

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION (MAURITIUS BRANCH) ACT

Cap 378 – 9 March 1942

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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RAMAKRISHNA MISSION (MAURITIUS BRANCH) ACT

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Ramakrishna Mission (Mauritius Branch) Act.

2. Interpretation

In this Act—

“Board” means the Board of Management referred to in section 5;

“Mission” means the Ramakrishna Mission (Mauritius Branch) established under section 3.

3. Establishment of Mission

(1) There is established for the purposes of this Act the Ramakrishna Mission (Mauritius Branch).

(2) The Mission shall be a body corporate.

4. Objects of Mission

The objects of the Mission shall be to—

- (a) impart and promote the study of Hinduism and all its scriptures in the light of the life and teachings of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda;
- (b) promote the study of comparative theology and philosophy in their widest form, and assist in bringing about the harmony of religions;
- (c) impart and promote the study of the arts, sciences and industries;
- (d) train teachers in all branches of knowledge and enable them to reach the masses;

- (e) carry on educational work among the masses;
- (f) establish, maintain and otherwise assist—
 - (i) maths or monasteries (with temples) and prayer halls; and
 - (ii) schools, colleges, students' homes, orphanages, workshops, agricultural schools and farms, clinics, dispensaries, houses for the infirm, the invalid and the afflicted, temporary relief works to alleviate distress caused by scarcity of any kind, by cyclone and other natural disasters, by pestilential diseases, and other educational and charitable works and institutions of a like nature;
- (g) incorporate institutions, societies, or associations having objects in whole or in part similar to any of those of the Branch, and to co-operate with any person or persons in aid of such objects;
- (h) print, publish, sell or distribute, gratuitously or otherwise, journals, periodicals, books or leaflets that the Branch thinks desirable for the promotion of its objects; and
- (i) undertake and carry on all such works as appear necessary to attain the aims and objects of the Branch, and to do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of them.

5. The Board

(1) The Mission shall, subject to any regulations made under this Act, be administered by a Board of Management, consisting of a President of the Board, a Vice-President of the Board, a Secretary, one or more Assistant Secretaries, a Treasurer, and not more than 9 and not less than 7 other members, to be nominated and elected respectively in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The total number of members and office bearers shall not exceed 14.

(3) The office bearers shall be appointed in the prescribed manner.

6. Powers of Board

(1) The Board may, at any of its meetings held after due notice, by a majority of votes of the members present and voting at such meeting, make regulations for—

- (a) the admission, withdrawal, or expulsion of members;
- (b) the conduct of the duties of the Board and the various local committees, office bearers, agents and servants of the Branch;
- (c) the procedure in the transaction of business;
- (d) the election or appointment of the officers of the Branch, or of the members of the Board; and
- (e) the management of the affairs of the Branch and the accomplishment of its objects.

(2) Any regulations made by the Board shall be subject to the approval of the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India.

(3) All members of the Mission including its life members shall be subject to the regulations made under this Act.

7. Seal of Mission

The seal of the Mission shall not be affixed to any instrument except in the presence of 3 members of the Board of whom one shall be the President of the Board or the Vice-President of the Board, who shall sign their names to the instrument in token of their presence and such signatures shall be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.

8. Property of Mission

The Mission may lease its property for a short term or with the previous sanction of the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India and may sell, mortgage, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, its property.

9. Application of income

(1) The income of the property of the Mission whenever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects, and shall not be used contrary to the conditions of any trust under which the income is received.

(2) Where funds and property have been donated for specific purposes, they shall be utilised for the purposes for which they are granted and shall not be utilised outside those purposes without the sanction of the local committees.

10. Activities of Mission

(1) The Mission shall not start any permanent institution except with the previous sanction of the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India.

(2) The spiritual activities of the Mission, such as the conducting of prayers, worship and meditation, religious festivals and functions, preaching including publication, and the like, and all affairs relating to monasteries, temples and prayer halls, shall be under the control of a Minister-in-charge appointed by the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India, who shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board.

(3) The borrowing by the Mission of any amount exceeding a sum that the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India shall determine shall require the previous sanction of the governing body.

(4) Except as provided in this Act, any dispute or doubt as to any matter or question relating to the principles and policy of the Mission shall be referred to the governing body of the Ramakrishna Mission in India whose decision shall be final.

11. Exemption

No stamp duty or registration fee shall be payable in respect of any legacy or donation made to the Mission.
