

# BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

No. 17 of 1927.

[Promulgated 29th April, 1927.]

## PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency The High Commissioner

Entitled "The Bechuanaland Protectorate Witchcraft Proclamation, 1927."

Whereas it is expedient to suppress the imputation or practice of pretended witchcraft in the Bechuanaland Protectorate;

Now therefore under and by virtue of the powers in me vested I do hereby proclaim, declare and make known as follows:—

1. Any person who imputes to another the use of non-natural means in causing any disease in any person, animal or thing, or in causing injury to any person or property, or who shall name or indicate another as a wizard or witch, or who by means of pretended supernatural power indicates any one as being responsible for, or the cause of, any injury to any person, animal or thing shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three years.

2. Any person who having named or indicated another as a wizard or witch or having by means of pretended supernatural power indicated another as being responsible for, or the cause of, any injury to any person, animal or thing shall be proved to be by habit or repute a witch doctor or witch finder shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding five years.

3. Any person who employs or solicits any witch doctor or witch finder to name or indicate another as a wizard or witch shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three months.

4. Any person professing a knowledge of so-called witchcraft or the use of charms who shall advise any person applying to him how to bewitch or injure persons, animals or other property, or who shall supply any person with the pretended means of witchcraft, shall be liable on conviction to the punishments provided by section *two*.

5. Any person who on the advice of a witch doctor or of his pretended knowledge of so-called witchcraft shall with intent to injure use or cause to be put into operation such means or processes as he believes to be calculated to injure any person or property shall be liable upon conviction to the punishments provided in section *two*.

6. Any person who for purposes of gain pretends to exercise or use any kind of supernatural power, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment or conjuration, or undertakes to tell fortunes, or pretends from his skill or knowledge in any occult science to discover where or in what manner anything supposed to have been stolen or lost may be found shall be liable upon conviction to the punishments provided by section *two*.

7. This Proclamation may be cited as the Bechuanaland Protectorate Witchcraft Proclamation, 1927, and shall have force and take effect from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Capetown this Twenty-second day of April One thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-seven.

ATHLONE,

High Commissioner.

By Command of His Excellency  
the High Commissioner.

SHIRLEY FALES,  
Acting Imperial Secretary.