

LAWS OF GUYANA

GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES ACT

CHAPTER 80:07

Act

13 of 1963

Amended by

4 of 1972

Current Authorised Pages

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CHAPTER 80:07
GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES ACT

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22 of 1927

**AN ACT to provide for the promotion and conduct of
Government lotteries.**

[19TH OCTOBER, 1963]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Government Lotteries Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act—

“financial year” means the twelve months ending on the thirty-first day of December in any year or on such other date as may from time to time be prescribed by any written law;

“Government lottery” means a lottery organised and

conducted by the Government Lotteries Control Committee under the provisions of section 3 of this Act;

“the Minister” means the Minister responsible for finance.

Power to
organise and
conduct
Government
lotteries.

3. The provision of any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding it shall be lawful for the Government Lotteries Control Committee as hereinafter constituted, (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) with the approval of the Minister, to organise and conduct from time to time a Government lottery, and in relation thereto to do all such acts and things and give all such directions as it may deem necessary or as may be prescribed and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing power, in particular —

- (a) to fix the number and price of tickets to be issued for any such lottery;
- (b) to appoint and remunerate agents for the sale of such tickets;
- (c) to employ such staff as may be necessary and to fix the remuneration thereof, provided that any salary in excess of four thousand, eight hundred dollars per annum shall be subject to the approval of the Minister;
- (d) to incur such other expenses as may be necessary for organising and conducting the lottery;
- (e) to fix the number and value of the prizes to be apportioned;
- (f) to determine the time when, the place

where and the manner in which drawings shall take place for the allotment of prizes.

Constitution of Committee.

4. (1) The Committee shall consist of not more than five members appointed by the Minister one of whom shall be a public officer.

(2) The Minister shall appoint one of the members other than the public officer to be the Chairman of the Committee and he shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the Chairman from any meeting the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at that meeting.

(3) Three members shall form a quorum at any meeting.

Remuneration of members of Committee.

5. A member of the Committee other than a public officer shall be paid such remuneration, and allowances (if any) as the Minister may determine.

Tenure of office of members of Committee.

6. (1) A member other than a public officer shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(2) Any member other than the public officer, may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Minister, resign from the Committee.

(3) The Minister may grant leave of absence to any member of the Committee.

Proceeds of Government lotteries.
[4 of 1972]

7. (1) All moneys received from the sale of tickets in every Government lottery shall be paid into a deposit account in the Accountant General's Department and such account shall be called the Government Lotteries Account.

(2) In respect of each Government lottery there shall be paid out of the Government Lotteries Account the

prizes and all other charges connected therewith. If at any time the sum standing to the credit of the Government Lotteries Account is insufficient to meet, either wholly or in part, the payment of the prizes in respect of a Government lottery or any charges connected therewith, the deficit shall be made good out of the Consolidated Fund which is hereby charged with such payment.

(3) At the end of each financial year there shall be paid into the Development Fund of Guyana, after allowing for all expenses and the amount reserved for prizes, the amount standing to the credit of the Government Lotteries Account.

Regulations.

8. (1) The Minister may make regulations for carrying out the provisions of this Act and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing such regulations may—

- (a) prescribe the conditions to be observed by agents appointed for the sale of tickets for Government lotteries and the rights, obligations and liabilities of such agents;
- (b) prescribe the form or contents of such tickets;
- (c) prescribe the information to be published concerning any Government lottery and the manner in which it shall be published;
- (d) prescribe the time within which and the manner in which prizes shall be claimed;
- (e) provide for the disposal of unclaimed prizes or money or of prizes or money

as to which any dispute has arisen;

- (f) prescribe the persons who shall be present at any drawing for the allotment of prizes and their powers and duties in relation thereto and to any dispute or difficulty which may arise in the conduct of the drawing.

(2) Regulations made under this section may prescribe that in certain events to be specified and after such time as shall be specified the proceeds of unclaimed prizes shall be forfeited and paid into the Government Lotteries Account.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

Reg. 30/1964
14/1970

GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES REGULATIONS

made under section 8

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Government Lotteries Regulations.

Lotteries to be held from time to time.
[Reg. 14/1970]

2. A lottery shall be held at such time or times as the Government Lotteries Control Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") may appoint and such lottery shall be drawn on the date specified on the ticket:

Provided that the Committee may, if they think fit, direct that the lottery be drawn within three days of the date so specified.

Notice of draw.
[Reg. 14/1970]

3. Before any lottery is drawn the Chairman shall cause to be published in the Gazette and in at least one newspaper the date, the time when and the place where the draw will take place.

Particulars to be specified on ticket.

4. These shall be specified on every ticket—

- (a) the date and number or other description of the draw of the lottery for which the ticket is issued;
- (b) the serial number and price of the ticket;
- (c) the number and value of the prizes apportioned to the lottery for which the ticket is issued;

- (d) any other information or conditions (not inconsistent with the Act) in connection with the conduct of the lottery that the Committee may think fit.

Procedure at draw.

5. (1) Whenever any lottery is drawn there shall be present at the draw at least three members of the Committee, and if, at the time appointed for the draw, there shall not be that number of members present, the draw shall not be held, and the Chairman shall forthwith publish in a newspaper circulating in Guyana another date on which the draw shall be held.

(2) The members of the Committee present at a draw shall, before the commencement of the draw, appoint one of their number to preside at the draw, and the member so appointed shall—

- (a) put, or cause to be put, in motion the machine or other contrivance approved by the committee for drawing the number of the winning tickets;
- (b) declare the numbers of the winning tickets so drawn, and in the event of the same number being drawn more than once at a draw declare the second or subsequent draw null and void;
- (c) in the event of any breakdown or other difficulty occurring in the operation of the machine or contrivance aforesaid, direct that the drawing of the numbers of such

tickets as then remain to be drawn shall be postponed until such time as he is satisfied that the draw can be resumed without difficulty.

(3) If, at the time when a draw is postponed under paragraph (2) (c), one or more, but not all, of the digits necessary to determine the number of a winning ticket shall have been drawn, the number of that ticket shall, when the draw is resumed, be drawn afresh as to all its digits, and the digit or digits drawn before the postponement of the draw shall be disregarded.

(4) For the purpose of witnessing a draw of a lottery the public shall be admitted to the premises upon which the draw is conducted so far as may reasonably be practicable having regard to the accommodation available for such purpose.

(5) Any person who obstructs or impedes the drawing of a lottery or creates any disturbance on or near the premises on which a lottery is being or is about to be drawn, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month.

Result of draw
to be
published.
[Reg. 14/1970]

6. Within three days after the drawing of a lottery, the Chairman shall cause to be published in the Gazette and in at least one newspaper a statement showing—

- (a) the number and the price of the tickets issued by the Committee for sale in respect of the lottery;
- (b) the number and value of the prizes apportioned to the lottery;
- (c) the serial numbers of the winning

tickets; and

- (d) the place where and house during which payments of prizes may be claimed.

Payment of prizes.
[Reg. 14/1970]

7. Prizes shall be paid by the Committee in respect of winning tickets in a lottery in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) payment shall be claimed by presenting and delivering up the ticket in respect of which the claim is made at the place and during the hours appointed for the purpose in the notice published in pursuance of this regulation;
- (b) payment shall be claimed within one year after the day of the draw at which the ticket in respect of which the claim is made was declared a winning ticket, but the Committee may, for good cause, entertain a claim for payment made within two years after the day of the draw aforesaid;
- (c) no payment shall be made before the expiration of three days after the day on which the ticket was declared a winning ticket;
- (d) payment shall be made to the person who presents the ticket for the payment of the prize won by that ticket and such payment shall absolutely discharge the Committee,

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[Subsidiary]

Government Lotteries Regulations

the Government, its servants and agents of liability for payment of that prize.

For future of unclaimed prize.

8. If payment of a prize is not claimed in the manner and within the period of two years as prescribed by regulation 7, such prize shall upon the expiry of the period aforesaid be forfeited and the proceeds thereof be paid into the Development Fund of Guyana.

Defaced tickets.

9. If, when any ticket is presented for payment of a prize, any number, mark, figure or word which is material for identifying the ticket is, in the opinion of the Committee, illegible or not clearly legible or incomplete or has been obliterated, defaced or removed, the Committee shall not make any payment unless the person claiming payment produces evidence, to the satisfaction of the Committee, identifying the ticket as the ticket in respect of which the prize is claimed is payable.

Agent for sale of tickets.

10. (1) The appointment of any agent for the sale of tickets shall be for a period not exceeding one year from the date on which the appointment takes effect, but an agent shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Schedule.

(2) The Committee may require any agent to give and execute a bond in the form set out in the Schedule, with two sureties to be approved by the Committee.

Accounts and audit.

11. (1) The Committee shall keep accounts of their transactions to the satisfaction of the Minister and such accounts shall be audited annually by the Director of Audit or any officer of his department (hereinafter in this regulation referred to as "the auditor").

(2) The members, officers and servants of the Committee shall grant to the auditor access to all books,

documents, cash and securities, and shall give to him on request all such information as may be within their knowledge in relation to the operation of any lottery.

Report.

12. The Committee shall not later than six months after the end of each calendar year submit to the Minister a report containing—

- (a) an account of their transactions throughout the preceding calendar year in such manner as the Minister may direct; and
- (c) a statement of the accounts of the Committee audited in accordance with regulation 11.

Offences.

13. (1) Any person who buys, sells or offers for sale any Government lottery ticket at a price exceeding the price authorised by the Committee, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month and if the person convicted is an agent appointed under section 3 of the Act the Committee may forthwith revoke the appointment of the agent.

(2) If any agent appointed under section 3 of the Act buys, receives, takes or accepts from any person any such ticket as aforesaid, such ticket being a ticket which has been declared to be a winning ticket under these Regulations, otherwise than in consideration of a cash payment equal to the full amount of the prize payable by the Committee in respect of such ticket, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month and his appointment as an agent be revoked forthwith.

Exemption.

14. The provisions of the Regulations preventing the

sending or delivery by post of postal matters relating to lotteries made by the Postmaster General and approved by the Governor and Court of Policy on the 24th June, 1903, shall not apply to lotteries conducted under the Act.

SCHEDULE

Form of Bond to be given by agent

We, the undersigned,.....of.....
....., of
....., andof
....., jointly and severally
acknowledge ourselves to owe to the State the sum of.....
to be levied on our several movable and immovable property
if the said
fails in the condition hereon endorsed.

Sealed this..... Signed
day of

Now the above written obligation is conditioned to be void in case the said.....shall pay to the Committee not later than two days after the closing of the sale of tickets for every lottery held within the period of one year from the date hereunder all such sums as he is required to pay in respect of all Government Lottery tickets issued or allotted to him, but otherwise shall remain in full force for the aforesaid period of one year.

Signed sealed and delivered
.....
Day of..... ..



[Subsidiary]

Government Lotteries (Radio Bingo) Regulations

Reg. 14/1965

**GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES (RADIO BINGO)
REGULATIONS***made under section 8*Citation and
commence-
ment.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Government Lotteries (Radio Bingo) Regulations, and shall come into operation on 6th September, 1965.

Interpretation.

2. In these Regulations, "Committee" means the Committee referred to in section 3 of the Act.

Holding of
Radio Bingo.

3. A radio bingo to be played in accordance with such rules as the Committee may, from time to time, make in exercise of their powers under section 3 of the Act and published in such manner as the Committee may determine, shall be held at such time or times as the Committee may appoint and such radio bingo shall be drawn within seven days after the closing date of the radio bingo as fixed by the Committee:

Provided that the Committee may, if they think fit, direct that the radio bingo shall be drawn at any time after the aforesaid period.

Notice of
drawing.

4. Before any radio bingo is drawn, the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Chairman") shall cause to be published in such manner as he thinks fit—

- (a) the dates, times when and the place where the draw will take place;
- (b) any particulars concerning the tickets which he may consider necessary to publish; and
- (c) the number and value of the prizes

apportioned to the radio bingo and the place where and the hours during which payment of prizes may be claimed.

Particulars to be specified on ticket.

5. There shall be specified on every radio bingo ticket only such information or conditions in connection with the conduct of the radio bingo as the Committee think fit.

Procedure at draw.

6. (1) Whenever there is a draw of numbers for a radio bingo there shall be present at the draw at least three members of the Committee, and if, at the time appointed for the draw, there shall not be that number of members present the draw shall not be held and the Chairman shall forthwith publish in a newspaper circulating in Guyana another date on which the draw shall be held.

(2) The members of the Committee present at a draw shall before the commencement of a draw—

- (a) appoint one of their number or a member of the public to put or cause to be put in motion the machine or other contrivance approved by the Committee for drawing the numbers for the radio bingo; and
- (b) appoint a member of the public to declare the numbers so drawn.

(3) For the purpose of witnessing a draw the public shall be admitted to the premises where the draw is conducted so far as may reasonably be practicable having regard to the accommodation available for that purpose.

(4) Any person who obstructs or impedes the drawing of a radio bingo or creates any disturbance on or

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Government Lotteries (Radio Bingo) Regulations

near the premises where a radio bingo is being or about to be drawn, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month.

Publication of
result of draw.

7. (1) The numbers drawn for a radio bingo shall be broadcast to the public at such time or times as may be fixed by the Committee.

(2) Except with the permission of the Committee, the numbers drawn for a radio bingo shall not be published in any newspaper.

(3) The editor and publisher of any newspaper contravening paragraph (2) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month.

Payment of
Prizes.
[Reg. 23 /1982]

8. (1) Prizes shall be paid by the Committee in respect of winning radio bingo tickets in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) after the last number for a radio bingo is drawn and broadcast in accordance with regulation 7, persons with winning radio bingo tickets must claim by presenting and delivering up the ticket at the place and during the hours appointed for the purpose in pursuance of regulation 4, not later than twenty-eight days after the last number has been broadcast, and an acknowledgement for the receipt of the ticket so delivered shall be given on behalf of the Committee by a person authorised in writing in that behalf;

- (b) the Committee shall then allot the prizes in accordance with the rules mentioned in regulation 3 and the decision of the Committee shall be final;
- (c) the Chairman shall then cause to be broadcast the names of the winners and the amount won;
- (d) payment shall be claimed not later than one year after the date of the aforesaid broadcast, but the Committee may, for good cause, entertain a claim for payment made not later than two years after the date of the aforesaid broadcast;
- (e) payment shall be made to the person who presents the acknowledgement given in pursuance of subparagraph (a) and such payment shall absolutely discharge the Committee, the Government, its servants and agents of liability for payment of that prize.

(2) For the purpose of this regulation, the expression "days" shall include Sundays, and public holidays.

Forfeiture of unclaimed prize.
[Reg. 23/1982]

9. If payment of a prize is not claimed in the manner and within the period of one year as prescribed by regulation 8(1)(d), such prize shall upon the expiration of the period aforesaid be forfeited and the proceeds thereof shall be paid into the Development Fund of Guyana.

Offence.

10. (1) Any person who buys, sells or offers for sale any radio bingo ticket at a price exceeding the price

[Subsidiary]

Government Lotteries (Radio Bingo) Regulations

authorised by the Committee, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month and if the person convicted is an agent appointed under the provisions of section 3 of the Act the Committee may revoke his appointment forthwith.

(2) If any agent appointed under section 3 of the Act buys, receives, takes or accepts from any person any such ticket as aforesaid, such ticket being a radio bingo ticket which has been declared to be a winning bingo ticket under these Regulations, otherwise than in consideration of a cash payment equal to the full amount of the prize payable by the Committee in respect of such ticket, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for one month and the Committee may revoke his appointment as an agent forthwith.

Application of
Government
Lotteries
Regulations.

11. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, the Government Lotteries Regulations shall not apply to a radio bingo conducted under these Regulations.

(2) Regulations 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the Government Lotteries Regulations shall apply to a radio bingo conducted under these Regulations as they apply for the purposes of a lottery conducted under the first mentioned Regulations.
