



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

MAINTENANCE OF RELIGIOUS HARMONY ACT 1990

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Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act 1990

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An Act to provide for the maintenance of religious harmony and for establishing a Presidential Council for Religious Harmony and for matters connected therewith.

[31 March 1992]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act is the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act 1990.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Council” means the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony constituted under section 3;

“Presidential Council for Minority Rights” means the Presidential Council for Minority Rights constituted under Part 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore;

“publication” includes any newsletter, journal, periodical, book, film, videotape, audiotape or any written, pictorial, aural or printed matter containing any audio or visible representation which by its images, form, shape or sound or in any other manner is capable of suggesting words or ideas, and every copy and reproduction or substantial reproduction of any publication;

“religious institution” includes a church, cathedral, chapel, sanctuary, mosque, surau, temple, synagogue or other place of worship;

“religious group” includes —

- (a) any company or other body corporate incorporated under the Companies Act 1967 or any other written law for the purpose of promoting any religion, religious worship or dealing with religious affairs or practising, conducting, teaching or propagating any religious belief; and
- (b) any body of persons, whether or not registered as a society under the Societies Act 1966, whose object is the promotion of any religion, religious worship or the practice, conduct, teaching or propagating of any religious belief.

PART 2

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Establishment of Council

3.—(1) A Presidential Council for Religious Harmony is constituted, comprising a chairperson and at least 6 and not more than 15 other members.

(2) At least two-thirds of the members of the Council must be representatives of the major religions in Singapore and the other members must be individuals who, in the opinion of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, have distinguished themselves in public service or community relations in Singapore.

(3) The chairperson and every member of the Council are to be appointed by the President, on the advice of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, for a period of 3 years all of whom are eligible for re-appointment.

(4) Despite subsection (3), a member, other than the chairperson, may be appointed for any shorter period of at least one year.