



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP  
ACT 1975**

**2020 REVISED EDITION**

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

*Prepared and Published by*

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983



# Roman Catholic Archbishop Act 1975

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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An Act to incorporate the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore.

[12 December 1975]

Whereas the Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca was incorporated under the Roman Catholic Bishop Ordinance (Chapter 314 of the 1955 Revised Edition) on 10 June 1910 in the territories formerly known as the Straits Settlements:

And whereas by decree of the Holy See of Rome made on 20 May 1954 the Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca was raised to the dignity of Archbishop:

And whereas by a further decree of the Holy See of Rome made on 25 February 1955 the Archdiocese of Malacca was divided and the territories consisting of the then Colony of Singapore and the State of Johore and the Settlement of Malacca became the Archdiocese of Malacca Singapore and jurisdiction over the Archdiocese of Malacca Singapore was conferred upon His Grace Michael Olcomendy, Archbishop of Malacca Singapore:

And whereas the Right Reverend Michael Olcomendy was by a further decree of the Holy See of Rome made on 18 December 1972

appointed to be the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of the See of Singapore having jurisdiction over the Archdiocese of Singapore consisting of the territory of Singapore:

And whereas it is desirable to incorporate the said Right Reverend Michael Olcomendy and his successors in office, and to vest in the Corporation so created all movable and immovable properties situate in Singapore now vested in the Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca.

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Roman Catholic Archbishop Act 1975.

### **The Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy of Singapore to be a body corporate**

2.—(1) The Right Reverend Michael Olcomendy, the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore and his successors in office shall be a body corporate (referred to in this Act as the Corporation) which shall for the purposes of this Act have the name of “The Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore” and by that name have perpetual succession and shall have a corporate seal, and be capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of movable and immovable property, of suing and being sued and of performing all such acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully perform.

(2) The seal, which may consist of a rubber stamp, may from time to time be broken, changed, altered and made anew as to the Corporation seems fit.

(3) “Successors in office” shall be deemed to include either an Administrator Apostolic or a Vicar Capitular administering the affairs of the Archdiocese of Singapore in Singapore from the time when the office of the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore becomes vacant by the resignation or death of the holder for the time being or vacant for any other reason until the formal assumption of office by his successor.

(4) There shall not be concurrent holders of any 2 of the offices of Archbishop, Administrator Apostolic or Vicar Capitular and any

power of attorney given by any one of them shall cease to be valid when the donor of the power of attorney ceases to administer the affairs of the diocese.

### **Vesting of property in the Archbishop of Singapore**

3. All movable and immovable properties of every description situate in Singapore which immediately before 12 December 1975 were vested in the Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca (referred to in this Act as the former Corporation) whether with or without the name of the ecclesiastic for the time being holding office, and whether with or without the addition of the words “resident in the Straits Settlements”, is hereby vested in the Corporation for the respective estates and interests for which the same is held.

### **Use of corporate name**

4.—(1) All deeds, documents and other instruments requiring the seal of the Corporation shall be sealed with the seal of the Corporation in the presence of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore for the time being or when the Archbishopric is vacant in the presence of the Administrator Apostolic or of the Vicar Capitular of the Archdiocese of Singapore, as the case may be, or the attorney of any one of them duly authorised by a power of attorney deposited pursuant to section 48 of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1886, and shall also be signed by the Archbishop for the time being or by the Administrator Apostolic or Vicar Capitular, as the case may be, or the attorney of any one of them so authorised.

(2) Such signing shall be sufficient evidence that the seal was duly and properly affixed and that the seal is the lawful seal of the Corporation.

### **Notification of appointment of Archbishop**

5. A notification in the *Gazette* of the appointment of any person to exercise the office of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore or of the Administrator Apostolic or of the Vicar Capitular of the Archdiocese of Singapore, as the case may be, shall be conclusive evidence that such person was duly authorised to exercise that office in Singapore.

### **Saving of other rights**

6. Nothing in this Act shall affect the rights of the President or of any body politic or corporate or of any other person except such as are mentioned in this Act and those claiming by, from or under them.

### **Saving provision**

7.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), every agreement, whether in writing or not, to which the former Corporation was a party immediately before 12 December 1975, and whether or not of such nature that the rights and liabilities thereunder could be assigned, shall have effect as from that date as if —

- (a) the Corporation had been a party to such an agreement; and
- (b) for any reference (however worded and whether express or implied) to the former Corporation there were substituted in respect of anything to be done on or after that date a reference to the Corporation.

(2) The appointment of any officer or employee of the former Corporation subsisting immediately before 12 December 1975 shall, if that officer or employee so agrees, be deemed to be made by the Corporation, and for the purpose of determining the rate of pension and gratuities on retirement the service of that officer or employee shall be regarded as continuous from the time he was appointed by the former Corporation.

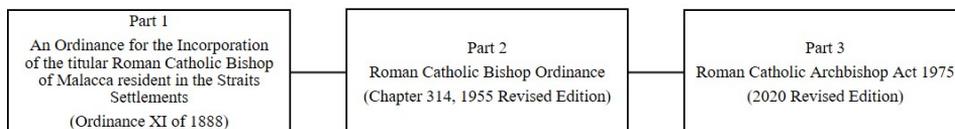
(3) Where anything has been commenced under the authority of the former Corporation before 12 December 1975, such thing may be carried on and completed under the authority of the Corporation.

(4) All rights, obligations and liabilities which immediately before 12 December 1975 were vested in or incurred by the former Corporation shall pass by succession to the Corporation, and the Corporation shall have all powers necessary to recover and deal with those rights and discharge those obligations and liabilities.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP  
ACT 1975

This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.

PICTORIAL OVERVIEW OF PREDECESSOR ACTS



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY DETAILS

PART 1

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE TITULAR ROMAN  
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MALACCA RESIDENT IN THE STRAITS  
SETTLEMENTS  
(ORDINANCE XI OF 1888)

**1. Ordinance XI of 1888 — An Ordinance for the Incorporation of the titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca resident in the Straits Settlements**

Bill	:	G.N. No. 566/1888
First Reading	:	11 October 1888
Second Reading	:	18 October 1888
Notice of Amendments	:	14 November 1888
Third Reading	:	15 November 1888
Commencement	:	15 November 1888

PART 2

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP ORDINANCE  
(CHAPTER 314, 1955 REVISED EDITION)

**2. Ordinance XV of 1910 — The Titular Roman Catholic Bishop of Malacca Incorporation Ordinance 1910**

Bill	:	G.N. No. 1081/1909
First Reading	:	18 October 1909

- |                         |   |                              |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Second Reading          | : | 22 October 1909              |
| Select Committee Report | : | Council Paper No. 31 of 1910 |
| Notice of Amendments    | : | 6 May 1910                   |
| Third Reading           | : | 27 May 1910                  |
| Commencement            | : | 31 May 1910                  |
- 3. 1920 Revised Edition — Ordinance No. 196 (Roman Catholic Bishop)**
- |           |   |                  |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| Operation | : | 28 November 1921 |
|-----------|---|------------------|
- 4. 1926 Revised Edition — Ordinance No. 229 (Roman Catholic Bishop)**
- |           |   |               |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| Operation | : | 1 August 1926 |
|-----------|---|---------------|
- 5. Ordinance 31 of 1934 — Roman Catholic Bishop (Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1934**
- |                      |   |                   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Bill                 | : | G.N. No. 656/1934 |
| First Reading        | : | 16 April 1934     |
| Second Reading       | : | 28 May 1934       |
| Notice of Amendments | : | 28 May 1934       |
| Third Reading        | : | 28 May 1934       |
| Commencement         | : | 29 June 1934      |
- 6. 1936 Revised Edition — Roman Catholic Bishop Ordinance  
(Chapter 256)**
- |           |   |                  |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| Operation | : | 1 September 1936 |
|-----------|---|------------------|
- 7. 1955 Revised Edition — Roman Catholic Bishop Ordinance  
(Chapter 314)**
- |           |   |             |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| Operation | : | 1 July 1956 |
|-----------|---|-------------|

## PART 3

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP ACT 1975  
(2020 REVISED EDITION)

- 8. Act 42 of 1975 — Roman Catholic Archbishop Act, 1975**
- |                         |   |                 |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Bill                    | : | 26/1975         |
| First Reading           | : | 25 March 1975   |
| Second Reading          | : | 29 July 1975    |
| Select Committee Report | : | Parl. 6 of 1975 |

Third Reading : 11 November 1975

Commencement : 12 December 1975

**9. G.N. No. A 53/1975 — The Roman Catholic Archbishop Act, 1975**

Commencement : 12 December 1975

**10. 1985 Revised Edition — Roman Catholic Archbishop Act (Chapter 375)**

Operation : 30 March 1987

Abbreviations

C.P.	Council Paper
G.N. No. S (N.S.)	Government Notification Number Singapore (New Series)
G.N. No.	Government Notification Number
G.N. No. S	Government Notification Number Singapore
G.N. Sp. No. S	Government Notification Special Number Singapore
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian Subsidiary Legislation)
M. Act	Malayan Act/Malaysia Act
M. Ordinance	Malayan Ordinance
Parl.	Parliament
S.S.G.G. (E) No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary) Number
S.S.G.G. No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette Number

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP**  
**ACT 1975**

This Act has undergone renumbering in the 2020 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the last Revised Edition.

<b>2020 Ed.</b>	<b>1985 Ed.</b>
<b>2—(3) and (4)</b>	<b>2—(3)</b>