



Mauritius Red Cross Society

STATUTES

Revised regulations of the Mauritius Red Cross Society established under section 9 of the Mauritius Red Cross Society Act 1973, hereinafter called the Statutes of the Mauritius Red Cross Society

PART I – PRELIMINARY

- Title*
1. These Statutes may be cited as the Mauritius Red Cross Society Statutes 2010.
- Interpretation in these Statutes:*
2.
 - a) “*The Movement*” means the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement
 - b) “*Geneva Conventions*” means the four Conventions adopted at Geneva on 12th August 1949 “*Additional Protocols*” means the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1977 and 2005.
 - c) “*National Society*” means the Mauritius Red Cross Society
 - d) “*General Assembly*” means the assembly of members representing the National Society as a whole.
 - e) “*Governing Board*” means the board elected by the General Assembly to be the governing organ of the National Society.
 - f) “*Society Headquarters*” means the Registered Office of the Society.
 - g) “*Rules of Procedure*” mean the National Society’s Rules of Procedure.

PART II – GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Constitution of the
Mauritius Red Cross
Society*

1. The National Society was founded on 18 December 1973. Its constitution is based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols, to which the Republic of Mauritius is a party. The National Society shall be guided in its work by the principles of international humanitarian law and shall respect the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) which are set out below:

I. HUMANITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

II. IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

III. NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

IV. INDEPENDENCE

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and

subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

V. VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

VI. UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

VII. UNIVERSALITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is world-wide.

Mottoes

2. The Federation recalls that the mottoes "*Inter arma caritas*" and "*Per humanitatem ad pacem*", together express the ideals of the Movement.

National Legal Status of the Society

3.
 - a) The National Society is officially recognised by the Government, in The Mauritius Red Cross Society Act No.55 of 1973, as a voluntary aid Society in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, and as the only National Red Cross Society which may carry out its activities in the Republic of Mauritius territory.
 - b) In relation to the public authorities, the National Society, as auxiliary to the Public Authorities, maintains an autonomy which allows it to act at all times in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
 - c) The public authorities shall at all times respect the adherence by the National Society to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.
 - d) The National Society is a legally constituted association. It possesses legal status. Its term of existence is unlimited. Its headquarters is located at Ste. Therese Street, Curepipe.

Relations with other components of the Movement

4. The National Society, which was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 15 September 1977, is part of the Movement. It became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) on 7 October 1977.

The National Society must at all times comply with the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and with the Constitution of the International Federation (in addition to the Statutes of the Movement).

The National Society shall fulfil the conditions laid down in Article 4 of the Statutes of the Movement and its relations with the other components of the Movement shall be in conformity with Article 3 of the Statutes of the Movement.

The National Society shall also be bound by the obligations laid down in Article 8 of the Constitution of the International Federation.

Agreements

5. Agreements concluded with other organisations or entities, in particular with the public authorities regarding the execution of a public service, shall be in writing and shall not in any way constitute an obligation for the Society to act against the Fundamental Principles.

Emblem of the Red Cross

6. The National Society has as emblem the heraldic sign of the red cross on a white background according to the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocols and the 1991 Regulations on the Use and Misuse of the Emblem.

The National Society has established appropriate regulations in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and the 1991 Regulations on the Use of the Emblem whose provisions shall be binding upon the National Society.

a) Use of the emblem as an indicative device

The use of the emblem is strictly restricted to the National Society as

follows:-

- i. on belongings, huts, first aid posts and camps occupied by the National Society, its Branches, Youth Section and Subsidiary Units, and also on notice boards indicating such buildings, huts, first aid posts and camps;
- ii. on uniforms, notepaper, certificates, badges and publications;
- iii. on ambulances or vehicles carrying National Society personnel or supplies operating under the control of the National Society, its Branches, Youth Section or Subsidiary Units, whether or not they are owned by the National Society, the Branches, the Youth Section or Subsidiary Units;
- iv. as a distinguishing flag on buildings used as Headquarters of the National Society, a Branch, a Youth Section, a Subsidiary Unit, a first aid post, a camp or for ceremonial occasions; for appeal and publicity purposes, including advertisements, and
- v. to indicate material and stores belonging solely to the National Society, a Branch, a Youth Section or a Subsidiary Unit.
- vi. When the National Society places medical personnel and medical units and transports at the disposal of medical service of the armed forces. Such personnel, units and transports may be authorised by the Ministry of Defence to display a red cross as a protective device. With the express authorisation of the competent governmental authority and under its control, the National Society may also be authorised to use the emblem as a protective device in time of armed conflict for its medical personnel and medical units assigned in particular to the transport and treatment of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked.

b) Misuse of emblem

- i. The National Society shall not use the Red Cross name and emblem in any way contrary to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, to the 1991 Regulations and to Mauritius legislation.
- ii. The National Society shall not share the Red Cross name or emblem for appeal or any other purpose.

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- iii. At all times, and especially in time of war, members shall not use the emblem in such a way as to suggest that any person or object is entitled to the protection of the Geneva Conventions when not so entitled.
 - iv. Members shall report any misuse of the emblem whether by a member of the National Society or by any other person to the Director General.

The Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 2003 enacted by the Mauritius Parliament on 17 May 2003 makes provision for the use of the emblem and penalties for its misuse.

*Amendment of
Statutes*

7. Any proposed amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes before the adoption of such amendments by the General Assembly of the National Society.

PART III – OBJECTIVES

Objectives

1. The principal object of the National Society is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

Responsibilities

2. For this purpose, its task is in particular to:
 - a) act in case of armed conflict, and in peace prepare to act in all the fields covered by The Geneva Conventions and on behalf of all war victims, both civilian and military;
 - b) contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering;
 - c) organise, within the scope of the national plan, emergency relief services for the victims of disasters, howsoever caused;
 - d) educate the population on how to respond to disasters, howsoever caused;
 - e) promote the participation of children and young people in the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
 - f) propagate the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and those of international humanitarian law in order to develop humanitarian ideals among the population, and in particular among children and youth;
 - g) recruit, train and assign such personnel as are necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities ;
 - h) abstain from taking sides in hostilities or engaging at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature;
 - i) co-operate with the public authorities to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and protecting the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems.
 - j) take the necessary measures and actions in the field of restoring family links

PART IV – MEMBERSHIP

Member

1. a) Membership of the National Society is open to everyone above the age of eleven (11) without any discrimination based on race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

Staff members of the National Society are not entitled to normal membership rights. While in employment with the national Society, their membership rights are temporarily suspended and they cannot be voting members of a General Assembly, a Branch or Youth Section Committee or the Governing Board.

- b) Members may be subscribing, active, or honorary members or patrons.
 - i. Subscribing members are those persons who pay the annual subscription determined by the General Assembly.
 - ii. Active members are subscribing members who have agreed to give service to the National Society and are registered as such by the local Branch.
 - iii. Honorary members are those persons who have been so designated by the Governing Board in recognition of exceptional services to the National Society. Honorary members do not benefit of any voting right and cannot stand for any election.
 - iv. A Patron is a public figure designated by the Governing Board who permanently supports the National Society. A Patron can be a member, but does not benefit of any voting right and cannot stand for any election.

Duties and Rights of Members

2. a) Members have the “duty” to:
 - i. adhere to and disseminate the Fundamental Principles;
 - ii. promote the work of the National Society;

- iii. recognise and obey the Statutes, including the duty to respect and help protect the emblem;
- iv. pay the annual subscription;
- v. participate actively in the work of the National Society.

b) Members have the “right” to:

- i. be elected to the governing bodies;
- ii. in line with the rules set out in Part V section 8(3) of the National Society’s 1983 regulations, participate, vote and stand for election at the Branch General Assemblies and if elected to the Branch Committees, also at the General Assembly level;
- iii. present proposals and raise issues with any authority in the National Society.

Loss of Status of Member

- 3.
- a) Any member may give notice of resignation in writing at any time.
 - b) Subscribing membership expires after twelve months, unless the subscription is renewed. If the subscription is not renewed the member shall receive a reminder.
 - c) Branch Committees may expel members. Nevertheless, in the interest of fairness and justice, any member who is to be expelled shall be given the right to present his case before the branch committee makes the decision to expel the said member. Any member facing expulsion shall be informed within seven days. If the matter is not resolved at branch level, the member can appeal within a period of one month to the Governing Board, which will have the responsibility of setting up an Independent Arbitration Committee to hear the appeal.
 - d) Misconduct for the purpose of expulsion is defined as the display of character or morality incompatible with the seven Fundamental Principles or engagement in activities which are detrimental to the reputation or the activities of the National Society.

PART V – GOVERNING BODIES AT CENTRAL LEVEL

A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Composition*
1. The General Assembly represents the National Society as a whole.
It is composed of:
 - a) Elected members of the Governing Board
 - b) All Branch Committee members with the exception of the Youth Committee representative and the Branch Coordinator.
 - c) Eight (8) Youth Section Committee members having attained the age of 18 years, the figure of eight (8) being subject to any de facto membership resulting from an increase in the number of branches.
- Functions*
2. Subject to the present statutes, the General Assembly is the highest authority of the National Society. It:
 - a) Formulates the mission and policies that govern the National Society.
 - b) Approves the plans and budgets and the activities and financial reports of the National Society.
 - c) Determines the amount of subscriptions.
 - d) Ensures that the statutes and rules of procedure are up-to-date, and monitors the compatibility of relevant national laws with the objectives of the Movement.
 - e) Elects the members of the Governing Board.
 - f) Elects the President and Vice-President of the National Society. In the event of there being no candidate for the position of Vice-President, an Extraordinary General Assembly must be called within 30 days of the election of the Board Members to elect a Vice-President.
- Sessions*
3. The General Assembly meetings are ordinarily held at the Society's headquarters save as may be otherwise decided by the Governing Board. The General Assembly meets each year in ordinary session (the Annual General Assembly) at a time determined by the Governing Board acting

under the authority delegated to it by the General Assembly. An extraordinary session may be called on the initiative of the President in agreement with the Governing Board or at the request of one-third of the members of the General Assembly.

- Procedure*
4. The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the National Society.

Unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes, the General Assembly of the society takes all its decisions with a quorum of at least one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of those entitled to attend and vote and by simple majority. In the event of a lack of quorum, a second meeting will be convened after two weeks at the same time and place, whereby the presence of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of those entitled to attend and vote will constitute a quorum.

Each one of its members is entitled to a single vote and to act as proxy for one member only.

Elections must be organised by secret ballot.

B. GOVERNING BOARD

- Composition*
1. The Governing Board is the body governing the National Society between sessions of the General Assembly.

The Governing Board shall be composed of a minimum of 12 persons and a maximum of 20 (both figures being subject to any de facto membership resulting from an increase in the number of branches) categorised in the following manner:

- a) Six members elected at the General Assembly :
 - i. The President
 - ii. The Vice-President
 - iii. The Treasurer
 - iv. Deputy Treasurer
 - v. Chief Medical Officer
 - vi. Chief Nursing Officer

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- b) Members elected at Branch and Youth Section levels:
 - i. A representative of all Branches.
 - ii. A representative of the Youth Section

 - c) Two Ex-Officio members :
 - i. The Director General
 - ii. A Government Representative

 - d) Three members appointed by the Governing Board:
 - i. The Legal Advisor
 - ii. Two outstanding individuals, co-opted for their specific competencies or their interest in the National Society.

The Chairperson of each Branch Committee and the Chairperson of the Youth Section Committee are the persons who represent the said Committees on the Governing Board. On occasions when the Chairperson of a Committee is not in a position to represent it, the Deputy Chairperson will act in his place. Should both of them be unable to do so, the Chairperson will nominate a Committee Member to represent the Committee.

The above Ex-Officio members are observers and the Appointed members act as advisors to the Governing Board. These two categories of members do not carry any voting rights.

Profiles

2. The curriculum vitae of the candidates should be circulated two weeks before the election of the members to the governing board. The candidates are selected based on the following criteria:
 - a) level of education;
 - b) relevant experience;
 - c) Considering the necessity for the Movement and its components to be and seen to be Impartial, Neutral and Independent, there should exist no conflicting interests between candidates' profession, social involvement or close family relations and their freedom to execute their tasks in strict compliance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement;

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- d) a profile that adds to the diversity of the group (professional and personal background).
- Conflict of Interest* 3. Members of the governing bodies shall act solely in the interest of the National Society. In the event that a member of the governing bodies obtains a high-ranking position in the public service or a political party, he/she should do his/her utmost to ensure that his/her new functions do not give rise to any conflict of interest. In case of such a conflict the member shall abstain from taking part in any decision making and undertake to resolve the conflict in the sole interest of the National Society. Should the situation of "Conflict of Interest" persist, the member has to resign from his/her functions in the National Society.
- Election/Rotation* 4. The term of office of members of the Governing Board is four (4) years. They shall take office on 1st July, or whichever date, as from time to time amended for practical reasons, of the year of election. Eligibility for election as a member of the board is limited to a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years. A member having reached this maximum may not stand for re-election for the same position again until a further term has elapsed
- Powers* 5. Subject to the present Statutes and within the framework of the decisions and general directives adopted by the General Assembly, the Governing Board is vested with all the powers necessary for carrying out the aims of the National Society.
- It in particular :
- a) Appoints the Director General and dismisses him/her if necessary.
 - b) Approves the budget, programme of activities and projects proposed by the Director General.
 - c) Provides for the setting up and dissolution of Branch Committees or other Committees.
 - d) Monitors membership.
 - e) Sets policies on staff and volunteers.
 - f) Ensures long-term viability and makes decisions about priorities.
 - g) Sets goals.
 - h) Establishes a structure and promotes a culture that allow the

achievement of defined goals.

- i) Defines the outcomes of performance and sets standards arising there from.
- j) Determines criteria for beneficiaries, clients and vulnerable groups.
- k) Approves or amends all regulations which are necessary in order to give effect to the present Statutes.
- l) Sets up sub committees as and when required
- m) Keeps a broad perspective with regard to the effectiveness of the National Society, and evaluates the performance of the Director General and the National Society.

Sessions

6. The Governing Board meets in ordinary session at least once every two months. Extraordinary sessions of the Governing Board are held on the initiative of the President or at the request of one-third of its members. The Director General may request the President to convene an extraordinary session.

Procedure

7. The Governing Board is presided over by the President of the National Society. It takes all its decisions with a quorum of at least three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of its members entitled to attend and vote and by simple majority. Each of its members entitled to vote has a single vote. In the event of a tie, the President has a casting vote.

In the event of a lack of quorum a second meeting will be convened after one week at the same time and place with a reduced quorum of one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the board members entitled to attend and vote.

Elections at all levels must be organised by secret ballot.

C. THE PRESIDENT

Status

1. The President holds the highest position in the National Society. The President is responsible to the General Assembly and the Governing Board for ensuring that the National Society pursues its principal objects and exercises its functions as defined in Part III of these Statutes. The President acts under the authority of the General Assembly and the Governing Board to guide the affairs of the National Society in

conformity with their decisions and to ensure the smooth functioning of the National Society.

- Functions* 2. The functions of the President are to:
- a) convoke and preside over the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
 - b) present to the General Assembly and the Governing Board a review of the state of the National Society;
 - c) coordinate the work of the bodies falling under the responsibility of the National Society;
 - d) represent the National Society, both nationally and internationally;
 - e) carry out any other function entrusted upon by the General Assembly and the Governing Board.
 - f) recommends the person to be appointed as the Director General to the Governing Board.
- Delegation* 3. President may delegate part of the functions under this article to the Vice-President and in his absence any board member he considers fit.
- Vacancy of the position of President* 4. In the event of a vacancy arising in the office of the President or should the President be unable to carry out his/her functions, the Governing Board shall at its next ordinary session designate the Vice-President, failing which, another board member who shall serve as Acting President until the next session of the General Assembly. At this session the General Assembly shall elect a President to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the current term of office.

D. THE TREASURER

- Status* 1. The Treasurer is an elected member of the Governing Board.
- Eligibility to the position* 2. This position requires the person to be a Professional Accountant or someone with relevant and appropriate financial experience.

Functions

3. As the Governing Board member responsible for the financial matters of the National Society, his main functions are:
 - a) Giving advice on all financial questions affecting the Society with a view of ensuring that its policy is in conformity with the fundamental principles of the Movement.
 - b) Ensuring, in association with the Director General and relevant committees falling under his responsibility, the establishment of an efficient internal financial control and reporting mechanism throughout the various components of the Society.
 - c) Commenting on the National Society's financial report and on the draft budget.
 - d) Commenting on the handling and investment of available funds and making recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Governing Board on any financial measures deemed appropriate
 - e) Reviewing periodically the formula for fixing the subscription fee of members.
 - f) Assisting the Governing Board in applying and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly on the financial management of the National Society.
 - g) Reporting to each session of the Governing Board on matters relevant to his duties and responsibilities.

PART VI – MANAGEMENT

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Appointment*
1. The Director General shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the recommendation of the President under the conditions previously laid down by the General Assembly. The contract of appointment between the National Society and the Director General shall be drawn up by the Governing Board in accordance with the relevant provisions in the Rules of Procedure.
- Status*
2. The Director General is the full-time senior manager of the National Society.
- Functions*
3. The Director General, who will carry out his/her functions under the authority of the General Assembly, the Governing Board and the President, has the responsibility of:
 - a) Acting as Secretary to the Governing Board and ensuring that the various Governing Bodies of the National Society are provided with the necessary administrative support and logistics for the efficient and effective performance of their duties and responsibilities.
 - b) Implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board and the mandates assigned to him/her by other bodies of the National Society;
 - c) Ensuring the preparation and drafting of the Accounts, Budgets and Financial Reports for submission to the various Governing Bodies/Committees.
 - d) Directing the Secretariat and be responsible for the execution of the work entrusted to it as well as organising the different services of the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Governing Board, appointing competent staff to the Secretariat, and when necessary terminating the appointment of such staff;
 - e) Being the authorised representative of the National Society in

relation to third parties and courts of law for all transactions whatsoever, including transactions executed in notarial form relating to the acquisition, administration and expenditure of the resources of the National Society;

- f) Carrying out any other function assigned to him/her by the present statutes or entrusted to him/her by the Governing Board or the President;
- g) Reporting on the activities of the National Society to the General Assembly and the Governing Board.
- h) Ensuring that the board minutes are properly kept and made available to all board members as rapidly as possible after Council meetings.
- i) Appointing the coordinator and any other personnel of any particular Branch and the Youth Section with the approval of the Committee responsible for recruitment, the Governing Board or any other responsible committee.

In carrying out his/her functions the Director General shall keep the President closely informed.

The Director General shall also, in his *ex officio capacity*, act as Secretary to the General Assembly.

The Director General shall participate in the sessions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board in an advisory capacity.

Whenever the Director General is absent or is for any reason unable to attend a meeting or perform the functions of his/her office, these functions shall be performed by the Deputy Director General acting as Director General.

PART VII – GOVERNING BODIES AT BRANCH LEVEL

Purpose 1. With the object of ensuring that the National Society's activities extend throughout the whole of the country the Governing Board shall establish Branches, defining the territory allocated to each and delegating such responsibility as it thinks fit for the organisation of the National Society and its activities in that area.

Each Branch Committee shall be ultimately responsible to the Governing Board.

The Governing Board shall lay down regulations for the organisation of Branch Committees and the conduct of their meetings.

Members 2. a) All members of the National Society who have attained the age of twenty-five (25) years and are permanent residents of, or work in, a specific Red Cross catchment area shall be members of the branch in that area.
b) No member may belong to more than one area and branch.

Branch General Assembly 3. Each Branch shall convene, in the month of June coinciding with the end of first (1st) and third (3rd) year of the Governing Board's mandate, a Branch General Assembly at which all paid-up members of a specific branch entitled to attend an vote shall have the opportunity of meeting to discuss the business of the National Society and to elect the Branch Committee. One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of such members shall constitute the quorum and decisions will be adopted by simple majority. In the event of a lack of quorum, a second meeting will be convened after two weeks at the same time and place, whereby the presence of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the members entitled to attend and vote will constitute a quorum.

Branch Committee 4. a) Each Branch shall be governed by a Branch Committee consisting of the following members:
i. Chairperson
ii. Deputy-Chairperson
iii. Treasurer

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- iv. Deputy Treasurer,
 - v. Three other members
 - vi. Two *ex-officio* members (without voting rights)
 - 1) A Youth Section Committee Representative (affiliated to the Branch)
 - 2) The Branch Coordinator

To be eligible for election to a Branch Committee a candidate must be a member permanently resident of or working in the catchment area of that specific branch.

- b) Application for election to the Branch Committee must be submitted to the secretariat of the respective branches on the prescribed form at least two weeks before the election date.
- c) Every Member elected to the Branch Committee at the Branch General Assembly shall take office on 1st July, or whichever date as from time to time amended for practical reasons of the year of election and hold office for two (2) years. For members elected to the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Branch Committee, eligibility for election to the same position is limited to a maximum of four (4) consecutive years. Such Committee members, having reached this maximum, may not stand for re-election to this position until a further term has lapsed.
- d) In the event of the absence of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Branch committee or any situation that brings a halt to the capacity of the Branch Committee to carry out its functions properly or the lapse of the mandate of the outgoing committee, the Governing Board may, on the advice of the Director General, appoint a Caretaker Branch Committee until such time as the situation preventing the Branch Committee from operating normally has been properly investigated and remedied or a properly elected committee is in place.

Powers

- 5. A Branch Committee:
 - a) Shall ensure that it is performing according to the powers given to it by these Statutes.

- b) May for any purpose appoint and revoke sub-committees.

Duties

- 6. A Branch Committee shall:
 - a) Ensure that the policies of the Governing Board are implemented and that the responsibilities delegated to it by the said Governing Board are upheld.
 - b) Keep the Governing Board informed of all the work carried out within its area and make recommendations.
 - c) Ensure that the Secretary to the Branch Committee keeps minutes of all meetings and Assemblies, and forward a copy of such minutes to the Director General and Governing Board as rapidly as possible after such meetings.
 - d) Help and support the Youth Section Committee in the recruitment of new Youth Members to be affiliated to the Branch.

Branch Committee Meetings

- 7.
 - a) Five members entitled to attend and vote shall form a quorum at any meeting. In the event of a lack of quorum a second meeting will be convened in two (2) weeks, whereby the presence of three (3) members entitled to attend and vote shall constitute the quorum.
 - b) All decisions shall be taken by simple majority.
 - c) In case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Branch Coordinator

- 8. The Branch Coordinator will act as Secretary to the Branch Committee and be the person responsible for the day to day management of the branch and forms part of the management team under the responsibility the Director General. He will also be the person to ensure that the policies of and decision taken by the Branch Committee are adhered to and implemented. In the absence of a Branch Coordinator the Director General may appoint staff member of National Society as Acting Branch Coordinator.

PART VIII - THE YOUTH SECTION

Members

1. The Youth Section in Mauritius and Rodrigues shall be composed of members of the Red Cross above the age of eleven (11) years and under the age of twenty five (25) years.

Youth Section Committee

2. The Youth Section shall be governed by a Committee consisting of the Chairperson of the Youth Section, the Deputy Chairperson, the Treasurer and not more than five ordinary members, one from each Branch in addition to the Youth Coordinator (*an ex officio member without any voting right*). The figure of five (5) ordinary members is subject to any de facto Youth Section Committee membership resulting from an increase in the number of branches.
 - a) The ordinary members of the Youth Section Committee shall be elected at a Youth Section General Assembly of the Youth Section in the month of June coinciding with the end of first (1st) and third (3rd) year of the Governing Board's mandate. To be eligible to attend and vote at a Youth Section General Assembly meeting or be elected to the Youth Section Committee they must have been active members for at least one year and have attained the age of eighteen (18) years. The election shall be by simple majority. The elected ordinary Youth Section Committee member shall take office on 1st July of that year and hold office for 2 years.
 - b) The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and the Treasurer shall be National Society members who have attained the age of twenty five (25) years and not be older than the age of thirty five (35) years at the time of election. They shall be elected by the youth members at the same Youth Section General Assembly meeting during which the other ordinary Youth Section Committee members are elected. They shall take office on 1st July of the year of election, hold office for two (2) years. Such committee members are eligible for election to the same position for a maximum of 4 consecutive years following which they will not be eligible to stand for re-election to the same position until a further term has elapsed.

- c) Whenever the Chairperson is unable for any reason to perform the functions and duties of his office, these functions and duties shall be performed by the Deputy Chairperson acting as Chairperson. Failing this, such a responsibility shall be vested upon the most senior member of the committee.
- d) The Youth Section Committee may, from time to time, co-opt any competent member of the National Society to be members of the Committee in advisory capacity without voting rights.
- e) The Youth Coordinator will also act as Secretary to the Youth Section Committee.
- f) The office Administration secretary of the Youth Section shall be appointed by the Director General.

Powers

3. The Youth Section Committee shall have the power to:
 - a) appoint sub-committees, consisting of members of the Youth Section and whatever relevant competent member of the National Society;
 - b) constitute any local group and delegate powers to any such local group as are appropriate;
 - c) revoke any powers delegated to any sub-committee or local group;

Duties

4. The Youth Section Committee shall have the duty and responsibility of ensuring that the Youth Coordinator :-
 - a) brings together, train and educate children and young persons according to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement;
 - b) promotes leadership and service programmes;
 - c) organises or assist in organising first aid posts, fund-raising and other activities of the National Society generally;
 - d) co-operates with the Branches of the National Society;
 - e) generally does all things necessary for the promotion and running of the Youth Section in accordance with the directions of the Governing Board .
 - f) as Secretary to the Youth Section Committee, keeps minutes of all Youth Section Committee and Youth Section General Assembly meetings, and forwards a copy of such minutes to the Director General, the Branch Committees and the Governing Board as

rapidly as possible after the said meetings.

- g) Recruit new youth members to be affiliated to the particular Branches with the support of the same branches.

Procedure

5. One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Youth Section Committee members shall constitute the quorum and decisions will be adopted by simple majority. In the event of a lack of quorum, a second meeting will be convened after two weeks at the same time and place, whereby the presence of one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the members entitled to attend and vote will constitute a quorum.

Youth Coordinator

6. The Youth Coordinator will be the person responsible for the day to day management of the Youth Section and forms part of the management team under the responsibility the Director General. He will also be the person to ensure that the policies of and decision taken by the Youth Section Committee are adhered to and implemented.

PART IX - FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Financial Resources* 1. a) Within the limits laid down by its objects the National Society acquires, owns, alienates and administers any property as may be deemed fit.
- b) It may accept unrestricted contributions and assistance in any form from individuals, from the public authorities and from private bodies.
- c) It shall not accept donations directly stemming from revenues of activities contrary to the Fundamental Principles.
- d) It may accept, as agent or trustee, funds or property in trust or earmarked for particular use, provided that such use is within the general scope of its objectives and does not violate the Fundamental Principles.
- e) It may accept any conveyance of real estate to its use or benefit.
- f) It may constitute and administer any reserve, insurance or other funds for its staff or any of its activities.
- g) The budget is approved on an annual basis by the Governing Board.
- Disposal of Funds* 2. Except with the express permission of the Governing Board:
- a) funds and other property held by or on behalf of the National Society shall be used only for Red Cross services including the administrative expenses; and
- b) no funds shall be used for the purpose of making cash grants to non-Red Cross organisations or institutions.
- c) It may constitute and administer any reserve, insurance or other funds for its staff or any of its activities.
- External Audit* 3. At the close of each financial year the National Society shall have its Financial Accounts audited by a duly licensed Auditor.

PART X – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Public Appeals* 1. No member or employee of the National Society either along or in association with any person shall issue any public appeal, with the object of raising funds for the National Society, without the prior consent of the Director General.
- Neutrality and independence* The status of the movement with regards to the State and other relied
- Co-operation with other organisations* 2. a) The National Society may co-operate with the State, the Local Authorities, and other voluntary organisations engaged in work similar to that of the Red Cross, but only on condition that the National Society retain administrative control over its own funds, personnel and materials. It is imperative that these activities and the behaviour of the National Society's staff, governing bodies members and ordinary members involved in such activities remain in line with and are not contrary to the Geneva Conventions and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.
- b) At any time and especially in time of armed conflicts it shall be the duty of every staff member, governing body member as well as ordinary member to retain the independence and auxiliary character of the National Society and to maintain the integrity of its aims in accordance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement.
- Communication with other organisations* 3. The Governing Board shall be the sole representative of the National Society in its relations with the State or any authority outside Mauritius. All communications with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and any other National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society and the governing bodies of other voluntary organisations shall be carried out through the President or the Director General. All communications with the State shall be carried

out by the President or the Director General or by any person so delegated by them.

- Communication with the Media*
4. a) Members or employees wishing to communicate with the media concerning the National Society or the Movement generally shall do so through the National Dissemination Coordinator with the consent of the Director General.
- b) Branch and Youth activities may be publicised with the prior approval of the National Dissemination Coordinator.
- c) This regulation shall not apply to notice of annual meetings, inspections, reviews, lectures or other local activities of a Branch, Youth Section or Subsidiary Unit.
- Amendment of Statutes*
5. Any proposed amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission for National Society Statutes before such amendments may be adopted by the General Assembly of the National Society. The adoption of such amendments will require a quorum of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of members of the General Assembly and a majority of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present, entitled to vote.
- Dissolution of the National Society*
6. The dissolution of the Mauritius Red Cross Society whether legal or voluntary must be a decision of an Extraordinary General Assembly. The decision must be taken by three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the General Assembly present, entitled to vote. The quorum in this case is two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$). In the case of dissolution, the remaining assets, following settlement of liabilities, will be distributed to organisations of a similar nature in conformity with National legislation.
- Revocation of Regulations*
7. The Mauritius Red Cross Society Regulations 1983 are hereby repealed and replaced by the present Statutes to the extent of matters covered by the said statutes. Matters and regulations not considered by the present statutes and which may be relevant to the proper management and running of the National Society shall remain relevant until such time as proper internal rules and regulations be adopted by the General Assembly. The present statutes shall prevail in situations of conflict with the abovementioned regulations.

Commencement 8. These Present Statutes will take effect immediately.

Adopted by the General Assembly held at on..... 2010