

N.R.C. Decree
No. 50

1967



Sierra Leone

The Mohammedan Prayers (Recognition) Decree, 1967 Short title.

[23rd August, 1967.] Date of commencement.

PURSUANT to the Proclamation entitled "Administration of Sierra Leone (National Reformation Council) Proclamation, 1967", published in the *Gazette* on the 25th of March, 1967, the National Reformation Council hereby makes and issues the following Decree:—

1. In this Decree—

"Mining Industry" includes all undertakings engaged in excavations for the purpose of searching for or winning minerals as well as in all working of mineral deposits or alluvial diggings whether abandoned or actually being worked in the surface from the surface downwards and underground;

Interpretation.

“shift system of employment” means any employment involving a continuous process and in which the employees are usually required to work in relays.

Official time for Mohammedan prayers.

2. The period of time extending from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday shall be observed throughout Sierra Leone as a period of prayer for Mohammedans.

Facilities for praying to be granted to Mohammedans.

3. For the purpose of enabling Mohammedan employees to attend prayers during the period of prayer referred to in section 2, every employer shall at the request of any Mohammedan employee in his employment, grant to such employee reasonable time off duty every Friday, and in particular but without derogating from the generality of the foregoing—

(a) every employer shall on every Friday grant to all his Mohammedan employees the option to take a lunch break from work from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. instead of the lunch break to which his employees are normally entitled, so however, that in every case where a Mohammedan employee opts to take his lunch break from 12.00 noon to 2.30 p.m. he shall, without payment of overtime, be required to work after his normal daily finishing time for a period equivalent to the extra time taken by him at the lunch break between 12.00 noon and 2.30 p.m.;

(b) each employer in the Mining Industry, and in services essential to the public and to commercial and industrial concerns, shall provide suitable facilities for his Mohammedan employees to pray at their places of work.

Special case of shift workers.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 2 and 3, every employer who operates a shift system of employment, shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this Decree where such employer makes provisions for his Mohammedan employees to attend prayers on alternate Fridays only.

MADE and ISSUED this 22nd day of August, 1967.

BRIG. A. T. JUXON-SMITH,
Chairman,
National Reformation Council.