

SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

Act 5 of 1995 – 1 July 1995

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1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Senior Citizens Council Act.

2 Interpretation

In this Act –

“Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Council referred to in section 6;

“Council” means the Senior Citizens Council established by section 3;

“member” means a member of the Council

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of social security is assigned;

“senior citizen” means a person of the age of 55 years or over.

3 Establishment of the Council

(1) There is established, for the purposes of this Act, a Senior Citizens Council.

(2) The Council shall be a body corporate.

4 Objects of the Council

The objects of the Council shall be to –

- (a) determine the areas in which the welfare of senior citizens needs to be improved;
- (b) promote generally activities and projects for the welfare of senior citizens;
- (c) maintain effective communication with senior citizens;
- (d) to diffuse knowledge and information on gerontology;
- (e) establish contacts with organisations engaged in similar activities in Mauritius and abroad;
- (f) advise the Government on matters relating to the welfare of senior citizens;
- (g) set up and manage homes for senior citizens; and
- (h) implement such policies and programmes in favour of senior citizens, as may be specified or approved by the Minister.

5 Members of the Council

Any voluntary organisation catering for senior citizens and registered with the Registrar of Associations may become a member subject to any regulations made under section 14.

6 Management of the Council

(1) The Council shall be managed and administered by an Executive Committee which shall comprise –

- (a) a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, to be appointed by the Minister on such terms and conditions as he may determine;
- (b) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of social security;
- (c) the Medical Director of the Ministry responsible for the subject of social security;

- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of health;
 - (e) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of women's rights;
 - (f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for Rodrigues;
 - (g) 9 representatives of member organisations elected at the general meeting of the Council; and
 - (h) 2 independent persons appointed by the Minister.
- (2) The Committee shall regulate its own meetings and proceedings.
 - (3) The quorum of a meeting of the Committee shall be 9.
 - (4) The members of the Committee shall be paid such fees as the Minister may approve.

7 Powers of the Committee

Except as may be otherwise prescribed, the Committee shall have and exercise all the powers conferred on the Council by this Act.

8 Staff

The Committee may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint, on such terms and conditions as it may determine, such staff as it may require.

9 General Meeting

- (1) A general meeting of the Council shall be held once a year, at such time and place as the Council may decide.
- (2) At least 14 days notice shall be given before the holding of a general meeting.
- (3) The business of the general meeting shall be –
 - (a) the consideration and adoption of the Annual Report of the Committee and of the Auditor's Report; and
 - (b) the election of the representatives of member organisations in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Council shall regulate its own proceedings.

10 Funds of the Council

- (1) The Council may raise money by means of membership and subscription.
- (2) Every member shall pay such fee as the Committee may determine.
- (3) The income and property of the Council shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council.

11 Execution of documents

No document shall be executed by or on behalf of the Council unless it is signed by –

- (a) the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman; and
- (b) the person designated by the Committee to perform the duty of Secretary or, in his absence, a member designated by the Committee.

12 Powers of Minister

The Minister may give such directions of a general nature to the Committee, not inconsistent with this Act, and the Committee shall comply with those directions.

13 Donations

Article 910 of the Code Napoléon shall not apply to any donation received by the Council.

14 Regulations

- (1) The Committee may make such regulations as it thinks fit for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Notwithstanding the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, regulations made under this Act shall not be required to be –
 - (a) approved by the Minister;
 - (b) laid before the Assembly; or
 - (c) published in the *Gazette*.
