

MJ/69/65

Memorandum for the Cabinet by the Minister of Justice and
Parliamentary Affairs.

A Bill entitled an Act Further to amend
the Criminal Code, Cap. 12.

The Commissioner of Police has received many complaints from various sources on the subject of damages to equipment in children's playing fields caused by adults who make use of such equipment. Letters in the press have also appeared fairly frequently on this matter.

Notice Boards signifying the prohibition of the use of the equipment by persons over the age of 14 years have been erected in a number of playing fields but the Commissioner of Police has pointed out, and this has been endorsed by my Law Officers, that "in effect we are not on very firm grounds" when prosecutions are carried out without "ad hoc" legislation being enacted to back them up.

The purpose of the Bill is to make it an offence for persons over fourteen years to use playing equipment or facilities in children's playgrounds open to the public.

It is indeed a pity that funds provided by the Government and the Malta Playing Fields Association, coupled with other efforts on the part of this Association, for the purpose of recreating our children are being denied the benefits which they are meant to give by irresponsible and egoistic grown-ups.

I am being pressed by the Malta Playing Fields Association to introduce this Bill in Parliament as they consider that this would be the only effective deterrent which could really make adults refrain from using or misusing equipment provided for younger persons.

In the circumstances, Hon. Ministers are invited to approve this Bill.

1st June, 1966.

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Criminal Code, Cap.12.

BE IT enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives of Malta, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 1966, and shall be read and construed as one with the Criminal Code.

Cap. 12.

Insertion of paragraph (hh) in section 352 of the Criminal Code.

2. In section 352 of the Criminal Code, immediately after paragraph (gg), there shall be added the following paragraph:-

" (hh) being a person over fourteen years of age, at any children's playground open to the public, uses any playing equipment or facilities therein"

Objects and Reasons

The purpose of this Bill is to make it an offence for persons over fourteen years to use playing equipment or facilities in children's playgrounds open to the public.