

**Mutual Benefit Organisations Act
(CHAPTER 191)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

3 Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrars

4 Conditions of registration

5 Registration and issue of certificate of registration

6 Refusal to register mutual benefit organisation

7 Appeal from refusal to register

8 Annual registers to be published

9 Registration of amendments of rules

10 Registered office

11 Appointment of trustees

12 Persons prohibited from acting as officers of an organisation

13 Audit

14 Annual returns

15 Copy of last balance-sheet

- 16 Priority on death, bankruptcy, etc., of officer**
- 17 Membership of minors**
- 18 Restriction on nominees**
- 19 Right to supply of copies of rules**
- 20 Right to supply of copies of annual return**
- 21 Inspection of books by members**
- 22 Subscriptions and benefits**
- 23 Utilisation of reserve funds**
- 24 Power to change name**
- 25 Meaning of special resolution**
- 26 Registration of special resolutions**
- 27 Inspectors and special meetings**
- 28 Cancellation and suspension of registration**
- 29 Power to freeze bank accounts**
- 30 Power to seize documents**
- 31 Consequences upon cancellation of registration of organisation**
- 32 Dissolution of registered organisations**
- 33 Instrument of dissolution**
- 34 Dissolution by Registrar**
- 35 Notice of proceedings to set aside dissolution**

- 36 Decision on disputes**
- 37 Unlawful organisations**
- 38 Penalties on office-bearer, etc., of an unlawful organisation**
- 39 Penalties on member of an unlawful organisation**
- 40 Persons allowing unlawful organisation on premises**
- 41 Presumptions**
- 42 Offences**
- 43 Offences by organisation to be also offences by officers, etc.**
- 44 Continuing offence**
- 45 Punishment of fraud, false declaration and misappropriation**
- 46 Falsification**
- 47 Legal proceedings**
- 48 Exemption**
- 49 Rules**

THE SCHEDULE Matters for which provision must be made in the rules of every mutual benefit organisation

Legislative History

MUTUAL BENEFIT ORGANISATIONS ACT

(CHAPTER 191)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 42 of 1960)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act for the registration and control of mutual benefit organisations.

[1st August 1960]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Mutual Benefit Organisations Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“benefit” means the payment made by a mutual benefit organisation for the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers or on birth or death in accordance with the rules of the mutual benefit organisation;

“mutual benefit organisation” or “organisation” means any organisation which by its objects and rules either as the principal object or as an ancillary object makes provision by voluntary subscriptions of the members thereof or subscribers thereto with or without the aid of donations for —

- (a) the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers, their husbands, wives, children, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or wards, during sickness or other infirmity, whether bodily or mental, in old age or in widow-hood or for the relief or maintenance of the orphan children of members or subscribers during minority;
- (b) the payment of money on the birth of a member’s or subscriber’s child or on the death of a member or subscriber or of the child, husband, wife, parent or grandparent of a member or subscriber or on the death of any other person or for the funeral expenses of the member or subscriber or of the child, husband or wife of a member or subscriber or of the widow of a deceased member or subscriber; or
- (c) the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers when unemployed or when in distressed circumstances;

“officer” means the president, the secretary and members of a committee of an

organisation and includes persons holding positions analogous to those of president, secretary or member of a committee;

“registered organisation” means any organisation for the time being registered under this Act;

“Registrar” means the officer appointed as Registrar of Mutual Benefit Organisations and includes an Assistant Registrar of Mutual Benefit Organisations;

“subscription” means a subscription paid by a member or subscriber to a mutual benefit organisation and, where a mutual benefit organisation carries on activities other than those of a mutual benefit organisation, means the subscription paid by the member or subscriber for the purpose of obtaining the benefits provided by the rules of the organisation.

[8/74]

Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrars

3. The Minister may appoint by name or office an officer to be the Registrar of Mutual Benefit Organisations and officers to be Assistant Registrars of Mutual Benefit Organisations.

Conditions of registration

4.—(1) Every mutual benefit organisation shall apply for registration under this Act.

(2) The application for registration of the organisation shall be signed by 7 members and the secretary and shall be sent together with a copy of the rules and a list of the names of the secretary and of every trustee or other officer intended to be authorised to sue and be sued on behalf of the organisation to the Registrar.

(3) The rules of the organisation shall contain provisions in respect of the several matters mentioned in the Schedule.

(4) The list referred to in subsection (2) shall be signed by the secretary and every trustee and other officer named therein and shall on the registration of the organisation be evidence that the persons so named have been duly appointed.

Registration and issue of certificate of registration

5.—(1) Subject to this Act, the Registrar shall, upon an application being made therefor by a mutual benefit organisation and on payment of the prescribed fee, register the organisation with or without conditions.

(2) Upon registering an organisation under subsection (1), the Registrar shall issue to that organisation a certificate of registration.