

**PETROLEUM (EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION)  
ACT, 1981**

No. 12



of 1981

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**SCHEDULE**

**An Act to make provision relating to the exploration for and exploitation of Petroleum Resources and for purposes incidental thereto or connected therewith**

*Dated Assent: 16. 9.81.*

*Date of Commencement: On Notice.*

**ENACTED** by the Parliament of Botswana

**PART I – *Preliminary***

1. This Act may be cited as the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 1981, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, appoint.

Short title  
and Com-  
mencement

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, –  
 “authorized officer” means a person appointed under section 88;  
 “block” means a block constituted as provided by section 5;  
 “development area” means an area of land subject to a development licence;  
 “development licence” means a licence granted under section 36;  
 “development operations” means operations for or in connexion with the production of petroleum;  
 “drilling” means the perforation of the earth’s surface, whether the hole is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and includes all operations for preventing the collapse of the sides of the hole or for preventing the hole from becoming filled by any extraneous material (including water) and the fitting of wellheads, or coring or logging, and any operations incidental thereto;  
 “exploration area” means an area of land subject to an exploration licence;  
 “exploration licence” means a licence granted under section 18;

Interpretation

“exploration operations” means operations for or in connexion with the exploration for petroleum;

“good oilfield practices” means those things which are generally accepted as good, safe and efficient in the carrying on of exploration or development operations;

“in default” means in breach of a provision of this Act or of a condition of a licence, or of a condition of an agreement under section 12;

“land” includes land beneath water;

“licence” means an exploration or a development licence;

“location” means a block in respect of which a declaration under section 31 is in force;

“petroleum” means any naturally occurring —

- (a) hydrocarbon;
- (b) mixture of hydrocarbons; or
- (c) mixture of one or more hydrocarbons and any other substance,

whether in gaseous, liquid or solid form, and includes petroleum which has been returned to a natural reservoir, but does not include coal or a substance which may be extracted from coal;

“petroleum reservoir” means a natural occurring discrete accumulation of petroleum in any form whatsoever;

“processing” does not include refining of petroleum;

“registered holder”, in relation to a licence, means the person whose name is for the time being recorded pursuant to section 49 or 51 (5);

“well” means a hole made by drilling in land or the subsoil of land in connexion with exploration or development operations, but does not include a seismic shot hole.

(2) (a) Where in this Act provision is made for a matter to be referred to arbitration, the matter shall be referred to a single arbitrator appointed by the parties.

(b) In the event of the parties being unable to agree on a single arbitrator, each party shall choose an arbitrator, and the arbitrators so chosen shall choose an umpire.

(c) Arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Act.

(3) Where in this Act any application, report or other document is required to be submitted to the Minister, such application report or document shall be submitted, —

(a) in the case of an exploration licence, through the Director of Geological Survey; and

(b) in the case of a development licence, through the Mining Commissioner.

3. A right to search for or mine any mineral, as defined in section 2 of the Mines and Minerals Act, shall not be granted or exercised under this Act.

Act not to apply to certain minerals  
Cap. 66:01

4. (1) The entire property in and control over petroleum in any land are hereby vested in the Republic.

Petroleum vested in State

(2) Subject to section 67, no person shall carry on in any land any exploration or development operations except under and in accordance with a licence granted under this Act.

(3) Any person who contravenes any provision of subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction —

(a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding P1 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both; or

(b) in the case of a company, to a fine not exceeding P10 000.

5. (1) For the purposes of this Act the surface of the earth shall be deemed to be divided into sections by the —

Constitution of blocks

(a) meridian of Greenwich and meridians which are at a distance from that meridian of 5 minutes or a multiple of 5 minutes of longitude; and

(b) equator and parallels of latitude which are a distance from the equator of 5 minutes or a multiple of 5 minutes of latitude,

each of which is bounded by portions of 2 of those —

(i) meridians which are at a distance from each other of 5 minutes of longitude; and

(ii) parallels of latitude which are at a distance from each other of 5 minutes of latitude,

and each such section shall constitute a block.

(2) Where a block constituted as provided in subsection (1) would include land in Botswana and land outside Botswana, the block shall be treated as being constituted by land in Botswana.

#### PART II — Administration

6. (1) No person shall disclose any information obtained by him or in connexion with the administration of this Act except where the disclosure is made —

Prohibition of disclosure

(a) for or in connexion with the administration of this Act;

(b) to a person, being a consultant to or officer employed by the Government, who is approved by the Minister to receive such information;

(c) for the purpose of any legal proceedings;

(d) for the purpose of preparing official statistics or publications; or

(e) for any purpose which may be prescribed.

(2) Where an area has been but is no longer subject to a licence, nothing in subsection (1) shall, except where the Minister otherwise directs, operate to prevent the disclosure by or on

behalf of the Government of any geological information or matter concerning that area.

(3) Any person who contravenes any provision of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P1 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both.

(4) Where proceedings are instituted for an offence under this section, it shall be a sufficient defence where the accused person proves that the information disclosed was, prior to the disclosure, generally known.

Public officer not to acquire or hold certain rights

7. (1) No public officer shall, directly or indirectly, acquire any right or interest in any licence, and any document or transaction purporting to confer any right or interest on any such officer shall be null and void.

(2) No public officer employed in the Ministry shall acquire or retain any share in a private company carrying on exploration or development operations in Botswana:

Provided that the Minister may authorize a departure from the provisions of this subsection where, in his opinion, the operations in Botswana of the company concerned form a negligible part of the total operations of that company.

(3) Any person who contravenes any provision of subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both

Indemnity of officers

8. No public officer or other authorized officer shall be liable for any thing done or omitted to be done *bona fide* in the performance or purported performance of any function vested in or delegated to him by or under this Act.

Retention of cores and samples

9. (1) No core or sample obtained in the course of the exercise of powers conferred by a licence shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of except for the purposes of identification or analysis without the permission in writing of the Minister, who may grant such permission subject to such conditions as he may deem fit to impose.

(2) Where any core or sample is retained for the purpose of complying with subsection (1), there shall be maintained a record in such degree of particularity as the Minister may require sufficient for the identification of the core or sample and the location and geological horizon of its origin.

(3) Any person who destroys or disposes of a core or sample in contravention of subsection (1) or fails to maintain a record as required by subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence.

Preference for Botswana products, etc.

10. (1) The holder of every licence shall, in the conduct of his operations under such licence, and in the purchase, construction and installation of facilities, give preference to the maximum extent possible consistent with safety, efficiency and economy, to —

- (a) materials and products made in Botswana; and
- (b) service agencies located in Botswana and owned by Botswana citizens or bodies corporate established under the Companies Act.

(2) The holder of a licence shall, in all phases of his operations, give preference in employment to citizens of Botswana to the maximum extent possible consistent with safety, efficiency and economy.

(3) The holder of a licence shall, in his operations, conduct training programmes in consultation with the Minister for the benefit of employees so that such employees may qualify for advancement.

PART III – Licences  
General

11. No licence shall be granted to or held by –
- (a) an individual who –
    - (i) is under the age of 21 years;
    - (ii) is not a citizen of Botswana or has not been ordinarily resident in Botswana for a period of 4 years or such other period as may be prescribed;
    - (iii) is or becomes an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt, whether under the laws of Botswana or elsewhere; or
    - (iv) has been convicted, within the previous 10 years, of any offence of which dishonesty is an element, or of any offence under this Act, the Employment Act or any similar written law in force outside Botswana, and has been sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or to a fine exceeding P300 or the equivalent thereof;
  - (b) a company –
    - (i) which has not established a *domicilium citandi et executandi* in Botswana;
    - (ii) unless, in the case of a development licence, such company is incorporated under the companies Act; or
    - (iii) which is in liquidation except where such liquidation is part of a scheme for the reconstruction or amalgamation of such company.
12. The Minister may enter into an agreement with any person in respect of any or all of the following matters –
- (a) the grant of a licence;
  - (b) the conditions to be included in a licence; or
  - (c) any matter incidental to or connected with the grant of a licence.
13. An application under this Act –
- (a) shall be made to the Minister in such form as may be approved by the Minister or prescribed; and

Restrictions on persons to whom licence may be granted

Cap. 47:01

Agreement with respect to grant, etc. of licences

Applications to be made to Minister

Powers of Minister to obtain information	<p>(b) may be withdrawn by the applicant giving to the Minister in writing a notice of withdrawal.</p> <p>14. (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on an applicant for the grant of a licence, require the applicant to furnish in writing, within such reasonable time as is specified in the notice, —</p> <p>(a) such further information in connexion with the application as the Minister may reasonably require; or</p> <p>(b) where the applicant is a company, such information as the Minister may reasonably require to enable him to ascertain to what extent the controlling power (whether directly or indirectly) relating to the affairs of the company may be vested in a company incorporated outside Botswana or in an individual resident outside Botswana.</p> <p>(2) To enable him to dispose of an application for the grant of a licence the Minister may cause such investigations, negotiations or consultations to be made or carried out as he considers necessary.</p>
Form of licence Reservation of blocks	<p>15. A licence shall be in such form as may be approved by the Minister or prescribed.</p> <p>16. (1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare that a block specified in the order (not being a block in respect of which a licence is in force) shall not be the subject of a licence.</p> <p>(2) While a declaration in respect of a block under subsection (1) remains in force, a licence shall not be granted in respect of that block.</p> <p>(3) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, vary or revoke any declaration published under this section.</p>
Application for exploration licence	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Exploration Licences</i></p> <p>17. (1) A person may make an application for the grant of an exploration licence in respect of any block.</p> <p>(2) the Minister, may by notice published in the Gazette, invite applications for the grant of an exploration licence in respect of any block, specifying therein the period during which applications may be made.</p> <p>(3) An application for a licence under this section shall be made in writing and shall contain the following particulars —</p> <p>(a) the full name and nationality of the applicant, or, in the case of a partnership or other association of persons, the full names and nationalities of all partners or of all such persons, or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered name of such body, the full names and nationalities of the directors and the full name and nationality of any shareholder who is the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the issued capital;</p>

- (b) full information as to the applicant's financial status, technical competence and experience;
  - (c) a description of the area constituted by the blocks in respect of which the application is being made;
  - (d) proposals with respect to the employment and training of Botswana citizens;
  - (e) a proposed programme of exploration operations and the estimated cost thereof; and
  - (f) any other matter which the applicant may wish the Minister to consider.
- (4) An area described in an application under this section shall be constituted by blocks which –
- (a) form a single area; and
  - (b) are such that each block in that area has a side in common with at least one other block in that area.

18. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, on application duly made the Minister may grant, on such conditions as he may determine, or refuse to grant an exploration licence in respect of any block. Disposal of application for exploration

- (2) An exploration licence shall not be granted in respect of a block which is, at the time the application for a licence is made, –
- (a) comprised in a licence already granted; or
  - (b) reserved by declaration under section 16.

19. (1) the Minister shall cause the applicant to be notified in writing of his decision on the application and, where the grant of an exploration licence is approved, such notification shall include the terms and conditions on which it is granted. Notification of grant or rejection

- (2) Where the applicant –
- (a) notifies the Minister, in writing, within 60 days of the date of notification or within such further period as the Minister may allow, that he accepts the terms and conditions to be attached to the exploration licence, the Minister shall cause the exploration licence to be issued; or
  - (b) fails to notify the Minister in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a), the application shall lapse.

20. (1) An exploration licence shall be in such form as the Minister may determine and shall – Form and content of exploration licence

- (a) include the terms and conditions on which it is granted;
- (b) include a description and place of the exploration area; and
- (c) state the period for which it is granted.

(2) There shall be appended to an exploration licence a programme of exploration operations.

(3) There may be included in an exploration licence a condition requiring the applicant to agree to the Government or a person nominated on its behalf, on such terms as may be agreed, acquiring or having an interest in any venture to explore for or

recover petroleum which may be carried out in any block in the licensed area.

Rights  
conferred by  
exploration  
licence

21. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the conditions specified in the licence, an exploration licence shall confer on the holder thereof exclusive rights to explore for petroleum in the exploration area and to carry on such operations and execute such work as shall be necessary for that purpose.

(2) Where, in the course of exercising his rights under an exploration licence, the holder of the licence discovers any other mineral, he shall, within 30 days immediately following such discovery, notify the Minister thereof in writing.

Term of  
exploration  
licence

22. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the conditions specified in the licence, an exploration licence shall remain in force —

- (a) for a period not exceeding 4 years;
- (b) where the licence is renewed under section 25, for such period as may be specified in an application for renewal not exceeding 4 years in respect of a first renewal, and not exceeding 3 years in respect of a second or third renewal;
- (c) where the licence is renewed under section 26, for the further period to be specified by the Minister upon the grant of the renewal.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Minister may renew an exploration licence for a period in excess of any period specified in that subsection where, in his opinion, special circumstances exist justifying such further period.

Application  
for renewal of  
exploration

23. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section and to section 24, a registered holder of an exploration licence may apply for a renewal of the licence in respect of any block in the exploration area.

- (2) An application under this section —
- (a) may be made 3 times only in respect of an exploration licence;
  - (b) shall be made not later than 90 days immediately prior to the day on which the licence is due to expire and shall be accompanied by —
    - (i) particulars of the work carried out and the amount expended in respect of the exploration area during the term of the licence, or, where the application is for a second or third renewal of the licence, during the period of the previous renewal, up to and including the date of the application; and
    - (ii) adequate proposals concerning the work to be carried out and the minimum amount to be expended during the period of the renewal for which application is made; and

(c) may set out any other matter which the applicant may wish the Minister to consider.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) an application may, with the permission of the Minister, be made more than 3 times in respect of an exploration licence and the Minister may renew such a licence for such period as he considers necessary if in his opinion special circumstances exist justifying such further renewal.

24. (1) Subject to any agreement under section 12, the number of blocks in respect of which an application for a renewal of an exploration licence may be made shall not exceed the number which is the total of –

Application for renewal to be in respect of reduced area

(a) the number of blocks (if any) which, at the date on which the licence would expire if not renewed, constitute a location; and

(b) one-half of the area in respect of which the licence was issued or last renewed, as the case may be.

(2) Subject to any agreement under section 12, the blocks specified in an application for a renewal of an exploration licence shall be blocks which –

(a) constitute a single area or not more than 3 discrete areas; and

(b) are such that each block in each area has a side in common with at least one other block in that area.

25. (1) Subject to subsection (2), on application duly made under section 23 the Minister shall grant a renewal of the licence.

Grant or refusal of renewal of exploration licence

(2) The Minister shall refuse to grant a renewal of an exploration licence where the registered holder thereof is in default (except where, notwithstanding the default, the Minister considers that special circumstances exist which justify the granting of the renewal) or where the proposals accompanying the application pursuant to section 23 (2) (b) (ii) in respect of work and expenditure during the renewal period are not adequate.

(3) The Minister shall not refuse to grant a renewal of an exploration licence on application being duly made under section 23 –

(a) before giving to the applicant notice in writing to his intention so to do, such notice to state particulars of the grounds for the intended refusal and the date before which the applicant may take remedial action or make representations in relation to such grounds; and

(b) where the applicant has, before the date specified in a notice under paragraph (a), remedied the default or, in notice in writing to the Minister, made representations which, in the opinion of the Minister, remove the grounds for the intended refusal.

(4) The Minister shall give to an applicant for a renewal of an exploration licence notice in writing of his decision thereon and,

Renewal of  
exploration  
licence in  
respect of  
locations

where he is prepared to grant the renewal, he shall give particulars of any variation of the conditions of the licence which may be required in order for the renewal to be granted.

(5) Where, within 60 days immediately following a notice under subsection (4) that the Minister is prepared to grant a renewal of an exploration licence, the applicant fails to give notice in writing to the Minister of his acceptance thereof, his application shall lapse.

(6) Where an application for a renewal of an exploration licence has been duly made and the licence expires before the —

(a) Minister grants or refuses to grant a renewal thereof; or

(b) application lapses under subsection (5),

the licence shall be deemed to continue in force until the Minister grants or refuses to grant a renewal of the licence or the application lapses, whichever first occurs, except where the licence is cancelled under this Act or the application for a renewal is withdrawn.

26. (1) Where —

(a) petroleum is discovered in an exploration area within a period of 2 years immediately prior to the date of expiration of an exploration licence which has been renewed 3 times under section 25; and

(b) the Minister has made a declaration of a location under section 31, or the registered holder of the licence has nominated a block under section 30 for the purpose of a declaration of a location,

the Minister may grant a further renewal of the licence in respect of the block to which paragraph (b) applies.

(2) A further renewal granted under subsection (1) shall be for a period not exceeding 3 years and be subject to any condition which the Minister thinks necessary and specifies in the licence.

(3) Where, prior to the expiration of an exploration licence which includes blocks which constitute a location, the registered holder of the licence makes application for a renewal or a further renewal of the licence in respect of some or all of those blocks and satisfies the Minister that —

(a) the blocks contain all or part of a petroleum reservoir; and

(b) the construction, establishment and operation of facilities for the recovery of petroleum is economically feasible,

the Minister may grant a renewal or a further renewal of the exploration licence in respect of those blocks.

(4) A renewal of a licence under subsection (3) shall be for a period not exceeding one year.

(5) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, the Minister may renew an exploration licence for a period in excess of any period specified in the preceding provisions of this section, if in his opinion, special circumstances exist justifying such further period.

27. (1) In addition to any condition specified in an exploration licence under section 20 or a renewal of that licence under section 26, the licence shall be subject to the following conditions, namely —
- (a) that not later than one month immediately prior to the anniversary in any year of the grant of the licence, the registered holder of the licence shall submit in writing to the Minister details of an adequate programme in respect of work to be carried out and the amount to be expended in the year following; and
- (b) that in relation to the exploration area, the registered holder of the licence shall, subject to subsection (3), meet the conditions of the licence in respect of work and expenditure.
- (2) Any moneys required to be spent under the provisions of subsection (1) which are not so spent shall be a debt due to Government recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) The Minister may (either conditionally or unconditionally), on application in writing made to him by the registered holder of an exploration licence, limit, reduce, vary or suspend any obligation arising pursuant to subsection (1) (b).

Conditions  
of grant of  
exploration  
licence

*Discovery of Petroleum in Exploration Area*

28. (1) Where petroleum is discovered in an exploration area, the registered holder of the licence —
- (a) shall forthwith inform the Minister of the discovery;
- (b) shall, within a period of 30 days after the date of the discovery, furnish to the Minister particulars in writing of the discovery; and
- (c) shall take all necessary steps within such time as may be reasonably required for the purpose of determining the chemical composition and physical properties of that petroleum and the quantity of petroleum in the petroleum reservoir to which the discovery relates, or if part only of that petroleum reservoir is within the exploration area in that part of the reservoir which is within the exploration area.
- (2) Any person who contravenes any provision of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P1 000.
29. (1) On receipt of the information required under section 28, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of the licence, direct the holder to furnish to him in writing, within such reasonable period as may be specified in the notice, particulars of any of the following —
- (a) the chemical composition and physical properties of the petroleum;
- (b) the nature of the subsoil in which the petroleum occurs;

Discovery  
of petroleum  
to be notified

Directions  
of Minister  
on discovery  
of petroleum

- (c) the quantity of petroleum in the petroleum reservoir to which the discovery relates, or if part only of that petroleum reservoir is within the exploration area, in that part of the reservoir which is within the exploration area; and
- (d) any other matter relating to the discovery that are specified in the notice.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with any provision of this section or any direction given under this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P1 000.

Nomination  
of block for  
purpose of  
declaring  
location

30. (1) Where petroleum has been discovered in a block (in this section and section 31 referred to as a discovery block) within an exploration area (not a block which is or is included in a location), the registered holder of the licence –

- (a) may; or
- (b) shall, if required so to do by the Minister by notice in writing served on the registered holder, –

by notice in writing served on the Minister, nominate such discovery block in respect of which an exploration licence is in force for the purpose of making a declaration under section 31.

(2) Where a registered holder of an exploration licence who has been required, by notice in writing served on him under subsection (1), to nominate a discovery block does not, within such reasonable period of time as may be specified in the notice, nominate the block, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of the exploration licence, nominate the block.

Declaration  
of location

31. (1) Where a registered holder of an exploration licence or the Minister has nominated a discovery block under section 30, the Minister shall, by order published in the Gazette declare –

- (a) that discovery block; and
- (b) such of the adjoining blocks that immediately adjoin that block (not exceeding 8 in number),

to be a location for the purposes of this Act.

(2) At the request of a registered holder of an exploration licence the Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, –

- (a) include in a location additional adjoining blocks; or
- (b) revoke the declaration of a location in respect of one or more than one block:

Provided that a location shall not at any time include more than 9 blocks.

(3) For the purposes of this section a block adjoins a discovery block where such block has a side in common with or touches –

- (a) a discovery block;
- (b) a block which has a side in common with or touches a discovery block.

32. (1) Where a location has been declared under section 31 the Minister may, by notice in writing, served on the registered holder of an exploration licence, direct that the holder carry out, within a period (being not less than 2 years) specified in the notice, such investigations and studies as are necessary and reasonable to assess the feasibility of the construction, establishment and operation of an industry for the recovery of petroleum from the location. Investigations  
of locations

(2) The investigations and studies referred to in subsection (1) may include –

- (a) technical and economic feasibility studies relating to the recovery, processing and transportation of petroleum from the location;
- (b) studies of proposed sites for facilities which would be required by the industry;
- (c) studies of roads, pipelines or other transportation facilities;
- (d) investigations into –
  - (i) suitable water facilities and reticulation systems for industrial and town purposes;
  - (ii) the location and design of a suitable airstrip and associated landing and terminal facilities, if so required, for the industry;
  - (iii) the generation and transmission of electricity required for the industry; and
  - (iv) the development, if required, of a suitable town for the industry, including the design of housing and associated civic, cultural and social facilities;
- (e) investigations of any other works, services or facilities in relation to the location which may be required for the industry;
- (f) studies of future labour requirements for the industry; and
- (g) physical impact studies into the possible effects of the industry on the environment.

(3) A registered holder of an exploration licence shall furnish in writing to the Minister, within the period specified in a notice under subsection (1), such reports, analyses and data resulting from the investigations and studies carried out under this section as the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the holder, require.

33. A registered holder of an exploration licence shall not, without the written permission of the Minister and subject to such conditions as he may determine, remove any petroleum from an exploration area except for the purposes of having such petroleum analysed, determining its value or to conduct tests thereon. Removal and  
disposal of  
petroleum

### *Development Licences*

Application  
by registered  
holder of  
exploration  
licence for  
development  
licence

34. (1) A registered holder of an exploration licence whose licence is in force in respect of blocks which constitute a location may, within 2 years immediately following the date on which the blocks were declared to be a location, or such further period as the Minister may allow, make application for the grant of a development licence in respect of such of the blocks which the holder satisfies the Minister contain a petroleum reservoir or part of a petroleum reservoir.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), a registered holder of an exploration licence may, during the term of the licence, make application for the grant of a development licence in respect of any block which does not constitute a location within the exploration area if he satisfies the Minister that the block contains a petroleum reservoir or part of a petroleum reservoir.

(3) Any person who is not the registered holder of an exploration licence in respect of a block may make application for the grant of a development licence in respect of a block if –

- (a) he satisfies the Minister that the block contains a petroleum reservoir or part of a petroleum reservoir; and
- (b) the block is not a block in respect of which an exploration licence or a development licence is in force at the time of the application.

Application  
for develop-  
ment licence

35. An application for a licence under section 34 shall be made in writing and shall contain the following particulars –

- (a) the full name and nationality of the applicant, or, in the case of a partnership or other association of persons, the full names and nationalities of all partners or of all such persons, or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered name of such body, the names and nationalities of the directors and the full name and nationality of any shareholder who is the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the issued capital;
- (b) full information as to the applicant's financial status, technical competence and experience;
- (c) the number of the applicant's exploration licence;
- (d) the period for which the licence is sought;
- (e) the form of petroleum which it is intended to produce;
- (f) a comprehensive report of the petroleum deposit, which report shall include a description of the petroleum reservoir or deposit, the form of the petroleum and an estimate of the petroleum reserves;
- (g) details, illustrated by an approved plan, of the area in respect of which the application is made;
- (h) a technological report on production and processing possibilities and the intention of the applicant in relation thereto;

- (i) a proposed programme of production and processing operations which shall include –
  - (i) the date by which the applicant intends to work for profit;
  - (ii) the capacity of production and scale of operations;
  - (iii) the estimated overall recovery of petroleum and by-products;
  - (iv) the nature of the petroleum and by-products;
  - (v) the marketing arrangements made for the sale of the petroleum and by-products; and
  - (vi) a detailed programme for the progressive reclamation and rehabilitation of lands disturbed by petroleum extraction and for the minimization of the effect of such extraction on adjoining land or water area;
- (j) a detailed forecast of capital investment, operating costs and sales revenues and the anticipated type and source of financing;
- (k) proposals with respect to the employment and training of Botswana citizens;
- (l) a report of the goods and services required for the production and processing operations which can be obtained within Botswana and the applicant's intention in relation thereto;
- (m) details of expected infrastructure requirements; and
- (n) such further information as the Minister may require or as may be prescribed.

36. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 37 and to any agreement under section 12, on application duly made under – Disposal of application for development licence

- (a) section 34 (1) or (2), the Minister shall, on such conditions as he may determine, including in particular a condition requiring the applicant to agree to the Government or a person nominated on its behalf, on such terms as may be agreed, to acquire or have an interest in the production and processing operations in the development area, grant the development licence; **or**
- (b) ~~section~~ 34 (3), the Minister may grant, on such conditions, **as he may determine, or refuse to grant a development licence** in respect of any block.

(2) To enable him to dispose of an application for the grant of a development licence the Minister may, by notice in writing given to the applicant, require the applicant to furnish, within a period specified in the notice, in addition or by way of alteration to any proposals which have already been furnished, such proposals as the Minister may specify, including proposals relating to any matter referred to in section 32 (2).

37. (1) A development licence shall not be granted to an applicant unless – Restrictions on grant of development licence

- (a) the proposals of the applicant ensure the most efficient, beneficial and timely use of the petroleum resources concerned;
- (b) the applicant has adequate financial resources and technical and industrial competence and experience to carry on effective production operations;
- (c) the applicant is able and willing to comply with the conditions on which a licence may be granted;
- (d) the applicant's proposals for the employment and training of citizens of Botswana are satisfactory; and
- (e) the applicant is not in default.

(2) The Minister shall not refuse an application for the grant of a development licence on any grounds under subsection (1) unless he has —

- (a) given notice in writing to the applicant stating the grounds therefor; and
- (b) specified in the notice a date prior to which the applicant may make appropriate proposals to remove the grounds for refusal or make representations in relation thereto and the applicant has not, prior to such date, in writing made proposals or representations to the Minister.

Notice of decision on application for development licence

38. (1) The Minister shall give to an applicant for the grant of a development licence notice in writing of his decision thereon and, where he is prepared to grant the licence, he shall give in the notice details of the conditions relating to the grant of the licence.

(2) Where, within 60 days immediately following the receipt of a notice under subsection (1) that the Minister is prepared to grant a development licence, an applicant fails to give notice in writing to the Minister of his acceptance thereof, his application shall lapse.

Content of development licence

39. (1) A development licence shall specify —

- (a) the date of the grant of the licence;
- (b) the development area;
- (c) the conditions on which the licence is granted; and
- (d) particulars necessary for the purpose of giving effect to subsection (2).

(2) There may be included in a development licence such conditions as may be determined by the Minister in respect of the duty and the extent thereof of the registered holder of a development licence to supply petroleum or petroleum products to meet the requirements of Botswana.

Rights conferred by development licence

40. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the conditions specified in the licence, a development licence shall confer on the registered holder thereof exclusive rights —

- (a) to carry on exploration and development operations in the development area;
- (b) to sell or otherwise dispose of the petroleum recovered; and

(c) to carry on such operations and execute such work in the development area as may be considered necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect provisions of this section.

(2) Where, in the course of exercising his rights under a development licence, the holder of the licence discovers any other mineral, he shall, within 30 days immediately following such discovery notify the Minister thereof in writing;

41. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a development licence shall be valid for such period, not exceeding 25 years, as may be specified therein.

Duration  
and renewal  
of develop-  
ment licence

(2) The registered holder of a development licence may apply to the Minister for a renewal of his licence at any time not later than one year immediately prior to the expiry of such licence and subject to the provisions of subsection (4) the Minister shall grant a renewal of such licence.

(3) An application for renewal of a development licence shall state the period for which renewal is sought and shall be accompanied by –

(a) a proposed programme of production and processing operations to be carried on in the period of renewal; and

(b) details of –

(i) the latest proved, estimated and inferred petroleum and by-products reserves;

(ii) the capital investment to be made in, and production costs and revenue forecasts in respect of, the period of renewal;

(iii) any expected changes in methods of production or processing; and

such further information as the Minister may require, and shall be presented in such a way as to give a clear indication of any expected increase or reduction in the production activities and the estimated life of the reservoir.

(4) The Minister shall reject an application for renewal where –

(a) the applicant is in default;

(b) the Minister is not satisfied that –

(i) production of petroleum in a development area has proceeded with reasonable diligence;

(ii) petroleum in workable quantities remain to be produced; or

(iii) the proposed programme or production operations will ensure the most efficient and beneficial use of the petroleum resources in the development area.

(5) The Minister shall not reject an application on the ground referred to in –

(a) subsection (4) (a), unless the applicant has been given details in writing of the default and has failed to remedy the same within such reasonable time as the Minister may allow;

(b) subsection (4) (b) (i) or (ii), unless the applicant has been given reasonable opportunity to make written representations thereon to the Minister; or

(c) subsection (4) (b) (iii), unless the applicant has in writing been so notified and has failed to propose amendments to his proposed programme of production and processing operations satisfactory to the Minister within such time as the Minister may allow.

(6) The period of renewal of a development licence shall be for such period, not exceeding 20 years as the Minister may consider as reasonably necessary in accordance with good oilfield practices to recover from the development area, the maximum amount of petroleum.

(7) The Minister shall give to an applicant for a renewal of a development licence notice in writing of his decision thereon and, where he is prepared to grant the renewal, he shall give particulars of any variation of the conditions of the licence which may be required in order for the renewal to be granted.

(8) Where, within 60 days immediately following a notice under subsection (7) that the Minister is prepared to grant a renewal of a development licence, the applicant fails to give notice in writing to the Minister of his acceptance thereof, his application shall lapse.

(9) Where an application for a renewal of a development licence has been duly made and the licence expires before the —

(a) Minister grants or refuses to grant a renewal thereof; or

(b) application lapses under subsection (8),

the licence shall be deemed to continue in force until the Minister grants or refuses to grant a renewal of the licence or the application lapses, whichever first occurs, except where the licence is cancelled under this Act or the application for a renewal is withdrawn.

Revocation  
of declaration  
of location

42. (1) Where, in respect of a block included in a location, the registered holder of an exploration licence does not within —

(a) a period of 2 years immediately following the declaration of the location under section 31; or

(b) any further period which the Minister may allow under section 34 (1),

apply for a development licence, the Minister may, subject to any agreement under section 12, by order published in the Gazette, revoke the declaration of the location.

(2) Where the declaration of a location is revoked under subsection (1), —

(a) that part of the location which consists of the block which was the discovery block within the meaning of section 31 (4); and

- (b) any adjoining block in which the presence of petroleum has been established at the time of the revocation of the declaration,

shall cease to be subject to the exploration licence concerned.

(3) Where an application made under section 34 (1) for a development licence in respect of a block which is included in a location has lapsed, the exploration licence shall be revoked in respect of that block.

(4) Where an exploration licence is revoked under subsection (3), the Minister shall, by order published in the Gazette, revoke the declaration of the location to the extent that it includes that block.

43. (1) For the purposes of this Act “unit development”, in relation to a petroleum reservoir, means the co-ordination of operations being carried on or to be carried on for the recovery of petroleum in a development area in which there is part of the reservoir and operations in another area in which there is part of the same reservoir.

Unit  
development

(2) A registered holder of a development licence may from time to time enter into an agreement in writing for or in connexion with a unit development of a petroleum reservoir.

(3) For the purpose of securing a more effective recovery of petroleum from a petroleum reservoir, the Minister may on his own motion, or on application made to him in writing by the registered holder of a development licence in whose development area there is a part of that petroleum reservoir, direct in writing that such holder —

- (a) enter into a written agreement with, within the period specified by, the Minister for a unit development in connexion with that reservoir; and
- (b) forthwith lodge the agreement with the Minister for approval and registration in accordance with the provisions relating to registration.

(4) Where a registered holder —

- (a) fails to comply with a direction under subsection (3); or
- (b) complies with a direction but the agreement so lodged is not approved under section 51,

the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the registered holder, direct him to forthwith submit to the Minister, within the period specified in the notice, a scheme for or in connexion with a unit development of the petroleum reservoir.

44. (1) Where petroleum is not being recovered in a development area and the Minister has reasonable cause to believe that there is recoverable petroleum in that area, he shall, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of the development licence, direct the holder to take all necessary and practicable steps to recover the petroleum.

Directions  
as to  
recovery of  
petroleum

(2) Where the Minister is satisfied that a registered holder to whom a direction has been given under subsection (1) is not complying therewith, the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the holder, give to the holder such specific directions as the Minister thinks necessary to effect compliance with such direction.

(3) Where petroleum is being recovered in a development area, the Minister may by notice in writing served on the registered holder of the development licence, direct the holder to take all necessary and practicable steps to increase (not exceeding the capacity of the existing production facilities) or reduce the rate at which the petroleum is being recovered.

(4) Nothing in this section or in any direction given thereunder shall be construed as requiring the registered holder of a development licence to do anything which is not in accordance with good oilfield practices.

45. (1) No person shall, in any development area, carry on any business for which a licence is required under the Trading Act without the consent of the Minister:

Provided that such consent shall not entitle any person to carry on any such business except under and in accordance with the provisions of the Trading Act.

(2) No person shall, in any development area, erect any building or other structure for the purpose of carrying on any such business without the consent of the holder of the licence.

*Restrictions on Exercise of Rights under Licences*

46. (1) A registered holder of a licence shall not exercise any right thereunder, —

- (a) without the written consent of the President, upon any land —
  - (i) dedicated as a place of burial;
  - (ii) containing any ancient or natural monument, as defined in the Monuments and Relics Act; or
  - (iii) set aside or used for the purposes of the Government;
- (b) without the written consent of the owner or lawful occupier thereof, —
  - (i) upon any land which is the site of or which is within 200 m of any inhabited, occupied or temporarily unoccupied house or building;
  - (ii) within 50 m of any land which has been cleared or ploughed or otherwise *bona fide* prepared for the growing of agricultural crops or upon which agricultural crops are growing;
  - (iii) upon any land from which, during the year immediately preceding, agricultural crops have been reaped; or
  - (iv) upon any land which is the site of or is within 100 m of any cattle dip, tank, dam or private water, as defined in the Water Act:

Trading  
in develop-  
ment area  
Cap. 43:02

Restrictions  
on exercise  
of rights

Cap. 59:03

Cap. 34:01

Provided that where consent is unreasonably withheld the Minister may authorize the holder of a licence to exercise all or any of his rights thereunder on such land, subject to such conditions as he may deem fit;

- (c) in a national park, without permission obtained under section 16 of the National Parks Act;
- (d) upon any land reserved for the purposes of a railway track or within 50 m of any railway track, without the written consent of the railway administration concerned;
- (e) upon any land within, or within 200 m of, the boundaries of any township, without the written consent of the local authority concerned;
- (f) upon any street, road, highway, public place or aerodrome, without the written consent of the Minister or other authority having control thereof.

(2) A person exercising any right under a licence shall produce evidence of the possession of such licence to the owner or lawful occupier of any land upon which such right is to be exercised upon demand being made to him in that behalf, and, in default of such production, such person may be treated as a trespasser.

(3) No person shall exercise any right under a licence upon any land other than unalienated State land unless he has given at least 14 days' notice of his intention so to do in such manner as the Minister may approve, giving in such notice details of the area in which the right is to be exercised and the dates of expiry of his licence.

(4) A notice given under subsection (3) shall be valid only for the period of validity of the licence and the person giving such notice shall not exercise any right under such licence in respect of the land to which the notice relates after the expiry thereof and, in the event of a renewal of such licence, he shall give fresh notice under subsection (3).

*Surrender, Cancellation or Suspension of Licences*

47. (1) Subject to any condition in his licence, the registered holder of a licence may surrender all or any of the blocks subject to his licence by —

- (a) giving to the Minister not less than 3 months' notice of his intention to surrender all or any of the blocks concerned;
- (b) applying to the Minister for and obtaining a certificate of surrender; and
- (c) complying with such conditions as the Minister may determine.

(2) Where the application for a certificate of surrender is in respect of only some of the blocks in an area covered by the licence, the registered holder thereof shall, —

- (a) in his application, specify the block or blocks to be surrendered and give the results of exploration operations carried out; and

Cap. 38:03

Surrender of area or part thereof covered by licence

(b) where the application is approved, demarcate the remaining area in the prescribed manner.

(3) No surrender of any block covered by a licence shall be effective until the Minister has issued a certificate of surrender in respect of that block.

(4) A surrender shall be without prejudice to any liabilities or obligations incurred by the holder in relation to the block surrendered prior to the date of surrender.

(5) On the issue of a certificate of surrender the Minister shall, where the surrender is in respect of --

- (a) all the blocks in an area covered by a licence, cancel such licence; or
- (b) only some of the blocks in an area covered by the licence, amend the licence accordingly.

Minister's  
power to  
suspend or  
cancel a  
licence

48. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Minister may suspend or cancel a licence where the registered holder thereof --

- (a) is in default;
- (b) dies or becomes insolvent or commits any act of bankruptcy or enters into any agreement or scheme of composition with his creditors or takes advantage of any written law for the benefit of debtors or, in the case of a company, goes into liquidation, except as part of a scheme for the reconstruction or amalgamation of the registered holder;
- (c) makes any statement to the Government in connexion with his licence which he knows or ought to have known was false in a material particular; or
- (d) for any reason becomes ineligible to apply for a licence under the provisions of section 11.

(2) Before suspending or cancelling a licence under subsection (1) (a), the Minister shall give the registered holder thereof notice in writing specifying the provisions of this Act or the condition of any licence or agreement in respect of which he is in default and calling upon the registered holder to remedy the default within such period, being not less than 30 days, as may be specified in such notice.

(3) Where the registered holder of a licence fails to remedy any default specified in subsection (1) (a) within the period specified in a notice issued under subsection (2), or where there is an event specified in subsection (1) (b), (c) and (d), the Minister may, by notice to the registered holder, cancel the licence forthwith.

(4) On cancellation of a licence under the provisions of this section, the rights of the registered holder thereof shall cease but without prejudice to any liabilities or obligations incurred in relation thereto prior to the date of cancellation.

*Transfers and Registration*

49. The Minister shall cause to be kept a record, in such form as may be determined by the Minister, in which shall be recorded —

Records

- (a) the name and address of the person to whom a licence is granted; and
- (b) any dealings with or affecting the licensee in connexion with the licence.

50. A legal or equitable interest in or affecting a licence shall not —

Interest in licence to be created by instrument in writing

- (a) be capable of being created, transferred, assigned or dealt with, whether directly or indirectly, except by instrument in writing; or
- (b) affect the liability of the registered holder of the licence for a breach of any condition of the licence or of any provision of this Act.

51. (1) Except where the Minister otherwise approves —

Transfer, etc., of licence to be approved by Minister

- (a) the transfer of a licence; or
- (b) an instrument by which a legal or equitable interest in or affecting a licence is created, assigned or dealt with, whether directly or indirectly,

the transfer or the instrument shall be of no effect.

(2) An application for approval by the Minister under subsection (1) shall be made to the Minister in such form as may be prescribed or determined by the Minister.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), on application made under subsection (2) the Minister may give or refuse to give his approval, or give his approval subject to such conditions as he deems necessary in the circumstances to impose.

(4) The Minister shall give his approval to the transfer of an exploration licence where the transferee —

- (a) is a person controlling, controlled by or under common control with the transferor; and
- (b) is not a person disqualified under any provision of this Act from holding an exploration licence.

(5) Where the Minister gives his approval under subsection (4), he shall cause the name of the transferee to be recorded as the registered holder of the licence, and any legal proceedings which may be or have been commenced against that holder may be commenced or continued notwithstanding the transfer.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a) a reference to the "transfer of a licence" shall include a transfer of a licence by operation of law.

52. The Minister may require any person making application under section 51 to furnish to him in writing such additional information as he may reasonably require to enable him to dispose of the application.

Minister may require additional information

Evidence

53. The Minister may issue a certificate in respect of any of the following matters, namely, that –

- (a) a licence was granted, transferred, suspended or cancelled on or with effect from the date specified in the certificate;
- (b) a block, identified in the certificate, is or was on the date specified therein subject to a licence;
- (c) a certificate of surrender in respect of a particular block was issued on the date specified in the certificate;
- (d) the person named in the certificate is or was on the date specified in the certificate the registered holder of a licence;
- (e) a direction, specified in the certificate, was, on the date specified therein, given to the person named in the certificate; or
- (f) a condition specified in the certificate –
  - (i) is or was on the date specified therein a condition of the licence; or
  - (ii) is a condition on which the certificate of surrender or on which the consent or approval, as specified, was issued or given;

and, without prejudice to the right to adduce evidence in rebuttal, such a certificate shall be admissible as evidence of that fact in any proceedings before a court of competent jurisdiction.

*Miscellaneous*

Application  
of Schedule

54. (1) The provisions set out in the Schedule shall apply in respect of the duty of a registered holder or former registered holder of a licence to furnish information in such form as may be determined by the Minister or prescribed, submit reports or keep records and accounts.

(2) The registered holder of a licence shall, immediately following the grant of a licence, establish an address in Botswana and give to the Minister in writing notice thereof and of any change thereto.

Work  
practices  
for registered  
holder of  
licence

55. (1) A registered holder of a licence shall –

- (a) carry out in the exploration or development area exploration or development operations in a proper, safe and workmanlike manner and in accordance with good oilfield practices;
- (b) take all reasonable steps necessary to secure the safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in operations in or about the exploration or development area; and
- (c) comply with regulations and any direction given pursuant to section 61 and with any direction given, restriction imposed or requirement requested by an authorized officer in the performance of his duties under this Act.

(2) In particular, and without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a registered holder of a licence shall –

- (a) control the flow and prevent the waste or escape in the exploration or development area of petroleum gas (not being petroleum or water);
- (b) prevent the escape in the exploration or development area of any mixture of water or drilling fluid and petroleum or any other substance;
- (c) prevent damage to petroleum bearing strata in an area in respect of which the licence is not in force;
- (d) keep separate in the manner prescribed –
  - (i) each petroleum reservoir discovered in the exploration or development area; and
  - (ii) such of the sources of water (if any) discovered in the exploration or development area, as the Minister, by notice in writing served on the holder, directs;
- (e) except where required by and in accordance with good oilfield practices, prevent water or any other substance entering a petroleum reservoir through any well in the exploration or development area;
- (f) prevent the pollution of any water-well, spring, stream, river, lake, reservoir or estuary by the escape of petroleum, salt water, drilling fluid, chemical additive, gas (not being petroleum) or any other waste product or effluent;
- (g) where a pollution occurs, treat or dispose of it in an environmentally acceptable manner; and
- (h) prior to the drilling of a well, furnish to the Minister a detailed report on the technique to be employed, an estimate of the time to be taken, the material to be used and the safety measures to be employed in the drilling of the well.**

(3) Where the consent in writing of the Minister has been obtained, nothing in this section shall prevent a registered holder of a licence from flaring natural gas in accordance with the terms of the notice of consent.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a registered holder of a licence from flaring natural gas where, in an emergency, flaring is necessary to safeguard the health and safety of persons in the exploration or development area or to prevent damage to the property of any person in such area.

(5) A registered holder of a licence shall furnish to the Minister notice in writing, in such form as may be prescribed or determined by the Minister, of his intention to abandon a well, and the closure or plugging of a well shall be carried out only with the prior written consent of the Minister and in the manner prescribed or determined by the Minister.

56. Any person who is the holder of a notice of consent under section 67 shall carry out exploration operations in a proper and workmanlike manner and in accordance with good oilfield practices, and shall take all reasonable steps to secure the safety,

Work  
practices  
for holder  
of notice  
of consent

(c) make provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in that area.

(2) Any dam and the waters impounded thereby shall be left intact and any machinery or equipment connected therewith may be removed only with the written consent of the Minister.

(3) Nothing in this section or in any direction given thereunder shall be construed as requiring any person who is or was the registered holder of a licence to do anything which is not, or to refrain from doing anything which is, in accordance with good oilfield practices.

(4) Any person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) who fails to comply with the direction within the period specified in the notice shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P200.

64. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 63 (3), where a direction given under section 63 has not been complied with the Minister may –

(a) do or cause to be done all or any of the things required by the direction;

(b) remove or cause to be removed, in such manner as he thinks fit, from the relinquished area concerned all or any of the property;

(c) dispose of, in such manner as he thinks fit, all or any of the property referred to in paragraph (b); and

(d) where he has served on a person whom he believes to be the owner of the property or part thereof a copy of the notice by which the direction was given, sell or cause to be sold by public auction or otherwise as he think fit all or any of the property referred to in paragraph (b) which belongs or which he believes to belong to that person.

(2) The Minister may deduct from the proceeds of a sale of property under subsection (1) all or any part of any –

(a) costs or expenses incurred by him in relation to –

(i) the property; or

(ii) the doing of anything required by a direction under section 63 to be done; and

(b) fees or amounts due and payable under this Act by the person concerned.

(3) Any costs or expenses incurred by the Minister under subsection (1), if incurred in relation to the –

(a) removal, disposal or sale of property, shall be a debt due to the Government by the owner of the property; or

(b) doing of anything required by a direction under section 63, shall be a debt due to the Government by that person,

and to the extent to which they are not recovered under subsection (2) shall be recoverable by the Government as a debt.

Removal  
and sale of  
property,  
etc., by  
Minister

(4) Subject to subsection (3), no action shall lie in respect of the removal, disposal or sale of property under this section.

65. (1) Where the liability of a person under this Act to pay an amount is not discharged on or before the due date, there shall be payable by that person an additional amount calculated at the rate of two per cent for each month or part of a month upon so much of that amount as from time to time remains unpaid, to be computed from the time that the amount became payable until it is paid. Penalty for default in payment

(2) The Minister may, in a particular case, for reasons which in his opinion are sufficient, remit the whole or part of an amount under this section.

66. (1) The Minister may at any time, by notice in writing served on a registered holder of a licence, direct the holder to — Survey of wells, etc.

- (a) demarcate and keep demarcated, in such a manner as may be prescribed, the development area, and submit to the Minister, within such time as may be prescribed, a diagram of the development area;
- (b) carry out a survey of the position of any well or of any structure or equipment; or
- (c) furnish to him in writing, within a period specified in the notice, a report of the survey.

(2) where the Minister is not satisfied with a report furnished to him under subsection (1), he may, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of a licence, direct the holder to forthwith furnish in writing such further information as he may require.

(3) Where a person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) fails to comply therewith, the Minister may cause to be carried out the survey specified in the notice containing the direction.

(4) Notwithstanding that a registered holder may be convicted of an offence under subsection (5), any costs or expenses incurred pursuant to subsection (3) shall be a debt due to the Government and recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(5) Any person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) or (2) who fails or neglects to comply therewith shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P5 000.

67. (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing, consent, subject to such conditions (if any) as the Minister may determine, to the carrying on by any person of exploration operations for the purpose of scientific investigations. Scientific investigations

(2) A notice of consent issued pursuant to subsection (1) shall authorize the person to whom it is issued to carry on, in the area specified in the notice, exploration operations for the purpose referred to in subsection (1).

Restriction  
on transfer  
of shares

68. Without the prior written approval of the Minister, no person shall dispose of and no person shall acquire, directly or indirectly, any interest in any company of a registered holder of a licence which would confer a voting right or other financial interest exceeding 20% of the total or a right to appoint directors, and, in considering any application for such approval, the Minister may call for such information as he considers necessary.

#### PART IV – *Surface Rights*

Right to  
graze  
stock, etc.

69. (1) The owner or lawful occupier of any land in an exploration or development area shall retain the right to graze stock upon or to cultivate the surface of such land insofar as such grazing or cultivation does not interfere with exploration or development operations in the area.

(2) In the case of a development area, the owner or lawful occupier of any land within such area shall not erect any building or structure thereon without the written consent of the registered holder of the licence, or, if such consent is unreasonably withheld, the written consent of the Minister.

(3) The rights conferred by a licence shall be exercised reasonably and so as to affect as little as possible the interests of any owner or lawful occupier of the land to which such rights are exercised and exploration or development operations shall be carried out in a proper manner.

Acquisition  
of exclusive  
rights by  
registered  
holder of  
development  
licence

70. (1) A registered holder of a development licence may, if he requires the exclusive use of the whole or any part of a block in a development area, and shall if so requested by the owner or lawful occupier of any part of such area, obtain a lease thereof or other right to use the same upon such terms as to the rent to be paid therefor, the duration thereof or the extent or area of the land to which such lease or other right shall relate as may be agreed between the holder and the owner or lawful occupier, or, failing such agreement, as may be determined by arbitration:

Provided that --

- (i) a registered holder of a development licence shall not obtain a lease of or other right over any land specified in section 46 (1) (a) and (c) to (f) inclusive except with the written consents of the persons specified therein;
- (ii) in the case of tribal land, any rents payable under this subsection shall be payable to the land board of the area in which the land is situate; and
- (iii) an arbitrator appointed in pursuance of this subsection may, on application by any interested party, apportion any rent payable under this subsection between the owner and any lawful occupier.

(2) In assessing any rent payable under the provisions of this section an arbitrator shall determine the matter in relation to

values at the time of the arbitration current in the area to which the development licence relates for land of a similar nature to the land concerned but without taking into account any enhanced value due to the presence of petroleum.

71. (1) A registered holder of a licence shall, on demand being made by the owner or lawful occupier of any land subject to such rights, pay such owner or occupier fair and reasonable compensation for any disturbance of the rights of such owner or occupier and for any damage done to the surface of the land due to exploration or development operations, and shall, on demand being made by the owner of any crops, trees, buildings or works damaged during the course of such operations, pay compensation for such damage:

Compensation  
for disturb-  
ance of  
rights, etc.

Provided that –

- (i) payment of rent under the provisions of section 70 shall be deemed to be adequate compensation for deprivation of the use of land to which such rent relates;
- (ii) in assessing compensation payable under this section, account shall be taken of any improvement effected by the registered holder of the licence or by his predecessor-in-title, the benefit of which has or will enure to the owner or lawful occupier thereof;
- (iii) the basis upon which compensation shall be payable for damage to the surface of any land shall be the extent to which the market value of the land (for which purpose it shall be deemed saleable) upon which the damage occurred has been reduced by reason of such damage, but without taking into account any such enhanced value due to the presence of petroleum; and
- (iv) no compensation shall be payable to the holder of a State grant of land or his successors-in-title in respect of any operations under a licence existing at the date of such grant.

(2) Where the registered holder of a licence fails to pay compensation when demanded under the provisions of this section, or if the owner or lawful occupier of any land is dissatisfied with any compensation offered, the dispute shall be determined by arbitration.

(3) A claim for compensation under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be made within a period of 4 years from the date when such claim has accrued, failing which, notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, such claim shall not be enforceable.

Compulsory acquisition of land  
Cap. 32:10

72. (1) Where the President considers that any land is required to secure the development or utilization of the petroleum resources of Botswana, he may compulsorily acquire such land.  
(2) Acquisition of land under this section shall be deemed to be a public purpose in terms of the provisions of the Acquisition of Property Act and any acquisition under this section shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

PART V – *Financial*

Royalty on petroleum obtained under development licence

73. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a registered holder of a development licence shall, in accordance with the conditions of his licence, pay royalty in respect of petroleum produced and saved by him in the development area.  
(2) Where provision is made in a licence for the payment of royalty in kind, the word “pay” and cognate expressions in this Part shall be construed accordingly.

Provisional royalty

74. (1) Where, for any reason, it is impractical to assess the amount of any royalty due, the Minister may assess a provisional royalty.  
(2) When any royalty due has been ascertained, the registered holder of the licence concerned shall pay any sum which may be required to complete such ascertained royalty or be entitled to be repaid any sum paid in excess of the ascertained royalty.

Prohibition on disposal of petroleum

75. (1) Where a registered holder of a development licence fails to pay any royalty or provisional royalty due in respect of that licence on or before the due date or any extension thereof, or where the Minister has reason to believe that petroleum has been produced from any area and royalties have not been paid in respect thereof, the Minister may, by order served on the holder of the licence, prohibit the disposal of, or any dealings in or with, any petroleum from the development area concerned, or from any other area held by such registered holder under a development licence, until all outstanding royalties have been paid or until an arrangement has been made, acceptable to the Minister, for the payment of such royalties.

(2) Any registered holder of a development licence who fails to comply with an order under this section or, contrary thereto, receives any petroleum from the area concerned, shall be guilty of an offence.

Remission of royalty, etc.

76. (1) Where he considers it expedient in the interests of the production of petroleum, the Minister may, for such period as he may determine, remit, in whole or in part, any royalty payable on petroleum obtained from a particular development area.

(2) The Minister may, on application made to him by a registered holder of a development licence, defer, for such period and subject to such conditions as he may determine, payment of any royalty due from the holder.

(3) The Minister may exempt from liability to royalty samples of petroleum required for the purpose of analysis or other examination.

77. (1) Any royalty, fee, rent or other payment which may become due in respect of any right under the provisions of this Act shall be a debt due to the Government and recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction. Recovery of royalty, etc.

(2) Without prejudice to the right to adduce evidence in rebuttal, a certificate issued by the Minister certifying that a specified amount of royalty, an annual fee, rent or other payment is payable by a specified person shall, in any proceedings instituted against that person for the recovery of any such royalty, fee, rent or other payment, be received as evidence of that fact.

78. (1) There shall be payable to the Government by the registered holder of a licence an annual fee of such amount as may be determined by the Minister or prescribed. Annual fee in respect of licence

(2) The annual fee payable pursuant to subsection (1) shall be payable on the grant of a licence and thereafter annually on the anniversary of the grant until the termination of the licence.

(3) Where an exploration licence is granted over land in a tribal area as defined in the Tribal Land Act, one-half of any moneys received under the provisions of this section shall be appropriated as a grant-in-aid to the district council of the area in which the land is situate. Cap. 32:02

79. The Minister may from time to time, make such arrangements as appear appropriate to him to secure the compliance of a registered holder with the provisions of this Act and, in particular may accept guarantees, whether from shareholders or otherwise, in respect of such compliance. Security for compliance

#### PART VI – *Miscellaneous*

80. (1) Where the Minister has reason to believe that a person is capable of giving information or producing or making available any book, document or data relating to exploration or development operations or to petroleum obtained from an exploration or a development area or the value of petroleum so obtained, he may, by notice in writing served on that person, require that person, — Minister may require information to be furnished

- (a) within the period and in the manner specified in the notice, to furnish to him the information required; or
- (b) at such time and place specified in the notice —
  - (i) to attend before him or an authorized officer to answer any question; or
  - (ii) to make available to him or an authorized officer any book, document or data or copies thereof relating thereto as specified.

(2) A person shall not be excused from compliance with the provisions of this section on the ground that such compliance

may tend to incriminate him or make him liable to penalty; but any information furnished, question answered, document or data produced shall not be admissible in evidence against him in any proceedings, other than proceedings for an offence under section 81, which may be instituted against him.

(3) Where a book, document or data is made available pursuant to a requirement under subsection (1) (b) (ii), the person to whom the book, document or data is made available may make copies thereof or take extracts therefrom.

Failure to  
furnish  
information,  
etc., under  
section 80

81. Any person who, —

- (a) fails to comply with a requirement under section 80 (1); or
- (b) in purported compliance with such a requirement, knowingly or recklessly —
  - (i) furnishes information; or
  - (ii) makes a statement or produces or makes available a book, document or data,

which is false or misleading in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P1 000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or to both.

Power of  
entry, etc.

82. (1) For the purposes of this Act the Minister or an authorized officer may, at all reasonable times, —

- (a) (i) enter any area, building, structure, vehicle, vessel or aircraft; or
- (ii) inspect and test, or have tested by a qualified person, any machinery or equipment, which in his opinion has been, is being or is to be used in connexion with exploration or development operations;
- (b) take or remove samples of petroleum or water or other substance for the purpose of analysis or testing or for use in evidence in connexion with an offence under the provisions of this Act;
- (c) inspect, make copies of or take extracts from any document, book or data relating to exploration or development operations;
- (d) in respect of the health and safety of persons employed by a registered holder of a licence in or in connexion with exploration or development operations, by notice in writing issue directions to or impose restrictions on the holder or on any person so employed;
- (e) direct, by notice in writing, —
  - (i) the cessation of operations on or in, and the withdrawal of all persons from, any area, building or structure which is being used in connexion with exploration or development operations; or
  - (ii) the discontinuance of the use of any machinery or equipment;

which he considers unsafe, until such action necessary for safety is taken;

- (f) make such examinations and enquiries necessary to ensure that the provisions of, and any direction issued or order made or restriction imposed under, this Act are being complied with; and
- (g) obtain and record statements from any witness, appear at or conduct any enquiry held in respect of any accident which may have occurred in the course of exploration or development operations, and at any inquest call, examine and cross-examine any witness.

(2) Where there is a person present who is or appears to be in charge of the area, building, structure, vehicle, vessel, aircraft, machinery, equipment or matter or thing in respect of which any of the powers under subsection (1) are to be exercised, the Minister or an authorized officer shall, before exercising any such power, identify himself to that person and to any person to whom he is about to give an order or a direction.

(3) In exercising his powers under subsection (1) the Minister or the authorized officer may be accompanied by any person who the Minister or the officer believes has special or expert knowledge of any matter or thing being inspected, tested or examined.

(4) Any person who is an occupier or person in charge of an area, building or structure, or the person in charge of any vehicle, vessel, aircraft, machinery, equipment or matter or thing, referred to in subsection (1), shall provide the Minister or the authorized officer with all reasonable facilities and assistance (including, if necessary, the provision of transport) for the effective exercise of the powers conferred by this section.

83. Any person who, —

- (a) without reasonable excuse, obstructs, molests or hinders the Minister or an authorized officer in the exercise of his powers under section 82;
  - (b) knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or produces a document which is false or misleading in a material particular to the Minister or to an authorized officer; or
  - (c) with intent to mislead or deceive the Minister or an authorized officer does any act or withholds any information,
- shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P1 000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 year, or to both.

Offences in relation to section 82

84. Any person who, without reasonable excuse, obstructs, molests, hinders or prevents a registered holder of a licence in or from doing any act authorized to be done under the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding P500 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.

Obstruction of registered holder of licence

- Offence committed by company 85. Where an offence which has been committed by a company is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, or by a person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he, together with the company, shall be guilty of that offence and liable to prosecution.
- Miscellaneous offences 86. Any person who —  
 (a) (i) in or in connexion with an application under this Act knowingly or recklessly gives; or  
 (ii) in any report, return or affidavit submitted in pursuance of any provision of this Act, knowingly or recklessly includes or permits to be included, information which is false or misleading in a material particular; or  
 (b) places or deposits, or is an accessory to the placing or depositing of, any petroleum or other substance in any place with the intention of misleading any other person as to the petroleum possibilities of that place,  
 shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction, in the case of —  
 (i) an individual, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years; or  
 (ii) a company, to a fine not exceeding P10 000.
- General penalty 87. Any person found guilty of an offence under this Act for which no other penalty is provided shall be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding P500 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.
- Regulations **PART VII — Regulations**  
 88. The Minister may, by statutory instrument, make regulations —  
 (a) in respect of the instigation and conduct of proceedings under this Act and the keeping of records and notes of evidence concerning such proceedings;  
 (b) providing for any matter which under this Act is to be provided for by regulation;  
 (c) appointing such persons as he deems fit to be authorized officers for the purpose of performing any function under this Act;  
 (d) prescribing any matter or thing referred to in this Act as prescribed or to be prescribed; and  
 (e) generally for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.
- Consequential Amendment of Cap. 66:01 89. In consequence of the provisions of this Act, the Mines and Minerals Act is hereby amended —  
 (a) in section 2 thereof by inserting immediately after the words “but excluding” which appear in the definition of “mineral”, the words “petroleum as defined in section 2 of

the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, and”;  
(b) by inserting immediately after section 3 thereof, the following new section –

“Act not to apply to petroleum      3A. No right to explore for or produce petroleum (as defined in section 2 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, shall be granted or exercised under this Act.

#### SCHEDULE

(s. 54)

#### RECORDS, REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

1. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, a registered holder of a licence shall keep at the address referred to in section 54 (2), in such form as the Minister may approve or as prescribed, accurate geological maps and plans and geophysical records, including interpretations thereof, relating to the area subject to the licence, together with accurate records containing full particulars of the following matters –

- (a) the drilling, operation, deepening, plugging or abandonment of wells;
- (b) the strata and subsoil through which wells are drilled;
- (c) the casing inserted in wells and any alteration thereto;
- (d) the area in which any geological or geophysical work has been carried out;
- (e) the petroleum, water or other economic mineral or any dangerous substance encountered; and
- (f) such further matters as may be prescribed.

2. A registered holder of a licence shall give to the Minister –

- (a) at half-yearly intervals commencing 6 months immediately following the grant of a licence –
  - (i) a summary of geological and geophysical work carried out;
  - (ii) a summary of drilling activities and the results obtained; and
  - (iii) a list of maps, reports and other geological and geophysical data prepared for the holder in respect of the period concerned;
- (b) within 60 days immediately following the end of each year of the term of the licence –
  - (i) a record detailing the results of all exploration and development operations carried out by the holder in the year concerned; and
  - (ii) estimates (if available) of economically recoverable reserves of crude oil and natural gas at the end of the year concerned;
- (c) within 6 months of the completion of drilling, or, in the case of information which cannot reasonably be obtained in that period, as soon as possible, a summary of exploration wells drilled, including lithological groups, letter classification boundaries and hydrocarbon zones;
- (d) at such intervals as may be prescribed, such further information as may be specified.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, where a licence is determined or cancelled or expires, the person who was the registered holder of the licence shall, immediately prior to the determination, cancellation or expiration, forthwith deliver to the Minister –

Accounts

- (a) all records relating to the licence which the former holder maintained pursuant to this Schedule;
- (b) all plans or maps of the area which was subject to the licence, together with all tapes, diagrams, profiles and charts, which were prepared by or on the instructions of the former holder; and
- (c) such other documents as the Minister may, by notice in writing given to the former holder, require him to deliver.

4. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, a registered holder of a licence shall keep at the address referred to in section 54 (2) accurate accounts containing full particulars of the following matters –

- (a) the gross quantity of crude oil and natural gas won and saved from the area subject to the licence;
- (b) the grade and gravity of crude oil and the composition of natural gas produced;
- (c) any quantity of –
  - (i) crude oil;
  - (ii) natural gas;
  - (iii) refined petroleum products, including liquidified petroleum gas; or
  - (iv) sulphur, in any form, or other mineral in any form or other gas, liquid or solids,disposed of by way of sale or otherwise, the consideration received, the quantity disposed of and the name of the person to whom the disposal was made;
- (d) the quantity of petroleum injected into the formation of –
  - (i) crude oil;
  - (ii) natural gas;
  - (iii) refined petroleum products, including liquidified petroleum gas; or
  - (iv) other liquids or gases;
- (e) the quantity of petroleum consumed for drilling and other production operations (other than the quantities reported under paragraph (d)) and in pumping to field storage and refineries in Botswana of –
  - (i) crude oil;
  - (ii) natural gas; or
  - (iii) refined petroleum products, including liquidified petroleum gas;
- (f) the quantity of crude oil refined by or on his behalf in Botswana;
- (g) the quantity of natural gas treated in Botswana by him or on his behalf for the removal of liquid or liquidified petroleum gas and the quantity of –
  - (i) butane;
  - (ii) propane; or
  - (iii) other liquid or gas or solids obtained from it;
- (h) the quantity of natural gas flared; and
- (i) such other information as may be prescribed.

Modification  
of duties  
under  
Schedule

5. The Minister may, on application made to him in writing by a registered holder or former registered holder of a licence, by notice in writing, dispense with or modify any requirement of this Schedule to the extent and on the conditions (if any) stated in the notice.

**PASSED** by the National Assembly this 20th day of August, 1981.

**I.P. GONTSE,**  
*Clerk of the National Assembly.*