

CHAPTER 70

THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL ACT

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SCHEDULE.

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

AN ACT to provide for the implementation of an Agreement for the operation of the Caribbean Examinations Council and to give effect to the provisions of the Agreement, to provide for the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council as a statutory corporation in Antigua and Barbuda, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(1st January, 1986.)

20/1985.

1. This Act may be cited as the Caribbean Examinations Council Act. **Short title.**
2. In this Act—
 - "Agreement" means the agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council set out in the Schedule; **Interpretation.**
 - "Council" means the Caribbean Examinations Council. **Schedule.**
3. The references in Article VIII of the Agreement that the Council shall possess full juridical personality shall be construed as meaning that the Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a Common Seal with power to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property, to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to do all things necessary for the purpose of this Act. **Council to be a body corporate.**
4. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council as organised in the Agreement is hereby established. **Acceptance of the Agreement.**
5. The Council shall be entitled to the following privileges— **Privileges of the Council.**
 - (a) any direct imports for the purpose of the Council shall be exempt from duty;

(b) the Council shall be entitled to the same facilities relating to postal franking as any Government Department in respect of its mail to any of its agencies; and

(c) officers and servants of the Council shall be entitled to engage in any official duty within Antigua and Barbuda without work permits.

Financial provisions for giving effect to the Agreement.

6. (1) There shall be paid out of the Consolidated Fund on the Warrant of the Minister all payments required to be made from time to time to the Council for the purposes of meeting the obligations of Antigua and Barbuda under the Agreement and such payments are hereby charged on the Consolidated Fund.

(2) Any sums received by the Government from the Council pursuant to the Agreement shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Restrictions of use of name.

7. (1) Except with the written consent of the Minister no person shall use the name "Caribbean Examinations Council" or any name so nearly resembling it as to be likely to deceive, in connection with any trade or business.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for twelve months.

Arbitration.

8. If any dispute arises between the Council and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda such dispute shall be submitted to arbitration in such manner as may be agreed to by the Governments of the Territories who are parties of the Agreement and accordingly the provisions of the Arbitration Act shall not apply to such dispute.

Cap. 33.

Amendment of the Schedule and consequential matters.

9. (1) Where any amendment to the Agreement is accepted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda the Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule in accordance with such amendment.

(2) Any Order made under subsection (1) may contain such consequential, supplementary or ancillary provisions as may appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient

for the purpose of giving due effect to such amendment and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing matters, may contain provisions amending references in this Act to specific provisions of the Agreement.

(3) Any Order made under subsection (1) shall be subject to negative resolution of the House.

(4) Where the Schedule is amended pursuant to subsection (1), any reference in this Act or in any other written law shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to the Agreement so amended.

10. The provisions of the Non-Citizens Land Holding Regulation Act do not apply to the Council.

Exemption from provisions of Non-Citizens Land Holding Regulation Act. Cap. 293.

SCHEDULE

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS:

RECOGNISING the decision of the Second Conference of Heads of Government of Commonwealth Caribbean Countries held in Jamaica in January, 1964, that the setting up of a Caribbean Examinations Council was a fit and proper subject for regional cooperation;

CONSCIOUS of the need for the institution of a new system of examinations for the Area under the aegis of the Conference;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

INTERPRETATION

In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires—

"Area" means the following Territories the Governments of which are Participating Governments—

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- (ii) one representative of the University of Guyana appointed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana;
- (d) (i) two representatives appointed by each of the Participating Governments of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and one representative appointed by each of the other Participating Governments;
- (ii) one representative of the teaching profession appointed by each National Committee from among its members.

2. (a) a member of the Council appointed under paragraphs 1(c) and (d) of this Article shall subject to paragraph 3 of this Article hold office for a period of three years;

(b) any such member may at any time resign his office by notice in writing addressed to the appointing authority and his resignation shall take effect upon the receipt of such notice by the Chairman from the appointing authority;

(c) the appointing authority may make another appointment for the unexpired term of office of the person who resigned.

3. A member of the Council referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may be removed from office by the appointing authority and another person may be appointed for the unexpired term.

4. If any member of the Council is for the time being unable to act, the appointing authority may appoint a person to act in his place during such inability.

5. (a) the Council shall elect a Chairman from among its members, the Chairman for the first term being a Vice-Chancellor;

(b) the Chairman shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election. If, however, he resigns his office before the expiration of his term the Chairman elected in his place shall hold office for the unexpired term;

(c) the Council shall elect one of its members to be Deputy Chairman who shall hold office for such time not being more than his unexpired term as the Council may determine.

6. The Chairman and members of the Council shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as may from time to time be determined by the Council.

ARTICLE III

DUTIES

The Council shall—

(a) conduct such examinations as it may think appropriate and award certificates and diplomas on the results of examinations as conducted;

(b) review and consider annually its examinations held in any territory of the Area and remit to each Participating Government—

- (i) an analysis of data on the performance of candidates classified by subject and territory;
- (ii) a digest of submissions from National Committees along with such other information as may be considered necessary;
- (iii) an annual report of the Council's activities;

(c) consider, having regard to standards, the advisability of inviting and, if thought fit, invite any other examining Body to conduct examinations in the Area and award certificates and diplomas on the results of such examinations, advise any Body so invited on such adaptation of the examinations as the Council may think necessary and generally assist any Body so invited in the conduct of such examinations in the Area;

(d) appoint a School Examinations Committee in accordance with Article X;

(e) appoint from among its members an Administrative and Finance Committee which shall include a representative from each of the Participating Governments of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and four representatives from the other Participating Governments;

(f) receive from any National Committee or other Committee established under this Agreement reports and recommendations on any matters relevant to the purposes of the Council and consider such reports and recommendations;

(g) on the invitation of any Government in the Caribbean conduct any examinations which the Council considers feasible.

ARTICLE IV

GENERAL POWERS

The Council shall have power to—

(a) appoint a Registrar, Pro-Registrar and such other persons as may be necessary for the performance of its duties;

(b) delegate to the Registrar—

(i) any of the duties specified in paragraphs (a),(c) and (g) of Article III as relate to the holding of examinations; and

(ii) the making of appointments of other persons mentioned in paragraph (a) of this Article;

(c) fix the salaries and determine the terms and conditions of service including the provision of superannuation benefits of the Registrar and persons referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article;

(d) delegate to the School Examinations Committee such powers as may be necessary;

(e) delegate to the Administrative and Finance Committee such powers as may be necessary;

(f) appoint such other Committees as the Council may consider necessary for the performance of its duties;

(g) regulate the conduct of any examinations conducted under the provisions of paragraphs (a),(c) and (g) of Article III and prescribe the qualification requirements of candidates and the fees payable by them;

(h) co-opt any person to assist in the work of the Council so, however, that no such person shall be or be deemed to be a member of the Council;

(i) borrow such sums as it may consider necessary or expedient;

(j) invest the funds of the Council in such manner and to such extent as it may consider necessary or expedient giving priority to investment in financial institutions in the Area controlled by the people of the Area or by Participating Governments or in securities issued or guaranteed by such Governments;

(k) authorise in writing any of its members to discharge any of its functions;

(I) make rules generally for the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE V

LOCATION OF FACILITIES

1. The Council shall establish Administrative and Operational Centres in Barbados and Jamaica, and may establish such Centres in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and elsewhere in the Area.

2. For the purposes of administration and operations, the Area shall be divided into two geographical zones—the Western Zone and the Eastern Zone. The Western Zone shall comprise the Territories of Bahamas, Belize, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands; and the Eastern Zone shall comprise the Territories of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St Lucia, St Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago.

Such of the Council's operations as relate to the Western Zone shall be directed from the Administrative and Operational Centre in Jamaica. Such of the Council's operations as relate to the Eastern Zone shall be directed from the Administrative and Operational Centre in Barbados.

3. The Administrative and Operational Centre located in Barbados shall be the Administrative Headquarters from which the general business of the Council shall be directed.

4. The Registrar shall be based in the Administrative and Operational Centre in Barbados and the Pro-Registrar shall be based in the Administrative and Operational Centre in Jamaica.

5. The Council may conclude with Participating Governments agreements relating to the legal capacity, privileges and immunities to be recognised and granted to it in respect of its Administrative and Operational Centres.

ARTICLE VI

PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Council shall ordinarily meet for the despatch of business at such times and places as the Council may from time to time appoint but at least one meeting shall be held in each year.

2. The Chairman may call a special meeting of the Council at such time and place as he may appoint, and shall on the written request of six members of the Council call a meeting to

be held within twenty-one days after the receipt of the request for the meeting.

3. Any such special meeting shall be convened at not less than fourteen days' notice.

4. At every meeting of the Council the Chairman, if present, shall preside; in his absence the Deputy Chairman shall preside and in the absence of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the members of the Council present shall elect one of their number to preside.

5. Decisions of the Council and of the School Examination Committee and of the Administrative and Finance Committee shall be taken on the majority vote of all the members present.

6. A quorum of the Council or of the School Examinations Committee or of the Administrative and Finance Committee shall be constituted by one-half of the respective total membership.

7. The member of the Council presiding at a meeting of the Council shall, in addition to an original vote, have a casting vote in any case where the voting is equal.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The funds of the Council shall include—

- (a) all charges, dues and fees received by the Council;
- (b) such moneys as are provided for the Council by the Participating Governments;
- (c) all interest on moneys invested by the Council;
- (d) all moneys accruing to the Council by way of endowment, donation or otherwise.

2. The funds of the Council shall be applied towards the accomplishment of its purposes.

3. The expenditure of the Council shall be apportioned among the Participating Governments on such basis as may be agreed upon by them.

4. All sums of money received on account of the Council shall be paid into such bank or banks as may be approved by the Council.

5. (a) The Council shall cause to be kept proper accounts of its financial and other business transactions and shall cause to be prepared not later than three months after the end of each financial year—

- (i) a statement showing in detail the items of income and expenditure of the Council and the total of such income and expenditure for the immediately preceding financial year;
- (ii) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Council as they stood at the end of the immediately preceding financial year;

(b) such statements shall be audited by an Auditor appointed by the Council and as soon as may be thereafter a copy of each such statement as audited shall be transmitted to each Participating Government.

ARTICLE VIII

LEGAL CAPACITY

1. The Council shall possess full juridical personality and in particular full capacity to—

- (a) contract;
- (b) acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property;
- (c) institute legal proceedings

2. The legal capacity, privileges and immunities to be recognised and granted by Participating Governments in connection with the Council shall be laid down in a Protocol to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IX

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

1. A National Committee shall be established by each Participating Government for and in its Territory.

2. A National Committee shall comprise representatives of a Ministry or Department of Education, the Teaching Profession, the Universities in the Area and the general community.

3. The Chairman of a National Committee shall be appointed by the Participating Government from among the members of that National Committee.

4. A member of a National Committee shall hold office for such number of years as may be specified in his letter of appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

5. It shall be the duty of every National Committee—

(a) to exercise such powers as the Council may from time to time delegate to it; and

(b) to advise the Council on any matter on which advice may be sought including the content of the syllabuses, the appointment of examiners and any other matter connected with examinations conducted by the Council.

6. A National Committee may make a report or recommendations to the Council on any matter relevant to the provisions of this Agreement.

7. A National Committee may appoint from among its members such sub-committee as it thinks fit and shall specify the duties of such sub-committee.

8. A National Committee shall have the power to co-opt any person to assist it in its work, so, however, that no such person shall be or be deemed to be a member of the Committee.

ARTICLE X

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE

1. The School Examinations Committee shall consist of—

(a) The Chairman of the Council or his Deputy who shall be the Chairman;

(b) four members who shall be representatives of the Universities of the Area;

(c) one technical or administrative officer selected by each Participating Government from its Ministry or Department of Education;

(d) one member of the teaching profession nominated by each National Committee.

2. The duties of the School Examinations Committee shall include—

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(a) preparation for the approval of Council of regulations relating to the conduct of examinations;

(b) development of syllabuses through sub-committees or subject panels;

(c) consideration of criticisms from schools;

(d) consideration on points raised by examiners in their reports on examinations and by other means;

(e) appointment of members of various sub-committees and subject-panels;

(f) the making of recommendations relating to the appointment of examiners;

(g) advising the Council on all matters relating to examinations;

(h) performing such duties as may be delegated to it by the Council.

3. The School Examinations Committee shall have power to co-opt any person to assist it in its work, so, however, that no such person shall be deemed to be a member of the Committee.

ARTICLE XI

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Administrative and Finance Committee may appoint a sub-committee in each Territory of the Area and may delegate to any such sub-committee such powers as it thinks fit regarding administrative and financial matters affecting that Territory.

2. Decisions of a sub-committee appointed under paragraph 1 of this Article shall be taken by a majority of votes of the members present and voting and so far as the procedure of the meetings of any such sub-committee may not be prescribed by the Council, the sub-committee may regulate its own procedure.

ARTICLE XII

SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS

The Council shall enter into arrangements with Participating Governments to secure the preservation of the superannuation benefits of persons seconded to the service of the Council from the service of any Participating Government.

ARTICLE XIII

ACCESSION

1. The Government of any Caribbean Territory may accede to this Agreement on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the Participating Governments and the acceding Government.

2. Any such terms and conditions shall be embodied in a supplementary Agreement.

ARTICLE XIV

WITHDRAWAL

Any Participating Government may withdraw from this Agreement by giving twenty-four months' notice in writing to the Chairman of the Council who shall within thirty days of the receipt of such notice notify the other Participating Governments.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENT

An amendment to the provisions of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Council who shall within 30 days of the receipt thereof transmit the proposed amendment to each Participating Government. Such amendment shall have effect upon the acceptance thereof by all the Participating Governments within six months of the date of the Chairman transmitting the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XVI

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Agreement shall be lodged with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat for signature and shall be subject to ratification.

2. The Agreement shall come into force upon the deposit, not later than 30th April, 1972, of instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General by any two of the Participating Governments of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and by any four of the other Participating Governments.

ARTICLE XVII

INAUGURAL MEETING

As soon as the Agreement comes into force the Secretary-General, Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat, shall take the necessary steps to secure the nomination of the members of the Council referred to in Article II and to convene the Inaugural Meeting of the Council.
