

CHAPTER 387

THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS ACT

[PRINCIPAL LEGISLATION]

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section Title

PART I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Short title.
2. Application.
3. Interpretation.

PART II

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PRISONERS TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

4. Designation of countries.
5. Request for transfer.
6. Obligation to furnish information.
7. Insane or mentally disordered prisoners.
8. Means of communicating information on requests.
9. Supporting documents.
10. Remission.
11. Detention of transferred prisoners.
12. Parole.
13. Prerogative of mercy.

PART III

TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

14. Transfer of prisoner from United Republic of Tanzania.

PART IV

CUSTODY AND TRANSFER OF PRISONERS

15. Prisoner in lawful custody during transfer.
16. Continued enforcement.

17. Termination of enforcement.
18. Cost of transfer of sentenced prisoners.
19. Transit prisoners.
20. Regulations.
21. Omitted.

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CHAPTER 387

THE TRANSFER OF PRISONERS ACT

An Act to provide for the transfer of prisoners between the United Republic of Tanzania and other countries for the purpose of enforcing sentences of imprisonment passed upon them and to provide for matters connected therewith.

[1st July, 2004]

[GN. No. 274 of 2004]

Act No.
10 of 2004

PART I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

- Short title **1.** This Act may be cited as the Transfer of Prisoners Act
- Application **2.** This Act shall apply to a prisoner who is already serving a sentence of imprisonment on the date of commencement of this Act in a country designated by the Minister in accordance with section 4 of this Act
- Interpretation
Cap. 387 **3.** In this Act unless the context requires otherwise-
“Act” means the Transfer of Prisoners Act;
“appropriate authority”; in relation to Tanzania; means the Minister or other person or authority designated by him for the purpose of this Act, and in relation to a foreign country means the authority responsible for the administration of the law relating to the transfer of prisoners;
“designated country” means a country designated pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of this Act;
“Minister” means the Minister responsible for matters relating to prisoners;
“prisoner” means a Tanzania citizen serving a sentence in a designated country or a citizen of a designated country serving a sentence in Tanzania;

“transfer” means transfer of a prisoner from a designated country to Tanzania or from Tanzania to a designated country; and

“warrant” means a judicial document authorising the transfer of a prisoner to or from the United Republic.

PART II

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PRISONERS TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Designation of
countries

4. Where an agreement has been made with a country in respect to the transfer of prisoners to Tanzania, the Minister may by an order published in the *Gazette*, declare that, this part of the Act shall apply in the case of that country subject to conditions, exceptions and qualifications as may be specified in the order, and this Part shall apply accordingly.

Request for
transfer

5.-(1) Where the Minister is requested by an appropriate authority of a designated country that-

- (a) a prisoner or his representative has applied for a transfer to Tanzania and that country has agreed to the transfer;
- (b) country requests the transfer and the prisoner consents to that transfer,

the Minister shall after consultation with the Attorney General determine whether he agrees to the transfer or not.

(2) A request made under this section for the transfer of a prisoner shall be accompanied by the following particulars:

- (a) the name, sex, date and place of birth, or if the date of birth is not known, the approximate age of the prisoner;
- (b) the prisoner’s address if any, in Tanzania;
- (c) a certified copy of the judgment or other order of the court;
- (d) a statement of the facts and circumstances upon which the conviction and sentence or other order were based;

- (e) the nature of the sentence, if any, its date of commencement and duration;
- (f) a medical or other report pertaining to the prisoner including a report of his treatment in the designated country together with any recommendation for further treatment in Tanzania;
- (g) the address of the prisoner's last residence;
- (h) full names and addresses of three referees who are citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania and are at the material time residing in Tanzania; and
- (i) any other information which the Minister may require to enable him to consider the desirability of a transfer.

(3) The Minister may, on receipt of an application under subsection (1), request the designated country to furnish him with information indicating that the prisoner -

- (a) has applied or consented to the transfer; or
- (b) by reason of his physical, mental condition or age appears to be incapable of acting for himself, and that an application has been made or consent has been given by another person on behalf of the prisoner.

(4) Where the application for transfer of a prisoner to Tanzania has been made by a prisoner or consent for transfer to Tanzania has been given by another person on behalf of a prisoner, and where the prisoner is habitual resident of Tanzania Zanzibar, the Minister shall before making a decision, consult with the Minister responsible for the custody of offenders in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar regarding the application and, where there is consensus in the affirmative, the provisions of this Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the transfer.

(5) In determining the request for transfer made under subsection (1), the Minister shall not agree to a transfer where the prisoner has less than six months of the sentence remaining to be served except on exceptional circumstances.

Obligation to furnish information

6.—(1) Where the Minister determines request for a transfer he shall—

- (a) inform the appropriate authority of a designated country of the decision; and
- (b) where he agrees to the transfer, issue a warrant in the prescribed form for that purpose.

(2) A prisoner or his representative who is aggrieved by the decision of the Minister may appeal to a court.

(3) Where the Minister agrees to the transfer a prisoner, he shall issue a warrant authorising—

- (a) the bringing of the prisoner from the designated country to the United Republic of Tanzania;
- (b) the taking of the prisoner by an authorised person to a place of detention as may be indicated in the warrant; and
- (c) the detention of the prisoner in accordance with the provisions as may be provided in the warrant, being provisions appearing to the Minister to be appropriate for giving effect to the arrangements in accordance with which the prisoner is transferred.

Insane or mentally disordered prisoners

7. Where a citizen of the United Republic, having been charged with an offence in a designated country, has been—

- (a) ordered by a court of that country to be detained because he has been found to be insane or mentally disordered or mentally defective prisoner and unfit to stand trial;
- (b) found guilty of an offence but was insane at the time of the commission of the offence,

that person may be transferred to the United Republic at the request of the appropriate authority of that country and with the consent of the Attorney General.

Means of communicating information on requests

8.—(1) A request for the transfer of a prisoner and the reply thereto shall be made in writing.

(2) The communications relating to the transfer of a sentenced prisoner shall be through means as may be prescribed.

Supporting documents

9.-(1) A certified copy of a judgment or other order referred to in paragraph (c) of section 5(2) shall-

- (a) be accepted as conclusive proof of the facts stated therein; and
- (b) have effect as if it were a judgment or other order of a court of competent jurisdiction in Tanzania.

(2) A document required under this Act to be certified shall, where that document purports to be certified or signed by a judicial officer of authority or by the person in charge of any penal institution in the country in which the prisoner was detained, and without proof of the signature or the official character of the person by whom it purports to be signed or certified, be accepted as evidence of the facts stated therein unless the contrary is proved.

(3) The document referred to in this section, shall when accepted-

- (a) be treated as though it was duly certified or signed in relation to a person convicted and sentenced in Tanzania; and
- (b) subject to this Act, have effect according to the terms thereof.

Remission

10.-(1) A transferred prisoner sentenced to a term of imprisonment shall be-

- (a) credited with any remission of that term to which he had become entitled at the date of his transfer in accordance with the law relating to remission of prison sentences in the designated country; and
- (b) credited to earn remission of the remaining term of imprisonment as if he has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of the same length by a court in Tanzania.

(2) The remission of imprisonment referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall be liable to forfeiture for a disciplinary offence as if it were remission earned by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (1).

Detention of
transferred
prisoners

11.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a transferred prisoner shall be detained in a prison or other institution as the Minister may direct for the unexpired portion of his sentence

Cap. 13

(2) A transferred prisoner who would, if he had been convicted in Tanzania, have been treated by reason of his age as a young offender within the meaning of the Child Act and sentenced accordingly, shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

Parole

12.—(1) Where a prisoner has, before transfer been released on parole in the designated country and the parole was subsequently revoked, the time spent on parole shall count towards the completion of sentence in Tanzania.

(2) A transferred prisoner who is, at the date of his transfer on parole in the designated country in which he was convicted and sentenced shall, upon transfer to Tanzania, be treated as a person on parole, notwithstanding that, a prisoner may not be eligible for parole under the law relating to parole of Tanzania.

(3) A breach of any condition of parole or of a conditional of pardon shall render the offender liable to the same consequences as if he had been granted respite, or had been conditionally pardoned, in accordance with the laws of Tanzania.

Prerogative of
mercy
Cap. 2

13.—(1) This Act shall not be construed as limiting the President from exercising prerogative of mercy provided for in Article 45 of the Constitution of the United Republic.

(2) Where the prerogative of mercy has been exercised in a designated country in respect of a transferred prisoner, a pardon granted pursuant thereto, shall to the extent to which that prerogative is exercised, have effect as if it were a pardon granted by the President to the transferred prisoner in terms of Article 45 of the Constitution of the United Republic.

PART III
TRANSFER OF PRISONERS FROM THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Transfer of
prisoner from
United Republic
of Tanzania

14.—(1) Where an agreement between Tanzania and a designated country has been or is deemed to have been entered into, the Principal Commissioner of Prisons shall, as far as practicable, cause to be informed prisoners who are citizens of designated country of the purpose of the agreement.

(2) A prisoner may apply in writing to the Minister through the Principal Commissioner of Prisons to be transferred to a designated country.

(3) The Minister shall, where he agrees to the application for the transfer, cause to be sent to the responsible person of the designated country—

- (a) the application made by the prisoner or certified copy of the application; and
- (b) particulars of the kind set out in section 5.

(4) Where the designated country agrees to the transfer of a prisoner, the Minister shall cause to be sent to appropriate authority a request for a warrant issued under subsection (3), authorising the taking of the sentenced prisoner from his place of detention to a place of departure in Tanzania and his delivery at that place into the custody of the responsible authority of the country to which the sentenced prisoner is to be transferred.

(5) Where an application for transfer outside the United Republic has been made by a prisoner or consent for the transfer has been given by another person on behalf of the prisoner, and where the prisoner is detained in Tanzania Zanzibar, the Minister shall before making any decision consult with the Minister responsible for the custody of offenders in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar regarding the application and, where there is consensus in the affirmative, the provisions of this Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the transfer.

PART IV

CUSTODY AND TRANSFER OF PRISONERS

Prisoner in lawful custody during transfer **15.**—(1) A prisoner, while being transferred to or from Tanzania, shall be deemed to be in lawful custody of the person who is duly authorised to escort him.

(2) Where a prisoner referred to under subsection (1) escapes from the lawful custody, he shall be treated in the same manner as a person escaping from custody under a warrant issued for his arrest in Tanzania.

Continued enforcement
Cap. 2 **16.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, where the sentence imposed by the foreign country upon a sentenced prisoner who is transferred to Tanzania by its nature or duration is incompatible with any law of the United Republic, the President shall invoke the provisions of Article 45 of the Constitution of the United Republic:

Provided that, the legal nature of the sentence imposed shall so far as possible, correspond with that of the sentence imposed by a foreign country

Termination of enforcement **17.**—(1) Where a prisoner is serving a sentence in Tanzania consequent upon transfer, and the Minister is satisfied that, the designated country from which he has been transferred has immediately before his transfer to Tanzania exercised the power of pardon or any other power which renders the sentence no longer enforceable in that country, or that the sentence completed, the prisoner shall no longer be subject to detention by reason only of that sentence.

(2) Where a foreign sentenced prisoner is serving a sentence in a designated country consequent upon his transfer from Tanzania under this Act, and the power which renders the sentence no longer enforceable in Tanzania has been exercised or the sentence has been completed, the Minister shall forthwith inform the designated country to which the foreign prisoner was transferred that, he is no longer subject to detention by reason only of that sentence.

Cost of transfer
of sentenced
prisoners

18.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the cost of a transfer of a prisoner under this Act shall be borne out by Tanzania and the designated country in the proportion as may be agreed upon by them.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4), in the case of a transfer of a prisoner who is a Tanzanian citizen, the expenses of the transfer shall be borne by the prisoner or by his agent, and for this purpose, the Minister shall have the power to require a person with or without a surety to give an undertaking to pay the expenses to the Minister.

(3) The expenses referred to in subsection (2) shall be regarded as a civil debt owed to the Government of Tanzania.

(4) The provisions of subsections (2) and (3) shall not apply where it appears to the Minister that, it would be unreasonable for him to exercise the power conferred by these subsections because-

- (a) of the exceptional circumstances of the case; or
- (b) the means of the sentenced prisoner are insufficient to meet the expenses, and their recovery, whether immediately or at some future time, from the sentenced prisoner or from any other source is impracticable.

Transit prisoners

19.—(1) Where-

- (a) a designated country has agreed with a third country to transfer a prisoner into or out of its territory pursuant to an arrangement relating to the transfer of prisoners; and
- (b) that country seeking permission for the prisoner and escorting officer to land and transit in Tanzania during the course of the transfer, shall apply to the Minister, for a permission to land and transit in Tanzania.

(2) The Minister may refuse to issue a permit for transit where-

- (a) the person sought to be transferred is a citizen of Tanzania;
- (b) the offence for which the sentence was imposed is not an offence under the laws of Tanzania; or

(c) the person being transferred is wanted in Tanzania in respect of any offence against the laws of Tanzania.

(3) A permit issued under subsection (1) shall not authorise the holding of the prisoner in custody in Tanzania for a time as is reasonably necessary to facilitate the transfer between the requesting country and the country of destination.

(4) A prisoner who is being transferred pursuant to a permit issued under subsection (1) shall not while in Tanzania, be detained or otherwise subjected to any restriction on his liberty in respect of an offence committed or sentence imposed prior to his departure from the territory of the designated country.

Regulations

20.—(1) The Minister may make regulations as may be necessary for better and proper administration of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under this section may provide for—

(a) the form and manner in which a prisoner may apply to be transferred to or from Tanzania;

(b) any matter which is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act; and

(c) generally any matter in respect of which the Minister considers it necessary or expedient to make regulations for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

(3) Different regulations may be made in respect of different designated countries.

Omitted

21. [Omitted].
