



The Kiribati Gazettes

Acts of 2017

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*continuation of Sea-
bed Minerals Act*

The Kiribati Gazette is an official publication of the Government of Kiribati. Published on a monthly basis through the Communications Unit of the Office of Te Beretitenti, the Kiribati Gazette contains publications of Instruments, Acts, Notices and Proclamations (public and official announcements) from the Government of Kiribati

129. Notice

Any application, request, notice, warning, report, or direction made or given under this Act, or service of process or notification in any proceeding of any court or tribunal having jurisdiction, shall be made by the Secretariat or the representative of the Title Holder designated in the Title in writing, and shall be deemed served the day after delivery, if delivered by hand, facsimile or email to the Secretariat or to the designated representative.

130. Disputes

- (i) Any dispute arising between Kiribati and another State in connection with Seabed Mineral Activities shall be resolved pursuant to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
- (ii) Any dispute between Kiribati and a Title Holder arising in connection with the administration of this Act shall be dealt with by:
 - (a) the parties attempting to reach settlement by mutual agreement or mediation, and in the event this is not successful then;
 - (b) by referral to arbitration to be conducted in accordance to the Arbitration Act 1990 of Kiribati.; or
 - (c) an application submitted to the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea for any case expressly provided for in Part XI of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

131. Transitional provisions

Six months from the commencement of this Act -

- (a) any authority or research consent certificate or title granted under seabed minerals related legislation or otherwise to carry out activities that constitute Seabed Mineral Activities shall expire; and
- (b) any person or persons who were before the commencement of this Act authorised to carry out activities that constitute Seabed Mineral Activities shall, to allow the continuation of such activities, obtain a sponsorship certificate, permit or licence under this Act and comply with the requirements of this Act and
- (c) any mineral development agreement or sponsorship agreement made before the commencement of this Act shall to allow the continuation of such agreements be revised and amended to be consistent with the provisions of this Act.

132. Regulations and Ministerial Orders

The Minister may, with the consent of Cabinet, make Regulations -

- (a) prescribing anything required or authorised to be Prescribed under this Act;
- (b) generally for carrying this Act into effect;
- (c) without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Regulations may be made with respect to any of the following matters
 - (i) the gridding, mapping and allocation of blocks, cells and Licensed Areas;
 - (ii) classifying particular aspects of work relating to Seabed Minerals as an environmental significant activity under the Environment Act 1999, or absolutely prohibited due to unacceptable anticipated harm to the Marine Environment;

- (iii) requisite content, format, consultation processes, independent verification, and timeframe for an Environment Impact Assessment and the establishment of environmental baseline data for Seabed Mineral Activities;
- (iv) prescribe further rules or processes pertaining to the handling by the Secretariat of conflicting Applications for the same Title pertaining to the same area;
- (v) environment management plans, and provision for areas of the Territorial Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf that have features that require a location-specific approach;
- (vi) prescribing the format, content, timeframe or processes for any Applications, reports or other data or information required under this Act;
- (vii) matters relating to the processes to be undertaken and the factors to be taken into account by the Secretariat in deciding whether or not to grant, review, vary, suspend, or revoke a Title;
- (viii) the terms of and a model version of a Title;
- (ix) the fiscal regime to be applied to Seabed Mineral Activities;
- (x) the operation of the Seabed Minerals Fund;
- (xi) provisions for post-Mining monitoring or other requirements relating to the closure of Seabed Mining Activities;
- (xii) information-handling for any data received or held by the Secretariat in relation to Seabed Mineral Activities;
- (xiii) community development and consultation arrangements;
- (xiv) the holding of inquiries into accidents or other incidents causing harm to the Environment or human health and safety occurring in the course of any Seabed Mineral Activities or Ancillary Operations;
- (xv) Enforcement Orders and other sanctions, and powers connected with the investigation and administration of such Orders and other sanctions;
- (xvi) providing that any Prescribed breach of Regulations shall be an offence, and affording any defences available to any such offence created by Regulations made under this Act;
- (xvii) the criminal penalty payable for any contravention of or failure to comply with the Regulations, which shall not exceed \$500,000;
- (xviii) a scheme of administrative penalties in lieu of a criminal penalty for any contravention of or failure to comply with the Regulations and the amount of administrative penalties payable, which penalties shall not exceed half of the applicable maximum criminal penalty;
- (xix) further matters in relation to Prospecting Permits;
- (xx) further matters in relation to Exploration and Mining Licences;
- (xxi) further matters in relation to Sponsorship Certificate or agreements;
- (xxii) that a Licensee shall be required to pay a Licence fee, the amount or manner of determining the Licence fee, and the times and manner of payment.

133. Consequential Amendments

Section 2 of the Mineral Development Licensing Ordinance 1977 (Cap 58) is amended by excluding seabed minerals as defined under section 3(1) of this Act from the definition of mineral.

Passed by the Maneaba ni Maungatabu this day of 2017

Schedule 1: Environmental Impact Assessment Contents

For the purpose of section 76, the following is the minimum required content of an Environmental Impact Assessment and resulting report, where one is required under this Act, the Environment Act 1999 or any other laws of Kiribati for any part of any Seabed Mineral Activities carried out under Licence under this Act.

- A. Executive Summary: providing an explanation of the Seabed Mineral Activities for non-technical readers, including:
 - (1) description of the proposed Activity and its objectives,
 - (2) anticipated bio-physical and socio-economic of the Activity, highlighting which are direct and which indirect, and which are reversible and which are irreversible,
 - (3) details of remedial actions that are proposed,
 - (4) description of all benefits to be derived from the project,
 - (5) details of consultation program undertaken by the applicant, including degree of public interest,
 - (6) description of end-use plans for the development activity
- B. Introduction
 - (1) Background: summary of the project being proposed.
 - (2) Project History: summary of the work undertaken to date, including Seabed Mineral Deposit discovery and any prospecting, exploration or test mining activities conducted to date.
 - (3) Project Proponent: summary of the credentials of the Licensee, including major shareholders, other Titles owned or applied for (or similar within other jurisdictions).
 - (4) Purpose and Justification: information on the viability of the proposed activity, including but not limited to the following -
 - (i) information on the capital cost associated with the development,
 - (ii) details of the proponent's technological expertise and resources,
 - (iii) results of any feasibility investigations that have been carried out,
 - (iv) information on the extent of landowner and/or resource owner support, including a copy of the formal written approval of their consent,
 - (v) the anticipated life-span and development phases of the project.
 - (5) This Report: statutory context, description of the scope of the EIA, and the report's structure.
- C. Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework: information on relevant national legislation, agreements or policy, relevant international agreements or conventions, and other non-legal standards or guidelines, that are applicable to the proposed activity, and how the Licensee will comply with these requirements.
- D. Stakeholder Consultation: description of what consultation has occurred with interested parties and stakeholders, any consent received from local communities, and what continuing consultation is planned.
- E. Description of Proposed Activity: including the following -
 - (1) location (with reference to a map),

- (2) details of the type, grade and volume of the Seabed Mineral Deposit, and estimates of inferred and indicated resource,
- (3) the activity or activities that have triggered the Environmental Impact Assessment requirement, a work plan showing how these are proposed to be conducted,
- (4) a proposed timetable, with milestone dates by which tasks are expected to be completed,
- (5) offshore infrastructure to be used,
- (6) technology to be employed (with reference to relevant diagrams and drawings), and details of any construction and operating standards used,
- (7) transport to be used,
- (8) storage facilities to be used,
- (9) anticipated waste products, and waste disposal mechanisms to be used,
- (10) any material-handling or hazardous material management methods or protocols to be used,
- (11) any Ancillary Operations, support equipment or onshore infrastructure or processes required to carry out the activity,
- (12) alternative sites or methods considered,
- (13) workforce description and details of any health and safety standards used and
- (14) decommissioning, closure, and site rehabilitation plans.

F. Description of Existing Offshore Environment: detailed account of knowledge of the environmental conditions at the site, and a baseline description of geological, oceanographic and biological conditions against which impacts will be measured and assessed, including:

- (1) regional oceanographic, geological and biological overview,
- (2) studies and research activities completed which provide relevant information,
- (3) special characteristics of the site,
- (4) meteorology and air quality,
- (5) geological setting,
- (6) physical oceanographic setting, including water quality and sediment characteristics,
- (7) biological environment:
 - (i) pelagic (surface to 200m depth),
 - (ii) midwater (between 200m depth and seafloor),
 - (iii) benthic (at seafloor level),
- (8) natural hazards,
- (9) noise,
- (10) air quality,
- (11) description of existing onshore environment, as relevant,

- (12) socio-economic environment of the site, including: other Seabed Mineral Activities, fisheries, Marine Scientific research, navigation lanes, submarine cabling, tourism, customary sea use, aquaculture,
 - (13) cultural/Historic resources and
 - (14) socio-economic and socio-cultural issues generally, including onshore direct or indirect impacts, and anticipated effects on the livelihoods and lifestyles of the population of Kiribati.
- G. Environmental impacts on the offshore site, the regional site, and the coastal and onshore environment, mitigation and management measures:
- (1) the nature and extent of any impact on any and all of the categories listed in section F, and also, insofar as not covered by the section F categories, the effects / issues anticipated from:
 - (i) greenhouse gas emissions and climate change,
 - (ii) biosecurity,
 - (iii) pollution,
 - (iv) health and safety of workers,
 - (v) waste management,
 - (vi) economic benefit or impact for Kiribati,
 - (vii) skills development, industry diversity and community impacts for Kiribati,
 - (viii) supply chain, utilities, access to water, fuel, and impact to local communities in terms of access to supplies,
 - (ix) any other direct or indirect impacts on the Kiribati's population and
 - (x) environmentally hazardous discharges resulting from accidental and extreme natural events,
 - (2) measures that will be taken to avoid, mitigate, minimize or such impact;
 - (3) what unavoidable impacts will remain; and
 - (4) how those impacts will be compensated for.
- H. Environmental Management, Monitoring and Reporting:
- (1) organisational structure and responsibilities for environmental management,
 - (2) environmental management plan, including:
 - (i) impact mitigation and minimising,
 - (ii) Monitoring plan,
 - (3) closure and rehabilitation plan,
 - (4) monitoring studies,
 - (5) reporting.
- I. Environment Impact Assessment team:
- (1) licensee personnel,
 - (2) lead Environmental Consultant(s),
 - (3) other personnel or consultants.
- J. References
- K. Glossary and abbreviations
- L. Appendix: all supporting studies

Please note: details of classified or proprietary information relating to a manufacturing or industrial process or trade secret used in carrying on or operating any particular undertaking or equipment or information of a business or financial nature in relation to the proposed activity should be clearly defined and labelled. Such information, shall be handled by the Secretariat in accordance with section 16 of this Act, and where the label is verified by the Secretariat, shall be excluded from documents made available for public review.

Seabed Minerals Act 2017

Explanatory Memorandum

Background

Seabed minerals are hard mineral resources of any part of the deep seabed, including those in crust, nodule or hydrothermal deposit form. Seabed minerals are found within Kiribati national jurisdiction, and within international waters in the Area. These minerals contain metals with high grade per tonnage ore and currently required for high technology applications.

Seabed mineral activities are the different phases of 'prospecting', 'exploring', and 'mining' of a seabed mineral.

Seabed mineral and seabed mineral activity is a new industry that lacks proper regulation. The current Minerals Development Licensing Ordinance which governed minerals in general has been in force since 1977. Its provisions are outdated and inadequate to address seabed mineral activities in the Area conducted by companies under Kiribati sponsorship, and to meet environmental management requirements applicable to the specific features of mineral activities conducted at sea. A new legislation is required to govern the Seabed Minerals.

Part I - Preliminary

Part I of the Act covers Preliminary matters and includes Short Title of the Act, Commencement, the Interpretation which specifies the obligations of Kiribati under the UN Law of the Sea Convention and other international instruments, and requires interpretation of the Act and persons to perform duties, functions and exercise powers in accordance to these obligations.

Section 4 declares ownership of seabed minerals within national jurisdiction to Kiribati.

Section 5 and 6 of the Act seek to create a system for controlling the development and management of the seabed minerals within Kiribati national jurisdiction and in the Area under Kiribati sponsorship, including giving protection to the marine environment, and providing for the sustainable management of the resulting revenue as required.

Section 7 regulates the applications of the Act to Kiribati residents, companies and seabed minerals but not petroleum. The Act exclude the application of the Mineral Development Licensing Ordinance, 1977 whose provisions shall not apply to Seabed Mineral Activities.

Part II – Kiribati Seabed Minerals Secretariat & Part III – Kiribati Seabed Minerals Technical Advisory Committee

Parts II and III of the Act establish two different bodies, the Kiribati Seabed Minerals Secretariat, and the Kiribati Seabed Minerals Technical Advisory Committee, to work together to achieve good decision-making on licence applications, and careful monitoring and regulation of any licences granted within Kiribati's national jurisdiction.

(i) The Kiribati Seabed Minerals Secretariat:

Section 9(2) of the Act provides that the Ministry responsible for Seabed Minerals (Minerals Unit) is the responsible Secretariat within Government for the day-to-day management and oversight of any seabed mineral activities taking place within Kiribati. When acting in this role, the Ministry's Mineral Unit is known as the 'Kiribati Seabed Mineral Secretariat' or 'the Secretariat' as specified under Section 9(1).

Section 12 and 22 provides that the Ministry may hire new staff or use consultants or external experts to assist with this role, and will need to hire inspectors to carry out monitoring work at-sea. Part II of the Act contains more details about the role and responsibilities of the Seabed Minerals Secretariat.

The Secretariat is given a set of objectives under Section 11 of the Act, functions covered under Section 12, and powers under Section 14 of the Act, which includes:

Objectives to ensure seabed mineral activities operate within the law; maximize benefits to the people of Kiribati; prevent unacceptable impacts on the environment and people; and make operations and decision-making accountable and transparent.

Functions to maintain a register of information, and minerals data, open to viewing by the public, receive and review licence applications, public consultation, monitor seabed mineral activities, and review reports received, take sanctions against non-compliance, develop relevant policies, guidelines and standards.

Powers to investigate seabed mineral operations and vessels, compel information from persons involved with seabed mineral activities, apply penalties e.g. fines, and inquiry into any incident that threatens the environment or human health and safety.

The Secretariat must act consistently with Kiribati's obligations under international law (e.g. to protect and preserve the marine environment) specified under Section 3(2) of the Act and also must adopt best regulatory practice (that is, that regulatory activities should be proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted only at cases in which action is needed), and good corporate governance in accordance to Section 13(c) and (d) of the Act.

(ii) The Kiribati Seabed Minerals Technical Advisory Committee:

Section 28 of the Act establishes a second new body within Kiribati: the Kiribati Seabed Minerals Technical Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to assist the Secretariat. It aims at operating as the official avenue for consultation between the Government and the communities on matters concerning the regulation and management of seabed minerals. The Secretariat and the Minister will have to take into account any recommendation received from the Committee. The Committee will be entitled to receive and review information received from the Secretariat about applications and seabed mineral activities, disseminate information to the general public, provide recommendations to the Secretariat and, perform other functions that could be assigned to it as set out under Section 29 of the Act.

Under Section 30 of the Act the Committee will be composed of: A Chair, who shall be a person appointed by the Minister; A Secretary, who shall be the Ministry's Chief Executive Officer or other nominated representative of the Secretariat; At least four members to be appointed by the Minister, including one person representing coastal communities of Kiribati and one person representing women's interests; and Such number of additional members as may be appointed by the Minister or Prescribed, which may include experts in relevant fields, representatives of non-governmental organizations, or representatives of academic institutions or the commercial sector.

Nominated representatives will be approved by Cabinet.

Part IV – Areas Available for Seabed Mineral Activities within Kiribati's National Jurisdiction

Part IV sets out tasks for the Mineral Unit to divide the surface of the continental shelf or seabed and subsoil into blocks and then into smaller cells to delineate reserved areas, protected areas, areas subject or

open to licence applications, and areas where minerals are abundant to be able to maximize income generated from seabed minerals.

Part V – Duties and Responsibilities of Individuals

This Part of the Act provides for general prohibitions, compliance with Kiribati relevant laws and procedures, and additional terms and conditions to what is contained in the Title Holder's Title.

Section 43 prohibits and makes it an offence for any person to conduct seabed mineral activities without a Title granted under the Act.

Section 44 requires any Prospector or Licensee engaging in Seabed Mineral Activities to adhere to a list of Kiribati legislation (including this Act, Environment Act), the terms and conditions of the Title permitting the Seabed Mineral Activities, any environmental conditions arising from the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and other laws and procedures relating to protection against discrimination in employment, occupational health and safety and health, labour relations, social security, employment security and living conditions.

Section 45 adds further terms and conditions to the existing Title Holder's Title and these include: the Title Holder's duty to observe social and environmental management principles for instance to apply the precautionary approach, employ the best environmental practice in accordance with international standards, to prevent, reduce and control pollution to the marine environment, and the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment where it is needed for the particular seabed mineral activity and other terms as set out under this Section.

Part VI Prospecting Permits within Kiribati National Jurisdiction

Part VI deals with Prospecting, grant of prospecting permit, the permit application process, the conditions of the Permit, rights and obligations of the Prospecting Permit, and the Obligations of the Prospector.

The Secretariat may grant a prospecting permit upon satisfactory receipt of an application form accompanied with fees, to conduct prospecting within Kiribati Territorial Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone or Continental Shelf.

Section 48 provides the details of what is required when applying for a prospecting permit and the application must be lodged at least six months before prospecting commence.

The permit application process commences with an application to the Secretariat, The Secretariat will inform the Committee of the receipt of every Application for a Prospecting Permit and will provide sufficient information for the Committee to consider each Application, and to provide any objections or queries to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat after satisfactory receipt of an Application or of additional information sought during the Application process may provide the Applicant Prospector with: a decision to grant a Prospecting Permit; a decision to deny a Prospecting Permit; or a request for further information within a time limit as prescribed.

The Secretariat will return incomplete permit applications without a decision.

The Secretariat relying on the grounds specified under Section 50 may deny a prospecting permit and write a statement for reasons of denial to the Applicant. The Applicant who is dissatisfied by the decision could appeal to the Minister against the decision.

Section 53 provides rights and obligations for a prospecting permit in that:

Prospecting does not entail any exclusive rights of access to the seabed or water column, does not permit extraction of minerals for commercial use, may be conducted simultaneously by more than one Prospector in the same area or areas, shall cease within a Marine Reserve and Protected Area, the Prospector has caused Serious Harm to the Marine Environment or human life or poses a threat thereof, and does not entail any right to drill into the Continental Shelf, use explosives; or introduce harmful substances into the Marine Environment.

Part VII Licensing of Kiribati Seabed Minerals within Kiribati National Jurisdiction

This Part of the Act enables interested operators to apply to the Secretariat for a licence for exploration, and (in the future) mining.

Every application must contain specific information as listed under Section 57 and 58 of the Act in order to give the Secretariat and the Committee enough information about the applicant company and their proposed seabed mineral activities, to enable a grant or denial decision.

Section 56 and 58 provides that the Secretariat will only recommend an application to the Committee, where it is satisfied that:

- the area under application is neither already occupied by another operator with exclusive rights, nor a protected or reserved area ; and
- the company and its project proposal meet specified criteria, which include matters such as:
 - the company's financial and technical capabilities;
 - the proposed project's work-plan, size, location and commercial viability;
 - the likely environmental impacts and how these would be managed, and;
 - likely impacts on other sea users.

Section 63 requires that after receiving an application for an exploration or mining licence, the Secretariat can send a copy to other Ministries in Kiribati for consultation and there are similar requirements for consultation with the Committee and the public.

Where an application is successful, the Secretariat will prepare a draft licence as specified under Section 68.

Section 60 provides that Cabinet approval and Minister Signature is required for any licence or sponsorship. Cabinet, before approving, may request an opinion from the Attorney-General's Office that the terms of the licence abide by the provisions of the Act, and other laws of Kiribati as well as the Kiribati's obligations under international law. One operator may hold more than one licence as provided under Section 61 of the Act.

An exploration or mining licence in Kiribati's waters will specify the work-plan and terms and conditions which the operator of the seabed mineral activities must comply with, including some prerequisite conditions before any activities can commence as required under Section 68(d) and 73 of the Act. Under Section 77 the licence terms also stipulate that the licence-holder will be responsible for any compensation or damage resulting from its failure to comply with the licence.

Section 69 provides that a licence will give the licence-holder exclusive rights to conduct seabed mineral activities within the specified area, in accordance with the agreed work-plan. A holder of an exploration licence, in order to avoid inaction, is required over time to lessen the area it is working in by relinquishing

parts periodically in accordance with Section 71, and will have preferential rights to apply for a mining licence for the same areas it has explored, or to ask for that area to be temporarily reserved pending an application in the future as stipulated under Section 70.

All licensees are required to comply with a list of legal duties contained under Part V of the Act aimed to ensure the activities are carried out lawfully, efficiently and responsibly.

This Part of the Act also incorporates environmental protection measures, reflecting Kiribati's international law obligations particularly in respect of Section 76 of the Act which deals with the application of the precautionary principle, employing the best environmental practice, a duty to preserve and protect the marine environment, and the requirement of prior environmental impact assessment before certain seabed mineral activities could commence.

Part VIII – Sponsorship of Activities in the Area

Under Part VIII of the Act the Secretariat is empowered by Section 85, on behalf of Kiribati, to issue a certificate of sponsorship to a body corporate, registered in Kiribati, to explore or extract minerals within 'the Area'. A sponsored company will extract and export the minerals and pay fees and royalties for that right to the ISA - the inter-governmental agency that manages activities in the Area. Kiribati's role is to make sure the company conducts its activities according to international law requirements, especially those aimed to protect the environment. In exchange, Kiribati can ask for a sponsorship fee and/or a share of future proceeds from the sale of the extracted minerals from the sponsored company as specified under Section 105(4) of the Act.

The Secretariat will apply criteria like the licence application process, described in Part VII above, in deciding whether or not to enter into a sponsorship agreement certificate. Section 45 and 92 provides that a sponsorship certificate places requirements on the company to control its activities so they work with due diligence, and within the law and industry best-practice parameters. The Act under the same provisions above also aims to ensure that, in the event that any responsibility for damages arising from the acts of the sponsored company, liability for this falls on the company and not on Kiribati.

Part IX – Marine Scientific Research

The essence of including the Part on Marine Scientific Research in this Act is to encourage and enable the proper regulation of any marine scientific research which is fundamental prior to the commencement of any seabed minerals activities.

Section 99 of the Act enables any person to apply for a marine scientific research to conduct research in the Kiribati national jurisdiction.

The application containing the information required under Section 100 has to go through the Secretariat and unless there are reasonable grounds for a denial of consent in accordance with section 3(2) of this Act, the Secretariat shall provide its consent to a Marine Scientific Research project.

A consent to conduct Marine Scientific Research does not: entail any exclusive rights of access to the seabed or water column, and does not permit extraction of Seabed Minerals; constitute the legal basis for any claim to any part of the Marine Environment or its resources; shall cease entirely or within a particular area upon written notice being given by the Secretariat in accordance to Section 103 of the Act.

Part X – Fiscal Arrangement

This Part of the Act specifies under Section 105 that financial payments such as application and annual fees, taxes and royalties must be paid to the Kiribati Government by those wanting to undertake Kiribati seabed mineral activities.

Section 45(h) and 57(h) to (j) encourages licence-holders to use local goods, services and employees where possible, and must undertake capacity-building initiatives for Kiribati nationals.

The security deposit is required under Section 107 prior to granting of a Title to be used as a guarantee of performance of the obligations attaching to the Title. The Secretariat with the Consent of the Cabinet are empowered to determine the form, the amount of the security, and the terms and conditions. The deposit will be used to rectify damage or loss caused as a result of such failure, including for clean-up compensation costs in respect of any damage from pollution and other incident resulting from seabed mineral activities.

Section 108 of the Act also creates a 'Seabed Minerals Fund' into which seabed mineral revenue will be paid, to be managed for the benefit of current and future generations of Kiribati nationals.

Part XI – Miscellaneous

Part XI contains various provisions. Section 109 obliges Title Holders and Holders of research consent certificate to ensure that the vessels which are engaged in the Seabed Mineral Activities, Ancillary Operations, and Marine Scientific Research conform to the vessel standards required under this Section. Failure to comply with the vessel standards is an offence under this Section.

Section 123 establishes the safety zones around installations, infrastructure facility and vessels used in seabed mineral activities for the purpose of protecting these structures. It is an offence not to comply with this requirement.

The Act makes minor consequential amendments to the Mineral Development Licensing Ordinance 1977 and provides for transitional matters. Under Section 131: Title Holders, Research Consent Certificate Holders are given six months from the commencement of this Act to renew their Title or Consent Certificate. Any person who had been authorized to carry out Seabed Mineral Activities prior to commencement of the Act to allow continuation of such activities are given six months from the commencement of the Act to obtain a sponsorship certificate, permit or licence under this Act. The agreements made before the commencement of this Act to allow continuation, are to be revised and amended in accordance with the Act within the six months period after commencement of this Act.

Tetiro Mate Semilota
Attorney-General

**CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK OF THE MANEABA NI
MAUNGATABU**

This printed impression of the Seabed Minerals Act 2017 has been carefully examined by me with the Bill which passed the Maneaba ni Maungatabu on the 13th April 2017 and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

Eni Tekanene

Clerk of the Maneaba ni Maungatabu

Published by exhibition at the Maneaba ni Maungatabu this 18 day of
May 2017.

Eni Tekanene

Clerk of the Maneaba ni Maungatabu