

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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The Companies Act 1995  
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BY LAWS

OF

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
T 4277 (95)

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THE COMPANIES ACT 1995

BY-LAW No.1

A by-law relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of:

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

BE IT ENACTED as the general by-law of THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (hereinafter called “the Company”) as follows:

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this by-law and all other by-laws of the company, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) “Act” means the Companies Act, 1995 as from time to time amended and every statute substituted therefor and, in the case of such substitution, any references in the by-laws of the Company to provisions of the Act shall be read as references to the substituted provisions therefor in the new statute or statutes;

(b) “Regulations” means any regulations made under the Act, and every regulation substituted therefor and, in the case of such substitution, any references in the by-laws of the Company to provisions of the Regulations shall be read as references to the substituted provisions therefor in the new regulations;

(c) “by-laws” means any by-law of the Company from time to time in force;

(d) all terms contained in the by-laws and defined in the Act or the Regulations shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Act or the Regulations; and

(e) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular, the masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter genders; the word “person” includes bodies corporate, companies, partnerships, syndicates, trusts and any association of persons; and the word “individual” means a natural person.

## 2. REGISTERED OFFICE

2.1 The registered office of the Company shall be No. 27 Maraval Road, Port-of-Spain.

## 3. MEMBERS

3.1 There shall be two classes of membership namely:

(a) Ordinary members, being over the age of eighteen years of age;

(b) Honorary members, being those individuals who accept election as Honorary members upon the invitation of the directors in recognition of their work for the company. An Honorary member shall be under no obligation to pay any subscription or make any donation to the funds of the company.

3.2 Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of the Company upon such form as the directors shall from time to time prescribe and shall be supported by such evidence as may be required.

3.3 Candidates for membership shall be elected by the directors.

3.4 Persons who hold any of the following offices; namely President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the Company.

3.5 The interest of a member in the Company is not transferable and lapses and ceases to exist upon her death or when she ceases to be a member by resignation or otherwise in accordance with the by-laws of the Company.

#### 4. ENTRANCE FEE

4.1 There shall be no entrance fee.

#### 5. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

5.1 The annual subscription shall be TT\$20.00 or such other sum as may be determined from time to time by the directors.

5.2 All annual subscriptions (except the first subscription of a new member) shall be payable on the first day of February each year.

#### 6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Any member may withdraw from membership by giving fourteen days notice to the directors in writing to that effect and thereupon she shall cease to be a member, and provided such notice is given before the 15th day of January in any year she shall not be liable to pay her subscription for that year.

6.2 If any member who is liable to pay an annual subscription shall fail to pay the same within the time specified in by-law 5, the directors may order her name to be struck off the list of members whereupon she shall cease to be a member of the Company.

6.3 If any member refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of the by-law or conducts herself in a way which in the opinion of the directors is or may be injurious to the Company, the directors may by notice in writing call upon her to resign. If such member when called upon to resign does not do so within twenty eight days of the receipt of such notice then (provided she is first given an opportunity of being heard by the directors) she may forthwith be expelled by the directors.

6.4 An individual to whom paragraph 6.3 of this by-law has been applied shall not thereafter be entitled to membership of the Company.

6.5 Subject to paragraph 6.1 of this by-law, a member resigning or expelled under paragraph 6.3 or whose name is struck off pursuant to paragraph 6.2 of this by-law shall nevertheless remain liable for all moneys then due from her to the Company.

#### 7. OFFICERS

7.1 The officers of the Company shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary who shall be Ordinary members of the Company and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Company each year.

7.2 In the case of a casual vacancy in any of the offices, the directors shall appoint one of their number to fill such casual vacancy until the next annual general meeting.

7.3 In the case of the absence, or inability to act, if the President, the Vice-President or any other officer of the Company or for any other reason that the directors may deem sufficient, the directors may delegate all or any of the powers of such officer to any other officer or to any director for the time being, provided that a majority of the board of directors concur therein.

7.4 The President: The President shall, if present, preside at all meetings of the directors and members, she shall sign all instruments which require her signature and shall perform all duties incident to her office and shall have such other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to her by the directors.

7.5 The Vice-President: The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or disability or refusal to act. The Vice-Presidents shall have such powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to her by the directors.

7.6 The Secretary: The Secretary shall when present act as Secretary of all meetings, shall have charge of the minute books of the Company and the documents and registers referred to in section 177 of the Companies Act 1995, and shall perform such other duties as the directors require of her.

7.7 The Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the Company and shall deposit the same in the name of the Company in such bank or banks or with such depository or depositories as the directors may direct and shall perform such other duties as the directors require of her. She may be required to give such bond for the faithful performance of her duties as the directors in their uncontrolled discretion may require and no director shall be liable for failure any bond or for the insufficiency of any bond or for any loss by reason of the failure of the company to receive indemnity thereby provided.

## 8. DIRECTORS

Subject to the Articles, the Directors shall direct the management of the business and affairs of the Company and exercise the powers of the Company directly or individually through the employees and agents of the Company.

8.1 The Directors of the Company shall be -

- (a) the Officers, ex officio;
- (b) such number of other ordinary members of the Company as is fixed in the Articles

of Incorporation of the Company who may be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Company in each year and who shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election; and

8.2 Candidates for election as a director shall be proposed and seconded by members entitled to vote at general meetings of the company.

8.3 If a casual vacancy occurs, other than in any of the offices, the directors may appoint an ordinary member of the Company to fill the vacancy.

8.4 Powers: The affairs of the Company shall be managed by the directors who may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Company and are not by the by-laws or any special resolution of the Company or the Act expressly directed or required to be done by the Company at the general meeting of the Company.

8.5 Qualification: A director shall be an ordinary member of the Company.

8.6 Term of Office: Unless sooner determined, a director's term of office shall, subject to the provisions, if any, of the Articles of Incorporation of the Company, be from the date of the meeting at which she is elected or appointed until the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following or until her successor is elected or appointed.

8.7 Removal from office: The members of the Company may, by ordinary resolution at a special meeting, remove any director from office.

8.8 Vacancy Filled: A vacancy created by the removal of a director may be filled at the meeting at which the director is removed from office.

8.8.1 If the vacancy is not filled under paragraph 8.8, it may be filled by the directors.

8.8.2 A director elected or appointed pursuant to paragraph 8.8 or 8.8.1 holds office for the unexpired term of her predecessor.

8.9 Remuneration: The directors shall serve without remuneration and no director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from her position as such; provided that a director may be paid or reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred by her in the performance of her duties.

8.10 Vacating of office: The office of a director of the company shall be vacated -

- (a) if by notice in writing she resigns her office;
- (b) if she ceases to be a member of the Company;
- (c) if she does not attend four consecutive meetings of the directors, unless the directors determine otherwise;

- (d) if she is removed from office in accordance with paragraph 8.7;
- (e) if she becomes bankrupt or suspends payment or compounds with her creditors or makes an unauthorized assignment or is declared insolvent;
- (f) if she is found to be a lunatic or becomes of unsound mind;
- (g) if she is convicted of any criminal offence involving fraud or dishonesty.

## 9. MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

9.1 Place: Meetings of the directors and of any committee of the directors may be held either at the registered office or at any other place within or outside Trinidad and Tobago.

9.2 Convenor: A meeting of directors may be convened by the President, a Vice-President, or any two directors at any time and the Secretary by direction of any such officer or any two directors shall convene a meeting of directors.

9.3 Notice: Subject to section 91(1) of the Act, the notice of any meeting of the directors must specify the purpose of or the business to be transacted at the meeting. Notice of any such meeting shall be served in the manner specified in paragraph 14.1 hereof not less than seven days (exclusive of the day on which the notice is delivered or sent but inclusive of the day for which notice is given) before the meeting is to take place. A director may in any manner waive notice of a meeting of the directors and attendance of a director at a meeting of the directors shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

9.3.1 It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting of the directors to a newly elected or appointed director for a meeting held immediately following the election of directors by the members or the appointment to fill a vacancy among the directors.

9.3.2 Meetings of the directors may be held at any time without formal notice if all the directors are present or those absent waive notice or signify their consent in writing to the meeting being held in their absence. Notice of any meetings or any irregularity in any meeting or the notice thereof may be waived by any director.

9.4 Quorum: Three directors shall form a quorum for the transaction of business and, notwithstanding any vacancy among the directors, a quorum may exercise all the powers of the directors. No business shall be transacted at a meeting of directors unless a quorum is present.

9.4.1 A director may, if all the directors consent, participate in a meeting of directors or of any committee of the directors by means of such telephone or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear

each other and a director participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at that meeting.

9.5 Voting: Questions arising at any meeting of the directors shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting in addition to her original vote shall have a second or casting vote.

9.6 Resolution in lieu of meeting: Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this by-law, a resolution in writing signed by all the directors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the directors or any committee of the directors is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors or any committee of the directors.

#### 10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The directors may appoint an Executive Officer and may delegate to her full authority to manage and direct the business and affairs of the company (except such matters and duties as by law must be transacted or performed by the directors or by the members in general meeting) and to employ and discharge agents and employees of the Company or may delegate to her any lesser power. She shall conform to all lawful orders given to her by the directors of the Company. She shall at all reasonable times give to the directors or any of them all information they may require regarding the affairs of the Company.

#### 11. FOR THE PROTECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

11.1 No director or officer of the Company shall be liable to the Company for -

(a) the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other director or officer or employee or for joining in any receipt or act for conformity;

(b) any loss, damage or expense incurred by the Company through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by the company or for or on behalf of the company;

(c) the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the moneys of or belonging to the Company shall be placed out or invested.

(d) any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious act of any person, including any person with whom any moneys, securities or effects shall be lodged or deposited;

(e) any loss, conversion, misapplication or misappropriation of or any damage resulting from any dealings with any moneys, securities or other assets belonging to the company;

(f) any other loss, damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of her respective office or trust or in relation thereto;

unless the same happens by or through her failure to exercise the powers and to discharge the duties of her office honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Company and in connection therewith to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

11.2 Nothing herein contained shall relieve a director or officer from the duty to act in accordance with the Act or regulations made thereunder or relieve her from liability for a breach thereof.

11.3 The directors for the time being of the company shall not be under any duty or responsibility in respect of any contract, act or transaction whether or not made, done or entered into in the name, or on behalf, of the company, except such as are submitted to and authorized or approved by the directors.

11.4 If any director or officer of the Company is employed by or performs services for the Company otherwise than as a director or officer or is a member of a firm or a shareholder, director or an officer of a body corporate which is employed by or performs services for the Company, the fact of her being a member, director or officer of the Company shall not disentitle such director or officer or such firm or body corporate, as the case may be, from receiving proper remuneration for such services.

## 12. MEETING OF MEMBERS

12.1 Annual Meeting: Subject to the provisions of section 109 of the Act, the annual meeting of the members shall be held in February in each year and at such time as the directors may by resolution determine at any place within Trinidad and Tobago or, if all the members entitled to vote at such meeting so agree, outside Trinidad and Tobago.

12.2 Special Meetings: Special meetings of the members may be convened by order of the President, the Vice-President or by the directors at any date and time and at any place within Trinidad and Tobago or, if all the members entitled to vote at such meetings so agree, outside Trinidad and Tobago.

12.2.1 The directors shall, on the requisition of at least five percent of the ordinary and financial members of the Association within 30 days convene a meeting of members, and in the case of such requisition the following provisions shall have effect:

(a) the requisition must state the purposes of the meeting and must be signed by the requisitionists and deposited at the Registered Office, and may



consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more of the requisitionists;

(b) if the directors do not, within thirty days from the date of the requisition being so deposited, proceed to convene a meeting, the requisitionists or any of them may themselves convene the meeting but any meeting so convened shall not be held after three months from the date of such deposit;

(c) unless subsection (3) of section 133 of the Act applies, the directors shall be deemed not to have only convened the meeting if they do not give such notice as is required by the Act within fourteen days from the deposit of the requisition;

(d) any meeting convened under this paragraph by the requisitionists shall be called as nearly as possible in the manner in which meetings are to be called pursuant to the by-laws and Divisions 5 and 6 of Part III of the Act.

12.3 Notice: A printed, written or typewritten notice stating the day, hour and place of meeting shall be given by serving such notice on each member entitled to attend such meeting, on each director and on the auditor of the Company in the manner specified in by-law 14.1 hereof, not less than seven days (exclusive of the day on which the notice is delivered or sent and of the day for which notice is given) before the date of the meeting. Notice of a meeting at which special business is to be transacted shall state (a) the nature of that business in sufficient detail to permit the member to form a reasoned judgment thereon, and (b) the text of any special resolution to be submitted to the meeting.

12.4 Waiver of Notice: A member and any other person entitled to attend a meeting of members may in any manner waive notice of a meeting of members and attendance of any such person at a meeting of members shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting except where such person attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

15.5 Omission of Notice: The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or any irregularity in the notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of any notice by an member, director or the auditor of the Company shall not invalidate any resolution passed or any proceedings taken at any meeting of the members.

12.6 Votes: Every question submitted to any meeting of members shall be decided in the first instance by a show of hands unless a person entitled to vote at the meeting has demanded a ballot and, in the case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall on show of hands and on a ballot have a casting vote in

addition to any votes to which she may be otherwise entitled.

12.6.1 At every meeting at which she is entitled to vote, every member, proxy holder or individual authorized to represent a member who is present in person shall have one vote on a show of hands. Upon a ballot at which she is entitled to vote, every member, proxy holder or individual authorized to represent a member shall, subject to the articles, have one vote.

12.6.2 At any meeting unless a ballot is demanded, a declaration by the chairman of the meeting that a resolution has been carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost or not carried by a particular majority shall be conclusive evidence of the fact.

12.6.3 If thirty minutes after the scheduled time of the meeting, the President and the Vice President are absent, the persons who are present and entitled to vote shall choose another director as chairman of the meeting; but if no director is present or all the directors present decline to take the chair, the persons who are present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be Chairman.

12.6.4 A ballot may, either before or after any vote by a show of hands, be demanded by any person entitled to vote at the meeting. If at any meeting a ballot is demanded on the election of a chairman or on the question of adjournment, it shall be taken forthwith without adjournment. If at any meeting a ballot is demanded on any other question or as to the election of directors, the vote shall be taken by ballot in such manner and either at once, later in the meeting or after adjournment as the chairman of the meeting directs. The result of a ballot shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded. A demand for a ballot may be withdrawn.

12.7 Proxies: Votes at meetings of members may be given either personally or by proxy or, in the case of a member who is a body corporate or association, by an individual authorized by a resolution of the directors or governing body of that body corporate or association to represent it at meetings of members of the company.

12.7.1 A proxy shall be executed by the member or her attorney authorized in writing and is valid only at the meeting in respect of which it is given or any adjournment thereof.

12.7.2 A person appointed by proxy need not be a member.

12.7.3 Subject to the provision of Part V of the Regulations, a proxy may be in the following form:

The undersigned member of The Catholic Commission for social Justice hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, or failing her, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as the nominee of the undersigned to attend and act for the undersigned and on behalf

of the undersigned at the meeting of the members of the said Company to be held on the            day of            20            and at any adjournment or adjournments thereof in the same manner, to the same extent and with the same power as if the undersigned were present at the said meeting or such adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DATED this            day of            20            .

Signature of member

12.8 Adjournment: The chairman of any meeting may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the same from time to time to a fixed time and place and no notice of such adjournment need be given to the members unless the meeting is adjourned by one or more adjournments for an aggregate of ten days or more in which case notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as for an original meeting. Any business that might have been brought before, or dealt with at, the original meeting in accordance with the notice calling the same may be brought before, or dealt with at, any adjourned meeting for which no notice is required.

12.9 Quorum: Subject to the Act, a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members shall be ten persons present in person, each being a member entitled to vote thereat, or a duly appointed proxy holder or representative of a member so entitled. If a quorum is present at the opening of any meeting of the members, the members present or represented may proceed with the business of the meeting notwithstanding a quorum is not present throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time fixed for a meeting of members, the persons present and entitled to vote may adjourn the meeting to a fixed time and place but may not transact any other business. At the adjourned meeting if that quorum is not present those members who are present shall be a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called.

12.10 Resolution in lieu of meeting: Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this by-law, a resolution in writing signed by all the members entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the members is, subject to section 132 of the Act, as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the members.

### 13. COMMITTEES

13.1 The directors may from time to time as deemed necessary appoint committees consisting of such number of directors or members as may be deemed desirable and may prescribe their duties.

13.2 Any committee so appointed may meet for the transaction of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. Unless otherwise

determine by the directors, two members of a committee shall be a quorum. Questions arising at any meeting of a committee shall be decided by a majority of votes and, in case of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

#### 14. NOTICES

14.1 Method of giving notice: Any notice or other document required by the Act, the Regulations, the articles or the by-laws to be sent to any member, director or auditor may be delivered personally or sent by prepaid mail or cable or telex to any such person at her latest address as shown in the records of the Company and to any such director at her latest address as shown in the records of the Company or in the latest notice filed under section 71 or 79 of the Act, and to the auditor at her business address.

14.2 Waiver of notice: Notice may be waived or the time for the notice may be waived or abridged at anytime with the consent in writing of the person entitled thereto.

14.3 Undelivered notices: If a notice or document is sent to a member by prepaid mail in accordance with this paragraph and the notice or document is returned on three consecutive occasions because the member cannot be found, it shall not be necessary to send any further notices or documents to the member until she informs the Company in writing of her new address.

14.4 Signature of notices: The signature of any director or officer of the company to any notice or document to be given by the Company may be written, stamped, typewritten or printed or partly written, stamped, typewritten or printed.

14.5 Computation of time: Where a notice extending over a number of days or other period is required under any provisions of the articles or the by-laws, the day of sending the notice shall, unless it is otherwise provided, be counted in such number of days or other period.

14.6 Proof of service: Where a notice required under paragraph 14.1 hereof is delivered personally to the person to whom it is addressed or delivered to her address as mentioned in paragraph 14.1 hereof, service shall be deemed to be at the time of delivery of such notice.

14.6.1 Where such notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected forty-eight hours after posting if the notice was properly addressed and posted by prepaid mail.

14.6.2 Where the notice is sent by cable or telex or telefax, service is deemed to be effected on the date on which the notice is so sent.

14.6.3 A certificate of an officer of the Company in office at the time of the making of the certificate as to facts in relation to the delivery or sending of any notice shall be conclusive evidence of those facts.

## 15. CHEQUES, DRAFTS AND NOTES

15.1 All cheques, drafts or orders for the payment of money and all notes and acceptances and bills of exchange shall be signed by such officers or persons in such manner as the directors may from time to time designate by resolution.

## 16. EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

16.1 Contracts, documents or instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Company may be signed by:

(a) the President and a Vice-President together with the secretary or the Treasurer; or

(b) any two directors

and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the Company without any further authorization or formality. The directors shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint any officers or persons on behalf of the Company either to sign certificates for shares in the Company and contracts, documents and instruments in writing generally or to sign specific contracts, documents or instruments in writing.

16.1.1 The common seal of the company may be fixed to contracts, documents and instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officers or persons specified in paragraph 16.1.2 hereof.

16.1.2 Subject to section 138 of the Act -

(a) the President and a Vice-President together with the Secretary or the Treasurer; or

(b) any two directors

shall have authority to sign and execute (under the seal of the Company or otherwise) all the instruments that may be necessary for the purpose of selling, assigning, transferring, exchanging, converting or conveying any such shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, rights, warrants, or other securities.

## 17. SIGNATURES

17.1 The signature of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer or any director of the Company or of any officer or person, appointed pursuant to paragraph 16.1 hereof by resolution of the directors may, if specifically authorized by resolution of the directors, be printed, engraved, lithographed or otherwise mechanically reproduced upon any contract, document or instrument in writing, bond, debenture or other security of the Company executed or issued by or on behalf of the Company. Any document or instrument in writing on which the signature of any such officer or person is so reproduced shall be deemed to have been manually signed by such officer or person whose signature is so reproduced and shall be as valid to all intents and purposes as if such document or instrument in writing had been signed manually and notwithstanding that the officer or person whose signature is so reproduced has ceased to hold office at the date on which such document o

instrument in writing is delivered or issued.

18. FINANCIAL YEAR

18.1 The directors may from time to time by resolution establish the financial year of the company.

Dated this            day of            200\_\_\_\_\_.

Corporate Seal.

.....  
President  
Secretary

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