

CONSTITUTION

THE "CHAGOS SOCIAL COMMITTEE" (SEYCHELLES) ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE ONE

Name and Registered Office

The Association shall be called "The Chagos Social Committee" (Seychelles) and shall herein after be referred to as "CSC".

The registered office of the Association shall be in Victoria – Mahe or such other place in Seychelles as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE TWO

Aims and Objectives

1. To work for the welfare of the people of the Chagos Archipelago (including Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Bodham Salomon).
2. To establish the status of the people of the Chagos Archipelago by:
Repatriating their archives and civil status records, in particular, exported from Seychelles at Independence
3. Establishing their rights as holders of British Passports and Citizenship.
4. To seek a fair and just compensation for all who were born in the Chagos Archipelago, their dependants and other workers deported.
5. To seek ways and means for the people born in the Chagos Archipelago, and their descendants to return and reside in their homeland when they so wish.
6. To enter into contact with people born in the Chagos Archipelago and their descendants now residing in Mauritius, and elsewhere, having similar aims and objectives
7. To seek from the International Community the safeguard of the Human Rights of all as guaranteed in the United Nations Charter (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) namely Article 9 ("No one should be subjected to arbitrary exile") and Article 13 ("everybody has the right to return to his country").

ARTICLE THREE

Membership

Membership of the CSC shall be opened to everyone born in the Chagos Archipelago, their descendants and anyone wishing to commit herself/himself, either residing in Seychelles or overseas to their causes.

Honorary Membership

The CSC may appoint Honorary Members. Such appointment may be made at a General Meeting and shall be adopted by a simple majority of the members present. A Honorary Member shall not be entitled to vote nor hold office in the CSC and shall not be required to pay any membership fees.

ARTICLE FOUR

Duties of Members

- 1 To comply with the Constitution of the CSC;
- 2 To work for the implementation of all the aims and objectives of the CSC;
- 3 To respect all the decisions of the CSC.

ARTICLE FIVE

Termination of Membership

The Executive Committee will have the power to request the resignation of any member who violates the Constitution of the CSC or whose conduct it considers to be detrimental to the other members and could cause prejudice to the CSC.

Resignation

1. Ordinary members may resign, in writing, to the Chairperson. Members of the Executive Committee may resign with one month's notice in writing to the Chairperson.
2. The Chairperson may resign from the CSC with one month's notice in writing to the Secretary of the Executive Committee.
3. Where an ordinary member of the CSC resigns, such a resignation shall be ratified by the Executive Committee.
4. Where a member of the Executive Committee resigns, the Committee shall appoint another person, an interim, to replace her/him, if it so ratifies the resignation

- 5 Where the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer or another member of the Executive Committee resigns another member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed to replace her/him and/or another member of the CSC shall be appointed to the Executive Committee.
- 6 All appointments shall be made by simple majority of the Executive Committee members present and the person appointed shall serve for the remainder of the term of the member who resigned.
- 7 When a member is asked to resign and refuses, she/he shall be invited to a meeting with the Executive Committee where she/he will be given the opportunity to present an explanation. A vote by secret ballot will follow and her/his expulsion will take place only with two-thirds of the members present voting in favour.
- 8 The ex-member shall lose her/his membership fee and shall forfeit all rights to or claims on the CSC's funds or property.

ARTICLE SIX

Membership Fee

The membership fee shall be decided by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly at the Annual General Meeting and shall not be less than SR10 monthly or SR100 annually.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Management of Funds

Any member of the CSC may inspect the books and accounts of the CSC at any time considered reasonable by the Executive Committee.

The CSC reserves the right to accept funds from any individual or organisation.

All monies of the CSC shall be deposited in a bank chosen by the Executive Committee and shall be disbursed on the signatures of the Chairperson and the Treasurer or the Secretary and in their absences by their respective assistants.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Composition of the CSC

The CSC shall be composed of:-

- An Executive Committee
- A General Assembly

ARTICLE NINE

The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of:-
 - A Chairperson
 - A Secretary
 - A Treasurer
 - Nine (9) Members
2. The Executive Committee shall be elected by a simple majority of members at a General Assembly. It shall be elected for a period of one (1) year and shall be eligible for re-election.
3. The Executive Committee may choose to nominate among themselves a Vice-Chairperson, an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer to help with their duties and as temporary replacements whenever necessary.
4. The Executive Committee shall meet regularly.
5. The absence of a member at three (3) executive meetings without a valid reason shall warrant her/his removal from office.

ARTICLE TEN

Power and Proceedings of the Executive Committee and Members

- Manages the affairs of the CSC
 - Represents the CSC
 - Ensures that the aims and objectives of the CSC are fulfilled
1. **The Chairperson**
 - 1.1 Shall conduct all meetings of both the Committee and General Assembly
 - 1.2 Shall sign all documents of the Association.
 - 1.3 Shall represent the Association
 2. **The Secretary**
 - 2.1 Shall prepare and keep the CSC's minutes, records and files.
 - 2.2 Shall record the CSC's minutes and proceedings and undertake all correspondence of the CSC.
 - 2.3 Shall be responsible for the recruitment of members.
 - 2.4 Shall make all the necessary returns for the CSC, within deadlines, as required by law from time to time.
 - 2.5 Shall before the 31st January of each year, or when and as often as so requested by the Registrar, furnish to the Registrar, a return of the

names and addresses of the officers of the CSC, and an audited account of the yearly revenue and expenditure, and of the assets and liabilities, of the CSC in such form as the Registrar may require.

- 2.6 Shall notify the Registrar of any change(s) in members within fourteen (14) days of such change

The Executive Members shall assist the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary in their respective duties and shall conduct any business of the CSC as may from time to time be delegated by the Chairperson.

3. The Treasurer

- 3.1 Shall be in charge of all funds
3.2 Shall produce for inspection by authorised persons all records and books pertaining to financial transactions.
3.3 Is a signatory to all the CSC's accounts
3.4 Shall prepare the books of accounts and other books as may be necessary for auditing once a year.
3.5 Shall prepare a financial statement for the Annual General Meeting.
3.6 Shall keep a register showing the names and payments made by members and shall cross out from the register the names of lapsed members

ARTICLE ELEVEN

General Assembly

- Shall elect the Executive Committee annually.
- Shall hear, receive and adopt the report from the Executive Committee.
- Shall hear, receive and adopt audited financial report from the Treasurer.

Extraordinary Assembly Meeting

An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly may be called by the Executive Committee. An Extraordinary meeting may also be called by one-third of the membership in writing to the Chairperson.

Appointment of Auditor

The Executive Committee shall appoint an auditor who shall audit the accounts of the CSC annually. Auditors may be removed from office by the annual meeting; or by a special recommendation of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Meetings

The Chairperson through the Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) days notice of the date, time and venue of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting

through the media, publication in the newspapers or individually. The period of notice for a Special General Meeting may be waived only if the urgency of the matter to be discussed makes this imperative

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Quorum

- Subject to the laws of Seychelles, the quorum for general meetings shall be half of the members.
- The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be two-thirds of the Executive Members.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

Elections and Votes

- 1 All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- 2 The Chairperson shall preside over all voting except on the occasion where she/he is standing for elections or when the issue to be voted upon involves her/him in person. In such cases the Chairperson shall disqualify herself/himself and step down the chair. The meeting shall then elect an ad-hoc Chairperson who shall preside over that meeting only and relinquish this temporary position after the voting exercise. The Chairperson (temporary or otherwise) shall be the Returning Officer but may appoint one from the membership should she/he find such to be more convenient.
- 3 All members of the Executive Committee except the Chairperson shall have voting privileges similar to those of the general membership.
- 4 A member has only one vote. In the event of there being equal votes for and against a motion, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

Duration in Office

The Executive Committee and other members shall be in office for a period of not more than one year.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

Amendment to the Constitution

- 1 The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of not less than three-fifths of the bona fide full members present.

- 2 Propositions to amend the Constitution may be made by any bona fide member to the Chairperson in writing not less than 28 days prior to voting on the motion. The Chairperson shall then present the proposal to the General Assembly for debate and vote.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

Dissolution of the CSC

The CSC may be dissolved in accordance with the current Laws of the Republic of Seychelles.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN

Legal Matters

The CSC shall be registered in accordance with the Laws of the Republic of Seychelles.

ARTICLE NINETEEN

Logo

The CSC shall have a LOGO which shall be described in the Schedule and which shall be registered according to the Laws of Seychelles.

Certify to be a true copy, as approved by the last Executive Committee meeting of the CSC on 2nd September 1997.

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SECRETARY