



## ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

### CHAPTER 18.36

## TRADE UNIONS ACT and Subsidiary Legislation

**Revised Edition**  
showing the law as at 31 December 2002

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, No. 9 of 1986.

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## CHAPTER 18.36

### TRADE UNIONS ACT

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF TRADE UNIONS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED OR INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

#### Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Trade Unions Act.

#### Interpretation.

2. In this Act—

“trade dispute” means any dispute or difference between employers and workers, or between workers and workers, connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person;

“trade union” means any combination, whether temporary or permanent, the principal purposes of which are, under its constitution, the regulation of the relations between workers and masters, or between workers and workers, or between masters and masters whether such combination would or would not, if this Act had not been enacted, have been deemed to have been an unlawful combination by reason of some one or more of its purposes being in restraint of trade:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall—

- (a) affect—

- (i) any agreement between partners as to their own business;

- (ii) any agreement between an employer and those employed by him or her as to such employment;

- (iii) any agreement in consideration of the sale of the goodwill of a business or of instruction in any profession, trade or handicraft;

- (b) preclude any trade union from providing benefits for its members;

“statutory objects” means the regulation of the relations between workers and masters, or between workers and workers, or between masters and masters, or the imposing of restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, and also the provisions of benefits to members;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of the High Court and includes the person for the time being acting for him or her;

*(Amended by Act 4 of 1974)*

“regulations” means the regulations made under this Act by the Minister;

“rules” means rules made by a trade union as authorised by this Act;

“workers” include labourers.

#### Trade unions.

3. The fact that a combination has, under its constitution, objects or powers other than statutory objects within the meaning of this Act shall not prevent the combination being a trade union for the purposes of this Act so long as the

combination is a trade union as defined by this Act, and any such trade union shall have power to apply the funds of the union for any lawful object or purposes for the time authorised under its constitution.

**When objects of union not unlawful.**

4. (1) The purposes of any trade union duly registered under this Act shall not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, be deemed to be unlawful so as to render any member of such trade union liable to criminal prosecution for conspiracy or otherwise.

(2) The purposes of any trade union duly registered under this Act shall not by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, be unlawful so as to render void or voidable any agreement or trust.

**When trade union contract not enforceable.**

5. (1) Nothing in this Act shall enable any court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of—

- (a) any agreement between members of a trade union as such concerning the condition on which any members for the time being of the union shall or shall not sell their goods, transact business, employ or be employed;
- (b) any agreement for payment by any person for any subscription or penalty to a trade union;
- (c) any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union—
  - (i) to provide benefits to members;
  - (ii) to furnish contributions to any employer or worker not a member of that union in consideration of the employer or worker acting in conformity with the rules or resolutions of that union; or
  - (iii) to discharge any fine imposed upon any person by sentence of a court of justice;
- (d) any agreement made between one trade union and another; or
- (e) any bond to secure the performance of any of the above mentioned agreements.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to constitute any of the above mentioned agreements unlawful.

**Prohibition of actions of tort against trade union.**

6. (1) An action against a trade union, whether of workers or masters, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any court.

(2) Nothing in this section shall affect the liability of the trustees of a trade union to be sued in the events provided for in section 19, except in respect of any tortious act committed by or on behalf of the union in contemplation of or in furtherance of a trade dispute.

**Conspiracy in relation to trade disputes.**

7. (1) An agreement or combination by two or more persons to do or procure to be done any act in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be indictable as a conspiracy if such act committed by one person would not be punishable as a crime.

(2) An act done in pursuance of an agreement or combination by two or more persons shall, if done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, not be actionable unless the act, if done without any such agreement or combination, would be actionable.

(3) A crime for the purposes of this section means an offence punishable on indictment, or an offence which is punishable on summary conviction and for the commission of which the offender is liable under the Act or any enactment making the offence punishable to be imprisoned either absolutely or at the discretion of the court as an alternative for some other punishment.

(4) Nothing in this section shall exempt from punishment any person guilty of a conspiracy for which a punishment is awarded by any law in force in the State.

(5) Nothing in this section shall affect the law relating to riot, unlawful assembly, breach of the peace or sedition or any offence against the State or the Crown.

(6) Where a person is convicted of any such agreement or combination as aforesaid to do or procure to be done an act which is punishable on summary conviction, and is sentenced to imprisonment, the imprisonment shall not exceed three months, or such longer time, if any, as may have been prescribed by the law for the punishment of the said act when committed by one person.

**Removal of liability for interfering with another person's business.**

8. An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment or that it is an interference with the trade, business, or employment of some other person, or with the right of some other person to dispose of his or her capital or his or her labour as he or she wills.

**Intimidation or annoyance.**

9. Every person who, with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such other person has a legal right to do or abstain from doing, wrongfully and without legal authority—

- (a) uses violence to or intimidates such other person or his or her spouse or children or injures his or her property; or
- (b) persistently follows such other person about from place to place; or
- (c) hides any tools, clothes, or other property owned or used by such other person, or deprives him or her of or hinders him or her in the use thereof; or
- (d) watches or besets the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place; or
- (e) follows such other person with two or more other persons in a disorderly manner in or through any street or road,

commits an offence and, on summary conviction, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

### **Peaceful picketing.**

**10.** It shall be lawful for one or more persons, acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union or of an individual employer or firm in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, to attend at or near a house or place where a person resides or works or carries on business or happens to be, if they so attend merely for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working.

### **Acts not applicable to unions.**

**11.** The following Acts, that is to say—

(a) the Friendly Societies Act, Cap.18.14; and

(b) the Companies Act, Cap. 21.03,

and any Acts amending them shall not apply to a trade union.

### **Register of trade unions.**

**12.** The Registrar shall keep a register of all trade unions registered under this Act in the form required by the regulations, and shall discharge all duties required by this Act and by the regulations.

### **Registration to be effected by committee or trustees.**

**13.** (1) Upon the establishment of a trade union it shall be the duty of the committee of management or trustees appointed in that behalf, or in default of any such appointment, the directing authority by whatever name it may be called, of such union, to make application for registration within thirty days after the date of the establishment of such union.

(2) In the case of a trade union established at the date of the coming into operation of this Act, this section shall apply as if the date of the coming into operation of this Act were the date of the establishment of such union.

(3) If any of the purposes of a trade union be unlawful such trade union shall not be registered and if registered such registration shall be void.

(4) In the event of any contravention of the provisions of this section every secretary, trustee, member of the committee, or other officer or directing authority of an unregistered trade union commits an offence and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding twenty five dollars for every day during which such trade union remains unregistered.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

### **Provisions relating to registration.**

**14.** With respect to the registration under this Act of a trade union and of the rules thereof, the following provisions shall have effect—

(a) an application to register the trade union and four printed copies of the rules, together with a list of the titles and names of the officers, shall be sent to the Registrar;

- (b) the Registrar, upon being satisfied that the trade union has complied with the regulations respecting registration in force under this Act, shall register such trade union and such documents;
- (c) no trade union shall be registered under a name identical with that by which any other existing trade union has been registered, or so nearly resembling such name as to be likely to deceive the members of the public;
- (d) the Registrar shall not register any combination as a trade union unless in his or her opinion, having regard to the constitution of the combination, the principal objects of the combination are statutory objects, and may withdraw or cancel the certificate of registration of any such registered trade union if the constitution of the union has been altered in such manner that, in his or her opinion, the principal objects of the union are no longer statutory objects, or if in his or her opinion the principal objects for which the union is actually carried on are not statutory objects;
- (e) any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Registrar to register a combination as a trade union, or by the withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate of registration, may appeal to the High Court within the time and in the manner and on the conditions directed by Rules of Court;
- (f) the Registrar, upon registering such trade union shall issue a certificate of registration, which certificate, unless proved to have been withdrawn or cancelled, shall be conclusive evidence that the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder with respect to registration have been complied with.

**Withdrawal or cancellation of certificate of registration.**

**15.** (1) No certificate of registration of a trade union shall be withdrawn or cancelled otherwise than by the Registrar, and in the following cases—

- (a) at the request of the trade union to be evidenced in the manner from time to time directed by him or her;
- (b) on proof to his or her satisfaction that a certificate of registration has been obtained by fraud or mistake, or that the registration of the trade union has become void under section 13(3), or that such trade union has wilfully and after notice from the Registrar violated any of the provisions of this Act, or has ceased to exist;
- (c) under the provisions of paragraph (d) of section 14.

(2) Not less than two months' previous notice in writing specifying briefly the ground of any proposed withdrawal or cancelling of certificate (unless where the same is shown to have become void as aforesaid, in which case it shall be the duty of the Registrar to cancel the same forthwith) shall be given by the Registrar to a trade union before the certificate of registration of the same can be withdrawn or cancelled (except at its request).

(3) A trade union whose certificate of registration has been withdrawn or cancelled shall, from the time of such withdrawal or cancellation, absolutely cease to enjoy as such the privileges of a registered trade union, and shall be dissolved and proceed to wind up its affairs, but without prejudice to any liability actually incurred

by such trade union, which may be enforced against the same as if such withdrawal or cancellation had not taken place.

(4) If after the withdrawal or cancellation of the certificate a trade union continues in active operation, except for the purpose of winding up its affairs, every secretary, trustee, member of the committee, or other officer of such trade union remaining in office or taking any active part in its operations, commits an offence and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars for every day during which such trade union continues in active operation.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

#### **Land for unions may be purchased or leased.**

**16.** Any trade union registered under this Act may purchase or take upon lease, in the name of the trustees for the time being of the union, any land, and may sell, exchange, mortgage or let the land, and no purchaser, assignee, mortgagee or tenant, shall be bound to inquire whether the trustees have authority for any sale, exchange, mortgage, or letting, and the receipt of the trustees shall be a discharge for the money arising therefrom; and for the purposes of this section every branch of a trade union shall be considered a distinct union.

#### **Property of unions vested in trustees.**

**17.** (1) All real or personal property whatsoever belonging to any trade union registered under this Act shall be vested in the trustees for the time being of the trade union, appointed as provided by this Act, for the use and benefit of the trade union and the members thereof, and the real or personal property of any branch of a trade union shall be vested in the trustees of that branch, or in the trustees of the trade union if the rules of the trade union so provide, and be under the control of such trustees, their respective executors or administrators, according to their respective claims and interests.

(2) Upon the death or removal of any such trustees, the property shall vest in the succeeding trustees for the same estate and interest as the former trustees had therein, and subject to the same trusts, without any conveyance or assignment whatsoever, except in the case of stocks and securities in the public funds of the State, which shall be transferred into the names of the new trustees.

(3) In all actions, or suits, or indictments or summary proceedings before any court touching or concerning any such property, the same shall be stated to be the property of the persons for the time being holding the said office of trustees, in their proper names, as trustees of such trade union, without any further description.

#### **Absence or disability of trustees.**

**18.** When any person being or having been a trustee of a trade union registered under this Act, or of any branch of a trade union, and whether appointed before or after the legal establishment thereof, and in whose name any stock belonging to such union or branch transferable at any bank in the State is standing, either jointly with another or others, or solely, is absent from the State or becomes bankrupt, or files any petition or executes any deed for liquidation of his or her affairs by assignment or arrangement or for composition with his or her creditors, or becomes a lunatic, or is dead, or has been removed from his or her office of trustee, or if it be unknown whether such person is living or dead, the Registrar, on application in writing from the secretary and three members of the union or branch, and on proof satisfactory to him or her, may direct the transfer of the stock into the names of any other persons as trustees for the union or branch; and such transfer shall be made by the surviving or

continuing trustees, and if there be no such trustee or if such trustees refuse or be unable to make such transfer and the Registrar so directs, then by the manager of the bank; and the bank is hereby indemnified for anything done in pursuance of this provision against any claim or demand of any person injuriously affected thereby.

**Action by or against trustees.**

**19.** The trustees of any trade union registered under this Act, or any other officer of such trade union authorised so to do by the rules thereof, are hereby empowered to bring or defend, or cause to be brought or defended, any action, suit, prosecution or complaint in any court of law or equity, touching or concerning the property, right or claim to property of the trade union; and shall and may, in all cases concerning the real or personal property of such trade union, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity, in their proper names, without other description than the title of their office; and no such action, suit, prosecution or complaint shall be discontinued or shall abate, by the death or removal from office of such persons or any of them, but the same shall and may be proceeded in by their successor or successors as if such death, resignation or removal had not taken place; and such successors shall pay or receive the like costs as if the action, suit, prosecution or complaint had been commenced in their names for the benefit of, or to be reimbursed from, the funds of such trade union, and the summons to be issued to such trustee or other officer may be served by leaving the same at the registered office of the union.

**Limitation of responsibility of trustee.**

**20.** A trustee of any trade union registered under this Act shall not be liable to make good any deficiency which may arise or happen in the funds of such trade union, but shall be liable only for the moneys which shall be actually received by him or her on account of such trade union.

**Officers, accounts and audit.**

**21.** (1) Every treasurer or other officer of a trade union registered under this Act, at such times as by the rules of such trade union he or she should render such account as hereinafter mentioned, or upon being required so to do, and in any event not later than the 15th day of April in each year shall render to the trustees of the trade union, or to the members thereof, at a meeting of the trade union, a just and true account of all the moneys received and paid by him or her since he or she last rendered the like account, and of the balance then remaining in his or her hands, and of all bonds and securities of such trade union, which account the said trustees shall submit for audit to the Director of Audit, who shall audit the same.

*(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)*

(2) The treasurer, if thereunto required, upon the said account being audited, shall forthwith hand over to the said trustees the balance which on such audit appears to be due from him or her and shall also, if required, hand over to such trustees all securities and effects, books, papers and property of the said trade union in his or her hands or custody.

(3) If the treasurer fails to do so, the trustees of the said trade union may sue him or her in any competent court for the balance appearing to have been due from him or her upon the account last rendered by him or her and for all the moneys since received by him or her on account of the trade union, and for the securities and effects, books, papers and property in his or her hands or custody, leaving him or her to set off in such action the sums (if any) which he or she may have since paid on

account of the trade union, and in such action the trustees shall be entitled to recover their full costs of suit, to be taxed as between solicitor and client.

**Withholding or misapplying trade union effects.**

**22.** If any officer, member or other person, being or representing himself or herself to be a member of a trade union registered under this Act, or the nominee, executor, administrator or assignee of a member thereof, or any person whatsoever, by false representation or imposition, obtains possession of any moneys, securities, books, papers or other effects of such trade union, or, having the same in his or her possession, wilfully withholds or fraudulently misapplies the same, or wilfully applies any part of the same to purposes other than those expressed or directed in the rules of such trade union, or any part thereof, the Magistrate for the district in which the registered office of the trade union is situate, upon a complaint made by any person on behalf of such trade union or by the Registrar, may by summary order, order such officer, member or other person to deliver up all such moneys, securities, books, papers or other effects to the trade union or to repay the amount of money applied improperly, and to pay, if such Magistrate thinks fit, a further sum of money not exceeding five hundred dollars together with costs not exceeding twenty-five dollars; and in default of such delivery of effects or repayment of such amount of money or payment of such penalty and costs, the Magistrate may order the person so convicted to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months:

Provided that—

- (a) nothing herein contained shall prevent the said trade union from proceeding by indictment against the party aforesaid; and
- (b) no person shall be proceeded against by indictment if a conviction shall have been previously obtained for the same offence under the provisions of this Act.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

**Regulations.**

**23.** The Minister responsible for Labour may make regulations respecting the following matters—

- (a) the registration of a trade union under this Act;
- (b) the forms to be used for such registration and any other forms which may be prescribed under this Act;
- (c) the seal (if any) to be used for such registration;
- (d) the inspection of documents kept by the Registrar under this Act;
- (e) the fees (if any) to be paid on registration, and until such fees are fixed those specified in the First Schedule hereto shall be charged;
- (f) the fee to be paid for an audit of the accounts of a trade union and, until such fee is fixed, the fee specified in the Fourth Schedule shall be charged; and
- (g) generally, for carrying this Act into effect.

*(Amended by Act 6 of 1976)*

**Rules of registered unions.**

**24.** With respect to the rules of a trade union registered under this Act, the following provisions shall have effect—

- (a) the rules of every such trade union shall contain provisions in respect of the several matters mentioned in the Second Schedule;
- (b) a copy of the rules shall be delivered by the trade union to every person on demand on payment of a sum not exceeding twenty-four cents;
- (c) every alteration of the rules of a registered trade union shall be registered with the Registrar and shall take effect from the date of registration unless some later date is specified in the rules;
- (d) the rules of a registered trade union shall not be altered so that they cease to contain provisions in respect of the several matters in the Second Schedule.

**Registered office of union.**

**25.** (1) Every trade union registered under this Act shall have a registered office to which all communications and notices may be addressed.

(2) If any trade union under this Act is in operation for seven days without having such an office, such trade union and every officer thereof shall each incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars for every day during which it is so in operation.

(3) Notice of the situation of such registered office, and of any change therein, shall be given to the Registrar and be recorded by him or her, and until that notice is given the trade union shall not be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this Act.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

**Membership of minors.**

**26.** A person under the age of eighteen, but above the age of sixteen may be a member of a trade union, unless provision is made in the rules thereof to the contrary, and may, subject to those rules, enjoy all the rights of a member except as herein provided, and execute all instruments and give all acquittances necessary to be executed or given under the rules, but shall not be a member of the committee of management, trustee or treasurer of the trade union.

**Nomination by member.**

**27.** A member of a trade union, not being under sixteen years may, by writing under his or her hand, delivered at or sent to the registered office of the trade union, nominate any person, not being an officer or servant of the trade union (unless such officer or servant is the husband, wife, father, mother, child, brother, sister, nephew or niece of the nominator) to whom any moneys payable on the death of such member, not exceeding five hundred dollars, shall be paid at his or her decease, and may from time to time revoke or vary such nomination by writing under his or her hand similarly delivered or sent; and on receiving satisfactory proof of the death of a nominator, the trade union shall pay to the nominee the amount due to the deceased member not exceeding the sum aforesaid.

*(Amended by Act 7 of 1976)*

**Change of name.**

**28.** (1) A trade union may, with the approval in writing of the Registrar, change its name by the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members.

(2) No change of name shall affect any right or obligation of the trade union or of any members thereof, and any pending legal proceedings may be continued by or against the trustees of the trade union or any other officer, who may sue or be sued on behalf of such trade union notwithstanding its new name.

**Amalgamation of unions.**

**29.** Any two or more trade unions may, by the consent of not less than two-thirds of the members of each of those trade unions, become amalgamated together as one trade union, with or without any dissolution or division of the funds of such trade unions or either or any of them; but no amalgamation shall prejudice the right of a creditor of either or any union party thereto.

*(Amended by Act 15 of 1965)*

**Registration of change of name and amalgamation.**

**30.** Notice in writing of every change of name or amalgamation, signed, in the case of a change of name, by seven members and countersigned by the secretary of the trade union changing its name, and accompanied by a solemn declaration by such secretary that the provisions of this Act in respect of changes of names have been complied with, and in the case of an amalgamation signed by seven members and countersigned by the secretary of each or every union party thereto, and accompanied by a solemn declaration by each or every such secretary that the provisions of this Act in respect of amalgamation have been complied with, shall be sent to the Registrar to be registered, and until such change of name or amalgamation is so registered the same shall not take effect.

**Dissolution.**

**31.** Notice of dissolution of a trade union under the hand of the secretary and seven members of the union shall be sent, within fourteen days thereafter, to the Registrar and shall be registered by him or her.

**Failure to give notice or send document.**

**32.** A trade union which fails to give any notice, or send any document which by this Act it is required to give or send, and every officer or other person bound by the rules thereof to give or send the same, or if there be no such officer, then every member of the committee of management of the union, unless proved to have been ignorant of, or to have attempted to prevent, the omission to give or send the same, is liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than one hundred and fifty dollars recoverable at the suit of the Registrar or of any person aggrieved, and to the additional penalty of the like amount for each week during which the omission continues.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

**Statement of accounts and audit certificate, etc., to be transmitted to the Registrar.**

**33.** (1) The treasurer of every trade union (or such other officer as is designated in that behalf by the rules of the trade union) shall, on or before the first day of June in

every year, cause to be received by the Registrar—

- (a) an audited statement in the form prescribed by the Registrar of the receipts and payments of the trade union during the year preceding the date to which such statement is made out, and such statement shall show separately the expenditure in respect of the several objects of the union;
- (b) an audited statement in the form prescribed by the Registrar of the assets and liabilities of the trade union at the date to which the statement required by paragraph (a) of this subsection is made out;
- (c) a return in the prescribed form, showing the number of members of the trade union at the date to which the statement required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection is made out; and
- (d) a return relating to the year immediately preceding the date to which such statement required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection is made out showing—
  - (i) all new rules of the trade union and all alterations to existing rules, made during the period; and
  - (ii) all changes of officers of the trade union during the period.

(2) In addition to the statements, certificate and returns required by the provisions of subsection (1), the Registrar may at any time by order in writing require the treasurer or any other officer of a trade union to deliver to him or her, by a date, to be specified in such order, detailed accounts of the revenue, expenditure, assets, liabilities and funds of the trade union in respect of any period specified in such order, and any accounts so rendered shall include such details and information, and be supported by such documents, as the Registrar in any case may require.

(3) Every member of a trade union shall be entitled to receive, on application to the treasurer or secretary of the trade union, a copy of all or any of the statements and accounts, and of the audit certificate, and returns provided for by this section, without making any payment therefor.

(4) Every trade union which, and every officer of a trade union who, contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions or requirements of subsection (1), or of an order of the Registrar under subsection (2), and every treasurer and secretary of a trade union who fails to comply with an application made under subsection (3), shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

(5) Upon a conviction for any offence under the provisions of subsection (4), the Magistrate for the district in which the registered office of the trade union is situate, may order the offending trade union or any specified officer thereof (whether or not such officer has been convicted) to deliver to the Registrar by a specified date (which shall not be earlier than fourteen days from the date of the order)—

- (a) all or any of the statements, certificate, and returns referred to in subsection (1), in cases where the conviction relates to an offence in respect of the provisions of such subsection;
- (b) all or any of the accounts, including such details, information and documents referred to in any order made by the Registrar under subsection (2), in cases where the conviction relates to any offence in respect of a failure to comply with any such order, and any trade union

which, and any officer of a trade union who, fails to comply with such order, shall in respect of such failure be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars in respect of each day or part of a day, during which such failure shall have continued.

(6) Any person who wilfully makes or causes to be made any false entry in, or any omission from, any of the statements, accounts, certificates or returns required by this section shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

#### **Registrar's reports.**

34. The annual reports with respect to the matters transacted by the Registrar in pursuance of this Act shall be laid before the National Assembly.

#### **Circulating false copies of rules.**

35. If any person, with intent to mislead or defraud, gives to any member of a trade union registered under this Act, or to any person intending or applying to become a member of such trade union, a copy of any rules, or of any alteration or amendment thereof, other than those respectively which exist for the time being, on the pretence that the same are the existing rules of such trade union, or that there are no other rules of such trade union, or if any person with the intent aforesaid, gives a copy of any rules to any person on the pretence that such rules are the rules of a trade union registered under this Act which is not so registered, every person so offending shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding three hundred dollars.

*(Amended by Acts 7 of 1976 and 9 of 1986)*

#### **Restrictions on application of funds for certain political purposes.**

36. (1) The funds of a trade union shall not be applied either directly or in conjunction with any other trade union, association or body, or otherwise indirectly in the furtherance of the political objects to which this section applies (without prejudice to the furtherance of any other political objects), unless the furtherance of those objects has been approved as an object of the union by a resolution for the time being in force passed on a ballot of the members of the union taken in accordance with the provisions of this section for the purpose by a majority of the members voting; and where such a resolution is in force, unless rules to be approved by the Registrar are in force providing—

- (a) that any payments in the furtherance of those objects are to be made out of a separate fund (in this Act referred to as a political fund of the union), and for the exemption in accordance with this Act of any member of the union from any obligation to contribute to such a fund if he or she gives notice in accordance with this Act that he or she objects to contribute;
- (b) that a member who is exempt (in the manner hereinafter specified) from the obligation to contribute to the political fund of the union shall not be excluded from the benefits of the union, or placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under any disability or at any disadvantage as compared with other members of the union (except in relation to the control or management of the political fund) by reason of his or her being so exempt, and that contribution to the political

fund of the union shall not be made a condition for admission to the union.

(2) If any member of a trade union alleges that he or she is aggrieved by a breach of any rule made in pursuance of this section, he or she may complain to the Registrar, and the Registrar, after giving the complainant and any representative of the union an opportunity of being heard, may, if he or she considers that such a breach has been committed make such order for remedying the breach as he or she thinks just under the circumstances; and any such order of the Registrar shall be binding and conclusive on all parties without appeal and shall not be removable into any Court of Law, or restrainable by injunction and on being recorded in the High Court Registry may be enforced as if it had been an order of the High Court.

(3) The political objects to which this section applies are the expenditure of money—

- (a) on the payment of any expenses incurred either directly or indirectly by a candidate or prospective candidate for election to the National Assembly or to any public office, before, during or after the election in connection with his or her candidature or election;
- (b) on the holding of any meeting or the distribution of any literature or documents in support of any such candidate or prospective candidate;
- (c) in connection with the registration of electors or the selection of a candidate for the National Assembly or any public office;
- (d) on the holding of political meetings of any kind, or on the distribution of political literature or political documents of any kind unless the main purpose of the meetings or of the distribution of the literature or documents is the furtherance of statutory objects within the meaning of this Act; or
- (e) on the maintenance of any person who is a member of the National Assembly in the State or who holds a public office.

(4) The expression “public office” in this section means the office of member of any municipal body or of any local road board or of any public body who have power to raise money, either directly or indirectly, by means of a rate.

(5) A resolution under this section approving political objects as an object of the union shall take effect as if it were a rule of the union and may be rescinded in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as such rule.

(6) The provisions of this section as to the application of the funds of a union for political purposes shall apply to a union which is in whole or in part an association or combination of other unions as if the individual members of the component unions were members of that union and not the unions; but nothing in this section shall prevent any such component union from collecting from any of their members who are not exempt on behalf of the association or combination any contributions to the political fund of the association or combination.

(7) A ballot for the purposes of this section shall be taken in accordance with rules of the union to be approved for the purpose by the Registrar, but the Registrar shall not approve any such rules unless he or she is satisfied that every member has an equal right, and, if reasonably possible, a fair opportunity of voting, and that the secrecy of the ballot is properly secured.

**Notice of objection to contribute towards political objects.**

37. (1) A member of a trade union may at any time give notice, in the form set out in the Third Schedule or in a form to the like effect, that he or she objects to contribute to the political fund of the union, and, on the adoption of a resolution of the union approving the furtherance of political objects as an object of the union, notice shall be given to the members of the union acquainting them that each member has a right to be exempt from contributing to the political fund of the union, and that a form of exemption notice can be obtained by or on behalf of a member either by application at or by post from the head office or any branch office of the union or the office of the Registrar.

(2) The notice to members of the union, referred to in subsection (1), shall be given in accordance with rules of the union approved for the purpose by the Registrar, having regard in each case to the existing practice and to the character of the union.

(3) On giving notice in accordance with this Act of his or her objection to contribute, a member of the union shall be exempt, so long as his or her notice is not withdrawn, from contributing to the political fund of the union as from the first day of January next after the notice is given, or, in the case of a notice given within one month after the notice given to members under this section on the adoption of a resolution approving the furtherance of political objects, as from the date on which the member's notice is given.

**Mode of giving effect to exemption from contributions to political fund.**

38. Effect may be given to the exemption of members to contribute to the political fund of a union either by separate levy of contributions to that fund from the members of the union who are not exempt, and in that case the rules shall provide that no moneys of the union other than the amount raised by such separate levy shall be carried to that fund, or by relieving any members who are exempt from the payment of the whole or any part of any periodical contributions required from the members of the union towards the expenses of the union, and in that case the rules shall provide that the relief shall be given as far as possible to all members who are exempt on the occasion of the same periodical payment and for enabling each member of the union to know as respects any such periodical contribution, what portion, if any, of the sum payable by him or her is a contribution, to the political fund of the union.

**Summary procedure.**

39. All summary offences and penalties under this Act may be prosecuted and recovered before a Magistrate in the manner provided by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, Cap. 3.17.

**Application of fees.**

40. All fees relating to a trade union received by the Registrar and by the Audit Department under this Act or under any regulations made under this Act shall be paid into the Public Treasury to the credit of general revenue.

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

*(Section 23(e))*

FEES

	\$. c.
For registering trade union.....	4.80
For registering alterations in rules .....	2.40
For inspection of documents.....	0.60

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**SECOND SCHEDULE**

*(Section 24)*

MATTERS TO BE PROVIDED FOR BY RULES OF TRADE  
UNIONS REGISTERED UNDER THIS ACT

1. The name of the Trade Union and place of meeting for its business.
  2. The whole of the objects for which the trade union is to be established, the purposes for which its funds shall be applicable, and the conditions under which any member may become entitled to any benefit assured thereby, and the fines and forfeitures to be imposed on any member of the trade union.
  3. The manner of making, altering, amending and rescinding rules.
  4. Provisions for the appointment and removal of a general committee of management, of a trustee, treasurer and other officers.
  5. Provision for the keeping of full and accurate accounts by the treasurer.
  6. Provision for the investment of the funds, and for an annual or periodical audit of accounts.
  7. The inspection of the books and names of members of the trade union by every person having an interest in its funds.
  8. The manner of dissolution.
-

**THIRD SCHEDULE**

*(Section 37)*

**FORM OF EXEMPTION NOTICE**

Name of trade union

Political fund (exemption notice).

I hereby give notice that I object to contribute to the political fund of the ..... Union, and am in consequence exempt in manner provided by the Trade Unions Act from contributing to that fund.

A.

B.

Address

The ..... day of ..... 20 .....

**FOURTH SCHEDULE**

*(Section 23(f))*

**FEES FOR AUDIT**

- |                                                                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                                                                       | \$. c. |
| 1. Where a trade union consists of not more than 200 members .....                    | 10.08  |
| 2. Where a trade union consists of more than 200 but not more than 1,000 members..... | 15.12  |
| 3. Where a trade union consists of more than 1,000 members .....                      | 30.24  |

## FIFTH SCHEDULE

(Section 23)

### RULES OF THE HIGH COURT (TRADE UNIONS)

#### Short title.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Rules of the High Court (Trade Unions).

#### Interpretation.

2. In these Rules—

“court” means the High Court;

“the Registrar” means the Registrar of Trade Unions appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Trade Unions Act.

#### Method of Bringing Appeals.

3. All appeals to the High Court from a refusal of the Registrar to register a trade union or against the Registrar’s decision to cancel the registration of a trade union shall be commenced by originating notice of motion within two months of the decision of the Registrar or within such further time as the Registrar of the Court may think fit to allow, and the Rules of the High Court for the time being in force shall (except if and so far as otherwise provided by these Rules) apply to all proceedings on any such appeal.

#### Notice of Motion.

4. The notice of motion shall be headed with a reference to the Trade Unions Act and also with a reference to the decision of the Registrar which is appealed against and shall contain or have scheduled or annexed thereto a concise statement of the grounds of the appeal, and no grounds other than those comprised in such statement shall (except with the leave of the court and on such terms, if any, as the court shall think just) be allowed to be taken by the appellant at the hearing of the motion.

#### Directions of court in Relation to Motion.

5. (1) The court may at any stage of the motion direct that the same be served on any persons that the court may think proper:

Provided always that, except where the trade union or alleged trade unions in question are themselves the appellants, such trade union or alleged trade unions, or any person who appeared before the Registrar and in whose favour he or she decided shall (unless the court shall otherwise order) be respondents or one of the respondents to the motion.

(2) At any stage of the motion the court may, if it shall appear to be expedient so to do, cause notice to be given by advertisement or otherwise of the time when the motion will be, or is likely to be, heard and disposed of, or otherwise make provision for enabling any person interested in the trade union or alleged trade union in question or in the subject matter of the appeal to appear and be heard on the motion.

(3) At any stage of the motion the court may, if it thinks fit, give any such special directions for the hearing and disposal of the motion either on affidavit evidence or with witnesses or otherwise and generally at such time and in such manner as may be just and convenient.

**Powers of court.**

6. In all proceedings on any such appeal the High Court shall have all the powers vested by the Trade Unions Act in the Registrar, and may make any order which might or ought to have been made by the Registrar.

**Hearing of Appeals.**

7. All appeals shall be heard in Chambers unless the court shall otherwise direct.

**Costs.**

8. In all proceedings on any such appeal the costs of and incident thereto, including the costs of and incident to any proceedings before the Registrar, shall be in the discretion of the court.

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**SIXTH SCHEDULE**

*(Section 23)*

**TRADE UNIONS REGULATIONS****Short title.**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Trade Unions Regulations.

**Interpretation.**

2. In these Regulations, "Act" means the Trade Unions Act.

**Forms.**

3. The forms to be used in preparing the various statements, certificates and returns for transmission to the Registrar as required by section 33 of the Act shall be those set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

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**SCHEDULE TO THE REGULATIONS**

*(Regulation 3)*

**FORM 1**

Statement of Accounts of .....  
..... Union  
For the year ended .....  
(as required by Section 33 of the Act).

Revenue	\$	cts.	Expenditure	\$	cts.
1. Member's dues			1. Benefits		
(i) Male Members			(a) Dispute pay .....		
(a) Entrance fees .....			(b) Death and funeral .....		
(b) Subscriptions .....			(c) Sickness .....		
(c) Levies, etc.....			(d) Unemployment .....		
(ii) Female Members			(e) Old age .....		
(a) Entrance fees .....			(f) Other (details).....		
(b) Subscriptions .....			Total .....		
(c) Levies, etc.....			2. Management		
2. Investments—Income from			(a) Salaries .....		
(details) .....			(b) Travelling expenses of		
3. Gifts, etc. (outside financial			Officers of Union .....		
assistance) .....			(c) Rent, rates, taxes.....		
4. Other sources (e.g. funds			(d) Stationery, printing,		
transferred from other Unions in			postage, etc. ....		
amalgamation, contributions			3. Other expenditure (details)		
from other Unions, etc.) .....			Balance at end of year .....		
.....					

To be signed by Treasurer.

.....  
Date .....

To be signed by

President, Secretary or Accountant  
of the Union (other than the  
Treasurer).

.....  
Date .....

FORM 2

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the .....
..... Union in respect of the working year ended
.....

Table with 6 columns: Assets, \$, cts., Liabilities, \$, cts. Rows include Cash balance, Furniture, fixtures and other property, Real estate, and Any other property or securities.

To be signed by Treasurer.
.....
Date .....

To be signed by President, Secretary or Accountant of the Union (other than the Treasurer).
.....
Date .....

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

I/We the undersigned auditor/auditors do certify that the foregoing statement of revenue and expenditure together with statement of assets and liabilities have each been audited by me/us and that I/we have had access to and have checked all accounts, receipts, vouchers and books of the Trade Union relating to transactions during the twelve months in respect of which the statements are made up, and that such statements have been found to be true and correct.

Auditor .....
Auditor .....
(Place) .....
(Date) .....

FORM 3  
MEMBERSHIP RETURN

..... Union for the year ending  
..... 20 .....

*(a) Members whose Contributions are not in Arrears*

	SECTION	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
(1)				
(2)				
(3) etc.				
	Totals	_____	_____	_____

*(b) Members whose Contributions are in Arrears but who have not ceased to be Members.*

	SECTION	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
(1)				
(2)				
(3) etc.				
	Totals	_____	_____	_____

To be signed by Secretary

.....

Date .....

\_\_\_\_\_