prepare new registers in accordance with the revised layout.
- (2) Where in the opinion of the Registrar a proposed reparcellation involves substantial changes of ownership which should be effected by transfers without invoking this section, he may in his discretion refuse to effect such reparcellation.
- (3) Upon any such reparcellation, the new parcels shall, notwithstanding section 46, vest in the persons in whose names they are registered.
- (4) Notwithstanding sections 25, 26 and 27 —
 - (a) nothing shall be done under this section which would be inconsistent with this or any other law;
 - (b) unless with the written consent of the lessee, no parcel which is subject to a lease shall be subdivided so as to subdivide the land comprised in such a lease; and
 - (c) where a proprietor is subdividing his parcel for the purpose of a building development, the Registrar may require him to submit an authenticated survey plan of the proposed subdivisions prepared by a surveyor authorised under the Land Surveyors Act (*Ch. 251*) and certified by the appropriate authority as conforming with the requirements of any planning law.

VOLUMETRIC PLANS AND VOLUMETRIC PARCELS

28. Volumetric parcel is land.

- (1) A volumetric parcel shall be deemed for the purposes of sections 32 and 33 of this Act to be a parcel and for all purposes to be land and any volumetric parcel created may devolve or be dealt with in the same manner and form as any other land, the title of which is registered under this Act.
- (2) The right to structural support and access shall be implied, subject to any express provision in a covenant registered against the title, in favour of every volumetric parcel.

29. Volumetric plan can only be registered to one parcel.

One or more volumetric plans may be filed in relation to a parcel but a volumetric plan shall not be filed in relation to more than one parcel.

30. Owners of volumetric parcel to hold base parcel as tenants in common.

The title to a base parcel shall be held by the owners of the volumetric parcels as tenants in common in accordance with section 7 of the Conveyancing and Law of Property (Condominium) Act (*Ch. 139*).

31. Cancellation of a volumetric plan.

- (1) Where the base parcel and all the volumetric parcels of a volumetric plan are in common ownership, the proprietor of the base parcel and volumetric parcels may apply in the prescribed form to the Registrar for that volumetric plan to be cancelled.
- (2) If the Registrar is satisfied that an application is in order, the Registrar shall —
 - (a) note in the registers in respect of the volumetric parcels, that the volumetric parcels are closed;
 - (b) note in the register in respect of the base parcel —
 - (i) that title to the land comprised in the closed volumetric parcels reverts to the base parcel;
 - (ii) in the encumbrances section, the cancellation of any easements in favour of the volumetric parcels; and
 - (iii) that the register for the base parcel is closed; and
 - (c) open a new register in respect of the combined volumetric parcels and base parcel.

PART III – EFFECT OF REGISTRATION

32. Effect of registration with absolute title.

- (1) Subject to section 36, the registration of any person as the proprietor with absolute title of a parcel shall vest in that person the absolute ownership of that parcel together with all rights and privileges belonging or appurtenant thereto, free from all other interests and claims whatsoever but subject —
 - (a) to the leases, charges and other encumbrances and to the conditions and restrictions, if any, shown in the register; and
 - (b) unless the contrary is expressed in the register, to such liabilities, rights and interests as affect the same and are declared by section 37 not to require noting on the register.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) —
 - (a) nothing in this section shall be taken to relieve a proprietor from any duty or obligation to which he is subject as a trustee; and

- (b) the registration of any person under this Act shall not confer on him any rights to oil or minerals unless the same are expressly referred to in the register.

33. Effect of registration with provisional title.

- (1) Subject to section 36, the registration of any person as the proprietor with a provisional title of a parcel shall not affect or prejudice the enforcement of any estate, right or interest adverse to or in derogation of the title of that proprietor arising before such date or under such instrument or in such other manner as is specified in the register of that parcel.
- (2) Save as provided in subsection (1), such registration shall have the same effect as the registration of a person with absolute title.

34. Effect of registration of a lease.

- (1) Subject to section 36, the registration of a person as the proprietor of a lease shall vest in that person the leasehold interest described in the lease, together with all implied and expressed rights and privileges belonging or appurtenant thereto and subject to all implied and expressed agreements, liabilities and incidents of the lease.
- (2) If the title of the lessor is a provisional title, the enforcement of any estate, right or interest affecting or in derogation of the right of the lessor to grant the lease shall not be prejudiced.

35. Effect of registration as Crown land.

The registration of land as Crown land shall, subject to any registered Crown land encumbrances, enable the Minister with responsibility for Crown Lands, by a disposition registered under this Act, to dispose of such land in accordance with section 54 of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act (*Ch. 138*).

36. Voluntary transfer.

- (1) Every proprietor who has acquired land, a lease or a charge by transfer without valuable consideration shall hold it subject to —
 - (a) any unregistered rights or interests subject to which the transferor held it; and
 - (b) the Bankruptcy Act (*Ch. 69*) and to the winding-up provisions of the Companies Act (*Ch. 308*).
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), upon registration, such transfer shall in all respects have the same effect as a transfer for valuable consideration.

37. Overriding interests.

- (1) Unless the contrary is expressed in the register, all registered land shall be subject to such of the following overriding interests as may for the time being subsist and affect the same, without their being noted on the register —
 - (a) rights of way, rights of water and any easement or profit subsisting at the time of first registration under this Act;
 - (b) natural rights of light, air, water and support;
 - (c) rights of compulsory acquisition, resumption, entry, search, user or limitation of user conferred by any other law;
 - (d) leases or agreements for leases for a term not exceeding two years, and periodic tenancies within the meaning of section 2;
 - (e) any unpaid moneys which, without reference to registration under this Act, are expressly declared by any law to be a charge upon land;
 - (f) rights acquired or in process of being acquired by virtue of any law relating to the limitation of actions or by prescription;
 - (g) the rights of a person in actual occupation of land or in receipt of the rents and profits thereof save where inquiry is made of such person and the rights are not disclosed; and
 - (h) electric supply lines, telephone and telegraph lines or poles, pipelines, aqueducts, canals, weirs and dams erected, constructed or laid in pursuance or by virtue of any power conferred by any law:
- (2) The Registrar may direct registration of any of the liabilities, rights and interests referred to in subsection (1), in such manner as he thinks fit.

38. Conversion of provisional into absolute title.

- (1) Any proprietor registered with a provisional title or any interested person may apply to the Registrar to be registered or to have the proprietor registered, as the case may be, with an absolute title.
- (2) If the applicant satisfies the Registrar that —
 - (a) the qualification to which the provisional title is subject has ceased to be of effect; or
 - (b) a period of time has elapsed since the date of first registration with a provisional title, which when added to the period from which the possession of the proprietor shall be considered to have begun exceeds twelve years and there is no effective qualification to which the provisional title is subject,the Registrar shall make an order for the registration of the proprietor with absolute title after such advertisement as the Registrar may think fit.

- (3) On the making of any such order the Registrar shall substitute in the register the words “absolute title” for the words “provisional title” and the title of the proprietor shall thereupon become absolute.

39. Entries to constitute actual notice.

Every proprietor acquiring any land, lease or charge shall be deemed to have had notice of every entry in the register relating to the land, lease or charge.

PART IV – CERTIFICATES AND SEARCHES

40. Land certificates and certificates of lease.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Registrar shall, if requested by any proprietor of land or a lease, issue to him a land certificate or a certificate of lease, as the case may be, in the prescribed form showing all subsisting entries in the Register affecting that land or lease.
- (2) The Registrar shall only issue a land certificate or a certificate of lease where none has been issued in respect of the land or lease and only one such certificate shall be issued in respect of each parcel of land or lease.
- (3) No certificate of lease shall be issued unless the lease is for a certain period exceeding twenty five years.
- (4) A land certificate or certificate of lease shall be only *prima facie* evidence of the matters shown therein, and the land or lease shall be subject to all entries in the register whether they are shown on the certificate or not.
- (5) When there is more than one proprietor, the proprietors shall agree among themselves as to who shall receive the certificate, and failing agreement the certificate shall be filed in the registry.
- (6) The date of issue of a land certificate or certificate of lease shall be noted in the register.

41. Production of certificates.

- (1) Unless a land certificate or certificate of lease issued by the Registrar —
 - (a) has been filed in the registry; or
 - (b) the Registrar dispenses with its production,it shall be produced on the registration of any dealing with the land (a disposition) or lease to which it relates, and a note of such registration shall be made on the certificate.
- (2) If the disposition is a transfer, the land certificate or certificate of lease, if produced, shall be destroyed, and a new certificate issued to the new proprietor.

- (3) If the disposition is a charge, the land certificate or certificate of lease, if any, shall be filed in the registry.

42. Dispositions of leases and charges.

- (1) The Registrar shall, on the registration of any disposition of a lease or charge, note the particulars of the disposition on the filed lease or charge.
- (2) The Registrar shall require the production of the duplicate or triplicate of the lease or charge referred to in subsection (1) and note the particulars on the duplicate and triplicate.
- (3) Subsection (2) shall not apply where the Registrar is satisfied that the duplicate and triplicate cannot be produced.

43. Lost or destroyed certificates.

- (1) If a land certificate or certificate of lease is lost or destroyed, the proprietor may apply to the Registrar for the issue of a new certificate, and shall produce evidence to satisfy the Registrar of the loss or destruction of the previous certificate.
- (2) The Registrar may require a statutory declaration that the certificate has been lost or destroyed.
- (3) If satisfied with the evidence as to the loss or destruction of the certificate the Registrar may, after the publication of such notice as he may think fit, cancel the previous certificate and issue a new certificate in the name of the proprietor.
- (4) If after the issue of a new certificate the previous certificate is found, it shall be delivered to the Registrar for destruction.

44. Searches and copies.

Any person, on application in the prescribed form and on payment of the prescribed fee—

- (a) may, inspect any register and any sheet of the Registry Map or any filed instrument or plan;
- (b) shall be entitled to a certified copy of any register or part of the Registry Map or any instrument or plan filed in the registry;
- (c) may require an official search in respect of any parcel, and the Registrar shall issue a certificate of official search setting forth particulars of the subsisting entries in the register of that parcel.

45. Evidence.

- (1) A certified copy of the register or part of the Registry Map or any instrument or plan filed in the registry shall be admissible in evidence in

all actions and matters and between all persons or parties, to the same extent as the original, and a signature on any such certified copy purporting to be the signature of the Registrar shall be presumed to be the signature of the Registrar until the contrary is proved.

- (2) No counsel and attorney, trustee, personal representative or other person in a fiduciary position shall be answerable in respect of any loss occasioned by the inaccuracy of any such certified copy as is referred to in subsection (1).
- (3) No process for compelling the production of the register, or of the Registry Map, or of any filed instrument or plan, shall issue from any court except with the leave of that court, which leave shall not be granted if a certified copy will suffice, and any such process, if issued, shall bear thereon a statement that it is issued with the leave of the court.

PART V – DISPOSITIONS

GENERAL

46. Subsequent dealings.

No registered land, lease or charge shall be capable of being disposed of except in accordance with this Act, and every attempt to so dispose of such land, lease or charge, shall be ineffectual to create, extinguish, transfer, vary or affect any estate, right or interest in the land, lease or charge.

47. Contracts respecting land to be in writing.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing any unregistered instrument from operating as a contract, but no action may be brought upon any contract for the disposition of any interest in land unless the agreement upon which such action is brought, or some memorandum or note thereof, is in writing, and is signed by the party to be charged or by some other person thereunto by him lawfully authorised.
- (2) An action referred to in subsection (1) shall not be prevented by reason only of the absence of writing, where an intending purchaser or lessee who has performed or is willing to perform his part of a contract —
 - (a) has in part performance of the contract, taken possession of the property or any part thereof; or
 - (b) being already in possession, continues in possession in part performance of the contract and has done some other act in furtherance of the contract.

48. Protection of persons dealing in registered land.

- (1) No person dealing or proposing to deal with registered land for valuable consideration with a proprietor shall be required or in any way concerned —
 - (a) to inquire or ascertain the circumstances in or the consideration for which such proprietor or any previous proprietor was registered;
 - (b) to see to the application of any consideration or any part thereof; or
 - (c) to search any register kept under the Registration of Records Act (*Ch. 187*).
- (2) Where the proprietor of registered land, a lease or a charge is a trustee, he shall, in dealing therewith, be deemed to be absolute proprietor thereof, and no disposition by such trustee to a *bona fide* purchaser for valuable consideration shall be defeasible by reason of the fact that such disposition amounted to a breach of trust.

49. Time for registration.

- (1) All instruments shall be presented for registration within forty-five days of the signature of the first, or the only, named party therein.
- (2) Where an instrument is presented for registration after the period specified in subsection (1), there shall be payable, in addition to the registration fee, the late registration fee.
- (3) The late registration fee referred to in subsection (2) shall be —
 - (a) an amount equal to the registration fee; and
 - (b) payable in respect of each period of forty-five days following the end of the period referred to in subsection (1).

50. Power to compel registration.

- (1) If he is satisfied that any person, through his wilful default, has failed to register any instrument which is registrable under this Act, the Registrar may, by notice in writing, order such person to present such instrument for registration, and thereupon the registration fee and any additional fee payable under section 49 shall become due and payable whether the instrument is presented for registration or not.
- (2) Whoever fails to comply with an order of the Registrar under subsection (1) within one month of the service of the notice is commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty dollars.

51. Priority of registered interests.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), interests appearing in the register shall have priority according to the order in which the instruments which led to their

registration were presented to the registry, irrespective of the dates of the instruments and notwithstanding that the actual entry in the register may be delayed.

- (2) Where an instrument is prepared in the registry it shall be deemed to have been presented for registration on the date on which application for its preparation was made to the Registrar.
- (3) Instruments sent by post or under cover and received during the hours of business shall be deemed to be presented simultaneously immediately before the closing of the office on that day, and instruments so sent out received between the time of closing and the next opening of the office for business shall be deemed to be presented simultaneously immediately after such opening.
- (4) Where more than one instrument or application are presented on the same day, or on different days but at so short an interval from each other that in the opinion of the Registrar there is doubt as to their order of priority, the Registrar may refuse registration until he has heard and determined the rights of the parties interested thereunder.

52. Stay of registration.

- (1) Where any person proposing to deal with registered land has, with the consent in writing of the proprietor, applied for an official search and has stated in his application the particulars of the proposed dealing, the registration of any instrument affecting the land to be comprised in or affected by the proposed dealing shall be stayed for a period (hereinafter referred to as the “suspension period”) of fourteen days from the time at which application for the search was made, and a note shall be made in the register accordingly.
- (2) If, within the suspension period, a properly executed instrument effecting the proposed dealing is presented for registration, such instrument shall have priority over any other instrument which may be presented for registration during the suspension period, and shall be registered notwithstanding any caution or other entry for which application for registration may have been made during the suspension period.
- (3) Subject to subsection (2), any instrument for which application for registration is made during the suspension period, other than the instrument effecting the proposed dealing, shall —
 - (a) be dealt with in the same manner;
 - (b) have the same priority; and
 - (c) be as effectual,as if no stay of registration had been obtained.

53. Merger of registered interests.

- (1) Where, upon the registration of a dealing, the interest of —
 - (a) a lessor and lessee;
 - (b) a chargor and chargee; or
 - (c) the proprietor of a parcel which is burdened with an easement, profit or restrictive covenant and the proprietor of a parcel which benefits therefrom,vests in the same proprietor, those interests shall merge if a surrender or discharge is registered, the parcels are combined or there is a declaration of merger.
- (2) A declaration of merger referred to in subsection (1) may be contained in the instrument evidencing the dealing.

LEASES

54. Leases.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other law, the proprietor of land may lease the land or part of it to any person for a definite period or for the life of the lessor or of the lessee or for a period which though indefinite, may be terminated by the lessor or the lessee, and subject to such conditions as he may think fit.
- (2) If only part of the land is leased, the lease shall be accompanied by a plan or other description which the Registrar, in his absolute discretion, deems adequate to identify the part leased.

55. Periodic tenancies.

- (1) Where in any lease the term is not specified and no provision is made for the giving of notice to terminate the tenancy, the lease shall be deemed to have created a periodic tenancy.
- (2) Where the proprietor of land permits the exclusive occupation of the land or any part thereof by any other person at a rent but without any agreement in writing, that occupation shall be deemed to constitute a periodic tenancy.

56. Duration and term of periodic tenancy.

- (1) The period of a periodic tenancy created by section 55, shall be the frequency by which the rent is payable.
- (2) A periodic tenancy may be terminated by either party giving notice to the other and such notice shall, subject to any other law —

- (a) not be shorter than the period of the tenancy; and
- (b) expire on the day on which rent is payable.

57. Form of certain leases.

- (1) A lease —
 - (a) for a specified period exceeding two years;
 - (b) containing an option whereby the lessee may require the lessor to grant him a further term or terms which, together with the original term, exceed two years,shall be in the prescribed form and registered in accordance with section 58.
- (2) A lease of land for a term of years absolute may be in any form that sufficiently refers to the registered land.

58. Registration of leases.

- (1) Where a lease is presented to the Registrar for registration, he may —
 - (a) open a register in respect of the lease in the name of the lessee;
 - (b) file the lease; and
 - (c) note the lease in the encumbrances section of the register of the lessor's land or lease.
- (2) Subject to section 47, a lease shall be of no effect unless it is registered in accordance with this Act.

59. Lessor's consent to dealing with lease.

Upon the registration of a lease containing an agreement, express or implied, by the lessee that he will not transfer, sub-let, charge or part with possession of the land leased or any part thereof without the written consent of the lessor, the agreement shall be noted in the register of the lease and no dealing with the lease shall be registered until the consent of the lessor, verified in accordance with section 119, has been produced to the Registrar.

60. Lease of charged land.

Where any land is subject to a charge, no lease of such land shall be registered without the previous consent in writing of the proprietor of the charge, verified in accordance with section 119, unless the charge expressly dispenses with the necessity for such consent.

61. Duration of leases.

- (1) Where the period of a lease is expressed as commencing on a particular day, that day is excluded in computing that period.

- (2) Where no day of commencement is named, the period of the lease commences on the day after the date of execution of the lease.
- (3) Where the period of a lease is a year or a number of years, in the absence of an express agreement to the contrary, the lease shall last during the whole anniversary of the day on which such period commences.

62. Future leases.

- (1) A lease may be made for a period to commence on a future date, not being later than twenty-one years from the date on which the lease is executed but shall be of no effect unless it is registered.
- (2) Any instrument purporting to create a lease to commence on a date more than twenty-one years after the date of the instrument, or to take effect on the fulfilment of any condition, is void.

63. Holding over.

- (1) Where a person, having lawfully entered into occupation of any land as lessee, continues to occupy that land with the consent of the lessor after the termination of the lease he shall, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, be deemed to be a tenant holding the land on a periodic tenancy on the same conditions as those of the lease so far as those conditions are appropriate to a periodic tenancy.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the acceptance of rent in respect of any period after the termination of the lease shall, if the former tenant is still in occupation and subject to any agreement to the contrary, be taken as evidence of consent to the continued occupation of the land.

64. Lessor's implied covenants.

There shall, subject to any provisions to the contrary, be implied in every lease, a covenant by the lessor with the lessee —

- (a) that, so long as the lessee pays the rent and observes and performs the agreements and conditions contained or implied in the lease and on his part to be observed and performed, the lessee shall and may peaceably and quietly possess and enjoy the leased premises during the period of the lease without any lawful interruption from or by the lessor or any person rightfully claiming through him;
- (b) not to use or permit to be used any adjoining or neighbouring land of which he is the proprietor or lessee in any way which would render the leased premises unfit or materially less fit for the purpose for which they were leased;
- (c) where part only of a building is leased, to keep the roof, main walls and main drains, and the common passages and common installations, in repair;

- (d) where any dwelling house, or part thereof is leased furnished, that such house, or part thereof is fit for habitation at the commencement of the tenancy;
 - (e) to repair the leased premises or any part thereof that is destroyed or damaged by fire, earthquake, hurricane, flood, civil commotion or accident not attributable to the negligence of the lessee, his servants or his licensees;
 - (f) to pay the applicable taxes.
- (2) Where the leased premises or any part thereof is destroyed or damaged as described in subsection (1)(e), so as to render the leased premises or any part thereof wholly or partially unfit for occupation or use —
- (a) the rent or a proportion thereof shall be suspended and cease to be payable until the leased premises have again been rendered fit for occupation and use; and
 - (b) if the leased premises have not been rendered fit for occupation and use within six months of their destruction or damage as aforesaid, the lessee or lessor may, on one month's written notice, terminate the lease.

65. Lessee's implied covenants.

There shall, subject to any provisions to the contrary, be implied in every lease, a covenant by the lessee with the lessor —

- (a) to pay the rent reserved by the lease at the times and in the manner therein specified;
- (b) to pay all rates and other outgoings in relation to the provision of utilities and services to the leased premises during the continuance of the lease unless the same are payable exclusively by the lessor by virtue of any written law;
- (c) in the case of agricultural land, to farm the land in accordance with the rules of good husbandry and to yield up the land at the end of the term;
- (d) to keep the leased premises, except the roof, main walls and main drains, and the common passages and common installations, in good repair, reasonable wear and tear, excepted;
- (e) to keep all buildings comprised in the lease and all boundary marks in repair;
- (f) where the lease is of furnished premises, to keep the furniture in as good condition as it was at the commencement of the period, fair wear and tear only excepted, and to replace such articles as are lost, destroyed or so damaged as to be beyond repair with articles of equal value to those so lost, destroyed or damaged;

- (g) to permit the lessor or his agent, with or without workmen or others, at all convenient times and after reasonable notice, to enter on the leased premises and examine their condition;
- (h) to repair or otherwise make good any defect or breach of agreement for which the lessee is responsible and of which notice has been given by the lessor to the lessee, within such reasonable period as may be specified in the notice; and
- (i) not to transfer, charge, sublease or otherwise part with the possession of the leased premises or any part thereof without the previous written consent of the lessor, but such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

66. Meaning of “in repair”.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), where an agreement is contained or implied in any lease to keep a building or a particular part of a building in repair, it shall, in the absence of an express provision to the contrary mean in such state of repair as that in which a prudent owner might reasonably be expected to keep his property, due allowance being made for the age, character and locality of the building at the commencement of the lease.
- (2) There shall not be read into such an agreement, an undertaking to put any building into a better state of repair than that in which it was at the commencement of the lease.

67. Lessor’s right of forfeiture and effect of forfeiture of subleases.

- (1) Subject to section 69 and to any provision to the contrary in the lease, the lessor shall have the right to forfeit the lease if the lessee —
 - (a) commits any breach of, or omits to perform any agreement or condition on his part expressed or implied in the lease;
 - (b) is adjudicated bankrupt; or
 - (c) being a company, goes into liquidation.
- (2) The right of forfeiture may be —
 - (a) exercised, where neither the lessee or any person claiming through or under him is in occupation of the land, by entering upon and remaining in possession of the land; or
 - (b) enforced by action in the court.
- (3) The right of forfeiture shall be taken to have been waived if —
 - (a) the lessor accepts rent which has become due since the breach of agreement or condition which entitled the lessor to forfeit the lease or has by any other positive act shown an intention to treat the lease as subsisting; and

- (b) the lessor is or should by reasonable diligence have become aware of the commission of the breach.
- (4) The acceptance of rent after the lessor has commenced an action in the court under subsection (2) shall not operate as a waiver.
- (5) The forfeiture of a lease shall terminate every sublease and every other interest appearing in the register relating to that lease, but —
 - (a) where the forfeiture is set aside by the court on the grounds that it was procured by the lessor in fraud of the sublessee; or
 - (b) where the court grants relief against the forfeiture under section 69, every such sublease and other interest shall be deemed not to have terminated.

68. Notice before forfeiture.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the lease, no lessor shall be entitled to exercise the right of forfeiture for the breach of any agreement or condition in the lease whether expressed or implied, until the lessor has served on the lessee a notice —

- (a) specifying the particular breach complained of;
- (b) if the breach is capable of remedy, requiring the lessee to remedy the breach within such reasonable period as is specified in the notice; and
- (c) in any case other than non-payment of rent, requiring the lessee to make compensation in money for the breach, and the lessee has failed to remedy the breach within a reasonable time thereafter if it is capable of remedy, and to make reasonable compensation in money.

69. Relief against forfeiture.

- (1) A lessee upon whom a notice has been served under section 68, or against whom the lessor is proceeding, by action or re-entry, to enforce his right of forfeiture, may apply to the court for relief.
- (2) The court may grant or refuse relief applied for pursuant to subsection (1), as the court, having regard to —
 - (a) the proceedings;
 - (b) the conduct of the parties;
 - (c) the circumstances of the case,and, if it grants relief, may grant it on such terms as it thinks fit.
- (3) The court may, on application by any person claiming, as sublessee or chargee, any interest in the property or part of the property comprised in the lease forfeited or sought to be forfeited, make an order vesting the

property or such part in such sublessee or chargee for the whole period of the lease or any less period, upon such conditions as the court in the circumstances of the case thinks fit.

- (4) Nothing in this subsection shall apply in the case of a forfeiture arising from a breach to which the sublessee is a party or from the breach of an express agreement or condition against subleasing, parting with the possession of, or disposing of, the property leased.
- (5) For the purpose of this section, a lease limited to continue as long only as the lessee abstains from committing a breach of agreement or condition shall be and take effect as a lease to continue for any longer term for which it could subsist, but terminable by a provision for re-entry on such breach.
- (6) This section shall have effect notwithstanding any stipulation or agreement to the contrary and whether the lease is registered or not.

70. Variation and extension of leases.

- (1) Subject to section 68, the agreements and conditions contained or implied in any registered lease may be varied or cancelled, and the period of any registered lease may from time to time be extended by an instrument executed by the lessor and the lessee.
- (2) An instrument executed by the lessor and lessee to extend a lease pursuant to subsection (1) shall be registered before the expiration of the current term of the lease.

71. Substitution of leases.

Where, upon presentation of a lease for registration, the Registrar is satisfied that the lessee is the person registered as the proprietor of a prior lease in respect of the same land, he shall cancel the registration of the prior lease and register the new lease subject to the encumbrances registered against the prior lease.

72. Subleases.

- (1) Subject to any provision in his lease affecting his right to do so, the proprietor of a registered lease may, by a sublease in the prescribed form, sublease for any period which is less than the remainder of the period of his lease.
- (2) Save as otherwise expressly provided, the provisions of this Act affecting a lease, lessor, and lessee shall apply to a sublease, sublessor and sublessee, with such adaptations as are necessary.
- (3) If a lease is terminated by operation of law or under any law relating to bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings, that termination shall terminate the sublease.

- (4) In addition to the agreements specified by this Act to be implied in leases, there shall be implied in every sublease under this Act, an agreement by the sublessor that he will, during the continuance of the sublease, pay the rent reserved by the lease under which the sublessor holds, and observe and perform the agreements and conditions thereof.
- (5) Where a sublessee has paid to the sublessor's lessor, the rent or any part thereof payable by the sublessor under his lease, the sublessee shall be entitled to set off any sum so paid against the rent payable by him to the sublessor in respect of the sublease.

73. Surrender of leases.

- (1) Where the lessor and the lessee agree to surrender the lease, the lessor and lessee shall —
 - (a) prepare an instrument in the prescribed form; or
 - (b) inscribe the word “surrendered” on the lease or on the duplicate or triplicate thereof,and then execute the instrument or inscription as the case may be.
- (2) The lessor or the lessee shall submit the executed instrument or inscribed lease to the Registrar who shall —
 - (a) cancel the registration of the lease; and
 - (b) file the instrument or inscribed lease,and thereupon, or upon such earlier date as is expressed in the instrument or inscription, the interest of the lessee shall cease.
- (3) No lease which is subject to a charge or sublease shall be surrendered without the consent in writing of the proprietor of the charge or sublease.

74. Determination of leases.

- (1) Where —
 - (a) the period of a lease has expired;
 - (b) an event upon which a lease is expressed to terminate has happened;
 - (c) a lessor has lawfully re-entered; or
 - (d) a notice duly given to terminate the lease has expired, and the lessor has recovered possession of the land leased,the lease and every other interest appearing on any register relating to the lease shall thereupon terminate, and the lessor may apply in writing to the Registrar to cancel the registration.
- (2) An application under this section shall be supported by such evidence of the matters giving rise to the termination as the Registrar may require and

the Registrar on being satisfied on the matters set forth in the application shall cancel the registration of the lease.

75. Voluntary registration of leases.

Where application is made to the Registrar to register any lease which is not compulsorily registrable under this Act but which is capable of registration, the Registrar shall not register such lease unless —

- (a) it is in the prescribed form, or in such form as the Registrar may approve; and
- (b) in the case of a sublease, every lease superior to that sublease complies with paragraph (a) and is registered in priority to the sublease.

CHARGES

76. Form and effect of charges.

- (1) A proprietor may, by an instrument in the prescribed form, charge his land, lease or charge, to secure the payment of an existing or a future or a contingent debt or other money or money's worth or the fulfilment of a condition.
- (2) An instrument referred to in subsection (1), shall contain an acknowledgement that the chargor understands the effect of section 84, and the acknowledgement shall be signed by the chargor or, where the chargor is a corporation, by one of the persons attesting the affixation of the common seal.
- (3) A date for the repayment of the money secured by a charge may be specified in the charge instrument and, where no such date is specified or repayment is not demanded by the chargee on the date specified, the money shall be deemed to be repayable three months after the service of a demand in writing by the chargee.
- (4) The charge shall be completed by its registration as an encumbrance and registration of the person in whose favour it is created as its proprietor and by filing the instrument.
- (5) A charge shall not operate as a transfer but shall have effect as security only.
- (6) There shall be included, in an instrument of charge securing the fulfilment of a condition or the payment of an annuity or other periodical payment not of the nature of interest on a capital sum, such provisions as the parties think fit for disposing, subject to section 88, of the money which may arise on the exercise by the chargee of his power of sale, either by —
 - (a) setting aside the proceeds of sale or part thereof and investing it to make future periodical payments; or

- (b) payment to the chargee of such proceeds or part thereof to the extent of the estimated capital value of the chargee's interest, or otherwise.

77. Second or subsequent charges.

A proprietor whose land, lease or charge is subject to a charge may create a second or subsequent charge in the same manner as the first charge and the same provisions shall apply thereto, but any sale under the power expressed or implied in any such charge shall be expressed to be subject to all prior charges unless all those charges have been discharged.

78. Presumption that money paid is interest.

If any question arises whether any payment made by the chargor is in respect of principal or interest, such payment shall be presumed to be in respect of interest to the extent of all interest which is due and payable at the date of payment.

79. Covenants implied in charges.

There shall be implied in every charge, unless the contrary is expressed therein, agreements by the chargor with the chargee —

- (a) to pay the principal money on the day therein appointed and, so long as the principal money or any part thereof remains unpaid, to pay interest thereon, or on so much thereof as for the time being remains unpaid, at the rate and on the days and in manner therein specified;
- (b) to pay all rates, taxes and other outgoings which are at any time payable on the charged property;
- (c) to repair and keep in repair all buildings and other improvements upon the charged land or comprised in the charged lease and to permit the chargee or his agent, at all reasonable times and after reasonable notice to the chargor, to enter the land and examine the state and condition of such buildings and improvements;
- (d) to insure and keep insured all buildings upon the charged land or comprised in the charged lease against loss or damage by fire or hurricane in the joint names of the chargor and chargee with insurers approved by the chargee to the full value thereof;
- (e) in the case of a charge of agricultural land, to farm the land in accordance with the rules of good husbandry;
- (f) in the case of a charge of land or of a lease, not to lease the charged land or any part thereof, or sublease the whole or any part of the land comprised in the charged lease, for any period longer than one year without the previous consent in writing of the chargee, and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld;

- (g) not to transfer the land, lease or charge charged or any part thereof without the previous written consent of the chargee and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld;
- (h) in the case of a charge of a lease, during the continuance of the charge —
 - (i) to pay the rent reserved by the lease and observe and perform the agreements and conditions thereof; and
 - (ii) to keep the chargee indemnified against all proceedings, expenses and claims on account of the non-payment of the said rent or any part thereof, or the breach or non-observance of the said agreements and conditions or any of them; and
 - (iii) if the lessee has an enforceable right to renew the lease, to renew it;
- (i) where the charge is a second or subsequent charge, that the chargor will pay the interest from time to time accruing due on each prior charge when it becomes due, and will, at the proper time, repay the principal money due on each prior charge; and
- (j) where the chargor fails to comply with any of the agreements implied by paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (h) and (i) that the chargee may spend such money as is necessary to remedy the breach, and may add the amount so spent to the principal money, and that thereupon the amount shall be deemed for all purposes to be part of the principal money secured by the charge.

80. Chargee's consent to transfer.

Where a charge contains an agreement, express or implied, by the chargor with the chargee that he will not transfer the land, lease or charge or any part thereof without the written consent of the chargee, that agreement shall be noted in the register and no transfer by the chargor shall be registered unless the written consent of the chargee, verified in accordance with section 119, has been produced to the Registrar.

81. Variation of charges.

The amount secured, the method of repayment, the rate of interest or the term of the charge may be varied by the registration of an instrument of variation executed by the parties of the charge, but no such variation shall affect the rights of the proprietor of any subsequent charge, unless he has consented to the variation in writing on the instrument of variation.

82. Right of redemption.

- (1) A chargor may on —

- (a) payment of all money due and owing under the charge at the time of payment; or
 - (b) fulfilment of any condition secured thereby; and
 - (c) payment of any costs or expenses properly incurred by the chargee in exercising any power conferred on him by section 84,
- redeem the charged land, lease or charge at any time before it has been sold under section 87, and any agreement or provision which purports to deprive the chargor of this right of redemption is void.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), where land, a lease or a charge is sold at auction, the land, lease or charge shall be deemed to have been sold when a bid has been accepted at auction.
 - (3) A chargor may redeem the charged land, lease or charge before the date for repayment specified in the charge, by payment to the chargee, —
 - (a) money then due or owing under the charge; and
 - (b) the interest on the principal sum secured thereby for the unexpired portion of the term of the charge.
 - (4) If the chargor seeks to redeem the charged land, lease or charge after the date specified in the charge or where no such date is specified, he shall give the chargee three months notice of his intention to redeem the charge or shall pay him three months' interest in lieu thereof.
 - (5) If at any time the chargor is entitled and desires to repay the money secured by the charge, and —
 - (a) the chargee is absent or cannot be found; and
 - (b) the Registrar is satisfied that the charge cannot be discharged otherwise,the chargor may deposit the amount due with the Registrar in trust for the person entitled thereto.
 - (6) Where a chargor repays the money secured by the charge in accordance with subsection (5) —
 - (a) the obligations of the chargor under the charge shall cease; and
 - (b) the Registrar shall —
 - (i) cancel the registration of the charge; and
 - (ii) pay the amount deposited to the chargee if the chargee applies for it within six years of the date of deposit.
 - (7) Where the deposit referred to in subsection (6)(b)(ii) is not paid to the chargee within six years of the date of the deposit, it shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

83. Right of third party to transfer of charge.

On tendering to the chargee such sums as would have been payable to the chargee by the chargor if the chargor had sought to redeem the charge under section 82 —

- (a) any person, other than the chargor, who has an interest in the land, lease or charge charged;
 - (b) any surety for the payment of the amount secured by the charge; or
 - (c) any creditor of the chargor who has obtained a decree for sale of the charged land, lease or charge,
- may require the chargee to transfer the charge to him.

84. Chargee's remedies.

- (1) If default is made in payment of the principal sum or of any interest or any other periodical payment or of any part thereof, or in the performance or observance of any agreement expressed or implied in any charge, and continues for one month, the chargee may serve on the chargor notice in writing to pay the money owing or to perform and observe the agreement.
- (2) If the chargor does not comply within three months of the date of service, with a notice served on him under subsection (1), the chargee may —
 - (a) appoint a receiver of the income of the charged property; or
 - (b) sell the charged property.
- (3) A chargee who has appointed a receiver may not exercise the power of sale unless the chargor fails to comply, within three months of the date of service, with a further notice served on him under subsection (1).
- (4) The chargee shall be entitled to sue for the money secured by the charge where —
 - (a) the chargor is bound to repay the same;
 - (b) any cause other than the wrongful act of the chargor or chargee —
 - (i) the property is wholly or partially destroyed; or
 - (ii) the security is rendered insufficient and the chargee has given the chargor a reasonable opportunity of providing further security which will render the whole security sufficient, and the chargor has failed to provide such security; or
 - (c) the chargee is deprived of the whole or part of his security by, or in consequence of, the wrongful act or default of the chargor.
- (5) In the case specified in subsection (4)(a) —
 - (a) a transferee from the chargor shall not be liable to be sued for the money unless he has agreed with the chargee to pay the same; and

- (b) no action shall be commenced until a notice served in accordance with subsection (1) has expired.
- (6) The court may, at its discretion, stay a suit brought under subsection(4)(a) or (b), notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, until the chargee has exhausted all his other remedies against the charged property.

85. Appointment, powers, remuneration and duties of receiver.

- (1) The appointment of a receiver under the powers conferred by section 84 shall be in writing signed by the chargee and a copy thereof filed with the Registrar.
- (2) A receiver may be removed at any time and a new receiver appointed in writing signed by the chargee and a copy thereof filed with the Registrar.
- (3) A receiver appointed under this section shall be deemed to be the agent of the chargor for the purposes for which he is appointed and the chargor shall be solely responsible for the receiver's acts and defaults unless the charge otherwise provides.
- (4) The receiver shall have power to demand and recover all the income of which he is appointed receiver, by action or otherwise, in the name of the chargor, and to give effectual receipts accordingly for the same.
- (5) A person paying money to the receiver shall not be concerned to inquire into the validity of the receiver's appointment.
- (6) Subject to subsection (8), the receiver shall be entitled to retain out of any money received by him all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him as receiver, and, for his remuneration, a commission at such rate, not exceeding five per cent of the gross amount of all moneys received, as is specified in his appointment, or if no rate is so specified at the rate of five percent of that gross amount, or such other rate as the chargor and the chargee and other chargees, if any, agree or the court thinks fit to allow on application made by the receiver for that purpose.
- (7) The receiver shall apply insurance money in making good the loss or damage in respect of which the money is received.
- (8) Subject to subsection (7), the receiver shall apply all money received by him in the following order of priority —
 - (a) in discharge of all rents, rates, taxes and outgoings whatever affecting the charged property;
 - (b) in making payments towards all annual sums or other payments, and the interest on all principal sums, having priority to the charge in right whereof he is receiver;
 - (c) in payment of his commission, costs, charges and expenses and of the premiums on fire, life and other insurance, if any, properly payable under the charge instrument or under this Act and the cost

of executing necessary or proper repairs directed in writing by the chargee;

- (d) in payment of the interest accruing due in respect of any principal money due under the charge; and
- (e) in or towards the discharge of the money secured by the charge, if so directed in writing by the chargee,

and shall pay the residue, if any, of the money received by him to the person who, but for the appointment of the receiver, would have been entitled to receive the income of which he is appointed receiver, or who is otherwise entitled to the charged property.

86. Chargee's powers of leasing.

- (1) The proprietor of a charge on land or a lease who has appointed a receiver under the powers conferred on him by section 84 shall, in the absence of any express provision to the contrary contained in the charge, have power, subject to this and any other law —
 - (a) to grant leases in respect of the charged land or the land comprised in the charged lease or any part or parts thereof; and
 - (b) to accept a surrender of any lease so granted and of any lease created by the chargor, and may, for such purposes, execute in the place of the chargor any instrument required to effect such lease or surrender.
- (2) Every lease granted by a chargee shall —
 - (a) be made to take effect in possession not later than twelve months after its date;
 - (b) reserve the best rent obtainable without the taking of a fine;
 - (c) be for a term not exceeding twenty-one years; and
 - (d) contain a declaration by the chargee that he has appointed a receiver and the date of that appointment.

87. Power of sale.

- (1) A chargee exercising his power of sale shall act in good faith and have regard to the interests of the chargor.
- (2) Where the chargor is in possession of the charged land or the land comprised in the charged lease, the chargee shall become entitled to recover possession of the land upon a bid being accepted at a sale by auction.
- (3) A transfer by a chargee, in exercise of his power of sale, shall be made in the prescribed form, and the Registrar may accept it as sufficient evidence that the power has been duly exercised, and any person suffering damage

by an irregular exercise of the power shall have his remedy in damages only against the person exercising the power.

- (4) Upon registration of such transfer, the interest of the chargor as described therein vests in the transferee free of all encumbrances arising out of the charge or to which the charge has priority, other than any lease, easement, or profit subsisting at the time the charge was effected or to which the chargee has consented in writing.
- (5) A chargee in exercising his power of sale shall have the same powers and rights in regard to easements and restrictive agreements as are conferred upon a proprietor by sections 105 and 106.

88. Application of purchase money.

The purchase money received by a chargee who has exercised his power of sale, after discharge of any prior encumbrances to which the sale is not made subject or after payment into court of a sum sufficient to meet any such prior encumbrances, shall be applied —

- (a) first, in payment of all costs and expenses properly incurred and incidental to the sale;
- (b) secondly, in accordance with any express provision in the charge (as required by section 76) for disposing of such money and in the absence of any such express provision, in discharge of the money due to the chargee at the date of the sale; and
- (c) thirdly, in payment of any subsequent charges in the order of their priority,

and the residue of the money so received shall be paid to the person who immediately before the sale was entitled to redeem the charged land, lease or charge.

89. Variation of powers.

- (1) The provisions of sections 82(3) and (4), 84, 85, 86 and 87 may, in their application to a charge, be varied or added to in the charge.
- (2) Any such variation or addition shall not be acted upon unless the court so orders.

90. No right of entry into possession or foreclosure.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the chargee shall not be entitled to foreclose, nor to enter into possession of the charged land or the land comprised in a charged lease or to receive the rents and profits thereof by reason only that default has been made in the payment of the principal sum or of any interest or other periodical payment or of any part thereof or in the performance or observance of any agreement expressed or implied in the charge.

91. Discharge of charge.

- (1) A discharge, whether of the whole or of a part of a charge, shall be made by an instrument in the prescribed form, or, if of the whole, the word “Discharged” may be endorsed on the charge, duplicate or triplicate and the endorsement executed by the chargee and dated.
- (2) A discharge shall be completed by cancellation in the register of the charge, or part thereof as the case may require, and filing the instrument of discharge, or the endorsed charge.

92. Satisfaction of charges.

Upon proof to the satisfaction of the Registrar that —

- (a) all money due under a charge has been paid to the chargee or by his direction; or
- (b) there has occurred the event or circumstances upon which, in accordance with the provisions of any charge, the money thereby secured ceases to be payable; and
- (c) no money is owing under the charge,

the Registrar shall order the charge to be cancelled in the register, and thereupon the land, lease or charge shall cease to be subject to the charge.

93. Tacking and further advances.

- (1) Provision may be made in the charge for a chargee to make further advances or give credit to the chargor on a current or continuing account, but, unless that provision is noted in the register, such further advances shall not rank in priority to any subsequent charge except with the consent in writing of the proprietor of the subsequent charge.
- (2) Except as provided in this section, there is no right to tack.

94. Consolidation.

A chargee may consolidate his charges where —

- (a) the right to consolidate is reserved in one or more of the charges; and
- (b) the right is noted in the register against all of the charges so consolidated.

TRANSFERS

95. Transfer.

- (1) A proprietor, by an instrument in the prescribed form, may transfer his land, lease or charge to any person with or without consideration.

- (2) The transfer shall be completed by registration of the transferee as proprietor of the land, lease or charge and by filing the instrument.
- (3) The transferee of a charge may require the chargor to execute the transfer for the purpose of acknowledging the amount due under the charge at the date of execution of the transfer.

96. Unregistrable transfer.

A transfer to take effect on the happening of any event or on the fulfilment of any condition or at any future time shall not be capable of registration.

97. Void limitations on transfers.

- (1) Any condition or limitation purporting to restrain absolutely a transferee or any person claiming under him from disposing of the interest transferred shall be void.
- (2) Any condition or limitation made in relation to a transfer which purports to determine the interest of the transferee on the happening of any future event or on the failure of any future event to happen shall be void.
- (3) Except as provided in sections 104 to 110 inclusive, no transfer of land shall contain a direction that the land shall be used or enjoyed by the transferee in a particular manner.

98. Transfer of part.

- (1) A proprietor who wishes to transfer part of his land shall first sever or subdivide that land.
- (2) A transfer of land subdivided in accordance with subsection (1) is of no effect unless new registers have been opened in respect of each severed or subdivided part of the land.

99. Transfer of leases.

Where there is a transfer of a lease, unless the contrary is expressed in the transfer there shall be implied —

- (a) a warranty on the part of the transferor that the rent, agreements and conditions on the part of the lessee to be paid, performed and observed have been so paid, performed and observed up to the date specified in the transfer or, if no such date is specified, the date of the transfer; and
- (b) an agreement on the part of the transferee to pay the said rent as from the day following the date specified in the transfer or the date of the transfer, as the case may be, and to perform and observe the said agreements and conditions.

100. Effect of transfer on agreements in leases.

- (1) A transferee from a lessor or from a lessee shall possess all the rights, and be subject to all the liabilities, of the lessor or lessee, as the case may be, expressed or implied in the lease, or arising or which have arisen thereunder, and the transferor shall cease to be under any obligation or possessed of any rights in respect of the lease.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1), shall affect rights or liabilities of the lessor or lessee, as the case may be, in respect of a breach of any of the agreements expressed or implied in the lease which occurred before transfer.

101. Transfer subject to charge.

There shall be implied in a transfer of land or lease subject to a charge, an agreement by the transferee with the transferor —

- (a) to pay the interest secured by the charge at the rate and at the times and in the manner specified in the charge; and
- (b) to keep the transferor indemnified against —
 - (i) the principal sum secured by the charge; and
 - (ii) all liability in respect of any agreements on the part of the transferor therein contained or implied,

unless otherwise expressly provided in the instrument of transfer.

102. Transfer subject to lease.

A transfer of land which is subject to a lease shall be valid without the lessee acknowledging the transferee as lessor, but nothing in this section —

- (a) affects the validity of any payment of rent made by the lessee to the transferor; or
- (b) renders the lessee liable, on account of his failure to pay rent to the transferee, for any breach of agreement to pay rent,

before notice of the transfer is given to the lessee by the transferee or transferor.

103. Transfer of unregistered leases.

- (1) Where a lease not requiring registration is transferred, the transfer of that lease shall not require registration.
- (2) The transfer of a lease which does not require registration may be registered on application to the Registrar.
- (3) The Registrar shall not register a transfer of a lease not required to be registered unless —
 - (a) the transfer is in the prescribed form; and

- (b) the lease and prior transfers or other dealings therewith have been registered.

EASEMENTS, POSITIVE AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, PROFITS AND LICENCES

104. Easements.

- (1) The proprietor of land or a lease may, by an instrument in the prescribed form, grant an easement over his land or the land comprised in his lease, to the proprietor or lessee of other land for the benefit of that other land.
- (2) Any proprietor transferring land or a lease or granting a lease may, in the instrument of transfer or lease —
 - (a) grant an easement, for the benefit of the land transferred or leased, over land retained by him; or
 - (b) reserve an easement for the benefit of land retained by him.
- (3) The instrument creating the easement shall specify clearly —
 - (a) the nature of the easement, the period for which it is granted and, any conditions, limitations or restrictions intended to affect its enjoyment;
 - (b) the land burdened by the easement and, if required by the Registrar, the particular part thereof so burdened; and
 - (c) the land which enjoys the benefit of the easement, and shall, if required by the Registrar, include a plan sufficient in the Registrar's estimation to define the easement.
- (4) The grant or reservation of the easement shall be completed by its registration as an encumbrance in the register of the land burdened and in the property section of the land which benefits, and by filing the instrument.
- (5) An easement granted by the proprietor of a lease shall be capable of existing only during the subsistence of the lease.

105. Positive and restrictive covenants.

- (1) A covenant may be positive or restrictive and, if registered under this Act, is enforceable against the covenantor and the covenantor's successor in title by the owner or occupier of land benefitting from the covenant.
- (2) Where an instrument, other than a lease or charge, contains a restrictive covenant by one proprietor restricting the building on or the use or other enjoyment of his land for the benefit of the proprietor of other land, and such instrument is presented to the Registrar, the Registrar shall —

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- (a) note the restrictive covenant in the encumbrances section of the register of the land or lease burdened by the restrictive covenant by —
 - (i) entering particulars of the restrictive covenant; or
 - (ii) referring to the instrument containing the restrictive covenant; and
 - (b) file the instrument.
- (3) Where an instrument, other than a lease or charge, contains a positive covenant by one proprietor mandating the building on or the use or other enjoyment of his land or other obligation for the benefit of the proprietor of other land, and the instrument is presented to the Registrar, the Registrar shall —
- (a) note the positive covenant in the encumbrances section of the register of the land or lease burdened by the positive covenant and in the property section of the land which benefits from the positive covenant by —
 - (i) entering particulars of the positive covenant; or
 - (ii) referring to the instrument containing the positive covenant; and
 - (b) file the instrument.
- (4) Unless noted in the register, a positive or restrictive covenant is not binding on any person acquiring the land or lease.
- (5) Unless otherwise provided in the instrument, where a restrictive covenant is capable of taking effect, the proprietor and his successor in title shall be entitled to the benefit and subject to the burden of the covenant.
- (6) A proprietor of two or more parcels may enter into a positive or restrictive covenant with himself.

106. Profits.

- (1) The proprietor of land or a lease may, by an instrument in the prescribed form, grant a profit.
- (2) The instrument shall indicate clearly the nature of the profit, the period for which it is to be enjoyed and —
 - (a) whether it is to be enjoyed in gross, or as appurtenant to other land or a lease; and
 - (b) whether it is to be enjoyed by the grantee exclusively or by him in common with the grantor.
- (3) The grant of a profit shall be completed —
 - (a) by its registration as an encumbrance in the register of the land or lease which it affects;

- (b) where it is appurtenant to other land or a lease, by its registration in the property section of the register of the land or lease to which it is appurtenant; and
 - (c) by filing the instrument.
- (4) A profit which is not appurtenant to land may be dealt with as though it were land.
- (5) A profit granted by the proprietor of a lease shall be capable of subsisting only during the subsistence of a lease.

107. Release and extinguishment of easements, profits and restrictive covenants.

- (1) Upon presentation of a duly executed release in the prescribed form, the registration of the easement, profit, or restrictive covenant shall be cancelled, and the easement, profit, or restrictive covenant shall thereupon be extinguished.
- (2) On the application of a person affected by an easement, profit or restrictive covenant, the Registrar may, after such advertisement as he may direct, cancel the registration of an easement, profit, or restrictive covenant upon proof to his satisfaction that —
 - (a) the period of time for which it was intended to subsist has expired;
 - (b) the event upon which it was intended to terminate has occurred; or
 - (c) it has been abandoned.

108. Discharge and modification of easements, profits and restrictive covenants.

- (1) The court may, on the application of any person interested in land affected by an easement, profit or restrictive covenant, by order wholly or partially extinguish or modify any such easement, profit, or restrictive covenants (with or without payment by the applicant of compensation to any person suffering loss in consequence of the order), on being satisfied that —
 - (a) by reason of changes in the character of the property or the neighbourhood or other circumstances of the case which the court deems material, the easement, profit or restrictive covenant ought to be held to be obsolete;
 - (b) the continued existence of the easement, profit, or restrictive covenant impedes the reasonable user of the land for public or private purposes without securing practical benefits to other persons or, as the case may be, will unless modified so impede such user to a different extent, from that which could reasonably have been foreseen by the original parties to the easement, profit or restrictive covenant at the time of its creation; or

- (c) the proposed discharge or modification will not injure the person entitled to the benefit of the easement, profit or restrictive covenant.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), nothing prevents modification of an easement, profit or restrictive covenant by agreement between the persons interested in, or affected by, the benefitted and burdened land.

109. Natural rights.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as derogating from the natural right to support, light, air or access to a highway appertaining to any land, nor from such ancillary rights as are necessary for effective enjoyment of an easement.

110. Licences.

- (1) Notwithstanding section 138, a licence is not capable of registration.
- (2) A licence relating to the use or enjoyment of land is ineffective against a *bona fide* purchaser for valuable consideration unless the licensee has protected his interest by lodging a caution under that section.

CO—PROPRIETORSHIP AND PARTITION

111. Registration of more than one proprietor.

- (1) Every instrument made in favour of two or more persons, and the registration giving effect to it, shall show —
 - (a) whether such persons are joint proprietors or proprietors in common; and
 - (b) where they are proprietors in common, the share of each proprietor.
- (2) The Governor-General may for any registration section, prescribe either —
 - (a) the maximum number (whether one or a greater number) of persons who are allowed to be registered in the same register as proprietors; or
 - (b) the maximum denominator of the vulgar fraction which expresses the share of any proprietor,or both of them, and no dealing shall be registered if its effect would be that that number or that denominator, as the case may be, would be exceeded.

112. Characteristics of joint proprietorship and severance thereof.

- (1) Where the land, lease or charge is owned jointly, no proprietor is entitled to any separate share in the land, and consequently —
 - (a) dispositions may be made only by all the joint proprietors; and

- (b) on the death of a joint proprietor, his interest shall vest in the surviving proprietor or the surviving proprietors jointly.
- (2) For avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that —
 - (a) the sole proprietor of any land, lease or charge may transfer the same to himself and another person jointly; and
 - (b) a joint proprietor of any land, lease or charge may transfer his interest therein to all the other proprietors.
- (3) Joint proprietors, not being trustees, may execute an instrument in the prescribed form signifying that they agree to sever the joint proprietorship, and the severance shall be completed by registration of the joint proprietors as proprietors in common in equal shares and by filing the instrument.

113. Characteristics of proprietorship in common.

- (1) Where any land, lease or charge is owned in common, each proprietor shall be entitled to an undivided share in the whole, and on the death of a proprietor, his share shall be administered as part of his estate.
- (2) No proprietor in common shall deal with his undivided share in favour of any person other than another proprietor in common of the same land, except with the consent in writing of the remaining proprietor or proprietors of the land, but such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

114. Partition of land owned in common.

- (1) An application for the partition of the land owned in common may be made in the prescribed form to the Registrar by —
 - (a) any one or more of the proprietors; or
 - (b) any person in whose favour an order has been made for the sale of an undivided share in the land in execution of a decree,and subject to this and any other law by or under which minimum areas or frontages are prescribed or the consent of any authority to a partition is required, the Registrar shall effect the partition of the land in accordance with any agreement of the proprietors in common, or, in the absence of agreement, in such manner as the Registrar may order.
- (2) Partition shall be completed by closing the register of the parcel partitioned and opening registers in respect of the new parcels created by the partition and filing the agreement or order.

115. When Registrar may order sale.

- (1) Where —

- (a) an application is made by a proprietor in common for the sale of the land or any shares in the land; and
 - (b) the partition would adversely affect the proper use of the land,
- the Registrar shall, in default of any agreement between the proprietors in common, value the land and the shares of the proprietors in common and order the sale of the land or the separation and sale of such shares by public auction or make such other order for the disposal of the application as he thinks fit.
- (2) A proprietor in common shall be entitled to purchase the land or any share so offered for sale, either at the auction or at any time by private treaty.

116. Procedure where share is small.

- (1) Where the land sought to be partitioned is capable of partition generally, but the resulting share of any particular proprietor in common would be less in area than any minimum prescribed by or under any written law, the Registrar shall add such share to the share of any other proprietor or distribute such share amongst two or more other proprietors in such manner and in such proportions as, in default of agreement, he thinks fit.
- (2) Where the Registrar proceeds in accordance with subsection (1), he shall assess the value of the share added or distributed and shall order that there be paid to the proprietor of the share by each proprietor who has received an addition to his share the value of such addition.
- (3) Where any sum is payable under subsection (2) by any proprietor in common to any other proprietor in common, the Registrar may order that such sum be secured by way of charge on the share of the person liable to pay it.

PART VI — INSTRUMENTS AND AGENTS

117. Form of instruments.

- (1) Every disposition of land, a lease or a charge shall be effected by an instrument in the prescribed form or in such other form as the Registrar may approve.
- (2) A lease or charge shall be presented for registration in triplicate.
- (3) An instrument shall contain a true statement of the amount or value of the purchase price, loan or other consideration and an acknowledgement of the receipt of the consideration.

118. Execution of instruments.

- (1) Every instrument evidencing a disposition shall be executed by all persons shown in the register to be proprietors of the interest affected and by all other parties to the instrument.
- (2) The Registrar may dispense with execution by any particular party where he considers that such execution is unnecessary.
- (3) Subsection shall not apply to the execution of a party who is a donee under a disposition by way of gift.
- (4) Subject to section 131(2), an instrument shall be deemed to have been executed only —
 - (a) by a natural person, if signed by him; or
 - (b) by a corporation —
 - (i) if sealed with the common seal of the corporation, affixed thereto in the presence of and attested by its clerk, secretary or other permanent officer and by a member of the board of directors, council or other governing body of the corporation; or
 - (ii) in the case of a corporation not required by law to have a common seal, if signed by such persons as are authorised in that behalf by any law or by the statute or charter of the corporation or, in the absence of any express provision, by the persons duly appointed in writing for that purpose by the corporation, evidence of which appointment has been produced to the satisfaction of the Registrar.
- (5) The Property (Execution of Deeds and Documents) Act, 2020 and the Execution of Documents (Handicapped Persons) Act (*Ch. 67*) shall apply to the execution of instruments evidencing a disposition under this Act.

119. Verification of execution.

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), a person who is desirous of executing an instrument shall appear before —
 - (a) the Registrar or such public officer as may be prescribed; or
 - (b) a notary public,and shall execute the instrument in the presence of the Registrar, public officer or notary public.
- (2) The Registrar, public officer or notary public shall —
 - (a) satisfy himself as to the identity of the person appearing before him in accordance with subsection (1);
 - (b) ascertain whether he is freely and voluntarily executing the instrument; and

- (c) complete thereon a certificate in the prescribed form as to —
 - (i) the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b); and
 - (ii) the effect that the person concerned signed the instrument before him in the appropriate place or places upon the instrument.
- (3) An instrument which is required to be executed by or on behalf of the Crown shall be deemed to be executed when it has been signed by the Governor-General.
- (4) The Registrar may dispense with verification under this section if he considers that it cannot be obtained or can be obtained only with difficulty and he is otherwise satisfied that the document can be properly executed.
- (5) No instrument executed outside of The Bahamas shall be registered unless it has endorsed thereon or attached thereto, a certificate in the prescribed form completed by a diplomatic agent of The Bahamas, a consular officer of The Bahamas, a British consular officer or pro-consul, a notary public, justice of the peace, or other persons legally authorised to administer oaths or take acknowledgements in that country.

120. Stamps.

No instrument required by law to be stamped shall be accepted for registration unless it is duly stamped.

121. Disposal of instruments.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and section 124(2), all instruments accepted by the Registrar shall be retained in the registry for as long as they support a current entry in the register and for six years thereafter.
- (2) When a lease or charge is registered, particulars of registration shall be noted on the duplicate and triplicate thereof, and the duplicate and triplicate shall be returned to the person who presented them.
- (3) Six years or more after an entry in the register has been superseded or has ceased to have any effect, the Registrar may destroy any instrument which supported the entry.

122. Minors.

- (1) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the name of a person under the age of eighteen years may be entered in the register either on first registration or as a transferee or on transmission.
- (2) Nothing in this section enables a minor to deal with land or any interest in land by virtue of such registration under subsection (1).

- (3) The Registrar shall, where to his knowledge a minor is registered, enter a restriction against any dealing with the land by the minor.
- (4) Where a disposition by a minor whose minority has not been disclosed to the Registrar has been registered, such disposition may not be set aside only on the grounds of minority.

123. Agents and persons under disability.

- (1) The Registrar may, subject to subsection (2), accept any document or application submitted to him on behalf of a minor, a person of unsound mind, or a person under any other disability, by a guardian of that person.
- (2) Where a document is submitted by a guardian referred to in subsection (1), the Registrar shall —
 - (a) satisfy himself that the guardian is entitled to execute that document or make the application; and
 - (b) file a note of the explanation on which he relies or a copy of the appointment of the guardian.

124. Gift to person under disability.

A person under a disability who has been registered as proprietor of land, a lease or a charge acquired by him by way of gift may, within six months after he ceases to be under a disability, repudiate the gift if he has not already disposed of the subject-matter thereof, but no such repudiation shall be effective until —

- (a) he has transferred the land, lease or charge to the donor who shall be bound to accept it; and
- (b) the transfer has been registered.

125. Power of attorney.

- (1) Upon the application of the donor or the donee of a power of attorney which contains any power to dispose of any interest in land, such power of attorney shall be entered in the register of powers of attorney and the original or, with the consent of the Registrar, a copy thereof certified by the Registrar shall be filed in the file of powers of attorney.
- (2) Every such power of attorney shall be in the prescribed form or such other form as the Registrar may, in any particular case, approve and shall be executed and verified in accordance with sections 118 and 119.
- (3) The donor of a power of attorney filed in accordance with subsection (1) may, at any time, give notice to the Registrar in the prescribed form that the power has been revoked and thereupon the revocation shall be entered in the register of powers of attorney and noted upon the power and the notice shall be filed in the file of powers of attorney.

- (4) Any interested person may give notice in writing to the Registrar that a power of attorney which has been revoked by the death, bankruptcy or disability of the donor or the death or disability of the donee, accompanied by such evidence as the Registrar requires, and thereupon the revocation shall be entered in the register of powers of attorney and noted upon the power, and the notice shall be filed in the file of powers of attorney.
- (5) Subsections (3) and (4) do not apply to a power of attorney given for valuable consideration during any time which it is, by virtue of the terms thereof, irrevocable.
- (6) If, owing to the length of time since the execution of a power of attorney or for any other reason, the Registrar considers it desirable, he may require evidence that the power has not been revoked, and may refuse to register any disposition by the donee of the power of attorney until satisfactory evidence is produced.
- (7) The Powers of Attorney Act (*Ch. 81*) has no application to powers of attorney made under this section.

126. Effect of registered power of attorney.

- (1) A power of attorney registered under section 125 and of which no notice of revocation has been registered, shall be deemed to be subsisting in respect of —
 - (a) any person acquiring any interest in land for valuable consideration and effected by the exercise of the power and without notice of revocation and in good faith; or
 - (b) any person deriving title under such a person referred to in paragraph (a).
- (2) Any person making any payment or doing any act in good faith in pursuance of a power of attorney registered under section 125 shall not be liable in respect of the payment or act by reason only that before the payment or act the donor of the power had died or become subject to a disability or become bankrupt, or had revoked the power, if the fact of death, disability, bankruptcy or revocation was not at the time of the payment or act known to the person making or doing the payment or act.

PART VII — TRANSMISSIONS AND TRUSTS

127. Transmission on death of joint proprietor.

The Registrar shall, on proof to his satisfaction of the death of one or more joint proprietors of land, lease or charge, delete the name of the deceased proprietor from the register.

128. Transmission on death of sole proprietor or proprietor in common.

- (1) Where a sole proprietor or a proprietor in common dies, his personal representative shall apply to the Registrar in the prescribed form and produce the grant, to be registered by transmission of the land, lease or charge as the proprietor.
- (2) The Registrar shall by transmission, register the personal representative in the place of the deceased with the addition after the name of the personal representative, the words —
 - (a) in the case of a grant of probate, “as executor of the will of _____ deceased”; or
 - (b) in the case of a grant of letters of administration, “as administrator of the estate of _____ deceased”.
- (3) Upon production of a grant, the Registrar may, without requiring the personal representative to be registered, register by transmission —
 - (a) any transfer by the personal representative; and
 - (b) any surrender of a lease or discharge of a charge by the personal representative.
- (4) In this section, “**grant**” means the grant of probate of the will or the grant of letters of administration of the estate of the deceased proprietor.

129. Effect of transmission by death.

- (1) Subject to any restriction on his power of disposing of the land, lease or charge contained in his appointment, the personal representative or the person beneficially entitled to the land, lease or charge, as the case may be, shall hold the land, lease or charge subject to any liabilities, rights or interests which are unregistered but are nevertheless enforceable and subject to which the deceased proprietor held the same, but for the purpose of any dealing he shall be deemed to have been registered as proprietor thereof with all the rights conferred by this Act on a proprietor who has acquired land, a lease or a charge, as the case may be, for valuable consideration.
- (2) The registration of any person as aforesaid shall relate back to and take effect from the date of the death of the proprietor.

130. Transmission on bankruptcy.

- (1) A trustee in bankruptcy shall, upon production to the Registrar of a certified copy of the order of court adjudging a proprietor bankrupt, or directing that the estate of a deceased proprietor shall be administered according to the law of bankruptcy, be registered as proprietor of any land, lease or charge of which the bankrupt or deceased proprietor is

proprietor, in his place, and a copy of the order shall be filed in the registry.

- (2) A trustee in bankruptcy shall be described in the register as “trustee of the property of _____ a bankrupt”.
- (3) The trustee in bankruptcy shall hold any land, lease or charge of which he is registered as proprietor subject to any restrictions contained in any law relating to bankruptcy or in any order of court and subject to any liabilities, rights or interests which are unregistered but are nevertheless enforceable and subject to which the bankrupt or the deceased proprietor held the same, but for the purpose of any dealing with such land, lease or charge the trustee in bankruptcy shall have all the rights and be subject to all the limitations conferred or imposed by this or any other law on a proprietor who has acquired land, a lease or charge for valuable consideration.

131. Liquidation.

- (1) Where a company is being wound up, the liquidator shall produce to the Registrar any resolution or order appointing him liquidator, and the Registrar shall enter the appointment in respect of any land, lease or charge of which the company is registered as proprietor, and shall file the copy of the resolution or order.
- (2) An instrument executed by or on behalf of a company in liquidation delivered for registration after the appointment of the liquidator has been entered under subsection (1), shall be sealed with the common seal of the company and attested by the liquidator or, in the case of a company not required by law to have a common seal, shall be signed by the liquidator whose signature shall be verified in accordance with section 119.

132. Transmission by compulsory acquisition or judgment of court.

Where the Crown or a person has become entitled to land, lease or charge under an enactment or by virtue of an order of a court, the Registrar shall, on the application of any interested person supported by such evidence as he may require, register the Crown or that person as the proprietor of the land, lease or charge.

133. Trusts.

- (1) A person acquiring land, a lease or charge in a fiduciary capacity may be described by that capacity in the instrument of acquisition and, if so described, shall be registered with the addition of the words “as trustee”, but the Register shall not enter particulars of any trust in the register.
- (2) Any instrument which declares or is deemed to declare any trust, or a certified copy thereof, may be deposited with the Registrar for safe

custody, but such instrument or copy shall not form part of the register or be deemed to be registered.

- (3) Where the proprietor of land, a lease or a charge is a trustee, he shall hold the same subject to any unregistered liabilities, rights or interests to which it is subject by virtue of the instrument creating the trusts, but for the purpose of any registered dealings he shall be deemed to be the absolute proprietor thereof, and no person dealing in good faith for valuable consideration shall be deemed to have notice of the trust, nor shall any breach of the trust create any right to indemnity under this Act.

134. Survivor of trustees.

Whenever two or more proprietors are registered jointly as trustees and the survivor of such proprietors would not be entitled to exercise, on his own, the powers which are vested in them, the Registrar shall enter a restriction to that effect.

PART VIII — RESTRAINTS ON DISPOSITION

INHIBITIONS

135. Power of court to inhibit registered dealings.

- (1) The court may make an order (hereinafter referred to as an inhibition) inhibiting for a particular time or until the occurrence of a particular event, or generally until further order, the registration of any dealing with any land, lease or charge.
- (2) A copy of the inhibition under the seal of the court, with particulars of the land, lease or charge affected thereby, shall be sent to the Registrar, who shall register it in the appropriate register, and no inhibition shall bind or affect the land, lease or charge until it has been registered.
- (3) The copy of the inhibition referred to in subsection (2) shall be served on the Registrar by —
 - (a) a Registrar of the court;
 - (b) a party to the proceedings in which the order of the court was made.

136. Effect of inhibition.

Where an inhibition is registered, no instrument which is inconsistent with it shall be registered.

137. Cancellation of inhibition.

The registration of an inhibition shall be cancelled only —

- (a) on the expiration of the time limited by the inhibition;
- (b) on proof to the satisfaction of the Registrar of the occurrence of the event specified in the inhibition;
- (c) on the sale of the land, lease or charge affected by the inhibition, unless such sale is itself inhibited; or
- (d) by order of the court.

CAUTIONS

138. Lodging of cautions.

- (1) Any person who —
 - (a) claims an unregistrable interest in land, a lease or a charge;
 - (b) is entitled to a licence;
 - (c) has presented a bankruptcy petition against the proprietor of any registered land, lease or charge; or
 - (d) being a bank, has advanced money on a current account to the proprietor of land, a lease or charge,may lodge a caution with the Registrar forbidding the registration of dispositions of the land, lease or charge concerned and the making of entries affecting the same.
- (2) A caution may either —
 - (a) forbid the registration of dispositions and the making of entries altogether; or
 - (b) forbid the registration of dispositions and the making of entries to the extent therein expressed.
- (3) A caution shall be in the prescribed form and shall state the interest claimed by the cautioner, and the Registrar may require the cautioner to support it by a statutory declaration.
- (4) The Registrar may refuse to register a caution which he considers unnecessary.
- (5) Subject to this section, the caution shall be registered in the appropriate register.

139. Notice and effect of caution.

- (1) The Registrar shall give notice in writing of a caution to the proprietor whose land, lease or charge is affected by it.
- (2) Where a caution is registered, no disposition which is inconsistent with it shall be registered except with the consent of the cautioner or by order of the court.

140. Withdrawal and removal of caution.

- (1) A caution may be withdrawn by the cautioner or removed by order of the court or, subject to subsection (2), by order of the Registrar.
- (2) The Registrar may, on the application of any person interested, serve notice on the cautioner warning him that his caution will be removed at the expiration of the time stated in the notice.
- (3) If, at the expiration of the time stated, the cautioner has not objected, the Registrar may remove the caution.
- (4) If the cautioner objects to the removal of the caution, he shall notify the Registrar in writing of his objection within the time specified in the notice, and the Registrar, after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard, shall make such order as he thinks fit and may, in the order, make provision for the payment of costs.
- (5) On registration of a transfer by a chargee in exercise of his powers of sale under section 87, the Registrar shall remove any caution which purports to prohibit any dealing by the chargor and which was registered after the charge by virtue of which the transfer was effected.
- (6) On the withdrawal or removal of a caution, its registration shall be cancelled, but any liability of the cautioner previously incurred under section 142 shall not be affected by the cancellation.

141. Second caution in respect of same matter.

The Registrar may refuse to accept a further caution by the same person or anyone on his behalf in relation to the same matter as a previous caution.

142. Wrongful cautions.

Any person who lodges or maintains a caution wrongfully and without reasonable cause shall be liable in an action for damages, at the suit of any person who has thereby sustained damage.

RESTRICTIONS

143. Restrictions.

- (1) For the prevention of any fraud or improper dealing or for any other sufficient cause, the Registrar may, either with or without the application of any person interested in the land, lease or charge, after directing such inquiries to be made and notices to be served and hearing such persons as he thinks fit, make an order (hereinafter referred to as a restriction) prohibiting or restricting dealings with any particular land, lease or charge.
- (2) A restriction may be expressed to endure —

- (a) for a particular period;
 - (b) until the occurrence of a particular event; or
 - (c) until the making of a further order, and may prohibit or restrict all dealings or only such dealings as do not comply with specified conditions, and the restriction shall be registered in the appropriate register.
- (3) The Registrar shall order a restriction to be entered in any case where it appears to him that the power of the proprietor to deal with the land, lease or charge is restricted.

144. Notice and effect of restriction.

- (1) Upon the entry of a restriction the Registrar shall give notice thereof in writing to the proprietor affected thereby.
- (2) Where a restriction is registered, no instrument which is inconsistent with it shall be registered except by order of the court or of the Registrar.

145. Removal and variation of restrictions.

- (1) The Registrar may, at any time, upon application by any person interested or upon his own motion, and after giving the parties affected thereby an opportunity of being heard, order the removal or variation of a restriction.
- (2) Upon the application of a proprietor affected by a restriction, and upon notice thereof to the Registrar, the court may order a restriction to be removed or varied, or make such other order as it thinks fit, and may make an order as to costs.

PART IX — PRESCRIPTION

146. Acquisition of title by possession.

The Limitation Act (*Ch. 83*) shall apply to registered land.

147. Application to register title acquired by possession.

Any person claiming to have acquired a title to registered land by virtue of the Limitation Act (*Ch. 83*) may apply to the Registrar to be registered as proprietor thereof.

148. Procedure on application.

- (1) On application by any person for registration as proprietor under section 146, the application shall be advertised by the Registrar at the expense of the applicant in such manner as the Registrar may direct.

- (2) The Registrar shall give notice of any such application to the proprietor of the land affected and to any other persons who may, in his opinion, be affected thereby.
- (3) A notice issued under subsection (2) shall —
 - (a) detail the application made under section 146 to which the notice relates;
 - (b) notify the person to whom the notice has been made of his opportunity to be heard and make representations in response to the application referred to in paragraph (a);
 - (c) state the date by which the person referred to in paragraph (b) may make his representations.
- (4) After one month has elapsed from the date of giving notice under subsection (2), the Registrar, on being satisfied as to the applicant's title, may allow the application and register him as proprietor of the land claimed, either with absolute or provisional title, as the case may require, but without prejudice to any interests protected by any entry on the register which may not have been extinguished under the Limitation Act (*Ch. 83*).
- (5) The proprietor or the applicant or any other persons interested, may apply to the court for the determination of any question arising under this section or section 147.

149. Acquisition of easements and profits by prescription.

- (1) Subject to the Prescription Act (*Ch. 158*) easements and profits may be acquired without registration by peaceable, open and uninterrupted enjoyment thereof for a period of twenty years.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), no easement or profit shall be so acquired unless the proprietor of the land burdened by such easement or profit is, or by reasonable diligence might have been, aware of such enjoyment and might by his own efforts have prevented it.
- (3) Where any person claims to have acquired an easement or profit by virtue of subsection (1) he may apply to the Registrar for the registration thereof, and the Registrar, on being satisfied as to the claim and subject to such notices, advertisement and conditions as the Registrar may direct, shall register the easement or profit as an encumbrance on the register of the land affected and, in the case of an easement, in the property register of the land which benefits.

PART X — RECTIFICATION AND INDEMNITY

150. Rectification by Registrar.

- (1) The Registrar may rectify the register or any instrument presented for registration where that rectification relates to —
 - (a) errors or omissions not materially affecting the interests of any proprietor;
 - (b) the acquisition of an interest in land by prescription under Part IX;
 - (c) a consent to rectification or indemnity of all persons interested.
- (2) Where, upon the resurvey of land, a dimension or area shown in the register or Registry Map is found to be incorrect, the Registrar shall, after giving notice to all persons interested or affected, rectify the register.
- (3) The Registrar shall, upon notice in writing to him of a change of name or address of a proprietor, record the change in the register.

151. Rectification by court.

- (1) Subject to the Land Adjudication Act, 2024 and to subsection (2), the court may, where it is satisfied that any registration including a first registration has been obtained, made or omitted by fraud or mistake, order rectification of the register by directing that any registration be cancelled or amended.
- (2) The register shall not be rectified so as to affect the title of a proprietor who —
 - (a) is in possession or is in receipt of the rents or profits; and
 - (b) acquired the land, lease or charge for valuable consideration,unless such proprietor had knowledge of the omission, fraud or mistake in consequence of which the rectification is sought, or caused such omission, fraud or mistake or substantially contributed to it by his act, neglect or default.

152. Right of indemnity.

- (1) The Registrar may, on the application of any interested party, determine whether a right of indemnity has arisen under this Part.
- (2) Subject to this and any law relating to the limitation of actions, any person suffering damage by reason of —
 - (a) any rectification of the register under this Act;
 - (b) any mistake or omission in the register which cannot be rectified under this Act, other than a mistake or omission in a first registration; or

- (c) error in a certificate of official search issued by the Registrar or in a copy of or extract from the register or in a copy of or extract from any document or plan, certified under this Act,
shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Government out of moneys provided by Parliament.
- (2) No indemnity shall be payable under this Act to any person who has himself caused or substantially contributed to the damage by his fraud or negligence, or who derives title (otherwise than under a registered disposition made *bona fide* for valuable consideration) from a person who so caused or substantially contributed to the damage.

153. Amount of indemnity.

- (1) Where an indemnity is granted in respect of the loss of any interest in land, it shall not exceed —
 - (a) where the register is not rectified, the value of the interest at the time when the mistake or omission which caused the damage was made; or
 - (b) where the register is rectified, the value of the interest immediately before the time of rectification.
- (2) Where an indemnity is granted, the Registrar may also award any costs and expenses properly incurred in relation to the matter.

154. Recovery of indemnity.

- (1) Any moneys paid by way of indemnity under this Part, shall be recoverable by the Treasurer from any person who has caused or substantially contributed to the loss by his fraud or negligence.
- (2) The Treasurer may, in recovery of money paid by way of indemnity, enforce any agreement or other right which the person who is indemnified would have been entitled to enforce in relation to the matter in respect of which the indemnity has been paid.

155. Errors in survey.

- (1) No claim to indemnity shall arise between a proprietor and the Government, and no suit shall be maintained on account of any discrepancy in the measurement of any land shown in a survey differing from the measurement shown in any subsequent survey or from the measurement shown in the register or on the Registry Map.
- (2) No claim to indemnity shall, after a period of six months from the date of registration of the instrument under which the proprietor acquired the land, be maintainable between a proprietor and any person from or through whom he acquired the land, on account of any discrepancy in the

measurement above or below that shown in any other survey or above or below the area or measurement shown in the register or on the Registry Map.

PART XI — DECISIONS OF REGISTRAR AND APPEALS

156. Power of Registrar to state case.

- (1) The Registrar, where a question arises regarding the exercise of a power or performance of a duty conferred on him by this Act —
 - (a) may on his own motion;
 - (b) shall, if required to do so by an aggrieved party, state a case for the opinion of the court.
- (2) The opinion of the court shall be binding on the Registrar.

157. Appeals.

- (1) Any person aggrieved by a decision, direction, order, determination or award of the Registrar may, within thirty days of the decision, direction, order, determination or award, give notice to the Registrar in the prescribed form of his intention to appeal to the court against the decision, direction, order, determination or award.
- (2) On receipt of a notice of appeal, the Registrar shall prepare and send to the court and to the appellant, and to any other person appearing to him from the register to be affected by the appeal, a brief statement of the question in issue.
- (3) On the hearing of the appeal, the appellant, the Registrar and any other person who, in the opinion of the court, is affected by the appeal may, subject to any rules of court, appear and be heard in person or by a counsel and attorney.
- (4) The court may make such order on the appeal as the circumstances may require, and every such order shall be given effect to by the Registrar.
- (5) The costs of the appeal shall be in the discretion of the court.
- (6) Any person aggrieved by an order of the court, may appeal to the Court of Appeal within such time and in such manner as may be regulated by the rules of court relating to appeals in civil cases.

158. Effect of appeal on disposition.

- (1) An appeal to the court shall not affect a disposition for valuable consideration made in good faith and registered before delivery of notice of the appeal to the Registrar.

- (2) A note that an appeal is pending shall be made in the register affected by the appeal and any disposition shall be subject to such notice.

159. Appeal Rules.

The Rules Committee may make rules regulating applications and appeals to the court under this Act, and for the fees to be paid in respect thereof.

PART XII — MISCELLANEOUS

160. Addresses.

- (1) Any person who, under this Act, submits a caution or any instrument for registration, or is the proprietor of any land, lease or charge, shall furnish to the Registrar, in writing, an address within The Bahamas for service and shall notify him in writing of any change in that address.
- (2) The Registrar may, in his discretion, dispense with this requirement in regard to any particular registration or kind of registration.

161. Service of notices.

A notice under this Act shall be deemed to have been served on or given to any person if —

- (a) served on him personally;
- (b) served on an attorney holding a power of attorney whereunder such attorney is authorised to accept such service;
- (c) sent by registered post to him at his last known address in The Bahamas or elsewhere and a receipt purporting to have been signed by him has been received in return; or
- (d) service cannot be effected in one of the above-mentioned ways, by displaying it in a prominent place on the land affected and by publishing it in three consecutive issues of the *Gazette*.

162. Meaning of “opportunity of being heard”.

- (1) Where, by this Act, a thing is to be or may be done after giving a person an opportunity of being heard, that person shall be deemed to have been given such an opportunity if —
 - (a) he attends before the Registrar personally or by a counsel and attorney or other agent, and is given such an opportunity;
 - (b) he intimates, personally or by a counsel and attorney or other agent, that he does not wish to be heard; or

- (c) he fails to attend pursuant to a notice in writing indicating the nature of the thing to be done and appointing a day and time not less than thirty days after service of the notice at which he will, if he attends before the Registrar be heard.
- (2) Where a person or counsel and attorney or other agent on his behalf attends before the Registrar concerning a matter on which he is entitled to an opportunity of being heard, or fails to attend pursuant to such a notice as aforesaid, the Registrar may, if he thinks fit, adjourn the hearing from time to time, and, notwithstanding a failure to attend, may, if he thinks fit, hear such person at any time.
- (3) Where by this Act all persons interested are to be given an opportunity of being heard, it shall be sufficient if all persons who, according to any subsisting entry in the register, appear to be so interested or affected are given such opportunity.

163. Offences.

- (1) Any person who —
 - (a) knowingly misleads or deceives any person authorised by or under this Act to require information in respect of any land or interest in land;
 - (b) fraudulently issues or makes, or fraudulently procures the issue or making, of any certificate or other document, or any registration, or any erasure or alteration in any certificate or other document or in any register;
 - (c) fraudulently uses, assists in fraudulent using or is privy to the fraudulent use of any instrument or form purporting to be issued or authorised by the Registrar; or
 - (d) causes any defacement, obliteration, mutilation or unauthorised entry or alteration to be made on or in any register or filed instrument,commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.
- (2) Any person who, after the delivery to him of a summons to attend before the Registrar or to produce any document neglects or refuses without reasonable cause, to —
 - (a) attend in accordance with the summons, or
 - (b) produce any document which he is required by the summons to produce; or
 - (c) answer upon oath or otherwise any question which is lawfully put to him by the Registrar under the powers conferred by this Act,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars.

164. Recording of unpaid fees.

- (1) The Registrar may act notwithstanding that the prescribed fee or any part thereof has not been paid, but the unpaid fee or part of a fee shall be recorded in the register.
- (2) The Registrar may refuse to register a disposition of any land, lease or charge against which unpaid fees are recorded until such fees are paid.

165. Recovery of fees and expenses.

Unpaid fees or expenses incurred by the Registrar in respect of his functions under this Act shall constitute a civil debt recoverable by the Registrar in the court.

166. Enforcement of Registrar's orders for payment.

An order for the payment of a sum of money made by the Registrar under any power conferred by this Act shall be deemed to be an order of the court and shall be enforceable as such.

167. Jurisdiction of courts.

Civil suits and proceedings relating to the ownership or the possession of land, or to a lease or charge, registered under this Act, or to any interest in any such land, lease or charge, being an interest which is registered which is referred to in section 37 shall be tried by the Supreme Court.

168. Regulations.

The Minister may make regulations generally to give effect to the purposes and provisions of this Act, and in particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, for prescribing the forms to be used and the fees payable for anything to be done hereunder and for prescribing anything which under this Act may be prescribed.

169. Saving of rights.

Nothing in this Act shall prejudice any of the interests, rights, powers and privileges conferred on the Crown or the Government by any other law.

170. Act binds Crown.

Subject to section 169, this Act binds the Crown.

