

THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**CHARITIES ACT
(CHAPTER 37)**

**Act
22 of 1994**

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(15th March 1995)

Charities Act

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An Act to make provision for the registration of charities, the administration of charities and their affairs, the regulation of fund-raising activities carried on in connection with charities and other institutions and the conduct of public charitable collections and for purposes connected therewith.

[1st January 1995
except Part VII]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Charities Act and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint. Short title and commencement.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Act.

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpretation.

“charitable company” means a charity which is a company or other body corporate;

“charitable purposes” means purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of Singapore;

- “charity” means any institution, corporate or not, which is established for charitable purposes and is subject to the control of the High Court in exercise of the Court’s jurisdiction with respect to charities;
- “charity trustees” means the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity;
- “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Charities appointed under section 3;
- “company” means a company incorporated or registered under any law in force in Singapore or elsewhere;
- “document” includes information recorded in any form, and, in relation to information recorded otherwise than in legible form —
- (a) any reference to its production shall be construed as a reference to the furnishing of a copy of it in legible form; and
 - (b) any reference to the furnishing of a copy of, or extract from, it shall accordingly be construed as a reference to the furnishing of a copy of, or extract from, it in legible form;
- “exempt charity” means a charity specified in the Schedule;
- “financial year” —
- (a) in relation to a charity which is a company, shall be construed in accordance with the Companies Act; and
 - (b) in relation to any other charity, shall be construed in accordance with regulations made under section 13 (2);
- “gross income”, in relation to a charity, means its gross recorded receipts from all sources;
- “institution” includes any trust or undertaking;
- “trusts”, in relation to a charity, means the provisions establishing it as a charity and regulating its purposes and administration, whether those provisions take effect by way of trust or not, and in relation to other institutions has a corresponding meaning.

(2) References in this Act to a charity whose income from all sources does not in aggregate amount to more than a specified amount shall be construed —

- (a) by reference to the gross receipts of the charity; or
- (b) if the Commissioner so determines, by reference to the amount which he estimates to be the likely amount of those receipts,

but without (in either case) bringing into account anything for the annual value of land occupied by the charity apart from the pecuniary income (if any) received from that land; and any question as to the application of any such reference to a charity shall be determined by the Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.

(3) The Commissioner may direct that, for all or any of the purposes of this Act, an institution established for any special purposes of or in connection with a charity (being charitable purposes) shall be treated as forming part of that charity or as forming a distinct charity.

PART II

COMMISSIONER OF CHARITIES

3.—(1) The Minister may appoint —

- (a) an officer to be known as the Commissioner of Charities who shall have such functions as are conferred on him by this Act; and
- (b) a Deputy Commissioner and such Assistant Commissioners of Charities or such other officers as he may think necessary to assist the Commissioner in the proper discharge of his functions.

Appointment of Commissioner of Charities and other officers.

(2) The Deputy Commissioner of Charities shall have and may exercise all the powers, duties and functions of the Commissioner except those which are exercisable under sections 24, 25 and 30.

4.—(1) The Commissioner shall have the general function of promoting the effective use of charitable resources by encouraging the development of better methods of administration, by giving charity trustees

Functions of Commissioner.

information on any matter affecting the charity and by investigating and checking abuses.

(2) It shall be the general object of the Commissioner so to act in the case of any charity (unless it is a matter of altering its purposes) as best to promote and make effective the work of the charity in meeting the needs designated by its trusts; but the Commissioner shall not have power to act in the administration of a charity.

(3) The Commissioner shall, as soon as possible after the end of every year, make to the Minister a report on his operations during that year, and the Minister shall present a copy of the report to Parliament.

PART III

REGISTRATION OF CHARITIES AND PROVISIONS FOR INQUIRING INTO CHARITIES

Registration
of charities.

5.—(1) The Commissioner shall continue to keep a register of charities in which shall be entered such particulars as he may from time to time determine of any charity registered therein.

(2) There shall be entered in the register every charity not excepted by subsection (4); and a charity so excepted may be entered in the register at the request of the charity, but (whether or not it was excepted at the time of registration) may at any time, and shall at the request of the charity, be removed from the register.

(3) Any institution which no longer appears to the Commissioner to be a charity shall be removed from the register with effect, where the removal is due to any change in its purposes or trusts, from the date of that change; and there shall also be removed from the register any charity which ceases to exist or does not operate.

(4) The following charities are not required to be registered:

- (a) any charity specified in the Schedule; and
- (b) any charity which is excepted by regulations made under this Act.

(5) Any application to the Commissioner for a charity to be registered shall be accompanied with copies of its trusts (or, if the trusts are not set out in any document, particulars of them) and such other documents or information as the Commissioner may require for the purpose of the application.

(6) It shall be the duty of —

(a) the charity trustees of any charity which is not registered nor excepted from registration to apply for it to be registered, and to supply the documents and information required by subsection (5); and

(b) the charity trustees (or last charity trustees) of any institution which is for the time being registered to notify the Commissioner if it ceases to exist, or if there is any change in its trusts, or in its particulars entered in the register, and to furnish the Commissioner with particulars of any such change and copies of any new trusts or alterations of the trusts,

and any person who makes default in carrying out any of the duties imposed by this subsection shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction, and the Commissioner may by order require that person to make good that default.

(7) The register (including entries cancelled when institutions are removed from the register) shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times, except in so far as regulations otherwise provide.

(8) The register of charities may be prepared and kept in such manner as the Commissioner may think fit, including in electronic form in a computer.

(9) Where any information contained in the register is not in documentary form, subsection (7) shall be construed as requiring the information to be available for public inspection in legible form at all reasonable times.

Effect of,
and claims
and
objections to,
registration.

6.—(1) An institution shall, for all purposes other than rectification of the register, be conclusively presumed to be or have been a charity at any time when it is or was on the register of charities.

(2) Any person who is or may be affected by the registration of an institution as a charity may, on the ground that it is not a charity, object to its being entered by the Commissioner in the register, or apply to the Commissioner for it to be removed from the register; and such objection or application shall be made or dealt with in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act.

(3) An appeal against any decision of the Commissioner to enter or not to enter an institution in the register of charities, or to remove or not to remove an institution from the register, may be brought in the High Court by the persons who are or claim to be the charity trustees of the institution, or by any person whose objection or application under subsection (2) has been disallowed by the Commissioner; and a copy of every notice of such appeal shall be transmitted to the Attorney-General.

(4) If there is an appeal to the High Court against any decision of the Commissioner to enter an institution in the register, or not to remove an institution from the register, then until the Commissioner is satisfied whether his decision is or is not to stand, the entry in the register shall be maintained, but shall be in suspense and marked to indicate that it is in suspense; and for the purposes of subsection (1) an institution shall be deemed not to be on the register during any period when the entry relating to it is in suspense under this subsection.

(5) Any question affecting the registration or removal from the register of an institution may, notwithstanding that it has been determined by a decision on appeal under subsection (3), be considered afresh by the Commissioner and shall not be concluded by that decision, if it appears to the Commissioner that there has been a change of circumstances or that the decision is inconsistent with a later judicial decision, whether given on such an appeal or not.

7.—(1) The Commissioner may, with respect to a charity to which this subsection applies, give a direction requiring the name of the charity to be changed, within such period as is specified in the direction, to such other name as the charity trustees may determine with the approval of the Commissioner.

Power of Commissioner to require change of charity's name.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply to a charity if —

- (a) it is a registered charity and its name (referred to in this Act as the registered name) is the same as, or is in the opinion of the Commissioner too like, the name, at the time when the registered name was entered in the register in respect of the charity, of any other charity (whether registered or not);
- (b) the name of the charity is in the opinion of the Commissioner likely to mislead the public as to the true nature of —
 - (i) the purposes of the charity as set out in its trusts; or
 - (ii) the activities which the charity carries on under its trusts in pursuit of those purposes;
- (c) the name of the charity includes any word or expression which in the opinion of the Commissioner is likely to mislead the public in any respect as to the status of the charity;
- (d) the name of the charity is in the opinion of the Commissioner likely to give the impression that the charity is connected in some way with the Government or any public authority, or with any other body of persons or any individual, when it is not so connected; or
- (e) the name of the charity is in the opinion of the Commissioner offensive,

and any reference in this subsection to the name of a charity is, in relation to a registered charity, a reference to the name by which it is registered.

(3) Any direction given by virtue of subsection (2) (a) shall be given within 12 months of the time when the registered name was entered in the register in respect of the charity.

(4) Any direction given under this section with respect to a charity shall be given to the charity trustees; and on receiving any such direction the charity trustees shall give effect to it notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity.

(5) Where the name of any charity is changed under this section, then (without prejudice to section 5 (6) (b)) it shall be the duty of the charity trustees forthwith to notify the Commissioner of the new name of the charity and of the date on which the change occurred.

(6) A change of name by a charity under this section shall not affect any rights or obligations of the charity; and any legal proceedings that might have been continued or commenced by or against it in its former name may be continued or commenced by or against it in its new name.

(7) Any reference in this section to the charity trustees of a charity shall, in relation to a charity which is a company, be read as a reference to the directors of the company.

(8) Where any direction is given under this section with respect to a charity which is a company, the direction shall be taken to require the directors of the company to take the necessary steps to effect the change of the name of the company, including applying to the Registrar of Companies for the reservation and approval of the new name under section 27 or 378 of the Companies Act, as the case may be.

(9) Nothing in this section shall apply to an exempt charity.

8.—(1) The Commissioner may from time to time institute inquiries with regard to charities or a particular charity or class of charities, either generally or for particular purposes.

(2) The Commissioner may either conduct such an inquiry himself or appoint a person to conduct it and make a report to him.

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General power of Commissioner to institute inquiries.

(3) For the purposes of any such inquiry, the Commissioner or a person appointed by him to conduct the inquiry may by order require any person —

- (a) to furnish accounts and statements in writing with respect to any matter in question at the inquiry, being a matter on which that person has or can reasonably obtain information, or to return answers in writing to any questions or inquiries addressed to him on any such matter, and to verify any such accounts, statements or answers by statutory declaration;
- (b) to furnish copies of documents in his custody or under his control which relate to any matter in question at the inquiry, and to verify any such copies by statutory declaration; and
- (c) to attend at a specified time and place and give evidence or produce any such documents,

and any person who fails to comply with any requirement specified in the order shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

(4) For the purposes of any such inquiry, evidence may be taken on oath, and the person conducting the inquiry may for that purpose administer oaths, or may instead of administering an oath require the person examined to make and subscribe a declaration of the truth of the matters about which he is examined.

(5) Where the Commissioner proposes to take any action in consequence of an inquiry under this section, the Commissioner may publish the report of the person conducting the inquiry, or such other statement of the results of the inquiry as he thinks fit, in any manner calculated in his opinion to bring it to the attention of persons who may wish to make representations to him about the action to be taken.

(6) A copy of the report of the person conducting an inquiry under this section shall, if certified by the Commissioner to be a true copy, be admissible as evidence of any fact stated in the report, and as evidence of the opinion of

that person as to any matter referred to in the report, in any legal proceedings instituted by the Commissioner under section 25 and in any legal proceedings instituted by the Attorney-General in respect of a charity.

(7) A document purporting to be a certificate issued for the purposes of subsection (6) shall be received in evidence and be deemed to be such a certificate unless the contrary is proved.

(8) If any person wilfully alters, suppresses, conceals or destroys any document which he may be required to produce under this section, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

Power of Commissioner to call for documents and search records.

9.—(1) The Commissioner may, for the purpose of discharging his functions under this Act, by order —

- (a) require any person to furnish the Commissioner with any information in his possession which relates to any charity; and
- (b) require any person who has in his custody or under his control any document which relates to any charity —
 - (i) to furnish the Commissioner with a copy of or extract from the document; or
 - (ii) unless the document forms part of the records or other documents of a court or public authority, to transmit the document itself to the Commissioner for his inspection.

(2) The Commissioner shall be entitled without payment to keep any copy or extract furnished to him under subsection (1); and where a document transmitted to him for his inspection relates only to one or more charities and is not held by any person entitled as trustee or otherwise to the custody of the document, the Commissioner may keep it or may deliver it to the charity trustees or to any other person who may be so entitled.

(3) The Commissioner or any officer authorised by him in that behalf shall at all times have full and free access to all buildings, places, books, documents and other papers for the

purpose of discharging his functions under this Act, and may, without payment, inspect, copy or make extracts from any such books, documents or papers.

(4) The Commissioner may take possession of any books, documents or papers where in his opinion —

- (a) the inspection, copying thereof or extraction therefrom cannot reasonably be performed without taking possession;
- (b) the books, documents or papers may be interfered with or destroyed unless possession is taken; or
- (c) the books, documents or papers may be required as evidence in proceedings for an offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

(5) The Commissioner may require any person to give orally or in writing, as may be required, all such information concerning any charity as may be demanded of him by the Commissioner for the purposes of this Act.

(6) The rights conferred by this section shall, in relation to information recorded otherwise than in legible form, include the right to require the information to be made available in legible form for inspection or for a copy or extract to be made of or from it.

(7) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement specified in any order under subsection (1) or any requirement under subsection (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

(8) Subject to section 11 (2), no person shall by virtue of this section be obliged to disclose any particulars as to which he is under any statutory obligation to observe secrecy.

10.—(1) Any person who knowingly or recklessly provides the Commissioner with information which is false or misleading in a material particular shall be guilty of an offence if the information is provided —

- (a) in purported compliance with a requirement imposed by or under this Act; or

Supply of false or misleading information to Commissioner, etc.

(b) otherwise than as mentioned in paragraph (a) but in circumstances in which the person providing the information intends, or could reasonably be expected to know, that it would be used by the Commissioner for the purpose of discharging his functions under this Act.

(2) Any person who wilfully alters, suppresses, conceals or destroys any document which he is or is liable to be required, by or under this Act, to produce to the Commissioner shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

(4) In this section, references to the Commissioner include references to any person conducting an inquiry under section 8.

Disclosure of
information
to and by
Commis-
sioner.

11.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) and to any express restriction imposed by or under any other written law, a body or person to whom this section applies may disclose to the Commissioner any information received by that body or person under or for the purposes of any written law, where the disclosure is made by the body or person for the purpose of enabling or assisting the Commissioner to discharge any of his functions.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not have effect in relation to the Comptroller of Income Tax; but the Comptroller may disclose to the Commissioner the following information:

- (a) the name and address of any institution which has for any purpose been treated by the Comptroller as established for charitable purposes;
- (b) information as to the purposes of an institution and the trusts under which it is established or regulated, where the disclosure is made by the Comptroller in order to give or obtain assistance in determining whether the institution ought for any purpose to be treated as established for charitable purposes; and

- (c) information with respect to an institution which has for any purpose been treated as so established but which appears to the Comptroller —
- (i) to be, or to have been, carrying on activities which are not charitable; or
 - (ii) to be, or to have been, applying any of its funds for purposes which are not charitable.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Commissioner may disclose to a body or person to whom this section applies any information received by him under or for the purposes of any written law, where the disclosure is made by the Commissioner —

- (a) for any purpose connected with the discharge of his functions; and
- (b) for the purpose of enabling or assisting that body or person to discharge any of its or his functions.

(4) Where any information disclosed to the Commissioner under subsection (1) or (2) is so disclosed subject to any express restriction on the disclosure of the information by the Commissioner, the Commissioner's power of disclosure under subsection (3) shall, in relation to the information, be exercisable by him subject to any such restriction.

(5) This section shall apply to the following bodies and persons:

- (a) any Government department;
- (b) any statutory authority;
- (c) any police officer; and
- (d) any other body or person discharging functions of a public nature (including a body or person discharging regulatory functions in relation to any description of activities).

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting any power of disclosure exercisable apart from this section.

PART IV

CHARITY ACCOUNTS, REPORTS AND RETURNS

Duty to keep
accounting
records.

12.—(1) The charity trustees of a charity shall ensure that accounting records are kept in respect of the charity which are sufficient to show and explain all the charity's transactions, and which are such as to —

- (a) disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time; and
 - (b) enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 13 (1), those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations made under that section.
- (2) The accounting records shall, in particular, contain —
- (a) entries showing from day to day all sums of money received and expended by the charity, and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place; and
 - (b) a record of the assets and liabilities of the charity.

(3) The charity trustees of a charity shall preserve any accounting records made for the purposes of this section in respect of the charity for at least 7 years from the end of the financial year of the charity in which they are made.

(4) Where a charity ceases to exist within the period of 7 years mentioned in subsection (3) as it applies to any accounting records, the obligation to preserve those records in accordance with that subsection shall continue to be discharged by the last charity trustees of the charity, unless the Commissioner consents in writing to the records being destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

(5) Nothing in this section shall apply to an exempt charity or a charity which is a company.

Annual
statements
of accounts.

13.—(1) Subject to subsection (3), the charity trustees of a charity shall prepare in respect of each financial year of the charity a statement of accounts complying with such requirements as to its form and contents as may be prescribed by regulations.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations under that subsection may make provision —

- (a) for any such statement to be prepared in accordance with such methods and principles as are specified or referred to in the regulations;
- (b) as to any information to be provided by way of notes to the accounts; and
- (c) for determining the financial years of a charity for the purposes of this Act and any regulations made thereunder.

(3) Where the gross income in any financial year of a charity does not exceed \$50,000, or such other sum as the Minister may by notification prescribe, the charity trustees may, in respect of that year, elect to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities, instead of a statement of accounts under subsection (1).

(4) The charity trustees of a charity shall preserve —

- (a) any statement of accounts prepared by them under subsection (1); or
- (b) any account and statement prepared by them under subsection (3),

for at least 7 years from the end of the financial year to which any such statement relates or to which any such account and statement relate, as the case may be.

(5) Section 12 (4) shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, in relation to the preservation of any such statement or account and statement as it applies in relation to the preservation of any accounting records.

(6) Nothing in this section shall apply to an exempt charity or a charity which is a company.

14.—(1) Subsection (2) shall apply to a financial year of a charity (referred to in this section as the relevant year) if the charity's gross income or total expenditure in —

- (a) the relevant year;

Annual
audit or
examination
of charity
accounts.

- (b) the financial year of the charity immediately preceding the relevant year (if any); or
- (c) the financial year of the charity immediately preceding the year specified in paragraph (b) (if any),

exceeds \$250,000 or such other sum as the Minister may by notification prescribe.

(2) If this subsection applies to a financial year of a charity, the accounts of the charity for that year shall be audited by a person who is, in accordance with section 9 of the Companies Act, approved as an approved company auditor.

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(3) If subsection (2) does not apply to a financial year of a charity, then (subject to subsection (4)) the accounts of the charity for that year shall, at the election of the charity trustees, either —

- (a) be examined by an independent person who is reasonably believed by the trustees to have the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination of the accounts (referred to in this Act as an independent examiner); or
- (b) be audited by an approved company auditor.

(4) Where it appears to the Commissioner —

- (a) that subsection (2) or (3) (as the case may be), has not been complied with in relation to a financial year of a charity within 10 months from the end of that year; or
- (b) that, although subsection (2) is inapplicable to a financial year of a charity, it would nevertheless be desirable for the accounts of the charity for that year to be audited by an approved company auditor,

the Commissioner may by order require the accounts of the charity for that year to be audited by a person appointed by the Commissioner.

(5) The expenses of any audit carried out by an auditor appointed by the Commissioner under subsection (4), including the auditor's remuneration, shall be paid —

- (a) by the charity trustees of the charity concerned who shall be personally liable, jointly and severally, for those expenses; or
- (b) to the extent that it appears to the Commissioner not to be practical to pay those expenses in accordance with paragraph (a), from the funds of the charity.

(6) The Commissioner may give such directions as he may think appropriate with respect to the carrying out of an examination in pursuance of subsection (3) (a), and any such directions may either be of general application or apply to a particular charity only.

(7) Nothing in this section shall apply to an exempt charity or a charity which is a company.

15.—(1) The Minister may by regulations make provision —

- (a) with respect to the duties of an approved company auditor carrying out an audit under section 14, including provision with respect to the making by him of a report on the statement of accounts prepared for the financial year in question under section 13 (1), or the account and statement so prepared under section 13 (3), as the case may be;
- (b) with respect to the making by an independent examiner of a report in respect of an examination carried out by him under section 14;
- (c) conferring on such an auditor or independent examiner a right of access with respect to books, documents and other records (however kept) which relate to the charity concerned;
- (d) entitling such an auditor or independent examiner to require, in the case of a charity, information and explanations from past or present charity trustees or trustees for the charity, or from past

Supple-
mentary
provisions
relating to
audits, etc.

or present officers, employees or auditors of the charity; and

- (e) enabling the Commissioner, in circumstances specified in any regulations made under this Act, to dispense with the requirements of section 14 (2) or (3) in the case of a particular charity or in the case of any particular financial year of a charity.

(2) If any person fails to afford an approved company auditor or independent examiner any facility to which he is entitled by virtue of subsection (1) (c) or (d), the person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and the Commissioner may by order give to that person or to the charity trustees for the time being of the charity concerned, such directions as the Commissioner thinks appropriate for securing that the default is made good.

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(3) Section 391 of the Companies Act shall have effect in relation to an auditor or independent examiner appointed by a charity in pursuance of section 14 as it has effect in relation to a person employed as auditor by a company within the meaning of that Act.

Annual reports.

16.—(1) Unless otherwise excepted by regulations made under this Act, the charity trustees of a charity shall prepare in respect of each financial year of the charity an annual report containing —

- (a) a prescribed report by the trustees on the activities of the charity during that year; and
- (b) such other information relating to the charity or to its trustees or officers as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act.

(2) The annual report required to be prepared under this section in respect of any financial year of a charity shall be transmitted to the Commissioner by the charity trustees —

- (a) within 6 months from the end of that year; or
- (b) within such longer period as the Commissioner may for any special reason allow in the case of that report.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), every such annual report shall have attached to it the statement of accounts prepared for the financial year in question under section 13 (1) or the account and statement so prepared under section 13 (3), together with —

- (a) where the accounts of the charity for that year have been audited under section 14, a copy of the report made by the auditor on that statement of accounts or on that account and statement, as the case may be; or
- (b) where the accounts of the charity for that year have been examined under section 14, a copy of the report made by the independent examiner in respect of the examination carried out by him under that section.

(4) Subsection (3) shall not apply to a charity which is a company, and any annual report transmitted by the charity trustees of such a charity under subsection (2) shall have attached to it a copy of the charity's annual accounts prepared for the financial year in question under Part VI of the Companies Act, together with a copy of the auditor's report on those accounts. Cap. 50.

(5) Any annual report transmitted to the Commissioner under subsection (2), together with the documents attached to it, shall be kept by the Commissioner for such period as he may think fit.

(6) This section shall not apply to an exempt charity.

17.—(1) Any annual report or other document kept by the Commissioner in pursuance of section 16 (5) shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times — Public inspection of annual reports, etc.

- (a) during the period for which it is so kept; or
- (b) if the Commissioner so determines, during such lesser period as he may specify.

(2) Where any interested person —

- (a) requests the charity trustees of a charity in writing to provide him with a copy of the charity's most recent accounts; and

- (b) pays the charity trustees such reasonable fee (if any) as they may require in respect of the costs of complying with the request,

those trustees shall comply with the request within the period of 2 months beginning with the date on which the request is made.

(3) In subsection (2), the reference to a charity's most recent accounts shall be —

- (a) a reference to the statement of accounts or account and statement prepared in pursuance of section 13 (1) or (3) in respect of the last financial year of the charity the accounts for which have been audited or examined under section 14; and
- (b) in the case of a charity which is a company, a reference to the annual accounts of the company most recently audited under Part VI of the Companies Act.

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Offences.

18. Any person who, without reasonable excuse, is persistently in default in relation to any requirement imposed by section 16 (2) or 17 (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

PART V

SMALL CHARITIES

19.—(1) This section shall apply to a charity if —

- (a) its gross income in its last financial year did not exceed \$20,000; and
- (b) it does not hold any land on trusts which stipulate that the land is to be used for the purpose, or any particular purpose, of the charity,

and it is neither an exempt charity nor a charitable company.

Power to transfer all property, modify objects, etc.

(2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the charity trustees of a charity to which this section applies may resolve for the purposes of this section —

- (a) that all the property of the charity should be transferred to such other charity as is specified in the resolution, being either a registered charity or a charity which is not required to be registered;
- (b) that all the property of the charity should be divided, in such manner as is specified in the resolution, between such two or more other charities as are so specified, being in each case either a registered charity or a charity which is not required to be registered;
- (c) that the trusts of the charity should be modified by replacing all or any of the purposes of the charity with such other purposes, being in law charitable, as are specified in the resolution;
- (d) that any provision of the trusts of the charity —
 - (i) relating to any of the powers exercisable by the charity trustees in the administration of the charity; or
 - (ii) regulating the procedure to be followed in any respect in connection with its administration,should be modified in such manner as is specified in the resolution.

(3) Any resolution passed under subsection (2) must be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of such charity trustees present and voting on the resolution.

(4) The charity trustees of a charity to which this section applies (referred to in this Act as the transferor charity) shall not have power to pass a resolution under subsection (2) (a) or (b) unless they are satisfied —

- (a) that the existing purposes of the transferor charity have ceased to be conducive to a suitable and effective application of the charity's resources; and

- (b) that the purposes of the charity or charities specified in the resolution are as similar in character to the purposes of the transferor charity as is reasonably practicable,

and before passing the resolution they must have received from the charity trustees of the charity, or (as the case may be) of each of the charities, specified in the resolution written confirmation that those trustees are willing to accept a transfer of property under this section.

(5) The charity trustees of any such charity shall not have power to pass a resolution under subsection (2) (c) unless they are satisfied —

- (a) that the existing purposes of the charity (or, as the case may be, such of them as it is proposed to replace) have ceased to be conducive to a suitable and effective application of the charity's resources; and
- (b) that the purposes specified in the resolution are as similar in character to those existing purposes as is practical in the circumstances.

(6) Where charity trustees have passed a resolution under subsection (2), they shall —

- (a) give public notice of the resolution in such manner as they think reasonable in the circumstances; and
- (b) send a copy of the resolution to the Commissioner, together with a statement of their reasons for passing it.

(7) The Commissioner may, when considering the resolution, require the charity trustees to provide additional information or explanation —

- (a) as to the circumstances in and by reference to which they have determined to act under this section; or
- (b) relating to their compliance with this section in connection with the resolution,

and the Commissioner shall take into account any representations made to him by persons appearing to him to be interested in the charity where those representations are

made within the period of 6 weeks beginning with the date when the Commissioner receives a copy of the resolution by virtue of subsection (6) (b).

(8) Where the Commissioner has so received a copy of a resolution from any charity trustees and it appears to him that the trustees have complied with this section in connection with the resolution, the Commissioner shall, within the period of 3 months beginning with the date when he receives the copy of the resolution, notify the trustees in writing either —

(a) that the Commissioner concurs with the resolution;
or

(b) that he does not concur with it.

(9) Where the Commissioner so notifies his concurrence with the resolution, then —

(a) if the resolution was passed under subsection (2) (a) or (b), the charity trustees shall arrange for all the property of the transferor charity to be transferred in accordance with the resolution and on terms that any property so transferred —

(i) shall be held and applied by the charity to which it is transferred (referred to in this Act as the transferee charity) for the purposes of that charity; but

(ii) shall, as property of the transferee charity, nevertheless be subject to any restrictions on expenditure to which it is subject as property of the transferor charity,

and those trustees shall arrange for it to be so transferred by such date as may be specified in the notification; and

(b) if the resolution was passed under subsection (2) (c) or (d), the trusts of the charity shall be deemed, as from such date as may be specified in the notification, to have been modified in accordance with the terms of the resolution.

(10) For the purpose of enabling any property to be transferred to a charity under this section, the Commissioner shall have power, at the request of the charity trustees of that charity, to make orders vesting any property of the transferor charity —

- (a) in the charity trustees of the first-mentioned charity or in any trustee for that charity; or
- (b) in any other person nominated by those charity trustees to hold the property in trust for that charity.

(11) The Minister may by order amend subsection (1) (a) by substituting a different sum for the sum for the time being specified therein.

(12) In this section, references to the transfer of property to a charity are references to its transfer —

- (a) to the charity trustees;
- (b) to any trustee for the charity; or
- (c) to a person nominated by the charity trustees to hold it in trust for the charity,

as the charity trustees may determine.

Power to
spend
capital.

20.—(1) This section shall apply to a charity if —

- (a) it has a permanent endowment which does not consist of or comprise any land; and
- (b) its gross income in its last financial year did not exceed \$5,000,

and it is neither an exempt charity nor a charitable company.

(2) Where the charity trustees of a charity to which this section applies are of the opinion that the property of the charity is too small, in relation to its purposes, for any useful purpose to be achieved by the expenditure of income alone, they may resolve for the purposes of this section that the charity ought to be freed from the restrictions with respect to expenditure of capital to which its permanent endowment is subject.

(3) Any resolution passed under subsection (2) must be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of such charity trustees present and voting on the resolution.

(4) Before passing such a resolution, the charity trustees must consider whether any reasonable possibility exists of effecting a transfer or division of all the charity's property under section 19 (disregarding any such transfer or division as would, in their opinion, impose on the charity an unacceptable burden of costs).

(5) Where charity trustees have passed a resolution under subsection (2), they shall —

- (a) give public notice of the resolution in such manner as they think reasonable in the circumstances; and
- (b) send a copy of the resolution to the Commissioner, together with a statement of their reasons for passing it.

(6) The Commissioner may, when considering the resolution, require the charity trustees to provide additional information or explanation —

- (a) as to the circumstances in and by reference to which they have determined to act under this section; or
- (b) relating to their compliance with this section in connection with the resolution,

and the Commissioner shall take into account any representations made to him by persons appearing to him to be interested in the charity where those representations are made within the period of 6 weeks beginning with the date when the Commissioner receives a copy of the resolution by virtue of subsection (5) (b).

(7) Where the Commissioner has so received a copy of a resolution from any charity trustees and it appears to him that the trustees have complied with this section in connection with the resolution, the Commissioner shall, within the period of 3 months beginning with the date when he receives the copy of the resolution, notify the trustees in writing either —

- (a) that the Commissioner concurs with the resolution; or
- (b) that he does not concur with it.

(8) Where the Commissioner so notifies his concurrence with the resolution, the charity trustees shall have, as from such date as may be specified in the notification, power by virtue of this section to expend any property of the charity without regard to any such restrictions as are mentioned in subsection (2).

(9) The Minister may by order amend subsection (1) (b) by substituting a different sum for the sum for the time being specified therein.

(10) A charity shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to have a permanent endowment unless all property held for the purposes of the charity may be expended for those purposes without distinction between capital and income, and in this section “permanent endowment” means, in relation to any charity, property held subject to a restriction on its being expended for the purposes of the charity.

PART VI

APPLICATION OF PROPERTY CY-PRÈS AND ASSISTANCE AND SUPERVISION OF CHARITIES BY COURT AND COMMISSIONER

Occasions
for applying
property
cy-près.

21.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the circumstances in which the original purposes of a charitable gift can be altered to allow the property given or part of it to be applied cy-près shall be as follows:

- (a) where the original purposes, in whole or in part —
 - (i) have been as far as may be fulfilled; or
 - (ii) cannot be carried out, or not according to the directions given and to the spirit of the gift;
- (b) where the original purposes provide a use for part only of the property available by virtue of the gift;
- (c) where the property available by virtue of the gift and other property applicable for similar purposes can be more effectively used in conjunction and to that end can suitably, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, be made applicable to common purposes;

- (d) where the original purposes were laid down by reference to an area which then was but has since ceased to be a unit for some other purpose, or by reference to a class of persons or to an area which has for any reason since ceased to be suitable, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, or to be practical in administering the gift; or
- (e) where the original purposes, in whole or in part, have, since they were laid down —
- (i) been adequately provided for by other means;
 - (ii) ceased, as being useless or harmful to the community or for other reasons, to be in law charitable; or
 - (iii) ceased in any other way to provide a suitable and effective method of using the property available by virtue of the gift, regard being had to the spirit of the gift.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not affect the conditions which must be satisfied in order that property given for charitable purposes may be applied *cy-près*, except in so far as those conditions require a failure of the original purposes.

(3) References in subsections (1) and (2) to the original purposes of a gift shall be construed, where the application of the property given has been altered or regulated by a scheme or otherwise, as referring to the purposes for which the property is for the time being applicable.

(4) It is hereby declared that a trust for charitable purposes places a trustee under a duty, where the case permits and requires the property of some part of it to be applied *cy-près*, to secure its effective use for charity by taking steps to enable it to be so applied.

(5) This section shall apply to property given for charitable purposes, notwithstanding that it was so given before 1st January 1995.

22.—(1) Property given for specific charitable purposes which fail shall be applicable *cy-près* as if given for charitable purposes generally, where it belongs to a donor who —

Application
cy-près of
gifts of
donors
unknown or
disclaiming.

- (a) after the prescribed advertisements and inquiries have been published and made, and after the prescribed period beginning with the publication of those advertisements has expired, cannot be identified or cannot be found; or
- (b) has executed a disclaimer in the prescribed form of his right to have the property returned.

(2) Where the prescribed advertisements and inquiries have been published and made by or on behalf of trustees with respect to any such property, the trustees shall not be liable to pay to any person in respect of the property if no claim by him to be interested in the property is received by the trustees before the expiry of the period specified in subsection (1) (a).

(3) For the purposes of this section, property shall be conclusively presumed (without any advertisement or inquiry) to belong to donors who cannot be identified, in so far as it consists of the proceeds of —

- (a) cash collections made by means of collecting boxes or by other means not adapted for distinguishing one gift from another; or
- (b) any lottery, competition, entertainment, sale or similar money-raising activity, after allowing for property given to provide prizes or articles for sale or otherwise to enable the activity to be undertaken.

(4) The High Court may by order direct that property not falling within subsection (3) shall, for the purposes of this section, be treated (without any advertisement or inquiry) as belonging to donors who cannot be identified, where it appears to the Court —

- (a) that it would be unreasonable, having regard to the amounts likely to be returned to the donors, to incur expense with a view to returning the property; or
- (b) that it would be unreasonable, having regard to the nature, circumstances and amount of the gifts, and to the lapse of time since the gifts were made, for the donors to expect the property to be returned.

(5) Where property is applied *cy-près* by virtue of this section, the donor shall be deemed to have parted with all his interest at the time when the gift was made; but where property is so applied as belonging to donors who cannot be identified or cannot be found, and is not so applied by virtue of subsection (3) or (4) —

- (a) the scheme shall specify the total amount of that property;
 - (b) the donor of any part of that amount shall be entitled, if he makes a claim not later than 6 months after the date on which the scheme is made, to recover from the charity for which the property is applied a sum equal to that part, less any expenses properly incurred by the charity trustees after that date in connection with claims relating to his gift; and
 - (c) the scheme may include directions as to the provision to be made for meeting any such claim.
- (6) Where —
- (a) any sum is, in accordance with any directions in a scheme, set aside for meeting any such claims; but
 - (b) the aggregate amount of any such claims actually made exceeds the relevant amount,

then if the Commissioner so directs, each of the donors in question shall be entitled only to such proportion of the relevant amount as the amount of his claim bears to the aggregate amount referred to in paragraph (b); and for this purpose, “relevant amount” means the amount of the sum so set aside after deduction of any expenses properly incurred by the charity trustees in connection with claims relating to the donors’ gifts.

(7) For the purposes of this section, charitable purposes shall be deemed to fail where any difficulty in applying property to those purposes makes that property or the part not applicable *cy-près* available to be returned to the donors.

(8) In this section, except in so far as the context otherwise requires, references to a donor include persons claiming through or under the original donor, and

references to property given include the property for the time being representing the property originally given or property derived from it.

(9) This section shall apply to property given for charitable purposes, notwithstanding that it was so given before 1st January 1995.

Entrusting
charity
property to
Public
Trustee and
termination
of trust.

23.—(1) The High Court may by order vest any property held by or in trust for a charity in the Public Trustee or authorise or require the persons in whom the property is vested to transfer it to him, or appoint any person to transfer the property to him; and the property may be vested in the Public Trustee with or without powers of management as the Court may direct.

(2) Where any property is held by or in trust for a charity, or is comprised in any testamentary gift to a charity, the property may, with the agreement of the Public Trustee, be transferred to him; and his receipt for the property comprised in a testamentary gift to a charity shall be a complete discharge of the personal representative.

(3) Where property is vested in the Public Trustee in trust for a charity, the High Court may make an order discharging him from the trusteeship as respects all or any of that property.

(4) Where the Public Trustee is discharged from his trusteeship of any property, or the trusts on which he holds any property come to an end, the High Court may make such vesting orders and give such directions as may seem to the Court to be necessary or expedient in consequence.

(5) No person shall —

(a) be liable for any loss occasioned by his acting in conformity with an order under this section or by his giving effect to anything done in pursuance of that order; or

(b) be excused from so doing by reason of the order under this section having been in any respect improperly obtained.

(6) No vesting or transfer of any property in pursuance of this section shall operate as a breach of a covenant or condition against alienation or give rise to a forfeiture.

24.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Commissioner may, with the consent of the Attorney-General, by order exercise the same jurisdiction and powers as are exercisable by the High Court in charity proceedings for the following purposes:

Concurrent jurisdiction with High Court for certain purposes.

- (a) establishing a scheme for the administration of a charity;
- (b) appointing, discharging or removing a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or removing an officer or employee; and
- (c) vesting or transferring property, or requiring or entitling any person to call for or make any transfer of property or any payment.

(2) The Commissioner shall not have jurisdiction under this section to try or determine the title to any property as between a charity or trustee for a charity and a person holding or claiming the property or an interest in it adversely to the charity, or to try or determine any question as to the existence or extent of any charge or trust.

(3) Before exercising any jurisdiction under this section, the Commissioner shall give notice of his intention to do so to each of the charity trustees except those who cannot be found or who have no known address in Singapore; and the notice may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the trustee's last known address in Singapore.

(4) The Commissioner shall not exercise his jurisdiction under this section in any case (not referred to him by order of the court) which, by reason of its contentious character, or of any special question of law or of fact which it may involve, or for other reasons, the Commissioner may consider more fit to be adjudicated on by the court.

(5) An appeal against any order of the Commissioner under this section may at any time, within the 3 months beginning with the day following that on which the order is published, be brought in the High Court by the charity or any of the charity trustees, or any person interested in the charity, or by any person removed from any office or employment by the order.

Power to
act for
protection
of charities.

25.—(1) Where, at any time after the Commissioner has instituted an inquiry under section 8 with respect to any charity, he is satisfied —

- (a) that there is or has been any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity; and
- (b) that it is necessary or desirable to act for the purpose of protecting the property of the charity or securing a proper application for the purposes of the charity of that property or of property coming to the charity,

the Commissioner may, with the consent of the Attorney-General, do one or more of the following things:

- (i) by order remove any trustee, charity trustee, officer, agent or employee of the charity who has been responsible for or privy to the misconduct or mismanagement or has by his conduct contributed to it or facilitated it;
- (ii) by order establish a scheme for the administration of the charity;
- (iii) notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity, by order restrict the transactions which may be entered into, or the nature or amount of the payments which may be made, in the administration of the charity without his approval.

(2) Where, at any time after the Commissioner has instituted an inquiry under section 8 with respect to any charity, he is satisfied —

- (a) that there is or has been any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity; or
- (b) that it is necessary or desirable to act for the purpose of protecting the property of the charity or securing a proper application for the purposes of the charity of that property or of property coming to the charity,

the Commissioner may, with the consent of the Attorney-General, do one or more of the following things:

- (i) by order suspend any trustee, charity trustee, officer, agent or employee of the charity from the exercise of his office or employment pending consideration being given to his removal (whether under this section or otherwise);
- (ii) by order appoint such number of additional charity trustees as he considers necessary for the proper administration of the charity;
- (iii) by order vest any property held by or in trust for the charity in the Public Trustee, or require the persons in whom any such property is vested to transfer it to the Public Trustee, or appoint any person to transfer any such property to him;
- (iv) order any person who holds any property on behalf of the charity, or of any trustee for it, not to part with the property without the approval of the Commissioner;
- (v) order any debtor of the charity not to make any payment in or towards the discharge of his liability to the charity without the approval of the Commissioner;
- (vi) by order restrict (notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity) the transactions which may be entered into, or the nature or amount of the payments which may be made, in the administration of the charity without the approval of the Commissioner;
- (vii) by order appoint (in accordance with section 26) a receiver and manager in respect of the property and affairs of the charity.

(3) The references in subsections (1) and (2) to misconduct or mismanagement shall (notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity) extend to the employment for remuneration or reward of persons acting in the affairs of the charity, or for other administrative purposes, of sums which are excessive in relation to the property which is or is likely to be applied or applicable for the purposes of the charity.

(4) The Commissioner may remove a charity trustee by order made of his own motion where the trustee —

- (a) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude;
- (b) is a bankrupt;
- (c) is a corporation in liquidation;
- (d) is incapable of acting by reason of mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Disorders and Treatment Act;
- (e) has not acted, and will not declare his willingness or unwillingness to act; or
- (f) is outside Singapore or cannot be found or does not act, and his absence or failure to act impedes the proper administration of the charity.

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(5) The Commissioner may, by order made of his own motion, appoint a person to be a charity trustee —

- (a) in place of a charity trustee removed by him under this section or otherwise;
- (b) where there are no charity trustees, or where by reason of vacancies in their number or the absence or incapacity of any of their number the charity cannot apply for the appointment;
- (c) where there is a single charity trustee, not being a corporation, and the Commissioner is of the opinion that it is necessary to increase the number for the proper administration of the charity; or
- (d) where the Commissioner is of the opinion that it is necessary for the proper administration of the charity to have an additional charity trustee, because one of the existing charity trustees who ought nevertheless to remain a charity trustee cannot be found or does not act or is outside Singapore.

(6) The powers of the Commissioner under this section to remove or appoint charity trustees shall include power to make any such order with respect to the vesting in or transfer to the charity trustees of any property as the

Commissioner may make on the removal or appointment of a charity trustee by him under section 24.

(7) Any order under this section for the removal or appointment of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or for the vesting or transfer of any property, shall be of the like effect as an order made under section 24.

(8) Section 24 (4) shall apply to orders under this section as it applies to orders under section 24.

(9) The power of the Commissioner to make an order under subsection (2) (i) shall not be exercisable so as to suspend any person from the exercise of his office or employment for a period of more than 12 months; but (without prejudice to the generality of section 42) any such order made in the case of any person may make provision as respects the period of his suspension for matters arising out of it, and in particular for enabling any person to execute any instrument in his name or otherwise act for him and, in the case of a charity trustee, for adjusting any rules governing the proceedings of the charity trustees to take account of the reduction in the number capable of acting.

(10) Before exercising any jurisdiction under this section (otherwise than by virtue of subsection (2)), the Commissioner shall give notice of his intention to do so to each of the charity trustees except those who cannot be found or who have no known address in Singapore; and the notice may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the trustee's last known address in Singapore.

(11) The Commissioner shall, at such intervals as he thinks fit, review any order made by him under subsection (2) (i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) or (vii); and if on any such review it appears to him that it would be appropriate to discharge the order in whole or in part, he shall so discharge it (whether subject to any savings or transitional provisions or not).

(12) Any person who contravenes an order under subsection (2) (iv), (v) or (vi) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

(13) Nothing in subsection (12) shall be taken to preclude the bringing of proceedings for breach of trust against any charity trustee or trustee for a charity in respect of a contravention of an order under subsection (2) (iv) or (vi) (whether proceedings in respect of the contravention are brought against him under subsection (12)).

(14) This section shall not apply to an exempt charity.

Supple-
mentary
provisions
relating to
receiver and
manager
appointed for
a charity.

26.—(1) The Commissioner may under section 25 (2) (vii) appoint to be receiver and manager in respect of the property and affairs of a charity such person (other than an officer or employee of the charity) as he thinks fit.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of section 42 (1), any order made by the Commissioner under section 25 (2) (vii) may make provision with respect to the functions to be discharged by the receiver and manager appointed by the order; and those functions shall be discharged by the receiver and manager under the supervision of the Commissioner.

(3) In connection with the discharge of those functions, any such order may provide —

(a) for the receiver and manager appointed by the order to have such powers and duties of the charity trustees of the charity concerned (whether arising under this Act or otherwise) as are specified in the order; and

(b) for any powers or duties exercisable or falling to be performed by the receiver and manager by virtue of paragraph (a) to be exercisable or performed by him to the exclusion of those trustees.

(4) Where a person has been appointed receiver and manager by any such order, the Commissioner may apply to the High Court for directions in relation to any particular matter arising in connection with the discharge of those functions.

(5) The High Court may, on an application under subsection (4), give such directions or make such orders declaring the rights of any person (whether before the Court or not), as the Court thinks just; and the costs of any such application shall be paid by the charity concerned.

(6) The Minister may make regulations with respect to —

- (a) the appointment and removal of receivers and managers appointed in accordance with this section;
- (b) the remuneration of such receivers and managers out of the income of the charities concerned; and
- (c) the making of reports to the Commissioner by receivers and managers.

(7) Regulations made under subsection (6) may, in particular, authorise the Commissioner to require a receiver and manager so appointed to give security for the due discharge of his functions, to determine the amount of his remuneration, and to disallow any amount of remuneration in such circumstances as are prescribed by the regulations.

27.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person shall be disqualified for being a charity trustee or trustee for a charity if —

Persons disqualified for being trustees of a charity.

- (a) he has been convicted, whether in Singapore or elsewhere, of any offence involving dishonesty or deception;
- (b) he has been adjudged bankrupt, and has not been discharged;
- (c) he has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
- (d) he has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Commissioner under section 25 (1) (i) or by the High Court on the ground of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he was responsible or to which he was privy, or which he by his conduct contributed to or facilitated; or
- (e) he is subject to a disqualification order under section 148, 149 or 154 of the Companies Act.

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(2) Where (apart from this subsection) a person is disqualified under subsection (1) (b) for being a charity trustee or trustee for any charity which is a company, he shall not be so disqualified if leave has been granted under

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section 148 of the Companies Act for him to act as director of the charity; and similarly a person shall not be disqualified under subsection (1) (e) for being a charity trustee or trustee for such a charity if leave under the order has been granted for him to act as director of the charity.

Persons acting as charity trustee while disqualified.

28.—(1) Any person who acts as a charity trustee or trustee for a charity while he is disqualified for being such a trustee by virtue of section 27 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

(2) Any act done as charity trustee or trustee for a charity by a person disqualified for being such a trustee by virtue of section 27 shall not be invalid by reason only of that disqualification.

(3) Where the Commissioner is satisfied —

- (a) that any person has acted as charity trustee or trustee for a charity while disqualified for being such a trustee by virtue of section 27; and
- (b) that, while so acting, he has received from the charity any sum by way of remuneration or expenses, or any benefit in kind, in connection with his acting as charity trustee or trustee for the charity,

the Commissioner may by order direct him to repay to the charity the whole or part of any such sum, or (as the case may be) to pay to the charity the whole or part of the monetary value (as determined by the Commissioner) of any such benefit.

(4) Subsection (3) shall not apply to any sum received by way of remuneration or expenses in respect of any time when the person concerned was not disqualified for being a charity trustee or trustee for the charity.

Publicity for proceedings under this Part.

29.—(1) The Commissioner shall not make any order under this Part to establish a scheme for the administration of a charity unless not less than one month previously there has been given public notice of his proposals, inviting representations to be made to him within a time specified in the notice, which shall not be less than one month from the date of the notice.

(2) The Commissioner shall not make any order under this Part to appoint, discharge or remove a charity trustee or trustee for a charity (other than the Public Trustee), unless not less than one month previously there has been given the like public notice as is required by subsection (1) for an order establishing a scheme but this subsection shall not apply in the case of —

- (a) an order under section 25 (2) (ii); or
- (b) an order discharging or removing a trustee if the Commissioner is of opinion that it is unnecessary and not in the interest of the trustee to give publicity to the proposal to discharge or remove the trustee.

(3) Before the Commissioner makes an order under this Part to remove without his consent a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or an officer, agent or employee of a charity, the Commissioner shall, unless he cannot be found or has no known address in Singapore, give him not less than one month's notice of the Commissioner's proposal, inviting representations to be made to the Commissioner within a time specified in the notice.

(4) Where notice is given of any proposal as required by subsection (1), (2) or (3), the Commissioner shall take into consideration any representation made about the proposal within the time specified in the notice, and may (without further notice) proceed with the proposal either without modification or with such modification as appear to him to be desirable.

(5) Where the Commissioner makes an order which is subject to appeal under subsection (4) of section 24, the order shall be published either by giving public notice of it or by giving notice of it to all persons entitled to appeal against it under that subsection, as the Commissioner thinks fit.

(6) Where the Commissioner makes an order under this Part to establish a scheme for the administration of a charity, a copy of the order shall, for not less than one month after the order is published, be available for public inspection at all reasonable times at the office of the Commissioner.

(7) Any notice to be given under this section of any proposals or order shall give such particulars of the proposals or order, or such directions for obtaining information about them, as the Commissioner thinks sufficient and appropriate, and any public notice shall be given in such manner as he thinks sufficient and appropriate.

(8) Any notice to be given under this section, other than a public notice, may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the recipient's last known address in Singapore.

Power to
authorise
dealings with
charity
property, etc.

30.—(1) Subject to this section, where it appears to the Commissioner that any action proposed or contemplated in the administration of a charity is expedient in the interests of the charity, he may by order sanction that action, whether or not it would otherwise be within the powers exercisable by the charity trustees in the administration of the charity; and anything done under the authority of that order shall be deemed to be properly done in the exercise of those powers.

(2) An order under this section may be made so as to authorise a particular transaction, compromise or the like, or a particular application of property, or so as to give a more general authority, and (without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1)) may authorise a charity to use common premises, or employ a common staff, or otherwise combine for any purpose of administration, with any other charity.

(3) An order under this section may give directions as to the manner in which any expenditure is to be borne and as to other matters connected with or arising out of the action thereby authorised; and where anything is done in pursuance of an authority given by any such order, any directions given in connection therewith shall be binding on the charity trustees for the time being as if contained in the trusts of the charity except that those directions may on the application of the charity be modified or superseded by a further order.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3), the directions which may be given by an order under this section shall in particular include directions for meeting any expenditure out of a specified fund, for charging any expenditure to capital or to income, for requiring expenditure

charged to capital to be recouped out of income within a specified period, for restricting the costs to be incurred at the expense of the charity, or for the investment of moneys arising from any transaction.

31.—(1) Charity proceedings may be taken with reference to a charity either by the charity, or by any of the charity trustees, or by any person interested in the charity, but not by any other person. Taking of legal proceedings.

(2) Subject to this section, no charity proceedings relating to a charity (other than an exempt charity) shall be entertained or proceeded with in any court unless the taking of the proceedings is authorised by order of the Commissioner.

(3) The Commissioner shall not, without special reasons, authorise the taking of a charity proceedings where in his opinion the case can be dealt with by him under the powers of this Act.

(4) This section shall not require any order for the taking of proceedings in a pending cause or matter or for the bringing of any appeal.

(5) Where subsection (2) requires the taking of charity proceedings to be authorised by an order of the Commissioner, the proceedings may nevertheless be entertained or proceeded with if, after the order had been applied for and refused, leave to take the proceedings was obtained from the High Court.

(6) Nothing in subsections (1) to (5) shall apply to the taking of proceedings by the Attorney-General, with or without a relator.

(7) Where it appears to the Commissioner, on an application for an order under this section or otherwise, that it is desirable for legal proceedings to be taken with reference to any charity (other than an exempt charity) or its property or affairs, and for the proceedings to be taken by the Attorney-General, the Commissioner shall so inform the Attorney-General, and send him such statements and particulars as the Commissioner thinks necessary to explain the matter.

(8) In this section, “charity proceedings” means proceedings in the High Court brought under the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to charities, or brought under

the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to trusts in relation to the administration of a trust for charitable purposes.

Charitable
companies.
Cap. 50.

32.—(1) Where a charity may be wound up by the High Court under the Companies Act, a petition for it to be wound up under that Act by the High Court may be presented by the Attorney-General, as well as by any person authorised by that Act.

(2) Where a charity is a company or other body corporate, and has power to alter the instruments establishing or regulating it as a body corporate, no exercise of that power which has the effect of the body corporate ceasing to be a charity shall be valid so as to affect the application of any property acquired under any disposition or agreement previously made otherwise than for full consideration in money or money's worth, or of any property representing property so acquired, or of any property representing income which has accrued before the alteration is made, or of the income from any such property as aforesaid.

*PART VII

CONTROL OF FUND-RAISING FOR CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Inter-
pretation of
this Part.

33.—(1) In this Part and any regulations made under this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“charitable appeal” means an appeal to members of the public to give money or other property (whether for consideration or otherwise) which is made in association with a representation that the whole or any part of its proceeds is to be applied for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes;

“charitable contributions”, in relation to any representation made by any commercial participator or other person, means —

(a) the whole or part of —

(i) the consideration given for goods or services sold or supplied by him; or

*No date has been appointed for the coming into operation of this Part.

(ii) any proceeds (other than such consideration) of a promotional venture undertaken by him; or

(b) sums given by him by way of donation in connection with the sale or supply of any such goods or services (whether the amount of such sums is determined by reference to the value of any such goods or services or otherwise);

“charitable institution” means a charity or an institution (other than a charity) which is established for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes;

“commercial participator”, in relation to any charitable institution, means any person who carries on for gain a business other than a fund-raising business, but in the course of that business, engages in any promotional venture in the course of which it is represented that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of the institution;

“credit card” means a card, cheque, voucher, coupon, stamp, form, booklet or other document or thing given to an individual by a person who undertakes —

(a) that on the production of it (whether or not some other action is also required), he will supply cash, goods and services (or any of them) on credit; or

(b) that where, on the production of it to a third party (whether or not some other action is also required), the third party supplies cash, goods and services (or any of them), he will pay the third party for them (whether or not deducting any discount or commission), in return for payment to him by the individual;

“debit card” means a card the use of which by its holder to make a payment results in any account of his at a bank, or at any other institution providing banking services, being debited with the payment;

“fund-raising business” means any business carried on for gain and wholly or primarily engaged in soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes;

“professional fund-raiser” means —

(a) any person (apart from a charitable institution) who carries on a fund-raising business; or

(b) any other person (apart from a person excluded by virtue of subsection (2) or (3)) who for reward solicits money or other property for the benefit of a charitable institution, if he does so otherwise than in the course of any fund-raising venture undertaken by a person falling within paragraph (a);

“promotional venture” means any advertising or sales campaign or any other venture undertaken for promotional purposes;

“radio or television programme” includes any item included in a broadcasting service within the meaning of the Singapore Broadcasting Authority Act;

Cap. 297.

“represent” and “solicit” mean, respectively, represent and solicit in any manner whatever, whether expressly or impliedly and whether done —

(a) by speaking directly to the person or persons to whom the representation or solicitation is addressed (whether or not in his or their presence); or

(b) by means of a statement published in any newspaper, film or radio or television programme,

or otherwise, and references to a representation or solicitation shall be construed accordingly.

(2) Paragraph (b) of the definition of “professional fund-raiser” shall not apply to any of the following:

(a) any charitable institution or any company connected with any such institution;

- (b) any officer or employee of any such institution or company, or any trustee of any such institution, acting (in each case) in his capacity as such;
- (c) any person acting as a collector in respect of a charitable appeal which is made in any public place or by means of visits from house to house (apart from a person who is to be treated as a promoter of such a collection by virtue of subsection (9));
- (d) any person who in the course of a radio or television programme in the course of which a fund-raising venture is undertaken by —
 - (i) a charitable institution; or
 - (ii) a company connected with such an institution,

makes any solicitation at the instance of that institution or company; or
- (e) any commercial participator.

(3) Paragraph (b) of the definition of “professional fund-raiser” shall also not apply to a person if the person does not receive —

- (a) more than \$10 per day or \$1,000 per year by way of remuneration in connection with soliciting money or other property for the benefit of the charitable institution referred to in that paragraph; or
 - (b) more than \$1,000 by way of remuneration in connection with any fund-raising venture in the course of which he solicits money or other property for the benefit of that institution.
- (4) In this Part —
- (a) any reference to charitable purposes, where occurring in the context of a reference to charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes, shall be a reference to charitable purposes whether or not the purposes are charitable within the meaning of any rule of law; and

- (b) any reference to soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property is a reference to soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property whether any consideration is, or is to be, given in return for the money or other property or not.

(5) For the purposes of this Part, a company shall be connected with a charitable institution if —

- (a) the institution; or
- (b) the institution and one or more other charitable institutions, taken together,

is or are entitled (whether directly or through one or more nominees) to exercise, or control the exercise of, the whole of the voting power at any general meeting of the company.

(6) Where —

- (a) any solicitation of money or other property for the benefit of a charitable institution is made in accordance with arrangements between any person and that institution; and
- (b) under those arrangements that person will be responsible for receiving on behalf of the institution money or other property given in response to the solicitation,

then (if he would not be so regarded apart from this subsection) that person shall be regarded for the purposes of this Part as soliciting money or other property for the benefit of the institution.

(7) Where any fund-raising venture is undertaken by a professional fund-raiser in the course of a radio or television programme, any solicitation which is made by a person in the course of the programme at the instance of the fund-raiser shall be regarded for the purposes of this Part as made by the fund-raiser and not by that person (and shall be so regarded whether or not the solicitation is made by that person for any reward).

(8) In this Part, “services” includes facilities and, in particular —

- (a) access to any premises or event;
- (b) membership of any organisation;
- (c) the provision of advertising space; and
- (d) the provision of any financial facilities,

and references to the supply of services shall be construed accordingly.

(9) In relation to a public charitable appeal —

- (a) “collector” means any person by whom that appeal is made (whether made by him alone or with others and whether made by him for remuneration or otherwise); and
- (b) “promoter” means a person who (whether alone or with others and whether for remuneration or otherwise) organises or controls the conduct of the charitable appeal in question, and associated expressions shall be construed accordingly,

but where no person acts in the manner mentioned in paragraph (b) in respect of a charitable appeal, any person who acts as a collector in respect of it shall, for the purposes of this Part, be treated as a promoter of it as well.

(10) The Minister may by order amend subsection (3) (a) or (b) by substituting a different sum for the sum for the time being specified therein.

34.—(1) It shall be unlawful for a professional fund-raiser to solicit money or other property for the benefit of a charitable institution unless he does so in accordance with an agreement with the institution satisfying the prescribed requirements.

Prohibition on professional fund-raiser, etc., raising funds for charitable institution without agreement in prescribed form.

(2) It shall be unlawful for a commercial participator to represent that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of a charitable institution unless he does so in accordance with an agreement with the institution satisfying the prescribed requirements.

(3) Where on the application of a charitable institution the High Court is satisfied —

- (a) that any person has contravened or is contravening subsection (1) or (2) in relation to the institution; and
- (b) that, unless restrained, any such contravention is likely to continue or be repeated,

the High Court may grant an injunction restraining the contravention; and compliance with subsection (1) or (2) shall not be enforceable otherwise than in accordance with this subsection.

(4) Where —

- (a) a charitable institution makes any agreement with a professional fund-raiser or a commercial participator by virtue of which, as the case may be —
 - (i) the professional fund-raiser is authorised to solicit money or other property for the benefit of the institution; or
 - (ii) the commercial participator is authorised to represent that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of the institution; but
- (b) the agreement does not satisfy the prescribed requirements in any respect,

the agreement shall not be enforceable against the institution except to such extent (if any) as may be provided by an order of the High Court.

(5) A professional fund-raiser or commercial participator who is a party to an agreement referred to in subsection (4) (a) shall not be entitled to receive any amount by way of remuneration or expenses in respect of anything done by him in pursuance of the agreement unless he is so entitled under any provision of the agreement, and —

- (a) the agreement satisfies the prescribed requirements; or
- (b) any such provision has effect by virtue of an order of the High Court under subsection (4).

35.—(1) Where a professional fund-raiser solicits money or other property for the benefit of one or more particular charitable institutions, the solicitation shall be accompanied by a statement clearly indicating —

- (a) the name or names of the institution or institutions concerned;
- (b) if there is more than one institution concerned, the proportions in which the institutions are respectively to benefit; and
- (c) (in general terms) the method by which the fund-raiser's remuneration in connection with the appeal is to be determined.

Professional fund-raisers, etc., required to indicate institutions benefiting and arrangements for remuneration.

(2) Where a professional fund-raiser solicits money or other property for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes of any description (rather than for the benefit of one or more particular charitable institutions), the solicitation shall be accompanied by a statement clearly indicating —

- (a) the fact that he is soliciting money or other property for those purposes and not for the benefit of any particular charitable institution or institutions;
- (b) the method by which it is to be determined how the proceeds of the appeal are to be distributed between different charitable institutions; and
- (c) (in general terms) the method by which the remuneration in connection with the appeal is to be determined.

(3) Where any representation is made by a commercial participator to the effect that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of one or more particular charitable institutions, the representation shall be accompanied by a statement clearly indicating —

- (a) the name or names of the institution or institutions concerned;
- (b) if there is more than one institution concerned, the proportions in which the institutions are respectively to benefit; and

(c) (in general terms) the method by which it is to be determined —

(i) what proportion of the consideration given for goods or services sold or supplied by him, or of any other proceeds of a promotional venture undertaken by him, is to be given to or applied for the benefit of the institution or institutions concerned; or

(ii) what sums by way of donations by him in connection with the sale or supply of any such goods or services are to be so given or applied,

as the case may require.

(4) If any such solicitation or representation as is mentioned in subsection (1), (2) or (3) is made orally but is not made —

(a) by speaking directly to the particular person or persons to whom it is addressed and in his or their presence; or

(b) in the course of any radio or television programme, the professional fund-raiser or commercial participator concerned shall, within 7 days of any payment exceeding the prescribed amount being made to him in response to the solicitation or representation, give to the person making the payment a written statement of the matters specified in subsection (1) (a), (b) and (c).

(5) In subsection (4), the reference to the making of a payment is a reference to the making of a payment of whatever nature and by whatever means, including a payment made by means of a credit card or a debit card; and for the purposes of that subsection —

(a) where the person making any such payment makes it in person, it shall be regarded as made at the time when it is so made;

(b) where the person making any such payment sends it by post, it shall be regarded as made at the time when it is posted; and

(c) where the person making any such payment makes it by giving, by telephone or by means of any other telecommunication system, authority for an account to be debited with the payment, it shall be regarded as made at the time when any such authority is given.

(6) Where any requirement of subsections (1) to (4) is not complied with in relation to any solicitation or representation, the professional fund-raiser or commercial participator concerned shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

(7) It shall be a defence for a person charged with any offence under subsection (6) to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

(8) Where the commission by any person of an offence under subsection (6) is due to the act or default of some other person, that other person shall be guilty of the offence; and a person may be charged with and convicted of the offence by virtue of this subsection whether or not proceedings are taken against the first-mentioned person.

(9) In this section —

“appeal”, in relation to any solicitation by a professional fund-raiser, means the campaign or other fund-raising venture in the course of which the solicitation is made;

“prescribed amount” means such sum in cash as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe for the purposes of subsection (4);

“telecommunication system” has the same meaning as in the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore Act. Cap. 323.

36.—(1) Where —

(a) a person (referred to in this subsection as the donor), in response to any such solicitation or representation referred to in section 35 (1), (2) or (3) which is made in the course of a radio or television programme, makes any payment exceeding the prescribed amount under

Cancellation of payments and agreements made in response to appeals.

section 35 (4) to the relevant fund-raiser by means of a credit card or a debit card; and

- (b) before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date of the solicitation or representation, the donor serves on the relevant fund-raiser a notice in writing which, however expressed, indicates the donor's intention to cancel the payment,

the donor shall, subject to subsection (4), be entitled to have the payment refunded to him forthwith by the relevant fund-raiser.

(2) Where —

- (a) a person (referred to in this subsection as the donor), in response to any solicitation or representation falling within section 35 (4), enters into an agreement with the relevant fund-raiser under which the donor is, or may be, liable to make any payment or payments to the relevant fund-raiser, and the amount or aggregate amount which the donor is, or may be, liable to pay to him under the agreement exceeds the prescribed amount under section 35 (4); and
- (b) before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date when he is given any such written statement referred to in section 35 (4), the donor serves on the relevant fund-raiser a notice in writing which, however expressed, indicates the donor's intention to cancel the agreement,

the notice shall operate, as from the time when it is so served, to cancel the agreement and any liability of any person other than the donor in connection with the making of any such payment or payments, and the donor shall, subject to subsection (4), be entitled to have the payment made by him under the agreement refunded to him forthwith by the relevant fund-raiser.

(3) Where, in response to any solicitation or representation falling within section 35 (4), a person (referred to in this subsection as the donor) —

- (a) makes any payment exceeding the prescribed amount under section 35 (4) to the relevant fund-raiser; and
- (b) does not enter into any such agreement as is mentioned in subsection (2),

then, if before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date when the donor is given any such written statement referred to in section 35 (4), the donor serves on the relevant fund-raiser a notice in writing which, however expressed, indicates the donor's intention to cancel the payment, the donor shall, subject to subsection (4), be entitled to have the payment refunded to him forthwith by the relevant fund-raiser.

(4) The right of any person to have a payment refunded to him under subsection (1), (2) or (3) —

- (a) is a right to have refunded to him the amount of the payment less any administrative expenses reasonably incurred by the relevant fund-raiser in connection with the making of the refund, or (in the case of a refund under subsection (2)) dealing with the notice of cancellation served by that person; and
- (b) shall, in the case of a payment for goods already received, be conditional upon restitution being made by him of the goods in question.

(5) Nothing in subsections (1), (2) and (3) shall have effect in relation to any payment made or to be made in respect of services which have been supplied at the time when the relevant notice is served.

(6) In this section, any reference to the making of a payment is reference to the making of a payment of whatever nature and (in the case of subsection (2) or (3)), a payment made by whatever means, including a payment made by means of a credit card or a debit card; and section 35 (5) shall have effect for determining when a payment is made for the purposes of this section as it has effect for determining when a payment is made for the purposes of section 35 (4).

(7) In this section, “the relevant fund-raiser”, in relation to any solicitation or representation, means the professional fund-raiser or commercial participator by whom it is made.

Right of charitable institution to prevent unauthorised fund-raising.

37.—(1) Where on the application of any charitable institution —

- (a) the High Court is satisfied that any person has done or is doing either of the following, namely:
 - (i) soliciting money or other property for the benefit of the institution; or
 - (ii) representing that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of the institution,

and that, unless restrained, he is likely to do further acts of that nature; and

- (b) the Court is also satisfied as to one or more of the matters specified in subsection (2),

then, subject to subsection (3), the Court may grant an injunction restraining the doing of any such acts.

(2) The matters referred to in subsection (1) (b) are —

- (a) that the person in question is using methods of fund-raising to which the institution objects;
- (b) that that person is not a fit and proper person to raise funds for the institution; and
- (c) where the conduct complained of is the making of such representations referred to in subsection (1) (a) (ii), that the institution does not wish to be associated with the particular promotional or other fund-raising venture in which that person is engaged.

(3) The power to grant an injunction under subsection (1) shall not be exercisable on the application of a charitable institution unless the institution has, not less than 14 days before making the application, served on the person in question a notice in writing —

- (a) requesting him to cease forthwith soliciting money or other property for the benefit of the institution, or representing that charitable contributions are to be given to or applied for the benefit of the institution, as the case may be; and
 - (b) stating that, if he does not comply with the notice, the institution will make an application under this section for an injunction.
- (4) Where —
- (a) a charitable institution has served on any person a notice under subsection (3) (referred to in this subsection as the relevant notice) and that person has complied with the notice; but
 - (b) that person has subsequently begun to carry on activities which are the same, or substantially the same, as those in respect of which the relevant notice was served,

the institution shall not, in connection with an application made by it under this section in respect of the activities carried on by that person, be required by virtue of that subsection to serve a further notice on him, if the application is made not more than 12 months after the date of service of the relevant notice.

(5) This section shall not have the effect of authorising a charitable institution to make an application under this section in respect of anything done by a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator in relation to the institution.

38. Where a person solicits money or other property for the benefit of an institution in association with a representation that the institution is a registered charity, and the institution is not such a charity, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

False statements relating to institutions which are not registered charities.

PART VIII

FUND-RAISING APPEALS

Prohibition
on
conducting
fund-raising
appeal
without
permit.

39.—(1) No person shall conduct or participate in any fund-raising appeal unless he is —

- (a) exempt from the provision of this section; or
- (b) a person to whom a permit has been granted by the Commissioner in accordance with regulations made for the purpose of this section.

(2) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

(3) The Minister, or such person as he may appoint, may exempt any person or class of persons from the provision of this section.

(4) In this section and any regulations made for the purpose of this section —

“fund-raising appeal” means the soliciting or receiving from the public or any class of the public of any money or other property (whether for consideration or otherwise) which is made in association with a representation that the whole or any part of its proceeds is to be applied for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes;

“proceeds”, in relation to a fund-raising appeal, means all money or other property given (whether for consideration or otherwise) in response to the fund-raising appeal in question.

(5) In this section and any regulations made for the purpose of this section, any reference to charitable purposes, where occurring in the context of a reference to charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes, is a reference to charitable purposes whether or not the purposes are charitable within the meaning of any rule of law.

Exclusion of
judicial
review.

40.—(1) There shall be no judicial review in any court of any act done or decision made by the Minister or Commissioner under any regulations made for the purpose of section 39 except in regard to any question relating to

compliance with any procedural requirement of the regulations governing that act or decision.

(2) In this section, “judicial review” includes proceedings instituted by way of —

- (a) an application for any of the prerogative orders of mandamus, prohibition and certiorari;
- (b) an application for a declaration or an injunction; or
- (c) any other suit or action relating to or arising out of any act done or decision made in pursuance of any power conferred upon the Minister or Commissioner by any regulations made for the purpose of section 39.

PART IX

MISCELLANEOUS

41.—(1) All notices which are required or authorised by the trusts of a charity to be given to a charity trustee, member or subscriber may be sent by post, and, if sent by post, may be addressed to any address given as his in the list of charity trustees, members or subscribers for the time being in use at the office or principal office of the charity.

Manner of giving notice of charity meetings, etc.

(2) Where any such notice required to be given under subsection (1) is given by post, it shall be deemed to have been given by the time at which the letter containing it would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

(3) No notice required to be given under subsection (1) of any meeting or election need be given to any charity trustee, member or subscriber, if in the list of charity trustees he has no address in Singapore.

42.—(1) Any order made by the Commissioner under this Act may include such incidental or supplementary provisions as the Commissioner thinks expedient for carrying into effect the objects of the order.

Miscellaneous provisions as to orders of Commissioner.

(2) Where the Commissioner makes an order under this Act, then (without prejudice to the requirements of this Act where the order is subject to appeal) he may himself give such public notice as he thinks fit of the making or contents of the order, or may require it to be given by any person on

whose application the order is made or by any charity affected by the order.

(3) The Commissioner may, at any time within 12 months after he has made an order under this Act, if he is satisfied that the order was made by mistake or on misrepresentation or otherwise than in conformity with this Act, with or without any application or reference to him, discharge the order in whole or in part, and subject or not to any savings or other transitional provisions.

(4) Except for the purposes of subsection (3) or of an appeal under this Act, an order made by the Commissioner under this Act shall be deemed to have been duly and formally made and not be called in question on the ground only of irregularity or informality, but (subject to any further order) have effect according to its tenor.

Service of
documents.

43.—(1) This section shall apply to —

- (a) any order or direction made or given by the Commissioner under this Act;
- (b) any notice or other document required or authorised to be given or served under Part VII; and
- (c) any notice required to be served under any regulations made under this Act.

(2) A document to which this section applies may be served on or given to a person (other than a body corporate) —

- (a) by delivering it to that person;
- (b) by leaving it at his last known address in Singapore;
or
- (c) by sending it by post to him at that address.

(3) A document to which this section applies may be served on or given to a body corporate by delivering it or sending it by post —

- (a) to the registered or principal office of the body corporate in Singapore; or
- (b) if it has no such office, to any place in Singapore where it carries on business or conducts its activities, as the case may be.

44.—(1) Where any offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder is committed by a body corporate and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Offences by
bodies
corporate.

(2) In relation to a body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, “director” means a member of the body corporate.

45. A person guilty of disobedience —

(a) to an order of the Commissioner under section 24 or 25 requiring a transfer of property or payment to be called for or made; or

(b) to an order of the Commissioner requiring a default under this Act to be made good,

Enforcement
of orders of
Commis-
sioner.

may on the application of the Commissioner to the High Court be dealt with as for disobedience to an order of the High Court.

46.—(1) Provisions shall be made by Rules of Court for regulating appeals to the High Court under this Act against orders or decisions of the Commissioner.

Appeals
from
Commis-
sioner.

(2) On such an appeal —

(a) the Attorney-General shall be entitled to appear and be heard; and

(b) such other persons as the rules allow or as the High Court may direct may appear and be heard.

47.—(1) The Commissioner may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act or any regulations made thereunder which is prescribed as an offence which may be compounded by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding \$500.

Power to
compound.

(2) The Minister may prescribe the offences which may be compounded.

Regulations.

48.—(1) The Minister may make such regulations as he considers necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions and purposes of this Act and for the due administration thereof.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), any such regulations may —

- (a) prescribe the form and content of —
 - (i) agreements made for the purposes of section 34; and
 - (ii) notices served under section 37 (3);
- (b) require professional fund-raisers or commercial participators who are parties to such agreements with charitable institutions to make available to the institutions books, documents or other records (however kept) which relate to the institutions;
- (c) specify the manner in which money or other property acquired by professional fund-raisers or commercial participators for the benefit of, or otherwise falling to be given to or applied by such persons for the benefit of, charitable institutions is to be transmitted to, such institutions;
- (d) provide for any provisions of section 35 or 36 having effect in relation to solicitations or representations made in the course of radio or television programmes to have effect, subject to any modifications specified in the regulations, in relation to solicitations or representations made in the course of such programmes by charitable institutions, or by companies connected with such institutions, and, in that connection, provide for any other provisions of Part VII to have effect for the purposes of the regulations subject to any modifications so specified;
- (e) make provisions regulating the raising of funds for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes (whether by professional fund-raisers or commercial participators or otherwise) or the

conduct of public charitable collections, including provision prohibiting persons under a prescribed age from acting as collectors and prohibiting others from causing them so to act and determining the remuneration of the collectors;

- (f) prescribe the fees for the inspection of the register of charities or of other material kept by the Commissioner and for other services provided by the Commissioner; and
- (g) provide that any person who contravenes the regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

(3) In subsection (2) (c), the reference to such money or other property includes a reference to money or other property which, in the case of a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator, has been acquired by him otherwise than in accordance with an agreement with a charitable institution, but by reason of any solicitation or representation in consequence of which it has been acquired, is held by him on trust for such an institution.

(4) All regulations made under this Act shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

49.—(1) Any document or order made or thing done under any provision of the repealed Charities Act, and every such document, order or thing so far as it is subsisting or in force on 1st January 1995 shall continue and have effect as if it had been made or done under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

Transitional provisions.
Cap. 37,
1985 Ed.

(2) On 1st January 1995, the Commissioner of Charities, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and other officers appointed under section 3 of the repealed Charities Act shall continue in office and shall be deemed to be appointed under section 3 of this Act.

(3) In any written law, any reference to the repealed Charities Act shall be read as a reference to this Act.

THE SCHEDULE

Sections 2 and 5

EXEMPT CHARITIES

The following institutions, so far as they are charities, are exempt charities within the meaning of this Act:

- (a) any university or educational institution, hospital or religious body established by an Act of Parliament; and
- (b) any other institution which the Minister by order declares to be an exempt charity for the purposes of this Act.