

**N.L.C.D. 371**

**UNCLAIMED PROPERTY ACT, 1969**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Unclaimed property.
2. Arms, jewels, precious metals.
3. Perishable and unsaleable goods.
4. Animals.
5. Procedure in other cases.
6. Repayment to owner.
7. Record to be kept.
8. Application.
9. Repeals.

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**N.L.C.D. 371**

**UNCLAIMED PROPERTY ACT, 1969<sup>1</sup>**

**AN ACT to provide for the disposal of unclaimed property and for related matters.**

**1. Unclaimed property**

Where an article has been left or found in or on a Government premises, and the owner is unknown or cannot reasonably be found, the article shall be disposed of as provided by this Act.

**2. Arms, jewels, precious metals**

Where an article is a firearm, arm, ammunition, explosive, gunpowder, munitions of war or offensive weapon of any description or an article similar to any of them, or consists of precious stones or precious metal, a senior officer of the premises in or on which it has been left or found shall hand it over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station.

**3. Perishable and unsaleable goods**

Where an article is of a perishable nature or in a condition which is wholly unsaleable it may be destroyed at any time on the written authority of a senior officer of the premises in or on which it has been left or found.

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1. The Act was issued as the Unclaimed Property Decree, 1969 (N.L.C.D. 371) made on the 3rd day of July 1969 and notified in the *Gazette* on 18th July, 1969.

**4. Animals**

An animal left or found in or on a Government premises shall be deemed to be stray and may be dealt with under section 300 of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29).

**5. Procedure in other cases**

(1) In all other cases, a senior officer of the premises in or on which an article has been left or found shall post a notice conspicuously outside the building which the senior officer administers specifying the article left or found on the premises or land belonging to the premises.

(2) Where the article remains unclaimed after the notice has been posted for one month it shall be sold by public auction.

(3) Where an auctioneer is not readily available, the senior officer or a person appointed by the senior officer for the purpose may lawfully hold the auction, despite a law to the contrary.

(4) After deducting the expenses of sale, the senior officer shall pay the balance to the Controller and the Accountant-General.

**6. Repayment to owner**

Where a person who was or appears to the Controller and Accountant-General to have been the owner of an article previous to the sale applies to the Controller and Accountant-General within one year after the sale, the Controller and Accountant-General shall pay the sum received to that person.

**7. Record to be kept**

The senior officer of a Government premises in or on which an article has been left or found shall keep a written record of the article, specifying the manner in which it was disposed of, and if sold the amount realised by the sale and the expenses incurred.

**8. Application**

This Act shall not apply to property in the possession of the police.

**9. Repeals**

The Derelict Property Ordinance (Cap. 261) is hereby repealed.

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