THE JUDICIAL PROVISIONS BILL

(No. XXXV of 2008)

Explanatory Memorandum

The object of this Bill is to amend a number of enactments –

- (a) to provide for heavier penalties for certain offences and increase the sentencing jurisdiction of the District Courts and the Intermediate Court; and
- (b) to abolish fixed sentences and other mandatory sentences and to restore to the Courts their sentencing discretion in respect of all offences.

J. VALAYDEN
Attorney-General

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ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

4. Criminal Code Courts (Criminal Juri (Supplementary) Act Act amended	1. 2.	Short title Courts Act amended	6.	Dangerous Drugs Act amended
amended 8. Various enactments am		Criminal Code	7.	Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction)
amended	5.	amended Criminal Procedure Act	8.	Various enactments amended

A BILL

To make better provision in respect of sentencing

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Judicial Provisions Act 2008.

2. Courts Act amended

The Courts Act is amended –

- (a) in section 113
 - (i) in subsection (2)(a), by deleting the words "8 years" and "5 years" and replacing them by the words "15 years" and "10 years" respectively;
 - (ii) in subsection (2)(b), by deleting the words "12 years" and replacing them by the words "20 years"; and
 - (iii) in subsection (3)(a)(ii), by deleting the words "5 years" and replacing them by the words "10 years"; and
- (b) in section 114(2), by deleting the words "2 years" and "10,000 rupees" and replacing them by the words "5 years" and "100,000 rupees" respectively.

3. Criminal Code amended

The Criminal Code is amended –

- (a) in section 5, by deleting subsection (2);
- (b) in section 11(2), by deleting the words "30 years" and replacing them by the words "40 years";
- (c) in section 12, by deleting the words "5 years" and replacing them by the words "10 years";
- (d) in sections 50, 51 and 62, by adding, after the words "for life", the words "or, where the Court is satisfied that compelling reasons exist which justify the imposition of a lesser sentence and has specified the reasons on the record of the proceedings, for a term not exceeding 60 years";

(e) in sections 57 and 60 by deleting the words "shall be punished by penal servitude for life and forfeiture of property" and replacing them by the following words –

"shall be punished -

- (a) by penal servitude for life or, where the Court is satisfied that compelling reasons exist which justify the imposition of a lesser sentence and has specified the reasons on the record of the proceedings, for a term not exceeding 60 years; and
- (b) forfeiture of property";
- (f) in section 234 (2), by adding, after the words "for life", the words "or, where the Court is satisfied that compelling reasons exist which justify the imposition of a lesser sentence and has specified the reasons on the record of the proceedings, for a term not exceeding 60 years;"
- (g) in section 251
 - (i) in subsection (1)
 - (A) in the first column, by deleting the words "qui ne pourra être inferieur à un an mais qui ne pourra excèder 5 ans" and replacing them by the words "qui n'excèdera pas 10 ans"; and
 - (B) in the second column, by deleting the words "of not less than one year nor more than 5 years" and replacing them by the words "not exceeding 10 years"; and
 - (ii) in subsection (2)
 - (A) in the first column, by deleting the words "qui ne pourra être inferieur à 2 ans mais qui n'excèdera pas 8 ans" and replacing them by the words "qui n'excèdera pas 15 ans"; and
 - (B) in the second column, by deleting the words "of not less than 2 years nor more than 8 years" and replacing them by the words " for a term not exceeding 15 years";
- (h) in section 253(4), by deleting the words "not less than 2 years nor more than 10 years" and "100, 000" and replacing them by the words "not more than 20 years" and "200,000" respectively;

- (i) in section 301A (1), by deleting the words "which shall not be less than 5 years and not more than 15 years" and replacing them by the words "not exceeding 30 years";
- (j) in section 323 -
 - (i) in the first column, by deleting the words "qui n'excèdera pas 6 mois, et à une amende qui n'excèdera pas 250 roupies et à 4 roupies par jour de dommages interêts envers le maïtre. L'amende sera appliqué moitié au Consolidated Fund et moitié au dénonciateur" and replacing them by the words "qui n'excèdera pas un an et à une amende qui n'excèdera pas 10,000 roupies"; and
 - (ii) in the second column, by deleting the words "not exceeding 6 months, and to a fine not exceeding 250 rupees and to damages of 4 rupees per day to the master. One half of the fine shall go to the Consolidated Fund and the other half to the informer." and replacing them by the words " not exceeding one year and to a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees"; and
- (k) in section 347, by adding, after the words "for life" the words "or, where the Court is satisfied that compelling reasons exist which justify the imposition of a lesser sentence and has specified the reasons on the record of the proceedings, for a term not exceeding 60 years".

4. Criminal Code (Supplementary) Act amended

The Criminal Code (Supplementary) Act is amended, in section 86(2)(a), by deleting the words "of not less than 3 months nor more than 2 years" and "25,000 rupees" and replacing them by the words "not exceeding 4 years" and "100,000 rupees" respectively.

5. Criminal Procedure Act amended

The Criminal Procedure Act is amended –

- (a) in section 135
 - (i) by deleting the words "although the minimum of the term of imprisonment to which he is liable on conviction is limited,"; and
 - (ii) by inserting, after the words "in passing sentence,", the words "shall take into account the time spent by the accused in custody and";

- (b) in section 140(2), by deleting the word "shall" and replacing it by the word "may";
- (c) in section 151, by deleting the words "2 years" and replacing them by the words "5 years"; and
- (d) in section 152, by deleting the words "with or without hard labour" wherever they appear.

6. Dangerous Drugs Act amended

Section 41(2) of the Dangerous Drugs Act is amended by deleting the word "maximum".

7. District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act amended

The District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act is amended in section 72 (5), by deleting the words "10,000 rupees" and "2 years" and replacing them by the words "100,000 rupees" and "5 years" respectively.

8. Various enactments amended

The enactments specified in the first column of the Schedule are amended in the sections specified in the second column –

- (a) by deleting the fines specified in the third column and replacing them by the corresponding fines specified in the fifth column; and
- (b) by deleting the terms specified in the fourth column and replacing them by the corresponding terms specified in the sixth column.

SCHEDULE

(section 8)

Enactment		Section	Fine (Rs)	Term of Penal Servitude/Imp risonment	Fine (Rs)	Term of Penal Servitude/ Imprisonment
Criminal	58	Causing risk of		10 years		20 years
Code		war		15 years		30 years
	66(3)	Plundering public property with armed band		10 years		20 years
	67	Harbouring armed band		10 years		20 years
	74	Penalty for failing to reveal plot other than of high treason	2,000	10 years	25,000	20 years
	76A (3)	Prohibition on the use of Arms of Mauritius	100,000		200,000	
	77	Abuse of authority by public officer	3,000		25,000	
	78(1)	Torture by public official	50,000	5 years	150,000	10 years
	80	Arbitrary detention by public officer	2,000		25,000	
	83	Public officer resigning with intent to paralyse public service	10,000		100,000	
	84	Violation of domicile by public officer	5,000	6 months 6 mois	25,000	one year un an
	88	Public officer ordering use of force to prevent operation of law		10 years		20 years
	95(1)	Knowingly offering counterfeit gold or silver coin		one year un an		5 years cinq ans

96(1)	Knowingly		3 years		10 years
	uttering		•		•
	counterfeit gold				
	or silver coin				
98 (a) and	Counterfeiting		7 years		15 years
(c)	copper coin				
98 (b)	Counterfeiting		one year		5 years
	copper coin				
103	Counterfeiting	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
	mark of				
	Government or				
105	trader	10.000		100.000	
105	Altering	10,000	one year	100,000	5 years
	manufacturer's		un an		5 ans
100	label		10		20
109	Making use of		10 years		20 years
	forged public				
111	writing		10 ****		20 ***
111	Forgery of private writing		10 years		20 years
115	Public officer		one year		5 years
113	delivering		un an		5 ans
	unauthorized		un an		J ans
	passport				
117	Forgery of		5 years		10 years
	medical		o y cars		10) •
	certificate				
118(1)	Medical officer		5 years		10 years
	issuing false		5 ans		10 ans
	certificate				
118(2)	Medical officer		10 years		20 years
	issuing false		10 ans		20 ans
	certificate				
121	Fine for forgery	25,000		100,000	
123(1)	Embezzlement		10 years		20 years
	and larceny of				
	deed by public				
	officer				
124(1)	Extortion by		10 years		20 years
	public officer	_			
124(2)	Extortion by	5,000		25,000	
105	public officer	40.000		100.000	
137	Public officer	10,000		100,000	
	exercising				
	functions				
	without lawful				
	authority				

139(1)	Taking part in unlawful assembly	10,000	2 years	100,000	5 years
140(1)	Having offensive weapon at unlawful assembly	25,000	5 years	100,000	10 years
142 (2)	Remaining in unlawful assembly after warning	10,000	2 years	100,000	5 years
143(1)	Taking part in riot	25,000	5 years	100,000	10 years
146	Rebellion by 3 but not more than 20 armed persons		10 years		20 years
147	Rebellion by less than 3 armed persons		6 months 6 mois		5 years 5 ans
152	Inciting rebellion		1 year		10 years
153	Fine for rebellion	10,000		100,000	
156(1)	Outrage against depository of public authority	10,000		100,000	
156(2)	Outrage against depository of public authority	8,000	one year un an	100,000	5 years 5 ans
156(3)	Outrage against depository of public authority	5,000	6 months 6 mois	25,000	one year un an
157	Outrage against commander of civil or military authorities		6 months 6 mois		one year un an
158(1)	Assault against member of the Assembly or judicial officer	10,000	3 years	100,000	6 years
158(2)	Assault against member of the Assembly or judicial officer	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years

159	Assault against	3,000	one year	25,000	2 years
139	agent of civil or	3,000	one year	23,000	2 years
	military				
	authorities				
162	Witness giving	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
102	false excuse	10,000	un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
164			3 months		
104	Aiding prisoner charged with		2 years		one year 4 years
	misdemeanour		2 years		4 years
165	Aiding prisoner		6 months		one veer
103	charged with		5 years		one year 10 years
	crime		6 mois		un an
	Clinic		5 ans		10 ans
166	Aiding prisoner		5 years		10 years
100	to escape by		3 years		10 years
	violence				
167	Third party		10 years	+ +	20 years
	aiding prisoner		10 years		20 y 0 a15
	to escape by				
	violence				
168(1)	Aiding prisoner		10 years		20 years
	to escape by		10) 0015		2 0 y cu 15
	supply of arms				
169	Supplying		one year		2 years
	prisoner with		un an		2 ans
	instrument for		WII WII		_ 0115
	escape				
173	Failing to		6 months		one year
	prevent		6 mois		un an
	breaking of				
	Government				
	seal				
175	Breaking of seal		5 years		10 years
	relating to		10 years		20 years
	criminal				
	proceedings				
176	Breaking of		5 years		10 years
	other seal				
178	Failing to	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
	prevent		un an		2 ans
	purloining of				
	document				
	entrusted to				
	depository				
179(1)	Purloining of		10 years		20 years
	document from				
	place of public				
	deposit				

180	Breaking of		10 years		20 years
	seal, and		•		•
	purloining of				
	document, by				
	violence				
181 (1)	Damaging	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
	monument		un an		2 ans
181(3)	Damaging	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
	monument		un an		2 ans
181(4)	Damaging	15,000		100,000	
	monument				
181A (1)	Protection of	10,000	2 years	100,000	5 years
	flag	,	,		J
 182A (4)	Usurping	10,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
	wearing of	,	J	,	J
	uniform				
 183	Interference	10,000	2 months	100,000	2 years
	with freedom of	,	2 mois		2 ans
	conscience				
184	Disturbing	10,000	6 months	100,000	2 years
	religious		6 mois		2 ans
	ceremony		00 -2		
185	Outrage on	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
100	religious	10,000	un an	100,000	2 ans
	worship		an an		2 4115
186	Assaulting and	10,000		100,000	
100	outraging	10,000		100,000	
	minister of				
	religion				
191	Forming part of,		10 years		20 years
171	and aiding or		10 years		20 years
	harbouring,				
	association of				
	malefactors				
196(1)	Begging		one month		6 months
170(1)	Degging		un mois		6 mois
196(2)	Begging		15 days		one month
170(2)	Degging		15 jours		un mois
196(3)	Begging	1,000	15 Jours	2,000	un mois
202	Publishing	10,000	6 months	100,000	One year
202	matter without	10,000	6 mois	100,000	one year un an
	description of		O IIIOIS		uii aii
	author				
204(2)			3 months	+	ono vicer
204(2)	Publishing		3 months 3 mois		one year
	matter		3 IIIOIS		un an
	conductive to				
	crime				

206(1)(a)	Outrage against public and religious morality	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
209	Penalty for assisting illegal publication		2 months 2 mois		3 years 3 ans
226	Threatening verbally		one year un an		2 years 2 ans
227	Demanding by threat of false accusation		10 years		20 years
228(1)	Assault with aggravating circumstances	10,000		100,000	
228(2)	Assault with aggravating circumstances	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
228(3)	Assault with aggravating circumstances		10 years 10 ans		20 years 20 ans
229	Assault with premeditation		10 years		20 years
230(1)	Assault	5,000	one year un an	50,000	2 years 2 ans
230(2)	Assault	10,000		100,000	
233(1)	Dealing in offensive weapon		6 months 6 mois		5 years 5 ans
233(2)	Dealing in offensive weapon	2,000		25,000	
233A(2)	Sale or offer for sale of offensive instrument in the open	2,000	one year	25,000	10 years
233B(3)	Sale or offer for sale of offensive instrument to person under 12	2,000	2 years	25,000	4 years
236(1)	Administering noxious substance		10 years		20 years

236(3)	Administering noxious		5 years		10 years
	substance				
237	Selling adulterated liquor	10,000		100,000	
239(1)	Involuntary homicide and wounds and blows	50,000		150,000	
239(2)	Involuntary homicide and wounds and blows	10,000	2 months 2 mois	100,000	one year un an
244	Penalty in case of excusable offence		6 months 6 mois		one year un an
248	Indecent act in public	10,000	12 months	100,000	2 years
249(1)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		5 years		10 years
249(1A) (a) and (b)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		20 years		40 years
249(2)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		5 years		10 years
249(3)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		5 years		10 years
249(4)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		10 years		20 years
249(5)(b)	Rape, attempt upon chastity and illegal sexual intercourse		8 years		16 years

254(1)	Sexual harassment	100,000	2 years 2 ans	200,000	10 years 10 ans
254(2)(a)	Sexual harassment	100,000		200,000	
257(1)	Bigamy		10 years		20 years
258(1)	Unlawful arrest, detention and sequestration	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
259	Penalty for unlawful arrest in certain cases		10 years		20 years
260(5)	Family abandonment	10,000	2 years	100,000	5 years
261(1)	Failure to pay alimony	5,000	one year un an	50,000	2 years 2 ans
262	Change of domicile	5,000	6 months 6 mois	50,000	one year un an
272	Burying corpse without lawful authority	10,000		100,000	
273	Concealing corpse	10,000		100,000	
274(2)	Declaration in case of sudden or violent death	5,000		50,000	
275	Violating tomb	5,000	one year un an	50,000	2 years 2 ans
276(1)	Giving false evidence in case of crime		10 years		20 years
277	Giving false evidence in case of misdemeanour	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
278	Giving false evidence in civil matter	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
279(1)	Giving false evidence for reward	10,000		100,000	
281	Giving false evidence on decisory oath	20,000	10 years 10 ans	100,000	20 years 20 ans
282(1)	Stirring up racial hatred	25,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
282(2)	Stirring up racial hatred	25,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
283(1)	Sedition	20,000	one year	100,000	2 years
284	Inciting to	2,000	one year	25,000	2 years

	disobedience or resistance to law				
287B	Penalty for seditious publication	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
288(3)	Interpretation of "defamation"	5,000	one year	50,000	5 years
289(2)	Publication of reply by newspaper	10,000		100,000	
291	Criminal intimidation	10,000	one year	100,000	5 years
296(a)	Insult	5,000		50,000	
296(b)	Insult	10,000		100,000	
296(c)	Insult	10,000	3 months	100,000	2 years
297	False and malicious denunciation in writing	10,000	one year	100,000	5 years
298	Effecting public mischief	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
299(a)	Publishing false news	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
300	Disclosing professional secret	10,000	6 months	100,000	2 years
300A (5)	Data protection and security	100,000	10 years	200,000	20 years
301(1)	Larceny	10,000		100,000	
302(1)	Larceny of produce of soil	5,000		50,000	
308(2)	Looting	50,000	10 years	150,000	20 years
309(1)	Larceny with breaking and larceny by servant		6 years 6 ans		12 years 12 ans
321(1)	Counterfeiting key	2,000	one year un an	25,000	2 years 2 ans
321(2)	Counterfeiting key		10 years		20 years
322(1)	Larceny of obligatory writing and purloining seizure		10 years		20 years
322(3)	Larceny of obligatory writing and		one year un an		2 years 2 ans

	purloining seizure				
323A(1)	Falsely obtaining credit	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
330(1)	Swindling	50,000	10 years 10 ans	150,000	20 years 20 ans
330A (2)	Dealing unlawfully in lottery ticket	10,000		100,000	
330B (1)	Issuing cheque without provision	10,000		100,000	
331	Breach of trust of minor	10,000		100,000	
332	Fraudulently using unsigned document	10,000	5 years 5 ans	100,000	10 years 10 ans
333(1)	Embezzlement	10,000		100,000	
333(2)	Embezzlement		10 years	<u> </u>	20 years
333A	Embezzlement of security or charge	10,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
334	Removing document produced in Court	10,000		100,000	
336	Pawnbroking and money lending without lawful authority	5,000	3 months 3 mois	50,000	one year un an
337(1)	Hindering judicial sale	10,000	3 months 3 mois	100,000	one year un an
338	Speculating fraudulently	10,000		100,000	
343(1)	Deceiving purchaser	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
344	Failing to honour public contract	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
345	Public officer assisting defaulting contractor		10 years 10 ans		20 years 20 ans
 346	Arson		10 years		20 years
349(1)	Damaging public property, private enterprise or vehicle	3,000	10 years	25,000	20 years

349(2)	Damaging public property,	25,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
	private enterprise or vehicle				
350(1)	Hindering public works by force	10,000		100,000	
351	Destroying document	10,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
352(1)	Damaging property by band	25,000	10 years 10 ans	100,000	20 years 20 ans
352(2)	Damaging property by band	50,000	10 years	150,000	20 years
353	Damaging goods used for manufacture	10,000		100,000	
354	Damaging crop	10,000		100,000	
355(1)	Damaging tree	10,000	one year un an	100,000	5 years 5 ans
356	Damaging agricultural product	10,000	6 months 6 mois	100,000	2 years 2 ans
357	Damaging agricultural instrument	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
358	Poisoning animal	10,000	10 years 10 ans	100,000	20 years 20 ans
359(1)(a)	Killing animal	10,000		100,000	
359(1)(b)	Killing animal		one year un an		2 years 2 ans
360(1)	Injuring animal	10,000	6 months 6 mois	100,000	one year un an
360(2)	Injuring animal		3 months 3 mois		one year un an
361	Penalty for offence by keeper of animal		10 years		20 years
362	Damaging enclosure	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
363	Damaging building	10,000	one year un an	100,000	2 years 2 ans
364	Flooding road or property	10,000		100,000	
365	Damaging property by fire	10,000		100,000	

	366	Failing to notify of infected animal	10,000		100,000	
	367	Allowing infected animal to communicate with others	5,000	2 months 2 mois	50,000	one year un an
	368	Permitting contagion of disease	5,000	one year un an	50,000	2 years 2 ans
	369	Damaging goods and chattels	10,000	12 months 12 mois	100,000	2 years 2 ans
Criminal Code (Supple- mentary) Act	4(2)(a)	Defacing road or building	10,000	12 months	100,000	2 years
	5(3)	Absent minor	10,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
	11(3)	Recruiting for service outside Mauritius	5,000	7 years	50,000	14 years
	16(1)	Impairing coin		14 years		28 years
	16(2)	Impairing coin		one year		2 years
	16(3)	Impairing coin	10,000		100,000	
	26(3)	Idle and disorderly person	5,000	one month 3 months	50,000	one year one year
	28(2)	Rogue and Vagabond	5,000	one year	50,000	2 years
	29(1)	Offensive weapon	10,000	one year	100,000	2 years
	31(1)	Damaging electric line	5,000		50,000	
	36(1) and (4)	Protection of defence works	10,000		100,000	
	36(2)	Protection of defence works		2 years		4 years
	36(3) and (5)	Protection of defence works	10,000	6 months	100,000	one year
	64	Damaging uninhabited ship or building		10 years		20 years
	86(1)	Dealing in obscene matter	10,000	3 months	100,000	one year
	88(3)	Exhibiting slide and video tape in public	10,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
	90(1)	Brothel keeping	100,000	5 years	200,000	10 years

91A	Importuning	5,000	12 months	50,000	2 years
97	Fencing well	5,000		50,000	
101(1)	Raising false alarm of fire	10,000		100,000	
102(3)	Bomb hoaxes	10,000	5 years	100,000	10 years
103	Impersonating living or dead individual		5 years		10 years
104	Making false acknowledgeme nt		5 years		10 years
105	Impersonating individual named in certificate		5 years		10 years
106	Impersonating individual named in testimonial		one year		5 years
106A (1)	Impersonating individual in examination	5,000	one year	50,000	5 years
106B (1)	Impersonating individual at interview	5,000	one year	50,000	5 years
107 (1) & (2)	Impersonating prisoner		5 years		10 years
109	Conspiracy	10,000	5 years	100,000	10 years
110	Obstructing passage of pedestrian on seashore	10,000		100,000	
111	Disclosure of examination papers	10,000	2 years	100,000	4 years
112	Prohibition of water skiing etc	5,000	6 months	50,000	one year

Child	13A(1),	Child		15 years		30 years
Protection	(2), (3),	trafficking		<i>y</i> - 11 - 1		J
Act	(4)(a),					
1100	4(b)					
	13A(5)(b)	Child trafficking	100,000	one year	200,000	2 years
	13B(1)	Abandonment of child		8 years		20 years
	13B(2)	Abandonment of child	500,000	15 years	700,000	30 years
	13B(3)	Abandonment of child	250,000	5 years	500,000	10 years
	13B(5)	Abandonment of child	100,000	2 years	200,000	5 years
	13C(1)	Abducting child		12 years		25 years
	13C(2)	Abducting child	100,000	2 years	200,000	5 years
	13C(3)	Abducting child		8 years		20 years
	18(4)	Offences and penalties	10,000	2 years	25,000	5 years
	18(5((a)	Offences and penalties		15 years		30 years
	18(5)(b)	Offences and penalties	50,000	10 years	100,000	20 years
	18(6)	Offences and penalties	5,000	one year	25,000	2 years
Public Gathering Act	9	Possession of offensive weapon	10,000	5 years	100,000	10 years
	18	Penalty	2,000	2 years	25,000	4 years