



ADVISORY ON MANUFACTURING OF ARMS USING 3D PRINTERS

3D Printing is a new technology that is rapidly gaining popularity world-wide. Also known as “Additive Manufacturing”, it is a process in which an object is created through successive layering of material. Product designs and blueprints can be easily downloaded from the Internet.

2. There have been reports that firearms have been manufactured overseas using 3D printers. Police would like to advise the public that it is an offence under the Arms and Explosives Act (Cap. 13) and the Arms Offences Act (Cap. 14) for anyone to use a 3D printer to print (manufacture) or attempt to print (manufacture) any arms or any component part of any arms without a licence.

3. Anyone who manufactures or has in his possession any arms or component part of any arms may be prosecuted for the offence of manufacturing of arms without a licence under section 13(1)(d) of the Arms and Explosives Act, or possession of arms without a licence under section 13(1)(a) of the Arms and Explosives Act. If convicted, the offender will be liable to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years, or to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and to imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years, respectively.

Under the Arms and Explosives Act, "arms" means —

- (a) firearms, air-guns, air-pistols, stun guns, electronic dart guns, automatic guns, automatic pistols, guns or any other kind of gun from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged or noxious fumes or noxious substance can be emitted, and any component part of any such arms;
- (b) bayonets, swords, daggers, spears and spearheads; and
- (c) such weapon, accessory, or other article or thing, as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, specify to be arms for the purposes of this Act or any part thereof.

4. Anyone in unlawful possession of any arm or any component part thereof is also guilty of an offence under section 3 of the Arms Offences Act and will on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years and will also be punished with caning with not less than 6 strokes. Anyone trafficking in arms

or any component part thereof is guilty of an offence under section 6 of the Arms Offences Act and will on conviction be punished with death, or imprisonment for life and with caning with not less than 6 strokes.

Under the Arms Offences Act:

“arm” means any firearm, air-gun, air-pistol, automatic gun, automatic pistol and any other kind of gun or pistol from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged or noxious liquid, flame or fumes can be emitted, and any component part thereof and includes any bomb or grenade and any component part thereof;

“trafficking in arms” means —

- (a) to import, manufacture or deal in arms in contravention of the provisions of the Arms and Explosives Act; or
- (b) to lend, give, sell, hire or offer for sale or hire any arm to a person who has no licence to possess such arm issued under the Arms and Explosives Act.

5. As a safeguard, owners of 3D printers should encrypt their printers to prevent users from printing anything that resembles any arms or any of its component parts. If the owner of a 3D printer instigates, conspires with or intentionally aids the person who printed any arms or component part of any arms, he may also be prosecuted for abetting the offence.

6. Anyone who uses or displays any 3D-printed replica arms and causes harassment, alarm or distress, or fear of violence to any person, may also be prosecuted for an offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 2014.