

# Singapore Constitution

*Adopted on: 16 Sep 1963 }*

## Part I Preliminary

### Article 1 Citation

This Constitution may be cited as the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

### Article 2 Interpretation

(1) In this Constitution, unless it is otherwise provided or the context otherwise requires,

- "Cabinet" means the Cabinet constituted under this Constitution;
- "Civil List" means the provision made under Article [22](#) for the maintenance of the President;
- "citizen of Singapore" means any person who, under the provisions of this Constitution, has the status of a citizen of Singapore;
- "commencement", used with reference to this Constitution, means the day on which this Constitution comes into operation;
- "Consolidated Fund" means the Consolidated Fund established by this Constitution;
- "Council of Presidential Advisers" means the Council of Presidential Advisers constituted under Part [V](#);
- "existing law" means any law having effect as part of the law of Singapore immediately before the commencement of this Constitution;
- "Government" means the Government of Singapore;
- "Judge of the Supreme Court" includes the Chief Justice, a Judge of Appeal, and a Judge of the High Court;
- "law" includes written law and any legislation of the United Kingdom or other enactment or instrument whatsoever which is in operation in Singapore and the common law in so far as it is in operation in Singapore and any custom or usage having the force of law in Singapore;
- "Legal Service Commission" means the Legal Service Commission constituted under this Constitution;
- "Legislature" means the Legislature of Singapore;
- "Minister" means a Minister appointed under this Constitution;
- "office of profit" means, subject to clause (5), any whole time office in the public service;
- "Parliament" means the Parliament of Singapore;
- "President" means the President of Singapore elected under this Constitution and includes any person for the time being exercising the functions of the office of President;
- "Presidential Elections Committee" means the Presidential Elections Committee constituted under Article [18](#);
- "Prime Minister" means the Prime Minister of Singapore appointed under this Constitution;
- "public office" means, subject to clause (5), an office of emolument in the public service;
- "public officer" means the holder of any public office;
- "public seal" means the public seal of Singapore;
- "public service" means service under the Government;
- "Public Service Commission" means the Public Service Commission constituted under this Constitution;
- "register of electors" means any register of electors prepared under the provisions of any written law for the time being in force relating to Parliamentary elections;
- "remuneration", in respect of any public officer, means only the emoluments of that officer, the whole or any part of which count for pension in accordance with the provisions of any law relating to the grant of pensions in respect of the public service;
- "reserves", in relation to the Government, a statutory board or Government company, means the

excess of assets over liabilities of the Government, statutory board or Government company, as the case may be;

- "session" means the sittings of Parliament commencing when it first meets after being constituted, or after its prorogation or dissolution at any time, and terminating when Parliament is prorogued or is dissolved without having been prorogued;

- "Singapore" means the Republic of Singapore;

- "sitting" means a period during which Parliament is sitting continuously without adjournment, including any period during which Parliament is in committee;

- "Speaker" and "Deputy Speaker" mean, respectively, the Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of Parliament;

- "term of office", in relation to the Government, means the period --

(a) commencing on the date the Prime Minister and Ministers first take and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with Article [27](#) after a general election; and

(b) ending after the next general election on the date immediately before the Prime Minister and Ministers first take and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with Article [27](#);

- "terms of service", in respect of any officer, includes the remuneration to which that officer is entitled by virtue of his office, and any pension, gratuity or other like allowance payable to or in respect of that officer;

- "written law" means this Constitution and all Acts and Ordinances and subsidiary legislation for the time being in force in Singapore.

(2) Except where this Constitution otherwise provides or where the context otherwise requires --

(a) the person or authority having power to make substantive appointments to any public office may appoint a person to perform the functions of that office during any period when it is vacant or when the holder thereof is unable (whether by reason of absence or infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) to perform those functions;

(b) every appointment to perform the functions of an office made under paragraph (a) shall be made in the same manner as and subject to the same conditions as apply to a substantive appointment to that office;

(c) any reference in this Constitution to the holder of any office by the term designating his office shall be construed as including a reference to any person for the time being lawfully performing the functions of that office; and

(d) any reference in this Constitution to an appointment to any office shall be construed as including a reference to an appointment to perform the functions of that office.

(3) Where in this Constitution power is conferred on any person or authority to appoint a person to perform the functions of any office if the holder thereof is unable himself to perform its functions, any such appointment shall not be called in question on the ground that the holder of that office was not unable to perform those functions.

(4) For the purposes of this Constitution, the resignation of a member of any body or the holder of any office constituted by this Constitution that is required to be addressed to any person shall be deemed to have effect from the time that it is received by that person: Provided that, in the case of a resignation that is required to be addressed to the Speaker, the resignation shall, if the office of Speaker is vacant or the Speaker is absent from Singapore, be deemed to have effect from the time that it is

received by a Deputy Speaker on behalf of the Speaker.

(5) For the purposes of this Constitution, a person shall not be considered as holding a public office or an office of profit by reason of the fact that he is in receipt of any remuneration or allowances (including a pension or other like allowance) in respect of his tenure of the office of President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, Political Secretary, Member of Parliament, Ambassador, High Commissioner or such other office as the President may, from time to time, by order, prescribe.

(6)(a) Without prejudice to clause (2) when the holder of any public office is on leave of absence pending relinquishment of that office, the person or authority having power to make appointments to that office may appoint another person thereto.

(b) Where two or more persons are holding the same office by reason of an appointment made pursuant to paragraph (a), the person last appointed shall, in respect of any function conferred on the holder of that office, be deemed to be the sole holder of that office.

(7) Where a person is required by this Constitution to take an oath, he shall be permitted, if he so desires, to comply with that requirement by making an affirmation.

(8) References in this Constitution to any period shall, so far as the context admits, be construed as including references to a period beginning before the commencement of this Constitution.

(9) Subject to this article, the Interpretation Act shall apply for the purpose of interpreting this Constitution and otherwise in relation thereto as it applies for the purpose of interpreting and otherwise in relation to any written law within the meaning of that Act.

(10) Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Constitution to a specified Part, Article, or Schedule is a reference to that Part or Article of, or that Schedule to, this Constitution; any reference to a specified chapter, clause, section or paragraph is a reference to that chapter of the Part, that clause of the Article, that section of the Schedule, or that paragraph of the clause or section, in which the reference occurs; and any reference to a group of Articles, sections or divisions of Articles or sections shall be construed as including both the first and the last member of the group referred to.

## **Part II The Republic and the Constitution**

### **Article 3 Republic of Singapore**

Singapore shall be a sovereign republic to be known as the Republic of Singapore.

### **Article 4 Supremacy of the Constitution**

This Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Singapore and any law enacted by the Legislature after the commencement of this Constitution which is inconsistent with this Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.

### **Article 5 Amendment of the Constitution**

(1) Subject to this article and Article [8](#), the provisions of this Constitution may be amended by a law enacted by the Legislature.

(2) A Bill seeking to amend any provision in this Constitution shall not be passed by Parliament unless it has been supported on Second and Third Readings by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article [39 \(1\)\(a\)](#).

(2a) Unless the President, acting in his discretion, otherwise directs the Speaker in writing, a Bill seeking to amend this clause, Articles [17 to 22](#), [22a to 22o](#), [35](#), [65](#), [66](#), [69](#), [70](#), [93a](#), [94](#), [95](#), [105](#), [107](#), [110a](#), [110b](#), [151](#) or any provision in Part [IV](#) or [XI](#) shall not be passed by Parliament unless it has been supported at a national referendum by not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast by the electors registered under the Parliamentary Elections Act.

(3) In this article, "amendment" includes addition and repeal.

## **Part III Protection of the Sovereignty**

### **Article 6 No Surrender of Sovereignty**

(1) There shall be

(a) no surrender or transfer, either wholly or in part, of the sovereignty of the Republic of Singapore as an independent nation, whether by way of merger or incorporation with any other sovereign state or with any Federation, Confederation, country or territory or in any other manner whatsoever; and

(b) no relinquishment of control over the Singapore Police Force or the Singapore Armed Forces, unless such surrender, transfer or relinquishment has been supported, at a national referendum, by not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast by the electors registered under the Parliamentary Elections Act.

(2) For the purposes of this article

- "Singapore Armed Forces" means the Singapore Armed Forces raised and maintained under the Singapore Armed Forces Act, and includes any civil defence force formed under the Civil

Defence Act and such other force as the President may, by notification in the Gazette, declare to be an armed force for the purposes of this article;

- "Singapore Police Force" means the Singapore Police Force and the Special Constabulary established under the Police Force Act and any Auxiliary Police Force created in accordance with Part X of that Act, and includes the Vigilante Corps established under the Vigilante Corps Act and such other force as the President may, by notification in the Gazette, declare to be a police force for the purposes of this article.

#### **Article 7 Participation in Co-operative International Schemes**

Without in any way derogating from the force and effect of Article 6, nothing in that Article shall be construed as precluding Singapore or any association, body or organization therein from

(a) participating or co-operating in, or contributing towards, any scheme, venture, project, enterprise or undertaking of whatsoever nature, in conjunction or in concert with any other sovereign state or with any Federation, Confederation, country or countries or any association, body or organization therein, where such scheme, venture, project, enterprise or undertaking confers, has the effect of conferring or is intended to confer, on Singapore or any association, body or organization therein, any economic, financial, industrial, social, cultural, educational or other benefit of any kind or is, or appears to be, advantageous in any way to Singapore or any association, body or organization therein; or

(b) entering into any treaty, agreement, contract, pact or other arrangement with any other sovereign state or with any Federation, Confederation, country or countries or any association, body or organization therein, where such treaty, agreement, contract, pact or arrangement provides for mutual or collective security or any other object or purpose whatsoever which is, or appears to be, beneficial or advantageous to Singapore in any way.

#### **Article 8 Amendments by Two-thirds Majority**

(1) A Bill for making an amendment to this Part shall not be passed by Parliament unless it has been supported, at a national referendum, by not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast by the electors registered under the Parliamentary Elections Act.

(2) In this article, "amendment" includes addition and repeal.

### **Part IV Fundamental Liberties**

#### **Article 9 Liberty of the Person**

(1) No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty save in accordance with law.

(2) Where a complaint is made to the High Court or any Judge thereof that a person is being unlawfully detained, the Court shall inquire into the complaint and, unless satisfied that the detention is lawful, shall order him to be produced before the Court and release him.

(3) Where a person is arrested, he shall be informed as soon as may be of the grounds of his arrest and shall be allowed to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.

(4) Where a person is arrested and not released, he shall, without unreasonable delay, and in any case within 48 hours (excluding the time of any necessary journey), be produced before a magistrate and shall not be further detained in custody without the magistrate's authority.

(5) Clauses (3) and (4) shall not apply to an enemy alien or to any person arrested for contempt of Parliament pursuant to a warrant issued under the hand of the Speaker.

(6) Nothing in this article shall invalidate any law

(a) in force before 16 Sep 1963 which authorizes the arrest and detention of any person in the interests of public safety, peace and good order; or

(b) relating to the misuse of drugs or intoxicating substances which authorizes the arrest and detention of any person for the purpose of treatment and rehabilitation, by reason of such law being inconsistent with clauses (3) and (4), and, in particular, nothing in this article shall affect the validity or operation of any such law before 10 March 1978.

### **Article 10 Slavery and Forced Labor Prohibited**

- (1) No person shall be held in slavery.
- (2) All forms of forced labor are prohibited, but Parliament may by law provide for compulsory service for national purposes.
- (3) Work incidental to the serving of a sentence of imprisonment imposed by a court of law shall not be taken to be forced labor within the meaning of this article.

### **Article 11 Protection Against Retrospective Criminal Laws and Repeated Trials**

- (1) No person shall be punished for an act or omission which was not punishable by law when it was done or made, and no person shall suffer greater punishment for an offence than was prescribed by law at the time it was committed.
- (2) A person who has been convicted or acquitted of an offence shall not be tried again for the same offence except where the conviction or acquittal has been quashed and a retrial ordered by a court superior to that by which he was convicted or acquitted.

### **Article 12 Equality**

- (1) All persons are equal before the law and entitled to the equal protection of the law.
- (2) Except as expressly authorized by this Constitution, there shall be no discrimination against citizens of Singapore on the ground only of religion, race, descent or place of birth in any law or in the appointment to any office or employment under a public authority or in the administration of any law relating to the acquisition, holding, or disposition of property or the establishing or carrying on of any trade, business, profession, vocation or employment.
- (3) This article does not invalidate or prohibit
  - (a) any provision regulating personal law; or
  - (b) any provision or practice restricting office or employment connected with the affairs of any religion, or of an institution managed by a group professing any religion, to persons professing that religion.

### **Article 13 Prohibition of Banishment and Freedom of Movement**

- (1) No citizen of Singapore shall be banished or excluded from Singapore.
- (2) Subject to any law relating to the security of Singapore or any part thereof, public order, public health or the punishment of offenders, every citizen of Singapore has the right to move freely throughout Singapore and to reside in any part thereof.

### **Article 14 Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Association**

- (1) Subject to clauses (2) and (3)
  - (a) every citizen of Singapore has the right to freedom of speech and expression;
  - (b) all citizens of Singapore have the right to assemble peaceably and without arms; and
  - (c) all citizens of Singapore have the right to form associations.
- (2) Parliament may by law impose
  - (a) on the rights conferred by clause (1)(a), such restrictions as it considers necessary or expedient in the interest of the security of Singapore or any part thereof, friendly relations with other countries, public order or morality and restrictions designed to protect the privileges of Parliament or to provide against contempt of court, defamation or incitement to any offence;
  - (b) on the right conferred by clause (1)(b), such restrictions as it considers necessary or expedient in the interest of the security of Singapore or any part thereof or public order; and
  - (c) on the right conferred by clause (1)(c), such restrictions as it considers necessary or expedient in the interest of the security of Singapore or any part thereof, public order or morality.

(3) Restrictions on the right to form associations conferred by clause (1)(c) may also be imposed by any law relating to labor or education.

### **Article 15 Freedom of Religion**

- (1) Every person has the right to profess and practice his religion and to propagate it.
- (2) No person shall be compelled to pay any tax the proceeds of which are specially allocated in whole or in part for the purposes of a religion other than his own.
- (3) Every religious group has the right
  - (a) to manage its own religious affairs;
  - (b) to establish and maintain institutions for religious or charitable purposes; and
  - (c) to acquire and own property and hold and administer it in accordance with law.
- (4) This article does not authorize any act contrary to any general law relating to public order, public health or morality.

### **Article 16 Rights in Respect of Education**

- (1) Without prejudice to the generality of Article [12](#), there shall be no discrimination against any citizens of Singapore on the grounds only of religion, race, descent or place of birth
  - (a) in the administration of any educational institution maintained by a public authority, and, in particular, the admission of pupils or students or the payment of fees; or
  - (b) in providing out of the funds of a public authority financial aid for the maintenance or education of pupils or students in any educational institution (whether or not maintained by a public authority and whether within or outside Singapore).
- (2) Every religious group has the right to establish and maintain institutions for the education of children and provide therein instruction in its own religion, and there shall be no discrimination on the ground only of religion in any law relating to such institutions or in the administration of any such law.
- (3) No person shall be required to receive instruction in or to take part in any ceremony or act of worship of a religion other than his own.
- (4) For the purposes of clause (3), the religion of a person under the age of 18 years shall be decided by his parent or guardian.

## **Part V The Government**

### **Chapter 1 The President**

#### **Article 17 The President**

- (1) There shall be a President of Singapore who shall be the Head of State and shall exercise and perform such powers and functions as are conferred on the President by this Constitution and any other written law.
- (2) The President shall be elected by the citizens of Singapore in accordance with any law made by the Legislature.
- (3) Any poll for the election of President shall be held as follows:
  - (a) in the case where the office of President becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent and a writ for the election has not been issued before such vacation of office or, if so issued, has already been countermanded -- within 6 months after the date the office of President becomes vacant; or
  - (b) in any case -- not more than 3 months before the date of expiration of the term of office of the incumbent.

#### **Article 18 Presidential Elections Committee**

- (1) There shall be a Presidential Elections Committee whose function is to ensure that candidates

for the office of President have the qualifications referred to in Paragraph (e) or (g)(iv) or both such paragraphs of Article [19 \(2\)](#), as the case may be.

(2) The Presidential Elections Committee shall consist of

- (a) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
- (b) the Chairman of the Public Accountants Board established under the Accountants Act; and
- (c) a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights nominated by the Chairman of the Council.

(3) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission shall be the chairman of the Presidential Elections Committee and if he is absent from Singapore or for any other reason unable to discharge his functions, he shall nominate a Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Commission to act on his behalf.

(4) The office of the member of the Presidential Elections Committee nominated under clause (2) (c) shall become vacant if the member

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns from office by a letter in writing addressed to the chairman of the Committee; or
- (c) has his nomination revoked by the Chairman of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, and the vacancy shall be filled by a new member nominated by the Chairman of the Presidential Council for Minority.

(5) If the member of the Presidential Elections Committee referred to in clause (2) (b) or (c) is absent from Singapore or is for any other reason unable to discharge his functions, the Chairman of the Public Accountants Board or the Chairman of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights shall appoint a member of the Public Accountants Board or a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, as the case may be, to act on his behalf.

(6) The Presidential Elections Committee may regulate its own procedure and fix the quorum for its meetings.

(7) The Presidential Elections Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

(8) Parliament may by law provide for the remuneration of members of the Presidential Elections Committee and the remuneration so provided shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

(9) A decision of the Presidential Elections Committee as to whether a candidate for election to the office of President has fulfilled the requirement of Article [19 \(2\)\(e\) or \(g\)\(iv\)](#) shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal or review in any court.

## **Article 19 Qualifications and Disabilities of President**

(1) No person shall be elected as President unless he is qualified for election in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

(2) A person shall be qualified to be elected as President if he

- (a) is a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) is not less than 45 years of age;
- (c) possesses the qualifications specified in Article [44 \(2\)\(c\) and \(d\)](#);
- (d) is not subject to any of the disqualifications specified in Article [45](#);
- (e) satisfies the Presidential Elections Committee that he is a person of integrity, good character and reputation;
- (f) is not a member of any political party on the date of his nomination for election; and
- (g) has for a period of not less than 3 years held office
  - (i) as Minister, Chief Justice, Speaker, Attorney-General, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Auditor-General, Accountant-General or Permanent Secretary;
  - (ii) as chairman or chief executive officer of a statutory board to which Article [22a](#) applies;
  - (iii) as chairman of the board of directors or chief executive officer of a company incorporated or registered under the Companies Act with a paid-up capital of at least \$100 million or its equivalent in foreign currency; or
  - (iv) in any other similar or comparable position of seniority and responsibility in any other organization or department of equivalent size or complexity in the public or private sector which, in the opinion of the Presidential Elections Committee, has given him such experience and ability

in administering and managing financial affairs as to enable him to carry out effectively the functions and duties of the office of President.

(3) The President shall

- (a) not hold any other office created or recognized by this Constitution;
- (b) not actively engage in any commercial enterprise;
- (c) not be a member of any political party; and
- (d) if he is a Member of Parliament, vacate his seat in Parliament.

(4) Nothing in clause (3) shall be construed as requiring any person exercising the functions of the office of President pursuant to Article [22n or 22o](#) to

- (a) if he is a member of any political party, resign as a member of that party; or
- (b) vacate his seat in Parliament or any other office created or recognized by this Constitution.

#### **Article 20 Term of Office**

(1) The President shall hold office for a term of 6 years from the date on which he assumes office.

(2) The person elected to the office of President shall assume office on the day his predecessor ceases to hold office or, if the office is vacant, on the day following his election.

(3) Upon his assumption of office, the President shall take and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice or of another Judge of the Supreme Court the Oath of Office in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#).

#### **Article 21 Discharge and Performance of Functions of President**

(1) Except as provided by this Constitution, the President shall, in the exercise of his functions under this Constitution or any other written law, act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or of a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet.

(2) The President may act in his discretion in the performance of the following functions:

- (a) the appointment of the Prime Minister in accordance with Article [25](#);
- (b) the withholding of consent to a request for a dissolution of Parliament;
- (c) the withholding of assent to any Bill under Article [22e](#), [22h](#), [144 \(2\)](#) or [148a](#);
- (d) the withholding of concurrence under Article [144](#) to any guarantee or loan to be given or raised by the Government;
- (e) the withholding of concurrence and approval to the appointments and budgets of the statutory boards and Government companies to which Articles [22a](#) and [22c](#), respectively, apply;
- (f) the disapproval of transactions referred to in Article [22b \(7\)](#), [22d \(6\)](#), or [148g](#);
- (g) the withholding of concurrence under Article [151 \(4\)](#) in relation to the detention or further detention of any person under any law or ordinance made or promulgated in pursuance of Part [XII](#);
- (h) the exercise of his functions under section 12 of the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act; and
- (i) any other function the performance of which the President is authorized by this Constitution to act in his discretion.

(3) The President shall consult the Council of Presidential Advisers before performing any of his functions under Articles [22](#), [22a \(1\)](#), [22b \(2\) and \(7\)](#), [22c \(1\)](#), [22d \(2\) and \(6\)](#), [144](#), [148a](#), [148b](#) and [148g](#).

(4) Except as otherwise provided in clause (3), the President may, in his discretion, consult the Council of Presidential Advisers before performing any of his functions referred to in clause (2) (c) to (i).

(5) The Legislature may by law make provision to require the President to act after consultation with, or on the recommendation of, any person or body of persons other than the Cabinet in the exercise of his functions other than

- (a) functions exercisable in his discretion; and
- (b) functions with respect to the exercise of which provision is made in any other provision of this Constitution.



## **Article 22 Appointment of Public Office**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the President, acting in his discretion, may refuse to make an appointment to any of the following offices or to revoke any such appointment if he does not concur with the advice or recommendation of the authority on whose advice or recommendation he is, by virtue of that other provision of this Constitution or any other written law, to act:

- (a) the Chief Justice, Judges and Judicial Commissioners of the Supreme Court;
- (b) the Attorney-General;
- (c) the Chairman and members of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights;
- (d) the chairman and members of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony constituted under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act;
- (e) the chairman and members of an advisory board constituted for the purposes of Article [151](#);
- (f) the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commission;
- (g) the Chairmen of the Education Service Commission and the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission, and the persons appointed thereto under Articles [110A \(1\)\(c\)](#) and [110B \(1\)\(c\)](#), respectively.
- (h) the Auditor-General;
- (i) the Accountant-General;
- (j) the Chief of Defence Force;
- (k) the Chiefs of the Air Force, Army and Navy;
- (l) a member (other than an ex-officio member) of the Armed Forces Council established under the Singapore Armed Forces Act;
- (m) the Commissioner of Police; and
- (n) the Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

## **Article 22a Appointment of Members of Statutory Boards**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution

(a) where the President is authorized by any written law to appoint the chairman, member or chief executive officer of any statutory board to which this article applies, the President, acting in his discretion, may refuse to make any such appointment or to revoke such appointment if he does not concur with the advice or recommendation of the authority on whose advice or recommendation he is required to act; or

(b) in any, other case, no appointment to the office of chairman, member or chief executive officer of any statutory board to which this article applies and no revocation of such appointment shall be made by any appointing authority unless the President, acting in his discretion, concurs therewith.

(2)(a) The chairman or member of a statutory board to which this article applies shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(b) Any appointment to the office of chairman, member or chief executive officer of a statutory board under clause (1) ( ) or any revocation thereof shall be void if made without the concurrence of the President.

(3) This article shall apply to the statutory boards specified in Part I of the Fifth Schedule.

(4) Subject to clause (5), the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet may, by order in the Gazette, add any other statutory board to Part I of the Fifth Schedule; and no statutory board shall be removed from that Part by any such order.

(5) No statutory board shall by order under clause (4) be added to Part I of the Fifth Schedule if the total value of the reserves of the statutory board on the date of making of such order is less than \$100 million.

## **Article 22b Budgets of Statutory Boards**

(1) Every statutory board to which Article [22a](#) applies shall

(a) before the commencement of its financial year, present to the President for his approval its budget for that financial year, together with a declaration by the chairman and the chief executive

officer of the statutory board whether the budget when implemented is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the statutory board during the current term of office of the Government;

(b) present to the President for his approval every supplementary budget for its financial year together with a declaration referred to in paragraph (a) relating to such supplementary budget; and

(c) within 6 months after the close of that financial year, present to the President

(i) a full and particular audited statement showing the revenue received and expenditure incurred by the statutory board during that financial year;

(ii) as far as practicable, an audited statement of the assets and liabilities of the statutory board at the end of that financial year; and

(iii) a declaration by the chairman and the chief executive officer of the statutory board whether the statements referred to in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) show any drawing on the reserves not accumulated by the statutory board during the current term of office of the Government.

(2) The President, acting in his discretion, may refuse to approve any budget or supplementary budget of any such statutory board if, in his opinion, the budget is likely to draw on reserves which were not accumulated by the statutory board during the current term of office of the Government, except that if he approves any such budget notwithstanding his opinion that the budget is likely to so draw on those reserves, he shall cause his opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

(3) Where by the first day of the financial year of such statutory board the President has not approved its budget for that financial year, the statutory board

(a) shall, within 3 months of the first day of that financial year, present to the President a revised budget for that financial year together with the declaration referred to in clause (1); and

(b) may, pending the decision of the President, incur expenditure not exceeding one-quarter of the amount provided in the approved budget of the statutory board for the preceding financial year,

and if the President does not approve the revised budget, the statutory board may during that financial year incur total expenditure not exceeding the amount provided in the approved budget of the statutory board for the preceding financial year; and the budget for the preceding financial year shall have effect as the approved budget for that financial year.

(4) Any amount expended during a financial year under clause (3) (b) shall be included in any revised budget subsequently presented to the President under that clause for that financial year.

(5) Nothing in this article shall prevent the taking of any action by the Monetary Authority of Singapore in the management of the Singapore dollar; and a certificate under the hand of the chairman of the board of directors of the Monetary Authority of Singapore shall be conclusive evidence that any action was or was not taken for such purpose.

(6) It shall be the duty of every statutory board and its chief executive officer to which this article applies to inform the President of any proposed transaction of the statutory board which is likely to draw on the reserves accumulated by the statutory board prior to the current term of office of the Government.

(7) Where pursuant to clause (6) the President has been so informed of any such proposed transaction, the President, acting in his discretion, may disapprove the proposed transaction, except that if he does not disapprove any such proposed transaction even though he is of the opinion that the proposed transaction is likely to draw on the reserves accumulated by the statutory board prior to the current term of office of the Government, the President shall cause his decision and opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

(8) Where after 30 Nov 1991 a statutory board is specified in Part I of the Fifth Schedule pursuant to an order made under Article [22a \(4\)](#), any reference in this article to the approved budget of a statutory board for the preceding financial year shall, in relation to the first-mentioned statutory board, be read as a reference to the budget for the financial year of the first-mentioned statutory board during which that order was made.

(9) For the purpose of this article, where the Minister responsible for finance undertakes in writing to add to the reserves accumulated by the Government prior to its current term of office any reserves of a statutory board which are proposed to be transferred to the Government by or under the authority of any written law or otherwise, the proposed transfer and transfer of those

reserves shall have effect as follows:

(a) the proposed transfer and transfer shall not be taken into account in determining whether the reserves accumulated by the statutory board prior to the current term of office of the Government are likely to be or have been drawn on; and

(b) the reserves to be transferred by the statutory board shall be deemed to form part of the reserves accumulated by the Government prior to its current term of office on the following occasions:

(i) where a budget of the statutory board for any financial year provides for the proposed transfer and the budget is approved by the President under this article -- at beginning of that financial year; or

(ii) where a supplementary budget provides for the proposed transfer and the supplementary budget is approved by the President under this article -- on the date of approval by the President.

### **Article 22c Appointment of Directors of Government Companies**

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the memorandum and articles of association of the company, the appointment or removal of any person as a director or chief executive officer of any Government company to which this article applies shall not be made unless the President acting in his discretion, concurs with such appointment or removal.

(2)(a) A director of a Government company to which this article applies shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(b) Any appointment or removal of any director or chief executive officer of a Government company to which this article applies without the concurrence of the President shall be void and of no effect.

(3) This article shall apply to the Government companies specified in Part II of the Fifth Schedule.

(4) Subject to clause (5), the President acting in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet may, by order in the Gazette, add any other Government company to Part II of the Fifth Schedule; and no Government company shall be removed from that Part by any such order.

(5) No Government company shall by order under clause (4) be added to Part II of the Fifth Schedule unless on the date of making of such order

(a) the value of the shareholders' funds of the company attributable to the Government's interest in the company is worth \$100 million or more and

(b) it is not a subsidiary of any of the Government companies specified in Part II of the Fifth Schedule; and for the purposes of this paragraph, "subsidiary" shall have the same meaning as in the Companies Act.

### **Article 22d Budgets of Government Companies**

(1) The board of directors of every Government company to which Article [22c](#) applies shall

(a) before the commencement of its financial year present to the President for his approval its budget for that financial year, together with declaration by the chairman of the board of directors and the chief executive officer of the Government company whether the budget implemented is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government company during the current term of office of the Government;

(b) present to the President for his approval every supplementary budget for its financial year together with a declaration referred to in paragraph (a) relating to such supplementary budget; and

(c) within 6 months after the close of that financial year, present to the President

(i) a full and particular audited profit and loss account showing the revenue collected and expenditure incurred by the Government company during that financial year, and an audited balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the Government company at the end of that financial year; and

(ii) a declaration by the chairman of the board of directors and the chief executive officer of the Government company whether the audited profit and loss account and balance-sheet of the Government company show any drawing on the reserves not accumulated by the Government

company during the current term of office of the Government.

(2) The President, acting in his discretion, may disapprove the budget or supplementary budget of any such Government company if, in his opinion, the budget is likely to draw on reserves not accumulated by that company during the current term of office of the Government, except that if he approves any such budget notwithstanding his opinion that the budget is likely to so draw on those reserves, he shall cause his opinion to be published in the Gazette.

(3) Where by the first day of the financial year of such Government company the President has not approved its budget for that financial year, the Government company

(a) shall, within 3 months of the first day of that financial year, present to the President a revised budget for that financial year together with the declaration referred to in clause (1); and

(b) may, pending the decision of the President, incur expenditure not exceeding one-quarter of the amount provided in the approved budget of the Government company for the preceding financial year,

and if the President does not approve the revised budget, the Government company may during that financial year incur a total expenditure not exceeding the amount provided in the approved budget of the Government company for the preceding financial year; and the budget for the preceding financial year shall have effect as the approved budget for that financial year.

(4) Any amount expended during a financial year under clause 3) (b) shall be included in any revised budget subsequently presented to the President under that clause for that financial year.

(5) It shall be the duty of the board of directors and the chief executive officer of every Government company referred to in this article to inform the President of any proposed transaction of the company which is likely to draw on the reserves accumulated by the company prior to the current term of office of the Government.

(6) Where pursuant to clause (5) the President has been so informed of any such proposed transaction, the President, acting in his discretion, may disapprove the proposed transaction, except that if he does not disapprove any such proposed transaction even though he is of the opinion that the proposed transaction is likely to draw on the reserves accumulated by the Government company prior to the current term of office of the Government, the President shall cause his decision and opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

(7) Where after 30 Nov 1991 a Government company is specified in Part II of the Fifth Schedule pursuant to an order made under Article [22c \(4\)](#), any reference in this article to the approved budget of a Government company for the preceding financial year shall, in relation to the first-mentioned Government company, be read as a reference to the budget for the financial year of the first-mentioned Government company immediately preceding the making of that order.

(8) For the purpose of this article, where the Minister responsible for finance undertakes in writing to add to the reserves accumulated by the Government prior to its current term of office any reserves of a Government company which are proposed to be transferred to the Government by or under the authority of any written law or otherwise, the proposed transfer and transfer of those reserves shall have effect as follows:

(a) the proposed transfer and transfer shall not be taken into account in determining whether the reserves accumulated by the Government company prior to the current term of office of the Government are likely to be or have been drawn on; and

(b) the reserves to be transferred by the Government company shall be deemed to form part of the reserves accumulated by the Government prior to its current term of office on the following occasions:

(i) where a budget of the Government company for any financial year provides for the proposed transfer and the budget is approved by the President under this article -- at beginning of that financial year; or

(ii) where a supplementary budget of the Government company provides for the proposed transfer and the supplementary budget is approved by the President under this article -- on the date of approval by the President.

#### **Article 22e Moneys of the Central Provident Fund**

The President, acting in his discretion, may withhold his assent to any Bill passed by Parliament which provides, directly or indirectly, for varying, changing or increasing the powers of the Central Provident Fund Board to invest the moneys belonging to the Central Provident Fund.

#### **Article 22f President's Access to Information**

- (1) In the exercise of his functions under this Constitution, the President shall be entitled, at his request, to any information concerning
- (a) the Government which is available to the Cabinet; and
  - (b) any statutory board or Government company to which Article [22a](#) or [22c](#), as the case may be, applies which is available to the members of the statutory board or the directors of the Government company.
- (2) The President may request
- (a) any Minister, or any senior officer of a Ministry or of a department of the Government; or
  - (b) the chief executive officer and any member of the governing board of any statutory board or the directors of any Government company to which Article [22a](#) or [22c](#), as the case may be, applies, to furnish any information referred to in clause (1) concerning the reserves of the Government, the statutory board or Government company, as the case may be, and the Minister, member, officer or director concerned shall be under a duty to provide the information.

#### **Article 22g Concurrence of President for Certain Investigations**

Notwithstanding that the Prime Minister has refused to give his consent to the Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau to make any inquiries or to carry out any investigations into any information received by the Director touching upon the conduct of any person or any allegation or complaint made against any person, the Director may make such inquiries or carry out investigations into such information, allegation or complaint if the President, acting in his discretion, concurs therewith.

#### **Article 22h President May Withhold Assent to Bill Circumventing or Curtailing His Power**

- (1) The President may, acting in his discretion, in writing withhold his assent to any Bill passed by Parliament (other than a Bill to which Article [5 \(2a\)](#) applies) if the Bill provides, directly or indirectly, for the circumvention or curtailment of the discretionary powers conferred upon him by this Constitution.
- (2) If the President withholds his assent to any Bill pursuant to clause (1), the Prime Minister may refer the Bill to the High Court to determine whether the Bill provides, directly or indirectly, for the circumvention or curtailment of the discretionary powers conferred upon the President by this Constitution.
- (3) Where the High Court determines that a Bill does not provide, directly or indirectly, for the circumvention or curtailment of the discretionary powers conferred upon the President, and
- (a) no valid notice of appeal against that determination has been lodged within the time prescribed by the Rules of the Supreme Court; or
  - (b) where a valid notice of appeal has been lodged, the appeal has been withdrawn or dismissed, the President shall be deemed to have assented to the Bill on the date the High Court made such a determination.

#### **Article 22i Restraining Order Under Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act**

The President, acting in his discretion, may cancel, vary, confirm or refuse to confirm a restraining order made under the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act where the advice of the Cabinet is contrary to the recommendation of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony.

#### **Article 22j Civil List and Personal Staff of President**

- (1) The Legislature shall by law provide a Civil List for the maintenance of the President.
- (2) Any person exercising the functions of the office of President pursuant to Article [22n](#) or [22o](#) shall, during any period in which he exercises those functions, be entitled to such remuneration as the Legislature may by law provide.
- (3) The Civil List for the maintenance of the President or any person exercising the functions of the office of President shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund and shall not

be diminished during the continuance in office of the President or that person.

(4) Subject to clause (5), the appointment, terms of service, disciplinary control, termination of appointment and dismissal of the personal staff of the President shall be matters for the President acting in his discretion.

(5) The President may, if he so desires, appoint to his personal staff such public officers as he may select, after consultation with the Prime Minister, from a list of names submitted by the Public Service Commission; and the provisions of clause (4) (except in so far as they relate to appointment) shall apply in relation to a person so appointed as respects his service on the personal staff of the President but not as respects his service as a public officer.

(6) The remuneration of the personal staff of the President, other than a person appointed under clause (5), shall be payed out of the Civil List for the maintenance of the President.

#### **Article 22k Immunity of President From Suit**

(1) Except as provided in clause (4), the President shall not be liable to any proceedings whatsoever in any court in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him in his official capacity.

(2) No proceedings in any court in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by the President in his private capacity shall be instituted against him during his term of office.

(3) Where provision is made by law limiting the time within which proceedings of any description may be brought against any person, the period of time during which such person holds office as President shall not be taken into account in calculating any period of time prescribed by that law.

(4) The immunity conferred by clause (1) shall not apply to

(a) any proceedings instituted under Article [22h](#);

(b) any inquiry held by a tribunal pursuant to a resolution passed by Parliament under Article [22l](#);

or

(c) any proceedings before the Election Judge under Article [93a](#) to determine the validity of any Presidential election.

#### **Article 22l Vacation of and Removal From Office of President**

(1) The office of President shall become vacant

(a) upon the death of the President;

(b) if the President resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Prime Minister;

(c) if the President is removed from office in accordance with clauses (3) to (7);

(d) if the Election Judge in the exercise of his powers under Article [93a](#) determines that the election of the President was void and does not determine that any other person was duly elected as President; or

(e) if upon the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent the person declared elected as President fails to assume the office of President.

(2) *{Deleted by Amendment No. 2 Act 1994 of 23 Sep 1994.}*

(3) The Prime Minister or not less than one-quarter of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article [39 \(1\)\(a\)](#) may give notice of a motion alleging that the President is permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity or that the President has been guilty of

(a) intentional violation of the Constitution;

(b) treason;

(c) misconduct or corruption involving the abuse of the powers of his office; or

(d) any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, and setting out full particulars of the allegations made and seeking an inquiry and report thereon.

(4) Where the motion referred to in clause (3) has been adopted by not less than half of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article [39 \(1\)\(a\)](#), the Chief Justice shall appoint a tribunal to inquire into the allegations made against the President.

(5) A tribunal appointed by the Chief Justice shall consist of not less than 5 Judges of the

Supreme Court of whom the Chief Justice shall be one, unless he otherwise decides and such tribunal may regulate its own procedure and make rules for that purpose.

(6) A tribunal shall, after due inquiry at which the President shall have the right to appear and to be heard in person or by counsel, make a report of its determination to the Speaker together with the reasons therefor.

(7) Where the tribunal reports to the Speaker that in its opinion the President is permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity or that the President has been guilty of any of the other allegations contained in such resolution, Parliament may by a resolution passed by not less than three-quarters of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article [39 \(1\)\(a\)](#) remove the President from office.

#### **Article 22m Determination by Election Judge That President Was Not Duly Elected**

(1) Where the Election Judge in the exercise of his jurisdiction under Article [93a](#) determines (a) that the election of the President was void and does not determine that any other person was duly elected, then, a poll for the election of the President shall be taken not later than 6 months from the date of the determination; or

(b) that any other person was duly elected as President, then, such other person shall assume the office of President forthwith after the determination.

(2) Upon the Election Judge making any determination that the election of the President was void and no other person was duly elected as President, the person who immediately before such determination was exercising the functions of the office of President shall forthwith cease to exercise such functions.

(3) The exercise, performance and discharge by any person of the powers, duties and functions of the office of President shall not be invalid by reason only of the fact that the Election Judge subsequently determines that the election of such person as President was void or undue.

#### **Article 22n Persons to Exercise Functions of President**

(1) If the office of President becomes vacant, the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers or, if he is unavailable, the Speaker shall exercise the functions of the office of President during the period between the date the office of President becomes vacant and the assumption of office by the person declared elected as President.

(2) If neither the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers nor the Speaker is available, Parliament may appoint a person in accordance with clause (3) to exercise the functions of the office of President during the period referred to in Clause (1).

(3) Parliament shall not appoint any person to exercise the functions of the office of President under clause (2) unless the person is qualified to be elected as President.

(4) The provisions of this Chapter relating to immunity from suits shall apply in relation to any person exercising the functions of the office of President pursuant to this article as if references to the President in those provisions were references to that person.

(5) Any person required or appointed to exercise the function of the office of President pursuant to this article or Article [22o](#) shall, before exercising those functions, take and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice or another Judge of the Supreme Court the Oath of Office in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#), except that neither the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers nor the Speaker shall, during his term of office as such Chairman or as Speaker, be required to take such oath more than once in respect of occasions when he is required to exercise the functions of the office of President.

#### **Article 22o Temporary Disability of President**

(1) Subject to clause (2), if the President becomes temporarily unable, whether by reason of ill health, absence from Singapore or otherwise, to perform his functions under this Constitution or any other written law, one of the persons referred to in Article 22n shall exercise the functions of the office of President during the period of temporary disability, and the provisions of Article [22n](#)

shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to that person.

(2) Parliament shall not appoint any person to exercise the functions of the office of President under this article unless the President agrees to that person being so appointed.

(3) Clause (2) shall not apply if the President is unable for any reason to signify his agreement to a person being appointed under this article to exercise the functions of the office of President.

## **Chapter 2 The Executive**

### **Article 23 Executive Authority of Singapore**

(1) The executive authority of Singapore shall be vested in the President and exercisable subject to the provisions of this Constitution by him or by the Cabinet or any Minister authorized by the Cabinet.

(2) The Legislature may by law confer executive functions on other persons.

### **Article 24 Cabinet**

(1) There shall be in and for Singapore a Cabinet which shall consist of the Prime Minister and such other Ministers as may be appointed in accordance with Article 25.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Cabinet shall have the general direction and control of the Government and shall be collectively responsible to Parliament.

### **Article 25 Appointment of Prime Minister and Ministers**

(1) The President shall appoint as Prime Minister a Member of Parliament who in his judgment is likely to command the confidence of the majority of the Members of Parliament, and shall, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint other Ministers from among the Members of Parliament: Provided that, if an appointment is made while Parliament is dissolved, a person who was a Member of the last Parliament may be appointed but shall not continue to hold office after the first sitting of the next Parliament unless he is a Member thereof.

(2) Appointments under this article shall be made by the President by instrument under the public seal.

### **Article 26 Tenure of Office of Prime Minister and Ministers**

(1) The President shall, by writing under the public seal, declare the office of Prime Minister vacant

(a) if the Prime Minister resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President; or

(b) if the President, acting in his discretion, is satisfied that the Prime Minister has ceased to command the confidence of a majority of the Members of Parliament: Provided that, before declaring the office of Prime Minister vacant under this paragraph, the President shall inform the Prime Minister that he is satisfied as aforesaid, and, if the Prime Minister so requests, the President may dissolve Parliament instead of making such a declaration.

(2) A Minister, other than the Prime Minister, shall vacate his office

(a) if his appointment to that office is revoked by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, by instrument under the public seal; or

(b) if he resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President.

(3) A person who has vacated his office as Minister may, if qualified, be again appointed as Minister from time to time.

(4)(a) Whenever the Prime Minister is ill or absent from Singapore or has been granted leave of absence from his duties under Article [32](#), the functions conferred on him by this Constitution shall be exercisable by any other Minister authorized by the President, by instrument under the public seal, in that behalf.

(b) The President may, by instrument under the public seal, revoke any authority given under this clause.



(c) The powers conferred upon the President by this clause shall be exercised by him acting in his discretion, if in his opinion it is impracticable to obtain the advice of the Prime Minister owing to the Prime Minister's illness or absence, and in any other case shall be exercised by the President in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister.

#### **Article 27 Oath**

The Prime Minister and every other Minister shall before entering on the duties of his office, take and subscribe before the President the Oath of Allegiance and the appropriate Oath for the due execution of his office in the forms set out in the [First Schedule](#).

#### **Article 28 Summoning of And Presiding in Cabinet**

- (1) The Cabinet shall not be summoned except by the authority of the Prime Minister.
- (2) The Prime Minister shall, so far as is practicable, attend and preside at meetings of the Cabinet and, in his absence, such other Minister shall preside as the Prime Minister shall appoint.

#### **Article 29 Validity of Proceedings in Cabinet**

Any proceedings in the Cabinet shall be valid notwithstanding that some person who was not entitled to do so sat or voted therein or otherwise took part in the proceedings.

#### **Article 30 Assignment of Responsibility to Ministers**

- (1) The Prime Minister may, by directions in writing
  - (a) charge any Minister with responsibility for any department or subject; and
  - (b) revoke or vary any directions given under this clause.
- (2) The Prime Minister may retain in his charge any department or subject.

#### **Article 31 Parliamentary Secretaries**

- (1) The President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may by instrument under the public seal, appoint Parliamentary Secretaries from among the Members of Parliament to assist Ministers in the discharge of their duties and functions: Provided that, if an appointment is made while Parliament is dissolved, a person who was a Member of the last Parliament may be appointed a Parliamentary Secretary but shall not continue to hold office after the first sitting of the next Parliament unless he is a Member thereof.
- (2) Article [26 \(2\) and \(3\)](#) and Article [27](#) shall apply to Parliamentary Secretaries as they apply to Ministers.

#### **Article 32 Leave of Absence for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries**

The President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may grant leave of absence from his duties to the Prime Minister, to any other Minister and to any Parliamentary Secretary.

#### **Article 33 Disabilities of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries**

A member of the Cabinet or Parliamentary Secretary shall not hold any office of profit and shall not actively engage in any commercial enterprise.

#### **Article 34 Permanent Secretaries**

- (1) There shall be for each Ministry one or more Permanent Secretaries who shall be persons who are public officers.
- (2)(a) Appointments to the office of Permanent Secretary shall be made by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, from a list of names submitted by the Public Service Commission.

(b) The responsibility for the allocation of each Permanent Secretary to a Ministry shall be vested in the Prime Minister.

(3) Every Permanent Secretary shall, subject to the general direction and control of the Minister, exercise supervision over the department or departments to which he is allocated.

### **Article 35 Attorney-General**

(1) The office of Attorney-General is hereby constituted and appointments thereto shall be made by the President, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, from among persons who are qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

(2) When it is necessary to make an appointment to the office of Attorney-General otherwise than by reason of the death of the holder of that office or his removal from office under clause (6), the Prime Minister shall, before tendering advice to the President under clause (1), consult the person holding the office of Attorney-General or, if that office is then vacant, the person who has last vacated it, and the Prime Minister shall, in every case, before tendering such advice, consult the Chief Justice and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

(3) The Prime Minister shall not be obliged to consult any person under clause (2) if he is satisfied that by reason of the infirmity of body or mind of that person or for any other reason it is impracticable to do so.

(4) The Attorney-General may be appointed for a specific period and, if he was so appointed, shall, subject to clause (6), vacate his office (without prejudice to his eligibility for reappointment) at the expiration of that period, but, subject as aforesaid, shall otherwise hold office until he attains the age of 60 years: Provided that

(a) he may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President; and  
(b) the President, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, may permit an Attorney-General who has attained the age of 60 years to remain in office for such fixed period as may have been agreed between the Attorney-General and the Government.

(5) Nothing done by the Attorney-General shall be invalid by reason only that he has attained the age at which he is required by this article to vacate his office.

(6)(a) The Attorney-General may be removed from office by the President, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister shall not tender such advice except for inability of the Attorney-General to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehavior and except with the concurrence of a tribunal consisting of the Chief Justice and two other Judges of the Supreme Court nominated for that purpose by the Chief Justice.

(b) The tribunal constituted under this clause shall regulate its own procedure and may make rules for that purpose.

(7) It shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to advise the Government upon such legal matters and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President or the Cabinet and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under this Constitution or any other written law.

(8) The Attorney-General shall have power, exercisable at his discretion, to institute, conduct or discontinue any proceedings for any offence.

(9) In the performance of his duties, the Attorney-General shall have the right of audience in, and shall take precedence over any other person appearing before any court or tribunal in Singapore.

(10) The Attorney-General shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as may from time to time be determined and such remuneration and allowances shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

(11) Subject to this article, the terms of service of the Attorney-General shall either

(a) be determined by or under any law made under this Constitution; or

(b) (in so far as they are not determined by or under any such law) be determined by the President.

(12) The terms of service of the Attorney-General shall not be altered to his disadvantage during his continuance in office.

(13) For the purposes of clause (12), in so far as the terms of service of the Attorney-General

depend upon his option, any terms for which he opts shall be taken to be more advantageous to him than any for which he might have opted.

### **Article 36 Secretary of Cabinet**

(1) The President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may appoint a public officer to be the Secretary to the Cabinet.

(2) The Secretary to the Cabinet shall be responsible, in accordance with such instructions as may be given to him by the Prime Minister, for arranging the business for, and keeping the minutes of, the meetings of the Cabinet and for conveying the decisions of the Cabinet to the appropriate person or authority and shall have such other functions as the Prime Minister may from time to time direct.

## **Chapter 3 Capacity as Regards Property, Contracts, and Suits**

### **Article 37 Capacity of Government as Regards Property, Contracts, and Suits**

(1) The Government shall have power to acquire, hold and dispose of property of any kind and to make contracts.

(2) The Government may sue and be sued.

## **Part Va Council of Presidential Advisers**

### **Article 37a Interpretation**

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires

- "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council;
- "Council" means the Council of Presidential Advisers constituted under Article 37b;
- "member" means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman.

### **Article 37b Council of Presidential Advisers**

(1) There shall be a Council of Presidential Advisers which shall consist of

- (a) two members appointed by the President acting in his discretion;
- (b) two members appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister; and
- (c) one member appointed by the President on the advice of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

(2) The President, acting in his discretion, shall appoint one of the members of the Council as Chairman.

(3) A member of the Council shall serve for a term of 6 years and shall be eligible for reappointment upon the expiry of his term of office except that in respect of the appointment of the

first members under clause (1), one of the two members referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of that clause shall be appointed for a term of 3 years instead of 6 years.

(4) During any period when the Chairman exercises the functions of the office of President under Article [22n or 22o](#), he shall not act as the Chairman for that period and shall not take part in the proceedings of the Council and shall appoint

- (a) a person to serve as a member of the Council for that period; and
- (b) a member of the Council to act as Chairman for that period.

### **Article 37c Temporary Appointments During Incapacity of Members**

Whenever a member informs the Chairman that he is or will be incapable, for a period of 3 months or more, of taking part in the proceedings of the Council by reason of illness, absence or other cause, the Chairman shall convey the information to the President who may appoint another person to serve as a member for that period either in his discretion or, where that

member was appointed under Article [37b \(1\)\(b\) or \(c\)](#), on the advice of the Prime Minister or the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, as the case may be.

#### **Article 37d Qualifications of Members**

No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a member unless he

- (a) is a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) is not less than 35 years of age;
- (c) is a resident of Singapore; and
- (d) is not liable to any of the disqualifications referred to in Article 37e.

#### **Article 37e Disqualifications of Members**

A person shall be disqualified for appointment as a member if he

- (a) is or has been found or declared to be of unsound mind;
- (b) is insolvent or an undischarged bankrupt; or
- (c) has been convicted of an offence by a court of law in Singapore or a foreign country and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and has not received a free pardon: Provided that where the conviction is by a court in a foreign country, the person shall not be so disqualified unless the offence is also one which, had it been committed in Singapore, would have been punishable by a court of law in Singapore.

#### **Article 37f Termination of Membership**

(1) The Chairman shall vacate the office of Chairman of the Council when a newly elected President assumes office during the term of appointment of the Chairman.

(2) A member shall vacate his seat in the Council

- (a) if he ceases to be a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) if by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman he resigns his seat; or
- (c) if he becomes subject to any of the disqualifications referred to in Article [37e](#).

#### **Article 37g Determination of Questions as to Membership**

(1) Any question as to the validity of the appointment of a member or whether any person has vacated his seat as a member of the Council shall be referred to and determined by a tribunal consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice and two other persons appointed by the Council.

(2) Any tribunal constituted under clause (1) shall

- (a) sit in private;
  - (b) afford the person concerned adequate opportunity to call witnesses and be heard; and
  - (c) report its decision to the Chairman.
- (3) The decision of the tribunal shall be final and shall not be questioned in any court.

#### **Article 37h Oaths of Allegiance and Secrecy**

Before any person who has been appointed Chairman or a member enters upon the duties of his office, he shall take and subscribe before a Judge of the Supreme Court the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Secrecy in the forms set out respectively in paragraphs 2 and 8 in the [First Schedule](#).

#### **Article 37i Function of Council**

It shall be the function of the Council to advise and make recommendations to the President on any matter referred to the Council by the President pursuant to Article [21 \(3\) or \(4\)](#).

#### **Article 37j Proceedings of Council**

(1) The proceedings of the Council shall be conducted in private and the Council may require any

public officer or any officer of any statutory board or Government company to appear before the Council and to give such information in relation to any matter referred to the Council by the President pursuant to Article [21 \(3\) or \(4\)](#) and such officer shall not disclose or divulge to any person any matter which has arisen at any meeting of the Council unless he is expressly authorized to do so by the President.

(2) In advising or making recommendations to the President in relation to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill, the Council shall state

(a) whether its advice or recommendation is unanimous or the number of votes for and against it; and

(b) where the Council advises or recommends to the President to withhold his assent to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill, the grounds on which the Council reached its conclusion.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Council may make rules with respect to the regulation and conduct of its proceedings and the despatch of its business (including any quorum) but no such rules shall have effect until they have been approved by the President.

#### **Article 37k Council to Report to Prime Minister and Parliament**

The Council shall, as soon as practicable after advising or making any recommendation to the President in relation to a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill, send a copy of the advice or recommendation to

(a) the Prime Minister; and

(b) the Speaker who shall cause the copy to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible.

#### **Article 37l Fees**

(1) There shall be paid to the Chairman and the other members of the Council such fees as may be determined by the President.

(2) The fees payable under Clause (1) shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund and shall not be diminished during the continuance in office of the Chairman and the members of the Council.

#### **Article 37m Appointment of Staff**

The Council shall have power to appoint a Secretary to the Council and such other officers as may be required to enable the Council to carry out its functions.

### **Part VI The Legislative**

#### **Article 38 Legislature of Singapore**

The Legislature of Singapore shall consist of the President and Parliament.

#### **Article 39 Parliament**

(1) Parliament shall consist of

(a) such number of elected Members as is required to be returned at a general election by the constituencies prescribed by or under any law made by the Legislature;

(b) such other Members, not exceeding 6 in number, who shall be known as non-constituency Members, as the Legislature may provide in any law relating to Parliamentary elections to ensure the representation in Parliament of a minimum number of Members from a political party or parties not forming the Government; and

(c) such other Members not exceeding 6 in number, who shall be known as nominated Members, as may be appointed by the President in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Schedule.

(2) A non-constituency Member or a nominated Member shall not vote in Parliament on any motion pertaining to

(a) a Bill to amend the Constitution;

(b) a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill;

- (c) a Money Bill as defined in Article [68](#);
  - (d) a vote of no confidence in the Government; and
  - (e) removing the President from office under Article [22](#).
- (3) In this article and in Articles [39a](#) and [47](#), a constituency shall be construed as an electoral division for the purposes of Parliamentary elections.
- (4) If any person who is not a Member of Parliament is elected as Speaker or Deputy Speaker, he shall, by virtue of holding the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker, be a Member of Parliament in addition to the Members aforesaid, except for the purposes of [Chapter 2 of Part V](#) and of Article [46](#).

### **Article 39a Group Representation Constituencies**

- (1) The Legislature may, in order to ensure the representation in Parliament of Members from the Malay, Indian and other minority communities, by law make provision for
- (a) any constituency to be declared by the President, having regard to the number of electors in that constituency, as a group representation constituency to enable any election in that constituency to be held on a basis of a group of not less than 3 but not more than 4 candidates; and
  - (b) the qualifications, in addition to those in Article [44](#), of persons who may be eligible for any election in group representation constituencies, including the requirements referred to in clause (2).
- (2) Any law made pursuant to clause (1) shall provide for
- (a) the President to designate every group representation constituency
    - (i) as a constituency where at least one of the candidates in every group shall be a person belonging to the Malay community; or
    - (ii) as a constituency where at least one of the candidates in every group shall be a person belonging to the Indian or other minority communities;
  - (b) the establishment of
    - (i) a committee to determine whether a person desiring to be a candidate belongs to the Malay community; and
    - (ii) a committee to determine whether a person desiring to be a candidate belongs to the Indian or other minority communities, for the purpose of any election in group representation constituencies;
  - (c) all the candidates in every group to be either members of the same political party standing for election for that political party or independent candidates standing as a group;
  - (d) the minimum and maximum number of Members to be returned by all group representation constituencies at a general election; and
  - (e) the number of group representation constituencies to be designated under Paragraph (a)(i).
- (3) No provision of any law made pursuant to this article shall be invalid on the ground of inconsistency with Article [12](#) or be considered to be a differentiating measure under Article [78](#).
- (4) In this article
- "election" means an election for the purpose of electing a Member of Parliament;
  - "group" means a group of not less than 3 but not more than 4 candidates nominated for any election in any group representation constituency;
  - "person belonging to the Malay community" means - any person, whether of the Malay race or otherwise, who considers himself to be a member of the Malay community and who is generally accepted as a member of the Malay community by that community;
  - "person belonging to the Indian or other minority communities" means any person of Indian origin who considers himself to be a member of the Indian community and who is generally accepted as a member of the Indian community by that community, or any person who belongs to any minority community other than the Malay or Indian community.

### **Article 40 Speaker**

(1) When Parliament first meets after any general election and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, it shall elect a person to be Speaker, and, whenever the office of Speaker is vacant otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of Parliament, shall not transact any business other than the election of a person to fill that office.

(2) The Speaker may be elected, in such manner as Parliament may from time to time decide, either from among the Members of Parliament who are neither Ministers nor Parliamentary Secretaries or from among persons who are not Members of Parliament: Provided that a person who is not a Member of Parliament shall not be elected as Speaker if, under any of the provisions of this Constitution, he is not qualified for election as a Member of Parliament.

(3) Upon the Speaker being elected and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall (unless he has already done so in accordance with Article 61) take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#).

(4) The Speaker may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, and shall vacate his office

(a) when Parliament first meets after a general election;

(b) in the case of a Speaker elected from among the Members of Parliament, if he ceases to be a Member of Parliament otherwise than by reason of a dissolution thereof or if he is appointed to be a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary; or

(c) in the case of a Speaker elected from among persons who are not Members of Parliament, if any circumstance arises that, if he had been elected to a seat in Parliament, would cause him to vacate his seat by virtue of Article [46 \(2\)\(a\) or \(e\)](#).

#### **Article 41 Remuneration of Speaker**

The Speaker shall be paid such salary as Parliament may from time to time determine, and that salary, which is hereby charged on the Consolidated Fund, shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.

#### **Article 42 Deputy Speaker**

(1) Parliament shall from time to time elect two Deputy Speakers; and whenever the office of a Deputy Speaker is vacant otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of Parliament, Parliament shall, as soon as convenient, elect a person to that office.

(2)(a) A Deputy Speaker may be elected, in such manner as Parliament may from time to time decide, either from among the Members of Parliament who are neither Ministers nor Parliamentary Secretaries or from among persons who are not Members of Parliament: Provided that a person who is not a Member of Parliament shall not be elected as Deputy Speaker if, under any of the provisions of this Constitution, he is not qualified for election as a Member of Parliament.

(b) Upon a Deputy Speaker being elected and before he enters upon the duties of his office, he shall (unless he has already done so in accordance with Article 61) take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#).

(c) A Deputy Speaker may at any time resign his office, by writing under his hand addressed to the Clerk of Parliament and shall vacate his office

(i) when Parliament first meets after a general election;

(ii) in the case of a Deputy Speaker elected from among the Members of Parliament, if he ceases to be a Member of Parliament otherwise than by reason of a dissolution thereof or if he is appointed to be a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary; or

(iii) in the case of a Deputy Speaker elected from among persons who are not Members of Parliament, if any circumstance arises that, if he had been elected to a seat in Parliament, would cause him to vacate his seat by virtue of Article [46 \(2\)\(a\) or \(e\)](#).

(3) A Deputy Speaker shall be paid such salary or allowance as Parliament may from time to time determine and that salary or allowance, which is hereby charged on the Consolidated Fund, shall not be diminished during his continuance in office.

#### **Article 43 Performance of Functions of Speaker**

The functions conferred by this Constitution upon the Speaker shall, if there is no person holding the office of Speaker or if the Speaker is absent from a sitting of Parliament or is otherwise unable to perform those functions, be performed by a Deputy Speaker, or if there be no Deputy Speaker or if he is likewise absent or unable to perform those functions, by some other person to be elected by Parliament for the purpose.

#### **Article 44 Qualifications for Membership of Parliament**

(1) Members of Parliament shall be persons qualified for election or for appointment in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and elected in the manner provided by or under any law for the time being in force in Singapore or appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Schedule.

(2) A person shall be qualified to be elected or appointed as a Member of Parliament if

(a) he is a citizen of Singapore;

(b) he is of the age of 21 years or above on the day of nomination;

(c) his name appears in a current register of electors;

(d) he is resident in Singapore at the date of his nomination for election and has been so resident for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than 10 years prior to that date;

(e) he is able, with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable

him to take an active part in the proceedings of Parliament, to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause, to read and write at least one of the following languages, that is to say, English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil; and

(f) he is not disqualified from being a Member of Parliament under Article [45](#).

(3) Any question whether any person possesses the qualifications mentioned in clause (2) (e) shall be determined in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law for the time being in force in Singapore or, in so far as not so prescribed, as may be provided by order made by the President and published in the Gazette.

#### **Article 45 Disqualifications for Membership of Parliament**

(1) Subject to this article, a person shall not be qualified to be a Member of Parliament who

(a) is and has been found or declared to be of unsound mind;

(b) is an undischarged bankrupt;

(c) holds an office of profit;

(d) having been nominated for election to Parliament or the office of President or having acted as election agent to a person so nominated, has failed to lodge any return of election expenses required by law within the time and in the manner so required;

(e) has been convicted of an offence by a court of law in Singapore or Malaysia and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and has not received a free pardon: Provided that where the conviction is by a court of law in Malaysia, the person shall not be so disqualified unless the offence is also one which, had it been committed in Singapore, would have been punishable by a court of law in Singapore;

(f) has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of, or exercised rights of citizenship in, a foreign country or has made a declaration of allegiance to a foreign country; or

(g) is disqualified under any law relating to offenses in connection with elections to Parliament or the office of President by reason of having been convicted of such an offence or having in proceedings relating to such an election been proved guilty of an act constituting such an offence.

(2) The disqualification of a person under Clause (1)(d) or (e) may be removed by the President and shall, if not so removed, cease at the end of 5 years beginning from the date on which the return mentioned in clause (1) (d) was required to be lodged or, as the case may be, the date on which the person convicted as mentioned in clause (1) (e) was released from custody or the date on which the fine mentioned in clause (1) (e) was imposed on such person; and a person shall not be disqualified under clause (1) (f) by reason only of anything done by him before he became a citizen of Singapore.



(3) In Clause (1)(f), "foreign country" does not include any part of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

#### **Article 46 Tenure of Office of Members**

(1) Every Member of Parliament shall cease to be a Member at the next dissolution of Parliament after he has been elected or appointed, or previously thereto if his seat becomes vacant, under the provisions of this Constitution.

(2) The seat of a Member of Parliament shall become vacant

(a) if he ceases to be a citizen of Singapore;

(b) if he ceases to be a member of, or is expelled or resigns from, the political party for which he stood in the election;

(c) if, by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker, he resigns his seat in Parliament;

(d) if during two consecutive months in each of which sittings of Parliament (or any committee of Parliament to which he has

been appointed) are held, he is absent from all such sittings without having obtained from the Speaker before the termination of any such sitting permission to be or to remain absent therefrom;

(e) if he becomes subject to any of the disqualifications specified in Article [45](#);

(f) if he is expelled from Parliament in the exercise of its power of expulsion; or

(g) if being a nominated Member, his term of service as such a Member expires.

(2a) A non-constituency Member of Parliament shall vacate his seat as such a Member if he is subsequently elected as a Member of Parliament for any constituency.

(2b) A nominated Member of Parliament shall vacate his seat as such a Member

(a) if he stands as a candidate for any political party in an election; or

(b) if not being a candidate referred to in paragraph (a), he is elected as a Member of Parliament for any constituency.

(3) Any person whose seat in Parliament has become vacant may, if qualified, again be elected or appointed as a Member of Parliament from time to time.

#### **Article 47 Provision Against Double Membership**

A person shall not be at the same time a Member of Parliament for more than one constituency.

#### **Article 48 Decision on Questions as to Disqualification**

Any question whether

(a) any Member of Parliament has vacated his seat therein; or

(b) in the case of any person who has been elected as Speaker or Deputy Speaker from among persons who are not Members of Parliament, any circumstance has arisen that, if he had been elected to a seat in Parliament, would cause him to vacate his seat by virtue of Article [46 \(2\)\(a\) or \(e\)](#), shall be determined by Parliament whose decision shall be final: Provided that this article shall not be taken to prevent the practice of Parliament postponing a decision in order to allow for the taking or determination of any proceedings that may affect the decision (including proceedings for the removal of the disqualification).

#### **Article 49 Filing of Vacancies**

(1) Whenever the seat of a Member, not being a non-constituency Member, has become vacant for any reason other than a dissolution of Parliament, the vacancy shall be filled by election in the manner provided by or under any law relating to Parliamentary elections for the time being in force.

(2) The Legislature may by law provide for

(a) the vacating of a seat of a non-constituency Member in circumstances other than those specified in Article [46](#);

(b) the filling of vacancies of the seats of non-constituency Members where such vacancies are caused otherwise than by a dissolution of Parliament.

### **Article 50 Penalty for Unqualified Persons Sitting or Voting in Parliament**

(1) Any person who sits or votes in Parliament, knowing or having reasonable ground for knowing that he is not entitled to do so, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200 for each day on which he so sits or votes.

(2) The said penalty shall be recoverable by action in the High Court at the suit of the Attorney-General.

### **Article 51 Staff of Parliament**

(1) The staff of Parliament shall consist of a Clerk of Parliament and such other officers as may from time to time be appointed under [Part IX](#) to assist him.

(2) The Clerk of Parliament shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Speaker and the Public Service Commission.

(3) The Clerk of Parliament may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker and, subject to clause (4), may be removed from office by the President after consultation with the Speaker.

(4) The Clerk of Parliament shall not be removed from office under clause (3) unless Parliament, by a resolution which has received the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of all the Members thereof, has resolved that he ought to be so removed for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehavior.

(5) The staff of Parliament shall not be eligible for promotion or transfer to any other office in the public service without the consent of the Speaker.

(6) Subject to Article [159](#), the terms of service of the staff of Parliament may be determined by Parliament after receiving the advice of a Commission consisting of the following persons, that is to say:

(a) the Speaker, as Chairman;

(b) not more than 3 Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister, of whom one shall be the Minister responsible for finance; and

(c) a member of the Public Service Commission.

### **Article 52 Standing Orders**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may, from time to time, make, amend and revoke Standing Orders for the regulation and orderly conduct of its own proceedings and the despatch of business.

### **Article 53 Use of Languages in Parliament**

Until the Legislature otherwise provides, all debates and discussions in Parliament shall be conducted in Malay, English, Mandarin, or Tamil.

### **Article 54 Presiding in Parliament**

The Speaker shall preside at each sitting of Parliament.

### **Article 55 Validity of Proceedings of Parliament**

Parliament shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy among the Members thereof, including any vacancy not filled when Parliament is first constituted or is reconstituted at any time; and any proceedings therein shall be valid notwithstanding that some person who was not entitled to do so sat or voted in Parliament or otherwise took part in the proceedings.

### **Article 56 Quorum**

If objection is taken by any Member present that there are present (besides the Speaker or other Member presiding) fewer than one-quarter of the total number of Members and, after such interval as may be prescribed in the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Speaker or other Member

presiding ascertains that the number of Members present is still less than one-quarter of the total number of Members, he shall thereupon adjourn Parliament.

### **Article 57 Voting**

(1) Subject to this Constitution, all questions proposed for decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting; and if, upon any question before Parliament, the votes of the Members are equally divided, the motion shall be lost.

(2) If the Speaker has been elected from among persons who are not Members of Parliament, he shall not vote, but subject to this provision, the Speaker or other person presiding shall have an original vote but no casting vote.

### **Article 58 Exercise of Legislative Power**

(1) Subject to the provisions of [Part VII](#), the power of the Legislature to make laws shall be exercised by Bills passed by Parliament and assented to by the President.

(2) A Bill shall become law on being assented to by the President and such law shall come into operation on the date of its publication in the Gazette or, if it is enacted either in such law or in any other law for the time being in force in Singapore that it shall come into operation on some other date, on that date.

### **Article 59 Introduction of Bills**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of Standing Orders of Parliament, any Member may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in, or may present any petition to, Parliament, and the same shall be debated and disposed of according to the Standing Orders of Parliament.

(2) A Bill or amendment making provision (whether directly or indirectly) for

(a) imposing or increasing any tax or abolishing, reducing or remitting any existing tax;

(b) the borrowing of money, or the giving of any guarantee, by the Government, or the amendment of the law relating to the financial obligations of the Government;

(c) the custody of the Consolidated Fund, the charging of any money on the Consolidated Fund or the abolition or alteration of any such charge;

(d) the payment of moneys into the Consolidated Fund or the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of any moneys not charged thereon, or any increase in the amount of such a payment, issue or withdrawal; or

(e) the receipt of any moneys on account of the Consolidated Fund or the custody or issue of such moneys,

being provision as respects which the Minister charged with responsibility for finance signifies that it goes beyond what is incidental only and not of a substantial nature having regard to the purposes of the Bill or amendment, shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the President signified by a Minister.

(3) A Bill or amendment shall not be deemed to make provision for any of the said matters by reason only that it provides for the imposition or alteration of any fine or other pecuniary penalty or for the payment or demand of a license fee or a fee or charge for any service rendered.

### **Article 60 Words of Enactment of Laws**

In every Bill presented for assent, the words of enactment shall be as follows: *"Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows"*.

### **Article 61 Oath of Allegiance**

No Member of Parliament shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings thereof (other than proceedings necessary for the purpose of this article) until he has taken and subscribed before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#): Provided that the

election of a Speaker may take place before the Members of Parliament have taken and subscribed such Oath.

#### **Article 62 Address by President**

The President may address Parliament and may send messages thereto.

#### **Article 63 Privileges of Parliament**

It shall be lawful for the Legislature by law to determine and regulate the privileges, immunities or powers of Parliament.

#### **Article 64 Sessions of Parliament**

(1) There shall be a session of Parliament once at least in every year and a period of 6 months shall not intervene between the last sitting of Parliament in any one session and the first sitting thereof in the next session.

(2) The sessions of Parliament shall be held in such places and shall commence at such times as the President may, from time to time, by Proclamation in the Gazette, appoint.

#### **Article 65 Prorogation and Dissolution of Parliament**

(1) The President may, at any time, by Proclamation in the Gazette, prorogue Parliament.

(2) If, at any time, the office of Prime Minister is vacant, the President shall, by Proclamation in the Gazette, dissolve Parliament as soon as he is satisfied, acting in his discretion, that a reasonable period has elapsed since that office was last vacated and that there is no Member of Parliament likely to command the confidence of a majority of the Members thereof.

(3) The President may, at any time, by Proclamation in the Gazette, dissolve Parliament if he is advised by the Prime Minister to do so, but he shall not be obliged to act in this respect in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister unless he is satisfied that, in tendering that advice the Prime Minister commands the confidence of a majority of the Members of Parliament.

(3a) The President shall not dissolve Parliament after a notice of motion proposing an inquiry into the conduct of the President has been given under Article [221 \(3\)](#) unless

(a) a resolution is not passed pursuant to the notice of such motion under Article [221 \(4\)](#);

(b) where a resolution has been passed pursuant to the notice of such motion under Article [221 \(4\)](#), the tribunal appointed under Article [221 \(5\)](#) determines and reports that the President has not become permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office or that the President has not been guilty of any of the other allegations contained in such motion;

(c) the consequent resolution for the removal of the President is not passed under Article [221 \(7\)](#);

or

(d) Parliament by resolution requests the President to dissolve Parliament.

(4) Parliament, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for 5 years from the date of its first sitting and shall then stand dissolved.

#### **Article 66 General Elections**

There shall be a general election at such time, within 3 months after every dissolution of Parliament, as the President shall, by Proclamation in the Gazette, appoint.

#### **Article 67 Remuneration of Members**

The Legislature may by law make provision for the remuneration of Members of Parliament.

### **Part VII The Presidential Council for Minority Rights**

#### **Article 68 Interpretation**

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires

- "adverse report" means a report of the Council stating that, in the opinion of the Council, some specified provision of a Bill or of a subsidiary legislation would be a differentiating measure;
- "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council;
- "Council" means the Presidential Council for Minority Rights established under Article [69](#);
- "differentiating measure" means any measure which is, or is likely in its practical application to be, disadvantageous to persons of any racial or religious community and not equally disadvantageous to persons of other such communities, either directly by prejudicing persons of that community or indirectly by giving advantage to persons of another community;
- "member" means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman;
- "Money Bill" means a Bill which contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:
  - (a) the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation;
  - (b) the imposition, for the payment of debt or other financial purposes, of charges on the Consolidated Fund or any other public funds, or the variation or repeal of any such charges;
  - (c) the grant of money to the Government or to any authority or person, or the variation or revocation of any such grant;
  - (d) the appropriation, receipt, custody, investment, issue or audit of accounts of public money;
  - (e) the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof, or the establishment, alteration, administration or abolition of any sinking fund provided in connection with any such loan;
  - (f) subordinate matters which are ancillary or incidental to any of the foregoing matters;
- "sitting day" means any date on which Parliament meets.

#### **Article 69 Establishment of Presidential Council for Minority Rights**

- (1) There shall be a Presidential Council for Minority Rights which shall consist of
  - (a) a Chairman appointed for a period of 3 years;
  - (b) not more than 10 permanent members appointed for life; and
  - (c) not more than 10 other members appointed for a period of 3 years.
- (2) The Chairman and the members shall be appointed by the-President if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Cabinet.
- (3) The Chairman and the members appointed under clause (1) (c) shall be eligible for reappointment.

#### **Article 70 Temporary Appointment During Incapacity of Member**

Whenever a member informs the Chairman that he is or will be incapable, for a period of 3 months or more, of taking part in the proceedings of the Council by reason of illness, absence or other cause, the Chairman shall convey the information to the President who may, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Cabinet, appoint a person to serve as a member for that period.

#### **Article 71 Qualifications of Members**

No person shall be qualified to be appointed as a member unless he

- (a) is a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) is not less than 35 years of age;
- (c) is resident in Singapore; and
- (d) is not liable to any of the disqualifications provided in Article [72](#).

#### **Article 72 Disqualifications of Members**

A person shall be disqualified for appointment as a member who

- (a) is or has been found or declared to be of unsound mind;
- (b) is insolvent or an undischarged bankrupt;
- (c) has been convicted of an offence by a court of law in Singapore or Malaysia and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and has not received a free pardon: Provided that where the conviction is by a court of law in Malaysia, the person shall not be so disqualified unless the offence is also one which, had it been committed in

Singapore, would have been punishable by a court of law in Singapore; or  
(d) has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of, or exercise the rights of citizenship in, a foreign country or has made a declaration of alliance to a foreign country.

#### **Article 73 Termination of Membership**

A member shall vacate his seat in the Council

- (a) if he ceases to be a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) if by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman he resigns his seat; or
- (c) if he becomes subject to any of the disqualifications provided in Article [72](#).

#### **Article 74 Determination of Questions as to Membership**

(1) Any question whether any person has become a member or has vacated his seat as such member shall be referred to and determined by a tribunal consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice and two members appointed by the Council.

(2) Any tribunal constituted under clause (1) shall

- (a) sit in private;
  - (b) afford the person concerned adequate opportunity to call witnesses and be heard; and
  - (c) report its decision to the Chairman.
- (3) The decision of the tribunal shall be final and shall not be open to question in any court.

#### **Article 75 Oaths of Allegiance and Secrecy**

Before any person who has been appointed Chairman or a member enters upon the duties of his office, he shall take and subscribe before a Judge of the Supreme Court the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Secrecy in the forms set out respectively in paragraphs 2 and 7 in the [First Schedule](#).

#### **Article 76 General Function of Council**

(1) It shall be the general function of the Council to consider and report on such matters affecting persons of any racial or religious community in Singapore as may be referred to the Council by Parliament or the Government.

(2) A reference to the Council by Parliament may be made by the Speaker, and a reference to the Council by the Government may be made by a Minister.

#### **Article 77 Functions of Council in Respect of Bills and Subsidiary Legislation**

It shall be the particular function of the Council to draw attention to any Bill or to any subsidiary legislation if that Bill or subsidiary legislation is, in the opinion of the Council, a differentiating measure.

#### **Article 78 Copies of Bills and Amendments Thereto to be Sent to Council**

(1) Immediately after any Bill to which this article applies has been given a final reading and passed by Parliament and before it is presented to the President for assent, the Speaker shall cause an authenticated copy of the Bill to be sent to the Council.

(2) The Council shall consider the Bill and shall, within 30 days of the date on which the Bill was sent to the Council, make a report to the Speaker stating whether or not in the opinion of the Council any and, if so, which provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(3) Whenever after the receipt of an adverse report from the Council, the Bill to which it relates is amended by Parliament, the Speaker shall cause the Bill in its amended form to be sent again to the Council.

(4) On the application of the Chairman, the Speaker may extend, as he thinks fit, the period of 30 days prescribed by clause (2), where he considers it proper to do so on account of the length or complexity of any Bill or the number of matters for the time being under consideration by the

Council or for any sufficient reason.

(5) The Speaker shall cause every report received by him from the Council in pursuance of clause (2) to be presented to Parliament without undue delay. Where the Speaker receives no such report on the Bill within the time provided in clause (2), or any extension thereof granted under clause (4), it shall be conclusively presumed that the Council is of the opinion that no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure.

(6) No Bill to which this article applies shall be presented to the President for assent unless it is accompanied by a certificate under the hand of the Speaker stating that

(a) in the opinion of the Council no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure;

(b) no report having been received from the Council within the time prescribed or any extension thereof, the Council is presumed to be of the opinion that no provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure; or

(c) notwithstanding the opinion of the Council that some specified provision of the Bill would, if enacted, be a differentiating measure, a motion for the presentation of the Bill to the President for assent has been passed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of Parliament.

(7) This article shall not apply to

(a) a Money Bill;

(b) a Bill certified by the Prime Minister as being one which affects the defence or the security of Singapore or which relates to public safety, peace or good order in Singapore; or

(c) a Bill certified by the Prime Minister to be so urgent that it is not in the public interest to delay its enactment.

(8) A Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if the Speaker certifies in writing that, in his opinion, it is a Bill to which the definition of "Money Bill" contained in Article 68 applies. No Money Bill shall be presented to the President for assent, unless it is accompanied by the Speaker's certificate which shall be conclusive for all purposes and shall not be open to question in any court.

#### **Article 79 Functions of Council in Regard to Bills Enacted on a Certificate of Urgency**

(1) Where the President assents to a Bill which has been certified as urgent by the Prime Minister under Article 78 (7), it shall nevertheless be the duty of the Speaker to cause an authenticated copy of the Act to be sent as soon as may be to the Council.

(2) The Council shall thereupon consider the Act and shall, within 30 days of the date on which the Act was sent to the Council, make a report to the Speaker stating whether or not in the opinion of the Council any and, if so, which provision of the Act is a differentiating measure.

(3) The Speaker shall cause any such report to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible.

#### **Article 80 Functions of Council in Regard to Subsidiary Legislation**

(1) An authenticated copy of every piece of subsidiary legislation shall be sent to the Council by the appropriate Minister within 14 days of the publication of such subsidiary legislation.

(2) The Council shall thereupon consider such subsidiary legislation and shall, within 30 days of the date on which the subsidiary legislation was sent to the Council, make a report to the Speaker and to the appropriate Minister, stating whether or not in the opinion of the Council any and, if so, which provision of the subsidiary legislation is a differentiating measure.

(3) The Speaker shall cause every report of the Council on every piece of subsidiary legislation to be presented to Parliament on the next sitting day after receiving the Council's report.

(4) Where an adverse report in respect of any provision of any subsidiary legislation is presented to Parliament in pursuance of clause (3), then, within 6 months after the presentation of that report, unless either

(a) the provision has been revoked or amended by the appropriate Minister; or

(b) Parliament has passed a resolution confirming that provision, the appropriate Minister shall revoke such provision and cause a notice of revocation to be published in the Gazette.

(5) If no report on any subsidiary legislation is received from the Council within the time provided in clause (2), it shall be conclusively presumed that the Council is of the opinion that no provision in such subsidiary legislation is a differentiating measure.

#### **Article 81 Functions of Council in Regard to Certain Written Law**

(1) The Council may examine any written law in force on 9 Jan 1970 and may make a report in regard to any provision in such written law which, in the opinion of the Council, is a differentiating measure.

(2) The Council shall send such report to the Speaker and the Speaker shall cause such report to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible.

(3) In the case of a report on any subsidiary legislation, the Council shall also cause a copy of the report to be sent to the appropriate Minister.

#### **Article 82 Duties of Chairman**

(1) The Council shall meet on the summons of the Chairman.

(2) The Chairman, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Council.

(3) Whenever the office of Chairman is vacant or the Chairman for any reason is unable to attend, some other member shall be elected by the Council to act as Chairman.

#### **Article 83 Quorum and Voting**

(1) The Council shall not transact any business unless a quorum of 8 members, including the Chairman or member presiding, is present.

(2) Any decision of the Council shall be made by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.

(3) The Chairman or member presiding shall have an original vote but not a casting vote.

(4) If upon any question before the Council the votes of the members are equally divided, the motion shall be deemed to be lost.

#### **Article 84 Proceedings of Council to be in Private**

The proceedings of the Council shall be conducted in private and the Council shall not be entitled to hear objectors or examine witnesses in regard to any Bill or law which is being considered by the Council in pursuance of the provisions of this Part.

#### **Article 85 Council's Report**

In reporting the opinion of the Council under the provisions of this Part, the Council shall state

(a) either that the report is unanimous or the number of votes for and against it; and

(b) in the case of an adverse report, the grounds on which the Council has reached its conclusion.

#### **Article 86 Validity of Proceedings Notwithstanding Vacancy in Membership**

Subject to Article [83 \(1\)](#), the Council shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy among the members thereof; and any proceedings therein shall be valid notwithstanding that some person who was not entitled to do so took part in those proceedings.

#### **Article 87 Attendance of Minister, etc.**

Any Minister, Minister of State or Parliamentary Secretary specially authorized by the Prime Minister for this purpose shall be entitled to attend and take part in the proceedings of the Council as if he were a member but shall not have the right to vote in the Council.



### **Article 88 Power of Council to Make Rules Regulating Procedure**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Council may make rules with respect to the regulation and conduct of its proceedings and the despatch of its business but no such rules shall have effect until they have been approved by the President.

### **Article 89 Annual Report**

(1) Once in every year it shall be the duty of the Council to compile and present to the President a report on the work of the Council during the preceding 12 months.

(2) The President shall cause such report to be presented to Parliament as soon as possible.

### **Article 90 Salaries and Fees**

(1) There shall be paid to the Chairman and the other members such salaries and fees as may be determined by the President.

(2) The salaries and fees payable under clause (1) shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.

### **Article 91 Appointment of Staff**

The Council shall have power to appoint a Secretary to the Council and such other officers as may be required to enable the Council to carry out its functions under this Part.

### **Article 92 Power to Make Rules Generally**

The President may make rules for the conduct of business between the Council and Parliament and between the Council and any authority empowered to make subsidiary legislation, and generally for carrying out the purposes of this Part.

## **Part VIII The Judiciary**

### **Article 93 Judicial Power of Singapore**

The judicial power of Singapore shall be vested in a Supreme Court and in such subordinate courts as may be provided by any written law for the time being in force.

### **Article 93a Jurisdiction to Determine Questions as to Validity of Presidential Election**

(1) All proceedings relating to the election of the President shall be heard and determined by the Chief Justice or by a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice for the purpose (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Judge).

(2) The Election Judge shall have the power to hear and determine and make such orders as provided by law on proceedings relating to the election of the President, and the decision of the Election Judge in any such proceedings shall be final.

(3) The procedure and practice in proceedings relating to the election of the President shall be regulated by rules which may be made by the Rules Committee constituted and appointed under section 80 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act.

### **Article 94 Constitution of Supreme Court**

(1) The Supreme Court shall consist of the Court of Appeal and the High Court with such jurisdiction and powers as are conferred on those Courts by this Constitution or any written law.

(2) The office of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be abolished during his continuance in office.

(3) A person qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court or a person who has ceased to hold the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court may be appointed as the Chief Justice in accordance with Article [95](#), or may sit as a Judge of the High Court or as a Judge of Appeal, if

designated for the purpose (as occasion requires) in accordance with Article [95](#), and such person shall hold office for such period or periods as the President, if the President, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, shall direct.

(4) In order to facilitate the disposal of business in the Supreme Court, the President, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, may appoint a person qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court to be a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in accordance with Article [95](#) for such period or periods as the President thinks fit; and a Judicial Commissioner so appointed may, in respect of such class or classes of cases as the Chief Justice may specify, exercise the powers and perform the functions of a Judge of the High Court. Anything done by a Judicial Commissioner when acting in accordance with the terms of his appointment shall have the same validity and effect as if done by a Judge of that Court and, in respect thereof, he shall have the same powers and enjoy the same immunities as if he had been a Judge of that Court.

(5) For the purposes of Clause (4), the President may appoint a person qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court to be a Judicial Commissioner to hear and determine a specified case only.

### **Article 95 Appointment of Judges of Supreme Court**

(1) The Chief Justice, the Judges of Appeal, and the Judges of the High Court shall be appointed by the President if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) Before tendering his advice as to the appointment under clause (1) of a Judge, other than the Chief Justice, the Prime Minister shall consult the Chief Justice.

(3) This article shall apply to the designation of a person to sit as a Judge of the High Court or as a Judge of Appeal under Article [94 \(3\)](#) and to the appointment of a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court under Article [94 \(4\)](#) as it applies to the appointment of a Judge of the High Court other than the Chief Justice.

### **Article 96 Qualifications of Judges of Supreme Court**

A person is qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court if he has for an aggregate period of not less than 10 years been a qualified person within the meaning of section 2 of the Legal Profession Act or a member of the Singapore Legal Service, or both.

### **Article 97 Oath of Office of Judges and Judicial Commissioners of Supreme Court**

The Chief Justice and every person appointed or designated to sit as a Judge of the High Court or a Judge of Appeal or appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court shall, before he enters on the execution of his office, take, in the presence of the President, the Oath of Office in the form set out in the [First Schedule](#).

### **Article 98 Tenure of Office and Remuneration of Judges of Supreme Court**

(1) Subject to this article, a Judge of the Supreme Court shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years or such later time not being later than 6 months after he attains that age, as the President may approve.

(2) A Judge of the Supreme Court may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President, but shall not be removed from office except in accordance with clauses (3), (4) and (5).

(3) If the Prime Minister, or the Chief Justice after consulting the Prime Minister, represents to the President that a Judge of the Supreme Court ought to be removed on the ground of misbehavior or of inability, from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause, to properly discharge the functions of his office, the President shall appoint a tribunal in accordance with clause (4) and shall refer that representation to it; and may on the recommendation of the tribunal remove the Judge from office.

(4) The tribunal shall consist of not less than 5 persons who hold or have held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court, or, if it appears to the President expedient to make such an appointment,

persons who hold or have held equivalent office in any part of the Commonwealth, and the tribunal shall be presided over by the member first in the following order, namely, the Chief Justice according to their precedence among themselves and other members according to the order of their appointment to an office qualifying them for membership (the older coming before the younger of two members with appointments of the same date).

(5) Pending any reference and report under clause (3), the President may, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the recommendation of the Prime Minister and, in the case of any other Judge, after consulting the Chief Justice, suspend a Judge of the Supreme Court from the exercise of his functions.

(6) Parliament shall by law provide for the remuneration of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the remuneration so provided shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

(7) Subject to this article, Parliament may by law provide for the terms of office of the Judges of the Supreme Court, other than their remuneration.

(8) The remuneration and other terms of office (including pension rights) of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be altered to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(9) Notwithstanding clause (1), the validity of anything done by a Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be questioned on the ground that he had attained the age on which he was required to retire.

(10) The President may in his discretion grant leave of absence from his duties to the Chief Justice and, acting on the advice of the Chief Justice, to any other Judge of the Supreme Court.

#### **Article 99 Restriction on Parliamentary Discussion of Conduct of a Judge of Supreme Court**

The conduct of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a person designated to sit as such Judge or a Judicial Commissioner shall not be discussed in Parliament except on a substantive motion of which notice has been given by not less than one-quarter of the total number of the Members of Parliament.

#### **Article 100 Advisory Opinion**

(1) The President may refer to a tribunal consisting of not less than 3 Judges of the Supreme Court for its opinion any question as to the effect of any provision of this Constitution which has arisen or appears to him likely to arise.

(2) Where a reference is made to a tribunal under Clause (1), it shall be the duty of the tribunal to consider and answer the question so referred as soon as may be and in any case not more than 60 days after the date of such reference, and the tribunal shall certify to the President, for his information, its opinion on the question referred to it under Clause (1) with reasons for its answer, and any Judge in the tribunal who differs from the opinion of the majority shall in like manner certify his opinion and his reasons.

(3) The opinion of the majority of the Judges in the tribunal shall, for the purposes of this article, be the opinion of the tribunal, and every such opinion of the tribunal shall be pronounced in open court.

(4) No court shall have jurisdiction to question the opinion of any tribunal or the validity of any law, or any provision therein, the Bill for which has been the subject of a reference to a tribunal by the President under this article.

#### **Article 101 Continuance of Existing Judges**

In this part, "office", in relation to a Judge of the Supreme Court, means the office as Chief Justice, Judge of Appeal, or Judge of the High Court, as the case may be.

### **Part IX The Public Service**

#### **[Title 1 Public Service Commission]**

## **Article 102 Public Services**

(1) For the purposes of this Constitution and except as hereinafter in this Part provided, the public services shall be

- (a) the Singapore Armed Forces;
- (b) the Singapore Civil Service;
- (c) the Singapore Legal Service; and
- (d) the Singapore Police Force.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Constitution, the qualifications for appointments and conditions of service of persons in the public services may be regulated by law and, subject to the provisions of any such law, by the President.

## **Article 103 Interpretation**

Except for the purposes of Articles [112](#), [114](#) and [115](#), and except where the context otherwise requires, in the interpretation of this Part

- (a) "public service" does not include service otherwise than in a civil capacity;
- (b) "public office" does not include the following offices:
  - (i) the office of the Chief Justice;
  - (ii) the office of the Attorney-General;
  - (iii) the office of Judge of the Supreme Court;
  - (iv) the office of member of the Public Service Commission, the Legal Service Commission, the Education Service Commission or the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission;
  - (v) the office of any police officer below the rank of Inspector; or
  - (vi) any office the remuneration of the holder of which is calculated on a daily rate, and "public officer" shall be construed accordingly.

## **Article 104 Tenure of Public Office**

Except as expressly provided by this Constitution, every person who is a member of the public service shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

## **Article 105 Public Service Commission**

(1) There shall be a Public Service Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and not less than 5 and not more than 14 other members, each of whom shall be appointed in writing under the hand of the President, if the President, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) The Chairman shall be a citizen of Singapore.

(3) The President may, from time to time, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint one or more Deputy Chairmen from among the members of the Public Service Commission.

(4) Before tendering his advice as to the appointment under clause (3) of a Deputy Chairman, the Prime Minister shall consult the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

(5) Every Deputy Chairman appointed under clause (3) shall hold office for such period as may be specified in the terms of his appointment and shall cease to be Deputy Chairman if he ceases to be a member of the Public Service Commission.

(6) A person appointed to be a member of the Public Service Commission shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment to any public office.

(7) At any meeting of the Public Service Commission, 3 members who shall include either the Chairman or one of the Deputy Chairmen, and may include both of them, shall form a quorum. If the quorum is present, the Commission shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy among its members, and any proceeding of the Commission shall be valid notwithstanding that some person not entitled to do so took part therein.

(8) Before assuming the duties of his office, the Chairman and every other member of the Public Service Commission shall take and subscribe before the Chief Justice or some other Judge of the

Supreme Court the appropriate Oath for the due execution of his office in the form set out in the First Schedule.

#### **Article 106 Disqualification for Appointment to Commission**

- (1) A person shall not be appointed to be a member of the Public Service Commission if he is, and shall cease to be a member if he becomes
- (a) a public officer;
  - (b) an employee of any corporation incorporated by or under the provisions of any law for the time being in force in Singapore other than the Companies Act or any corresponding previous written law;
  - (c) a Member of Parliament or a duly nominated candidate for election as such Member;
  - (d) a member of any trade union or of any body or association affiliated to a trade union; or
  - (e) the holder of any office in any political association.
- (2) Clause (1)(b) shall not apply to any person who is a member of the teaching staff of any university established by or under any written law.

#### **Article 107 Tenure of Office**

- (1) Subject to Article [106](#), every member of the Public Service Commission shall, unless he earlier resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President or is removed therefrom under this article, hold office for a period of 5 years from the date of his appointment, but shall be eligible for reappointment: Provided that a member, other than the Chairman may be appointed to hold office for any shorter period of not less than 3 years.
- (2) If the Prime Minister, or the Chairman of the Public Service Commission after consulting with the Prime Minister, represents to the President that a member of the Public Service Commission ought to be removed from office for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehavior, the President shall, if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with that representation, refer that representation to a tribunal consisting of the Chief Justice and two other Judges of the Supreme Court nominated for that purpose by the Chief Justice and shall, if that tribunal so recommends, remove that member from office by writing under his hand.
- (3) The tribunal constituted under clause (2) shall regulate its own procedure and may make rules for that purpose.

#### **Article 108 Terms of Service of Chairman and Members of Commission**

- (1) The Chairman and other members of the Public Service Commission shall be paid such salary and allowances as may, from time to time, be determined, and such salary and allowances shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the terms of service of the members of the Public Service Commission may either
- (a) be prescribed by or under any law made under this Constitution; or
  - (b) (in so far as they are not prescribed by or under any such law) be prescribed by the President.
- (3) The terms of service of any member of the Public Service Commission shall not be altered to his disadvantage during his continuance in office.
- (4) For the purposes of clause (3), in so far as the terms of service of a member of the Public Service Commission depend upon his option, any terms for which he opts shall be taken to be more advantageous to him than any for which he might have opted.

#### **Article 109 Secretary to Commission**

- (1) There shall be a Secretary to the Public Service Commission who shall be a person who is a public officer and who shall be appointed by the President in accordance with the advice of the Commission.

(2) The Secretary to the Public Service Commission shall be responsible, in accordance with such instructions as may be given to him by the Chairman of the Commission, for arranging the business for, and keeping the minutes of, the meetings of the Commission and for conveying the decisions of the Commission to the appropriate person or authority and shall have such other functions as the Chairman may, from time to time, direct.

### **Article 110 Appointment, etc., of Public Officers**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Public Service Commission to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent or pensionable establishment, promote, transfer, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over public officers.

(2) The promotion of public officers shall be on the basis of official qualifications, experience and merit.

(3) No public officer shall be dismissed or reduced in rank under this article without being given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(4) No member of any of the services mentioned in Article [102 \(1\) \(b\) to \(d\)](#) shall be dismissed or reduced in rank by an authority subordinate to that which, at the time of the dismissal or reduction, has power to appoint a member of that service of equal rank.

(5) In clause (1)

- "appoint" does not include an appointment to act in an office for two months or less;

- "transfer" does not include transfer without a change of rank within a department of the Government.

### **[Title 2 Special Service Commissions]**

#### **Article 110a Education Service Commission**

(1) There shall be an Education Service Commission which shall consist of

(a) a Chairman (being either the Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Commission) appointed in writing under the hand of the President if the President, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister who shall, before tendering such advice, consult the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;

(b) two members of the Public Service Commission nominated generally or specially by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of whom one shall be nominated as the Deputy Chairman of the Education Service Commission; and

(c) two persons appointed in writing under the hand of the President if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Education Service Commission to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent or pensionable establishment, promote, transfer, dismiss, and exercise disciplinary control over all public officers in the Education Service of the Singapore Civil Service.

#### **Article 110b Public and Civil Defence Services Commission**

(1) There shall be a Police and Civil Defence Services Commission which shall consist of

(a) a Chairman (being either the Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Commission) appointed in writing under the hand of the President if the President, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister who shall, before tendering such advice, consult the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;

(b) two members of the Public Service Commission nominated generally or specially by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of whom one shall be nominated as the Deputy Chairman of the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission; and

(c) two persons appointed in writing under the hand of the President if he, acting in his discretion, concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent or pensionable establishment, promote, transfer, dismiss, and

exercise disciplinary control over all public officers in the Police Service and the Civil Defence Service, including the transfer of such officers between those Services.

(3) { *Mended into Clause (2) by Amendment Act No. 2 1994 of 23 Sep 1994.* }

(4) In this article, the reference to the Police Service and the Civil Defence Service shall be construed as a reference to the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force and any other services as the President may, after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, by notification in the Gazette, designate as part of the Police Service or the Civil Defence Service.

### **Article 110c Education Service Commission and Police and Civil Defence Services Commission**

(1) The provisions of this article shall have effect in relation to the Education Service Commission and to the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission, and "Commission" in this article shall be construed accordingly.

(2) The Commission may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit, delegate to any member of the Commission, to any public officer or other person, or to any board consisting of public officers or other persons appointed by it, any of its functions in respect of any grade of service, and that member, officer, person or board shall exercise those functions under the direction and control of the Commission.

(3) At any meeting of the Commission, 3 members who shall include either its Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall form a quorum; and if a quorum is present, the Commission shall not be disqualified for the transaction of business by reason of any vacancy among its members, and any proceeding of the Commission shall be valid notwithstanding that some person not entitled to do so took part therein.

(4) The Commission may, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, regulate its own procedure and make rules for that purpose, and may, in connection with the discharge of its functions, confer powers and impose duties on any person or any authority of the Government.

(5) The Commission shall appoint the Secretary of the Public Service Commission, or any other public officer, to be Secretary of the Commission.

(6) The Chairman of the Commission shall be appointed for a period of not less than 3 years and not more than 5 years except that

(a) he shall cease to be Chairman if he ceases to be the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Commission; and

(b) the first Chairman may be appointed for a period of less than 3 years.

(7) Articles [105 \(6\)](#), [106](#), [107](#) and [108](#) shall apply to a member of the Commission appointed under Article [110a \(1\) \(c\)](#) or [110b \(1\) \(c\)](#) as they apply to a member of the Public Service Commission.

(8) Before assuming the duties of his office, a member of the Commission appointed under Article [110a \(1\)\(c\)](#) or [110b \(1\)\(c\)](#) shall take and subscribe before the Chief Justice or some other Judge of the Supreme Court the Oath for the due execution of his office in the form (with necessary modifications) applicable to a member of the Public Service Commission as set out in the A001\_First Schedule.

### **Article 110d Personnel Boards**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this article, the President may, on the advice of the Prime Minister and by order in the *Gazette*, establish one or more personnel boards to exercise all or any of the powers and functions of the Public Service Commission, the Education Service Commission, and the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission in respect of the public officers each Commission has charge of under Articles [110](#), [110a](#), and [110b](#), respectively.

(2) The order under Clause (1) shall specify the powers and functions to be exercised by a personnel board and the class or classes of public officers in respect of which those powers and functions may be exercised except the following:

(a) the power to dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over all public officers of any grade in

Division I; and

(b) all powers of the Public Service Commission in relation to public officers in the Administrative Service and Administrative Service (Foreign Service Branch) who hold appointments of and above significant grade (as defined in Article [111a \(1\)](#)) in those Services, including the power to nominate officers for appointment or promotion to that grade, and any power of appointment specified in the order as to be exercised by a personnel board shall not include a power to dismiss any person so appointed.

(3) Where the President has by order established a personnel board under Clause (1) for the purpose of exercising any of the powers or functions of a Commission referred to in that clause, such power or function --

(a) may be exercised by such personnel board notwithstanding anything in Articles [110 \(1\) and \(4\)](#), [110a \(2\)](#), and [110b \(2\)](#); and

(b) shall, so long as it remains a power or function to be exercised by the boards pursuant to such order, cease to be exercisable by that Commission except to the extent permitted under Clause (4).

(4) Subject to regulations made under Clause (7), any person aggrieved by any decision of any personnel board may, within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed, appeal to the Commission referred to in Clause (1) which would have exercised the powers of that personnel board if this article had not been enacted, and the decision of any such Commission shall be final.

(5) Subject to Clause (6), a personnel board which is established to exercise any power over officers in Division I shall consist of such persons as the President may, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint, except that the President may, acting in his discretion, refuse to make any such appointment if he does not concur with the advice of the Prime Minister.

(6) A person shall not be appointed to be a member of a personnel board if he is, and shall cease to be a member if he becomes --

(a) a Member of Parliament or a duly nominated candidate for election as such Member;

(b) a member of any trade union or of any body or association affiliated to a trade union; or

(c) the holder of any office in any political association.

(7) The President may by regulations --

(a) provide for matters relating to the appointment of members of personnel boards;

(b) prescribe the procedure to be followed by the personnel boards in the exercise of their powers and functions;

(c) prescribe the manner of appeals under Clause (4); and

(d) modify the application of Clause (4) by providing that appeals under that clause shall be made first to such person or persons as may be appointed by the President but without prejudice to the right to appeal thereafter to a Commission.

(8) Nothing in this article shall affect any direction or delegation issued before the commencement of this article by the Education Service Commission, the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission, or the Public Service Commission under Article [110c \(2\)](#) or [116 \(3\)](#), as the case may be, and this article shall not apply to any power or function of these Commissions so long it forms the subject of any such direction or delegation.

### **Article 111 Legal Service Commission**

(1) There shall be a Legal Service Commission, whose jurisdiction shall extend to all officers in the Singapore Legal Service.

(2) The Legal Service Commission shall consist of

(a) the Chief Justice, as President;

(b) the Attorney-General;

(c) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;

(d) a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated generally or specially by the Chief Justice; and

(e) not more than two members of the Public Service Commission nominated generally or specially by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

(3) Subject to the provisions of any existing law and to the provisions of this Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Legal Service Commission to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent or pensionable establishment, promote, transfer, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over



officers in the Singapore Legal Service.

(4) The Legal Service Commission may delegate to any officer in the Singapore Legal Service or to any board of such officers appointed by it any of its functions under clause (3) in respect of any grade of service, and that officer or board shall exercise those functions under the direction and control of the Legal Service Commission.

(5) The person who is Secretary to the Public Service Commission shall be Secretary to the Legal Service Commission.

#### **Article 111a Promotion to Significant Grade**

(1) The President may, by notification in the *Gazette*, designate as significant a grade each in the Administrative Service Scheme of Service and the Administrative (Foreign Service) Scheme of Service (referred to in this article as the significant grade), and such notification may be subsequently amended to designate as significant any other grade in those Schemes of Service not lower than the grade first so designated.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision in the Constitution, any appointment or promotion of a public officer to the significant grade shall be made by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, from public officers nominated by the Public Service Commission.

#### **[Title 3 Pensions, Proceedings]**

#### **Article 112 Protection of Pension Rights**

(1) The law applicable to any pension, gratuity or other like allowance (referred to in this article as an award) granted to any public officer or to his widow, children, dependants or personal representatives shall be that in force on the relevant day or any later law not less favorable to the person concerned.

(2) For the purposes of this article, the relevant day is

(a) in relation to an award made before 16 Sep 1963, the date on which the award was made;

(b) in relation to an award made after 16 Sep 1963 to or in respect of any person who was a public officer before that date, the date immediately before that date; and

(c) in relation to an award made to or in respect of any person who first became a public officer on or after 16 Sep 1963, the date on which he first became a public officer.

(3) For the purposes of this article, where the law applicable to an award depends on the option of the person to whom it is made, the law for which he opts shall be taken to be more favorable to him than any other law for which he might have opted.

#### **Article 113 Pension power of Public Service Commission and Legal Service Commission**

(1) Where under any written law any person or authority has a discretion

(a) to decide whether or not any award shall be made; or

(b) to withhold, reduce in amount or suspend any such award that has been made, that award shall be made and may not be withheld, reduced in amount or suspended unless the Public Service Commission or the Legal Service Commission, as the case may be concurs in the refusal to grant the award or, as the case may be, in the decision to withhold, reduce in amount or suspend.

(2) Where the amount of any award that may be made to any person is not fixed by law, the amount of the award to be made to him shall be the greatest amount for which he is eligible unless the Public Service Commission or the Legal Service Commission, as the case may be, concurs in the making of an award of a smaller amount.

(3) In this article, "award" has the same meaning as in Article [112](#).

#### **Article 114 Pensions, etc., to be Charged on Pension Fund, or Consolidated Fund**

Pensions, gratuities, and other like allowances granted in respect of the public service shall be charged on and paid out of, in the first instance, the Pension Fund established by the Pension Fund Act 1995 and, if that Fund is deficient, the Consolidated Fund.

#### **Article 115 Pension Rights on Transfer**

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution relating to the circumstances in which a public officer may vacate his office, any public officer may, with the consent of the Government (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), relinquish his office for the purpose of transfer to some other public office or to an office in any other public service, and if he so relinquishes his office, his claim to any pension, gratuity or other like allowance shall not thereby be prejudiced.

(2) For the purposes of this article, "other public service" has the meaning given to it by the Pensions Act as in force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.

#### **Article 116 Regulations Regarding Public Service Commission**

(1) Subject to the provisions of any written law for the time being in force in Singapore, the President may make regulations for all or any of the following matters:

- (a) the division of public offices into Divisions and Services;
- (b) the prescribing of Schemes regulating the recruitment, service and promotion of members of such Services; and
- (c) the conduct and discipline of the public service.

(2) The Public Service Commission may, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, regulate its own procedure and make rules for that purpose, and may, in connection with the discharge of its functions, confer powers and impose duties on any person or any authority of the Government.

(3) The Public Service Commission may, by directions in writing and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit, delegate any of its functions under Article [110 \(1\)](#) to any member of the Commission, to any public officer or other person, or to any board consisting of public officers and other persons appointed by it or to any person who is a member of a panel appointed by the Commission for the purposes of representing the public in any disciplinary proceedings in respect of any grade of the public service and that member, officer, board or person shall exercise those functions under the direction and control of the Public Service Commission.

#### **Article 117 Validation of Acts Done and Rules Made by Public Service Commission**

(1) No legal proceedings whatsoever shall lie or be instituted or maintained in any court of law for or on account of or in respect of any act, decision or thing done or taken by the Public Service Commission or by any member, committee or delegate thereof or by any person acting under the authority of the Public Service Commission during the period from 16 Sep 1963 to 19 June 1970 if done or taken in good faith in the execution of duty or for the purpose of regulating conduct or enforcing discipline in the public service.

(2) No legal proceedings in respect of any such act, decision or thing which is alleged to have been done or taken in bad faith in the execution of duty or for the purpose of regulating conduct or enforcing discipline in the public service during the period from 16 Sep 1963 to 19 June 1970 shall be instituted or maintained in any court of law unless a certificate of the Attorney-General shall first have been obtained sanctioning the institution of such legal proceedings.

(3) In the exercise or purported exercise of any of the powers conferred upon the Public Service Commission to appoint, confirm, emplace on the permanent or pensionable establishment, promote, transfer and exercise disciplinary control over public officers, all acts or things done, exercised or performed by the Public Service Commission or by any member, committee or delegate thereof or by any person acting under the authority of the Public Service Commission during the period from 16 Sep 1963 to 19 June 1970 shall be deemed to be and always to have been within the competence and jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission or such member,

committee, delegate or person, as the case may be, and shall be deemed to be and always to have been validly done, exercised or performed.

(4) All rules, regulations, orders or notifications whatsoever made during the period from 16 Sep 1963 to 19 June 1970 by or in the name of the Public Service Commission or any committee thereof shall be deemed to be and always to have been validly made, notwithstanding that any such rules, regulations, orders or notifications have been revoked or amended or are or have been inconsistent with, or in conflict with, or contrary to any written law or law previously in force.

#### **Article 118 Performance by Public Service Commission of Other Functions**

Parliament may by law provide for the exercise of other functions by the Public Service Commission.

#### **Article 119 Reports of Commissions**

The Public Service Commission and the Legal Service Commission shall each make an annual report on its activities to the President and a copy of every such report shall be presented to Parliament.

### **Part X Citizenship**

#### **[Title 1 Acquisition]**

#### **Article 120 Status of Citizen of Singapore**

- (1) There shall be a status known as citizen of Singapore.
- (2) The status of a citizen of Singapore may be acquired
  - (a) by birth;
  - (b) by descent;
  - (c) by registration or, before 9 Aug 1965, by enrolment; or
  - (d) by naturalization.

#### **Article 121 Citizenship by Birth**

- (1) Subject to this article, every person born in Singapore after the commencement of this Constitution shall be a citizen of Singapore by birth.
- (2) A person shall not be a citizen of Singapore by virtue of clause (1) if at the time of his birth
  - (a) his father, not being a citizen of Singapore, possessed such immunity from suit and legal process as is accorded to an envoy of a sovereign power accredited to the President;
  - (b) his father was an enemy alien and the birth occurred in a place then under the occupation of the enemy; or
  - (c) neither of his parents was a citizen of Singapore.
- (3) Notwithstanding clause (2) (c), the Government may, where it considers it just and fair and having regard to all the circumstances prevailing at the time of the application, confer citizenship upon a person born in Singapore.

#### **Article 122 Citizenship by Descent**

- (1) A person born outside Singapore after the commencement of this Constitution shall be a citizen of Singapore by descent if at the time of the birth his father is a citizen of Singapore, by birth or by registration: Provided that such person shall not be a citizen of Singapore by descent unless his birth is registered in the prescribed manner at the Registry of Citizens or at a diplomatic or consular mission of Singapore within one year of its occurrence or, with the permission of the Government, later: And provided further that where such person is born of a father who is a citizen of Singapore by registration at the time of the birth, he would not acquire the citizenship of that country in which he was born by reason of his birth in that country.

(2) A person who, being a minor, becomes a citizen of Singapore by descent shall cease to be a citizen of Singapore on attaining the age of 22 years unless within 12 months after he attains the age of 21 years he takes the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty in the form set out in the Second Schedule and where the Government so requires divests himself of any foreign citizenship or nationality.

### **Article 123 Citizenship by Registration**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, any person resident in Singapore of or over the age of 21 years may, on application being made therefor in the prescribed form, be registered as a citizen of Singapore if he satisfies the Government that he

(a) is of good character;

(b) has resided in Singapore throughout the 12 months immediately preceding the date of his application;

(c) has during the 12 years immediately preceding the date of his application resided in Singapore for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than 10 years: Provided that the Government may exempt any applicant from compliance with this paragraph

(i) where such applicant has during the 6 years immediately preceding the date of his application resided in Singapore for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than 5 years; or

(ii) where in any special case the Government considers fit to confer citizenship upon such applicant;

(d) intends to reside permanently in Singapore; and

(e) has an elementary knowledge of one of the following languages, namely, Malay, English, Mandarin and Tamil: Provided that the Government may exempt an applicant who has attained the age of 45 years or who is deaf or dumb from compliance with this paragraph.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, any woman who is married to a citizen of Singapore may, on making application therefor in the prescribed manner, be registered as a citizen of Singapore if she satisfies the Government

(a) that she has resided continuously in Singapore for a period of not less than two years immediately preceding the date of the application;

(b) that she intends to reside permanently in Singapore; and

(c) that she is of good character.

### **Article 124 Registration of Minors**

(1) The Government may if satisfied that a child under the age of 21 years

(a) is the child of a citizen of Singapore; and

(b) is residing in Singapore, cause such child to be registered as a citizen of Singapore on application being made therefor in the prescribed manner by the parent or guardian of such child.

(2) The Government may, in such special circumstances as it thinks fit, cause any child under the age of 21 years to be registered as a citizen of Singapore.

### **Article 125 Effect of Registration**

Subject to Article [126](#), a person registered as a citizen of Singapore under Article [123 or 124](#) shall be a citizen of Singapore from the date on which he is so registered.

### **Article 126 General Provisions as to Registration**

(1) No person shall be registered as a citizen of Singapore under Article [123](#) until he has taken the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty in the form set out in the Second Schedule.

(2) Except with the approval of the Government, no person who has renounced or has been deprived of citizenship of Singapore under this Constitution or the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957 shall be registered as a citizen of Singapore under the provisions of this Constitution.

(3) Any person who becomes a citizen of Singapore by registration under section 13 of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957 or Article [124](#) shall cease to be a citizen of Singapore on attaining the age of 22 years unless within 12 months after he attains the age of 21 years he takes the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty in the form set out in the Second Schedule.

#### **Article 127 Citizenship by Naturalization**

- (1) Subject to clause (4), the Government may, upon application made by any person of or over the age of 21 years who is not a citizen of Singapore, grant a certificate of naturalization to that person if the Government is satisfied
- (a) that he has resided in Singapore for the required periods and intends, if the certificate is granted, to do so permanently;
  - (b) that he is of good character; and
  - (c) that he has an adequate knowledge of the national language.
- (2) The periods of residence in Singapore or the relevant part of it which are required for the grant of a certificate of naturalization are periods which amount in the aggregate to not less than 10 years in the 12 years immediately preceding the date of the application for the certificate and which include the 12 months immediately preceding that date.
- (3) A person to whom a certificate of naturalization is granted shall be a citizen of Singapore by naturalization from the date on which the certificate is granted.
- (4) No certificate of naturalization shall be granted to any person until he has taken the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty in the form set out in the Second Schedule.

#### **[Title 2 Loss]**

#### **Article 128 Renunciation of Citizenship**

- (1) Any citizen of Singapore of or over the age of 21 years and of sound mind who is also or is about to become a citizen of another country may renounce his citizenship of Singapore by declaration registered by the Government, and shall upon such registration cease to be a citizen of Singapore.
- (2) The Government may withhold the registration of a declaration under this article --
- (a) if the declaration is made during any war in which Singapore is engaged; or
  - (b) if the declaration is made by a person subject to the Enlistment Act unless he has
    - (i) discharged his liability for full-time service under section 12 of that Act;
    - (ii) rendered at least 3 years of operationally ready national service under section 13 of that Act in lieu of such full-time service; or
    - (iii) complied with such conditions as may be determined by the Government.
- (3) This article applies to a woman under the age of 21 years who has been married as it applies to a person of or over that age.

#### **Article 129 Deprivation of Citizenship**

- (1) A citizen of Singapore who is a citizen by registration or by naturalization shall cease to be such a citizen if he is deprived of his citizenship by an order of the Government made in accordance with this article.
- (2) The Government may, by order, deprive any such citizen of his citizenship if the Government is satisfied that the registration or the certificate of naturalization
- (a) was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; or
  - (b) was effected or granted by mistake.
- (3) The Government may, by order, deprive of his citizenship
- (a) any person who is a citizen of Singapore by naturalization if the Government is satisfied
    - (i) that he has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards Singapore; or

(ii) that he has, during any war in which Singapore is or was engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in or associated with any business which to his knowledge was carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war; or

(b) any citizen of Singapore by registration or by naturalization if the Government is satisfied

(i) that he has, within the period of 5 years after registration or naturalization, been sentenced in any country to imprisonment for a term of not less than 12 months or to a fine of not less than \$5,000 or the equivalent in the currency of that country, and has not received a free pardon in respect of the offence for which he was so sentenced; or

(ii) that he has, at any time after registration or naturalization, been engaged in any activities which are prejudicial to the security of Singapore, or the maintenance of public order therein, or the maintenance therein of essential services, or in any criminal activities which are prejudicial to the interests of public safety, peace or good order.

(4) The Government may, by order, deprive of his citizenship any person who is a citizen of Singapore by naturalization if the Government is satisfied that, without the Government's approval, he has accepted, served in or performed the duties of any office, post or employment under the government of any foreign country or any political subdivision thereof, or under any agency of such a government, in any case where an oath, affirmation or declaration of allegiance is required in respect of the office, post or employment: Provided that a person shall not be deprived of his citizenship under this clause by reason of anything done before 9 Aug 1965 notwithstanding that he was at the time a citizen of Singapore.

(5) The Government may, by order, deprive of his citizenship any person who is a citizen of Singapore by naturalization if the Government is satisfied that he has been ordinarily resident in foreign countries for a continuous period of 5 years and during that period has neither

(a) been at any time in the service of Singapore or of an international organization of which the Government was a member; nor

(b) registered annually at a consulate of Singapore his intention to retain his citizenship.

(6) The Government may, by order, deprive of her citizenship any woman who is a citizen of Singapore by registration under Article [123 \(2\)](#) if the Government is satisfied that the marriage by virtue of which she was registered has been dissolved, otherwise than by death, within the period of two years beginning with the date of the marriage.

(7) No person shall be deprived of his citizenship under this article or under Article [130](#) unless the Government is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that that person should continue to be a citizen of Singapore; and no person shall be deprived of his citizenship under clause (2) (b) or clause (3) (a) or (b) (i) or under clause (4) or (5) or under Article [130](#) if the Government is satisfied that as a result of the deprivation he would not be a citizen of any country.

### **Article 130 Deprivation of Citizenship of Child of Person Losing Citizenship**

Where a person has

(a) renounced his citizenship; or

(b) been deprived of his citizenship under Article [129 \(2\)\(a\)](#) or [134 \(1\)\(a\)](#), the Government may, by order, deprive of his citizenship any child of that person under the age of 21 years who has been registered as a citizen of Singapore pursuant to this Constitution and was so registered as being the child of that person or of that person's wife or husband.

### **Article 131 General Provisions as to Loss of Citizenship**

Renunciation or deprivation of citizenship of Singapore shall not discharge a person from liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before he ceased to be a citizen of Singapore.

### **Article 132 Cancellation of Enrollment as Citizen**

(1) Where a person has been enrolled as a citizen of Singapore before 9 Aug 1965 and the Government is satisfied that the enrolment

(a) was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; or

(b) was effected by mistake,  
the Government may, by order, cancel the enrolment.

(2) Where under this article a person's enrolment as a citizen of Singapore is cancelled, that shall not discharge him from liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the cancellation.

### **Article 133 Procedure for Deprivation**

(1) Before making an order under Article [129](#), [132](#), [134](#) or [135](#), the Government shall give the person, against whom the order is proposed to be made, notice in writing informing him of the ground on which the order is proposed to be made and of his right to have the case referred to a committee of inquiry under this article.

(2) If any person to whom such notice is given applies within such time as may be prescribed to have the case referred to a committee of inquiry, the Government shall, and in any other case may, refer the case to a committee of inquiry consisting of a Chairman, who shall be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and two other members chosen from a panel to be appointed by the Government in that behalf.

(3) The committee of inquiry shall, on such reference, hold an Inquiry in such manner as may be prescribed and submit a report to the Government and the Government shall have regard to such report in making the order.

### **Article 134 Deprivation of Citizenship on Acquisition of Foreign Citizenship**

(1) The Government may, by order, deprive a citizen of Singapore of his citizenship if the Government is satisfied that

(a) he has, while of or over the age of 18 years, at any time after 6 April 1960 acquired by registration, naturalization or other voluntary and formal act (other than marriage) the citizenship of any country outside Singapore or having so acquired such citizenship before the age of 18 years continues to retain it after that age; or

(b) the citizen, being a woman who is a citizen of Singapore by registration under Article [123 \(2\)](#), has acquired the citizenship of any country outside Singapore by virtue of her marriage to a person who is not a citizen of Singapore.

(2) Where the Government has made an order under this article depriving a citizen of Singapore of his citizenship, he shall cease to be a citizen with effect from the date of the order.

### **Article 135 Deprivation of Citizenship on Exercise of Rights of Foreign Nationals**

(1) The Government may, by order, deprive a citizen of Singapore of his citizenship if the Government is satisfied that

(a) he has, while of or over the age of 18 years, at any time after 6 April 1960 voluntarily claimed and exercised any rights (other than any rights in connection with the use of a passport) available to him under the law of any country outside Singapore being rights accorded exclusively to the citizens or nationals of that country;

(b) he has, while of or over the age of 18 years, at any time after 6 April 1960 applied to the authorities of a place outside Singapore for the issue or renewal of a passport or used a passport issued by such authorities as a travel document; or

(c) he is of or over the age of 18 years and has, whether before or after attaining the age of 18 years, been ordinarily resident outside Singapore for a continuous period of 10 years (including any period of residence outside Singapore before 2 Jan 1986) and has not at any time

(i) during that period or thereafter entered Singapore by virtue of a certificate of status or travel document issued by the competent authorities of Singapore; or

(ii) during that period been in the service of the Government or of an international organization of which Singapore is a member or of such other body or organization as the President may, by notification in the Gazette, designate.

(2) For the purposes of clause (1) (a), the exercise of a vote in any political election in a place

outside Singapore shall be deemed to be the voluntary claim and exercise of a right available under the law of that place.

(3) Where the Government has made an order under this article depriving a citizen of Singapore of his citizenship, he shall cease to be a citizen with effect from the date of the order.

#### **Article 136 Termination of Citizenship of Malaysia**

Where a person who was a citizen of Singapore had renounced his citizenship of Malaysia or been deprived of his citizenship of Malaysia by the Government of Malaysia before 9 Aug 1965, such person shall be deemed to have renounced or been deprived of his citizenship of Singapore under this Constitution and to have ceased to be a citizen of Singapore.

#### **Article 137 Deprivation of Citizenship or Cancellation of Enrollment of Children**

(1) Where a person has been deprived of his citizenship or his enrolment as a citizen has been cancelled under the provisions of this Part, the Government may, by order, deprive of his citizenship or, as the case may be cancel the enrolment of any child of that person under the age of 21 years who has been registered or enrolled as a citizen under the provisions of this Constitution or the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957 and was so registered or enrolled as being the child of that person or of that person's wife or husband.

(2) No person shall be deprived of his citizenship under clause (1) unless the Government is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that he should continue to be a citizen; and no person shall be deprived of his citizenship under clause (1) if the Government is satisfied that as a result of such deprivation he would not be a citizen of any country.

#### **[Title 3 Grant, Commonwealth Citizenship]**

#### **Article 138 Grant of Certificate of Citizenship in Cases of Doubt**

Upon application made in that behalf in the prescribed manner, the Government may grant in the form prescribed a certificate of citizenship to a person with respect to whose citizenship a doubt exists, whether of fact or of law: Provided that where the Government is satisfied that such a certificate was obtained in circumstances set out in Article [132 \(1\) \(a\) or \(b\)](#), the Government may, by order, cancel such certificate.

#### **Article 139 Commonwealth Citizenship**

(1) In accordance with the position of Singapore within the Commonwealth, every person who is a citizen of Singapore enjoys by virtue of that citizenship the status of a Commonwealth citizen in common with the citizens of other Commonwealth countries.

(2) Any existing law shall, except so far as Parliament otherwise provides, apply in relation to a citizen of the Republic of Ireland who is not also a Commonwealth citizen as it applies in relation to a Commonwealth citizen.

#### **Article 140 Application of Third Schedule**

Until the Legislature otherwise provides by law, the supplementary provisions contained in the Third Schedule shall have effect for the purposes of this Part.

#### **Article 141 Repeal**

(1) The Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957 is hereby repealed.

(2) Any person who immediately before the commencement of this Constitution was, by virtue of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957, a citizen of Singapore by birth, descent, registration or naturalization, shall as from the commencement of this Constitution continue, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, to possess that status.

(3) Where a person would have been a citizen of Singapore by descent immediately before the



commencement of this Constitution if his birth had been registered under the provisions of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957, he shall become a citizen of Singapore by descent if his birth is registered at a consulate of Singapore or with the Government in the prescribed manner within one year of its occurrence or, with the permission of the Government, later.

(4) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957, where a person who has become a citizen of Singapore was liable in respect of things done before the commencement of this Constitution to be deprived of that status under the Ordinance, then the Government may, by order, deprive him of his citizenship if proceedings for that purpose are begun during the period of two years after the commencement of this Constitution.

(5) Where a person is liable to be deprived of citizenship under clause (4) and proceedings had before the commencement of this Constitution been begun to deprive him of citizenship of Singapore under the provisions of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957, those proceedings shall be treated as proceedings to deprive him of citizenship under that clause and shall be continued as such in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Citizenship Ordinance 1957 in force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.

## **Part XI Financial Provisions**

### **[Title 1 Consolidated Fund]**

#### **Article 142 Interpretation**

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires

- "Development Fund" means the Development-Fund established by the Development Fund Act;
- "financial year" means a period of 12 months ending on 31st March in any year.

#### **Article 143 No Taxation Unless Authorized by Law**

No tax or rate shall be levied by, or for the purposes of, Singapore except by or under the authority of law.

#### **Article 144 Restriction on Loans, Guarantees, etc.**

(1) No guarantee or loan shall be given or raised by the Government

- (a) except under the authority of any resolution of Parliament with which the President concurs;
- (b) under the authority of any law to which this paragraph applies unless the President concurs with the giving or raising of such guarantee or loan; or
- (c) except under the authority of any other written law.

(2) The President, acting in his discretion, may withhold his assent to any Bill passed by Parliament providing, directly or indirectly, for the borrowing of money, the giving of any guarantee or the raising of any loan by the Government if, in the opinion of the President, the Bill is likely to draw on the reserves of the Government which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

(3) Clause (1)(b) shall apply to the following laws:

- (a) the Asian Development Bank Act;
- (b) the Bretton Woods Agreements Act;
- (c) the Economic Development Board Act;
- (d) the External Loans Act;
- (e) the Financial Procedure Act;
- (f) the International Finance Corporation Act;
- (g) the Jurong Town Corporation Act; and
- (h) the Loans (International Banks) Act.

#### **Article 145 Consolidated Fund**

There shall be in and for Singapore a Consolidated Fund into which, subject to the provisions of

any law for the time being in force in Singapore, shall be paid all revenues of Singapore not allocated to specific purposes by any written law.

#### **Article 146 Withdrawal from Consolidated Fund, etc.**

- (1) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund unless they are
  - (a) charged on the Consolidated Fund;
  - (b) authorized to be issued by a Supply law, Supplementary Supply law, or Final Supply law;
  - (c) authorized to be issued by a resolution passed by Parliament under Article [148b](#) with which the President concurs; or
  - (d) authorized to be issued by the Minister responsible for finance under Article [148b \(4\)](#).
- (2) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund except in the manner provided by law.
- (3) Clause (1) shall not apply to any such sums as are mentioned in Article [147 \(2\) \(b\) \(i\), \(ii\) or \(iii\)](#).
- (4) No moneys in the Development Fund shall be withdrawn
  - (a) except for any one or more purposes specified in any written law, being purposes necessary or related to the development of Singapore; and
  - (b) unless authorized to be issued by a Supply law, Supplementary Supply law, or Final Supply law or by the Minister responsible for finance under Article [148b \(4\)](#).

#### **Article 147 Annual Estimates of Financial Statements**

- (1) The Minister responsible for finance shall, before the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared annual estimates of revenue and expenditure of Singapore during the succeeding financial year which, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be presented to Parliament.
- (2) The estimates of expenditure shall show separately
  - (a) the total sums required to meet expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund;
  - (b) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of other expenditure for the public services proposed to be met from the Consolidated Fund, except the following sums:
    - (i) sums representing the proceeds of any loan raised by the Government for specific purposes and appropriated for those purposes by the law authorizing the raising of the loan;
    - (ii) sums representing any money or interest on money received by the Government subject to a trust and to be applied in accordance with the terms of the trust; and
    - (iii) sums representing any money held by the Government which has been received or appropriated for the purpose of any trust fund established by or in accordance with any written law; and
  - (c) the sums respectively required to meet the heads of expenditure proposed to be met from the Development Fund.
- (3) The estimates of revenue to be shown in the estimates shall not include any sums received by way of zakat, fitrah and baitulmal or similar Muslim revenue.
- (4) The Minister responsible for finance shall also present to Parliament together with the estimates of revenue and expenditure
  - (a) a statement whether the annual estimates of revenue and expenditure is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office; and
  - (b) an audited statement showing as far as practicable the assets and liabilities of Singapore at the end of the last completed financial year.
- (5) The Minister responsible for finance shall, as soon as practicable after the end of every financial year, prepare in respect of that year
  - (a) in relation to accounts maintained in respect of the Consolidated Fund, a full and particular account showing the amounts actually received and spent in that year, and a full and particular statement showing receipts and expenditure of any loan moneys;
  - (b) a statement of receipts and expenditure of moneys accounted in the Development Fund Account;
  - (c) a statement of receipts and expenditure of moneys accounted in any Government fund

created by any law;

(d) so far as is practicable, a statement of the assets and liabilities of Singapore at the end of the financial year;

(e) so far as is practicable, a statement of outstanding guarantees and other financial liabilities of Singapore at the end of the financial year; and

(f) such other statements as the Minister may think fit, and, after the accounts and statements referred to in this clause have been audited, present to the President those audited accounts and statements together with another statement stating whether the audited accounts and statements referred to in this clause show any drawing on or likelihood of drawing on the reserves of the Government which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

## **[Title 2 Expenditure]**

### **Article 148 Authorization of Expenditure from Consolidated Fund and Development Fund**

(1) The heads of expenditure to be met from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund (other than statutory expenditure and expenditure to be met by such sums as are mentioned in Article [147](#) (2)(b)(i), (ii), or (iii)) shall be included in a Bill to be known as a Supply Bill providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein.

(2) Wherever

(a) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended in any financial year upon any service or purpose which are in excess of the sum provided for that service or purpose by the Supply law relating to that year; or

(b) any moneys are expended or are likely to be expended (otherwise than by way of statutory expenditure) in any financial year upon any new service or purpose not provided for by the Supply law relating to that year,

supplementary estimates (or, as the case may be, statements of excess) shall be prepared by the Minister responsible for finance and, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be presented to and voted on by Parliament; in respect of all supplementary expenditure so voted, the Minister responsible for finance may, at any time before the end of the financial year, introduce into Parliament a Supplementary Supply Bill containing, under appropriate heads, the estimated sums so voted and shall, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, introduce into Parliament a Final Supply Bill containing any such sums which have not yet been included in any Supply Bill.

(2a) The Minister responsible for finance shall, in presenting to Parliament any supplementary estimates or statement of excess under Clause (2), also present a statement stating whether the supplementary estimates or statement of excess, as the case may be, is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

(3) The part of any estimates of expenditure presented to Parliament which shows statutory expenditure shall not be voted on by Parliament, and such expenditure shall, without further authority of Parliament, be paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

(4) For the purposes of this article, "statutory expenditure" means expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund or on the general revenues and assets of Singapore by virtue of Articles [18](#), [22j](#) (3), [35](#) (10), [41](#), [42](#) (3), 108 (1), 114, 148e and 148f (4) or by virtue of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force in Singapore.

### **Article 148a Withholding of Assent to Supply Bill, etc.**

(1) The President may, acting in his discretion, withhold his assent to any Supply or Supplementary Supply or Final Supply Bill for any financial year if, in his opinion, the estimates of revenue and expenditure for that year, the supplementary estimates or the statement of excess, as the case may be, are likely to lead to a drawing on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office, except that if the President assents to any

such Bill notwithstanding his opinion that the estimates, supplementary estimates, or statement of excess are likely to lead to a drawing on those reserves, the President shall state his opinion in writing addressed to the Speaker and shall cause his opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

(2) If the President withholds his assent to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill relating to any financial year and no resolution to overrule the President is passed by Parliament under Article [148d](#) within 30 days of such withholding of assent, Parliament may by resolution authorize expenditure or supplementary expenditure, as the case may be, (not otherwise authorized by law) from the Consolidated Fund and Development Fund during that financial year: Provided that

(a) where the President withholds his assent to a Supply Bill, the expenditure so authorized for any service or purpose for that financial year (which shall include any amount authorized under Article [148b \(4\)](#)) shall not exceed the total amount appropriated for that service or purpose in the preceding financial year; or

(b) where the President withholds his assent to a Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill, the expenditure so authorized for any service or purpose shall not exceed the amount necessary to replace an amount advanced from any Contingencies Fund under Article [148c \(1\)](#) for that service or purpose.

(3) For the purpose of Paragraph (a) of the proviso to Clause (2), the total amount appropriated for any service or purpose in any financial year shall be ascertained by adding the sums appropriated for such service or purpose by the Supply law, Supplementary Supply law, and Final Supply law (if any) for that financial year.

(3a) Upon the passing of a resolution under Clause (2), the Minister responsible for finance shall introduce in Parliament a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill, as the case may be, containing, under appropriate heads, the sums so voted on by Parliament.

(4) In forming his opinion under clause (1) in relation to any Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill, the President shall not have regard to any amount for any service or purpose included in the Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill which is to replace any amount advanced from any Contingencies Fund under Article [148c \(1\)](#).

(5) For the purposes of this article and Article [148d](#), where, on the expiration of 30 days after a Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill has been presented to the President for his assent, the President has not signified the withholding of his assent to the Bill, the President shall be deemed to have given his assent to the Bill and the date of such assent shall be deemed to be the day immediately following the expiration of the said 30 days.

#### **Article 148b Power to Authorize Expenditure on Account or for Unspecified Purposes**

(1) Subject to clause (3), Parliament may, by resolution approving estimates containing a vote on account, authorize expenditure for part of any year before the passing of the Supply law for that year, but the aggregate sums so voted shall be included under the appropriate heads, in the Supply law for that year.

(2) Subject to clause (3), Parliament may, by resolution approving a vote of credit, authorize expenditure for the whole or part of the year, otherwise than in accordance with Articles [147](#) and [148](#), if, owing to the magnitude or indefinite character of any service or to circumstances of unusual urgency, it appears to Parliament desirable to do so.

(3) No resolution of Parliament made under clause (1) or (2) shall have effect unless the President, acting in his discretion, concurs therewith.

(4) If no Supply Bill has become law by the first day of the financial year to which it relates (whether by reason of the President withholding his assent thereto or otherwise), the Minister responsible for finance may, with the prior approval of the Cabinet, authorize such expenditure (not otherwise authorized by law) from the Consolidated Fund, Development Fund or other Government fund as he may consider essential for the continuance of the public services or any purpose of development shown in the estimates until there is a supply law for that financial year: Provided that the expenditure so authorized for any service or purpose shall not exceed one-quarter of the amount voted for that service or purpose in the Supply law for the preceding financial year.

### **Article 148c Contingencies Funds**

(1) The Legislature may by law create a Contingencies Fund each for the Consolidated Fund and for the Development Fund and authorize the Minister responsible for finance to make advances from the appropriate Contingencies Fund if

(a) he is satisfied that there is an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which no provision or no sufficient provision has been made by a Supply law; and

(b) the President, acting in his discretion, concurs with the making of such advances.

(2) Where any advance is made by virtue of the authority conferred under clause (1), a supplementary estimate of the sum required to replace the amount so advanced shall, as soon as practicable, be presented to and voted on by Parliament and the sum shall be included in a Supplementary Supply Bill or Final Supply Bill.

(3) If the Minister responsible for finance intends to make any advance from a Contingencies Fund, he shall present to the President a statement stating whether the proposed advance, if replaced, is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

(4) The President may, acting in his discretion, refuse to concur with the making of an advance from a Contingencies Fund which in his opinion, if replaced, is likely to draw on the reserves which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

### **Article 148d Parliament May Overrule President's Withholding of Assent to Supply Bill**

(1) Where the President withholds his assent under Article [148a](#) to any Supply Bill, Supplementary Supply Bill, or Final Supply Bill relating to any financial year contrary to the recommendation of the Council of Presidential Advisers, Parliament may by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the total number of the elected Members of Parliament referred to in Article [39 \(1\)\(a\)](#) overrule the decision of the President.

(2) Upon the passing of a resolution under clause (1), the assent of the President shall be deemed to have been given on the date of the passing of such resolution.

### **Article 148e Debt Charges and Moneys Required to Satisfy Judgments**

(1) The following are hereby charged on the Consolidated Fund:

(a) all debt charges for which the Government is liable; and

(b) any moneys required to satisfy any judgment, decision or award against the Government by any court or tribunal.

(2) For the purposes of this article, "debt charges" includes interest, sinking fund charges, repayment or amortisation of debt and all expenditure in connection with the raising of loans on the security of the Consolidated Fund and the service and redemption of debt created thereby.

### **[Title 3 Auditor-General]**

#### **Article 148f Appointment of Auditor-General**

(1) There shall be an Auditor-General who shall be appointed by the President in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister unless the President, acting in his discretion, does not concur with that advice.

(2) The Prime Minister shall, before tendering any advice under clause (1), consult the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Auditor-General to audit and report on the accounts of all departments and offices of the Government, the Public Service Commission, the Legal Service Commission, the Education Service Commission, the Police and Civil Defence Services Commission, the Supreme Court, all subordinate courts and Parliament.

(4) The Auditor-General shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers in relation to the accounts of the Government and accounts of other public authorities and other

bodies administering public funds as may be prescribed by or under any written law.

(5) Subject to the provisions of this article, the Auditor-General shall hold office until he attains the age of 60 years, except that the President, acting in his discretion, may, if he concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint an Auditor-General who has attained that age to further hold that office for such fixed periods as may be agreed between the Auditor-General and the Government.

(6) A person who has held office as Auditor-General shall not be eligible for any other appointment as a public officer.

(7) The Auditor-General may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the President.

(8) The Auditor-General may be removed from office by the President, if the President concurs with the advice of the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister shall not tender such advice except for inability of the Auditor-General to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehavior and except with the concurrence of a tribunal consisting of the Chief Justice and two other Judges of the Supreme Court nominated for that purpose by the Chief Justice.

(9) The tribunal constituted under clause (8) shall regulate its own procedure and may make rules for that purpose.

(10) Parliament shall by resolution provide for the remuneration of the Auditor-General and the remuneration so provided shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

(11) The remuneration and other terms of service of the Auditor-General shall not be altered to his disadvantage during his continuance in office.

#### **Article 148g Duty to Inform President of Certain Transactions**

(1) It shall be the duty of the Auditor-General and the Accountant-General to inform the President of any proposed transaction by the Government which to their knowledge is likely to draw on the reserves of the Government which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office.

(2) Where pursuant to clause (1) the President has been so informed of any such proposed transaction, the President, acting in his discretion, may disapprove the proposed transaction.

(3) Where the President does not disapprove of any proposed transaction under Clause (2) even though he is of the opinion that the proposed transaction is likely to draw on the reserves of the Government which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office, the President shall cause his decision and opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

#### **Article 148h Publication of President's Opinion Regarding Certain Liabilities of the Government**

Where the President considers that certain liabilities of the Government, though not requiring his approval, are likely to draw on the reserves of the Government which were not accumulated by the Government during its current term of office, he shall state his opinion in writing to the Prime Minister and shall cause the opinion to be published in the *Gazette*.

### **Part XII Special Powers Against Subversion and Emergency Powers**

#### **Article 149 Legislation Against Subversion**

(1) If an Act recites that action has been taken or threatened by any substantial body of persons, whether inside or outside Singapore

(a) to cause, or to cause a substantial number of citizens to fear, organized violence against persons or property;

(b) to excite disaffection against the President or the Government;

(c) to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different races or other classes of the population likely to cause violence;

(d) to procure the alteration, otherwise than by lawful means, of anything by law established; or

(e) which is prejudicial to the security of Singapore, any provision of that law designed to stop or prevent that action or any amendment to that law or any provision in any law enacted under clause (3) is valid notwithstanding that it is inconsistent with Article [9](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#) or [14](#), or would, apart from this article, be outside the legislative power of Parliament.

(2) A law containing such a recital as is mentioned in clause (1) shall, if not sooner repealed, cease to have effect if a resolution is passed by Parliament annulling such law, but without prejudice to anything previously done by virtue thereof or to the power of Parliament to make a new law under this article.

(3) If, in respect of any proceedings whether instituted before or after the commencement of this clause, any question arises in any court as to the validity of any decision made or act done in pursuance of any power conferred upon the President or the Minister by any law referred to in this article, such question shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of any law as may be enacted by Parliament for this purpose; and nothing in Article [22c](#) shall invalidate any law enacted pursuant to this clause.

### **Article 150 Proclamation of Emergency**

(1) If the President is satisfied that a grave emergency exists whereby the security or economic life of Singapore is threatened, he may issue a Proclamation of Emergency.

(2) If a Proclamation of Emergency is issued when Parliament is not sitting, the President shall summon Parliament as soon as practicable, and may, until Parliament is sitting, promulgate ordinances having the force of law, if satisfied that immediate action is required.

(3) A Proclamation of Emergency and any ordinance promulgated under clause (2) shall be presented to Parliament and, if not sooner revoked, shall cease to have effect if a resolution is passed by Parliament annulling such Proclamation or ordinance, but without prejudice to anything previously done by virtue thereof or to the power of the President to issue a new Proclamation under clause (1) or promulgate any ordinance under clause (2).

(4) Subject to clause (5) (b), while a Proclamation of Emergency is in force, Parliament may, notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, make laws with respect to any matter, if it appears to Parliament that the law is required by reason of the emergency; and any provision of this Constitution (except Articles [22e](#), [22h](#), [144 \(2\)](#) and [148a](#)) or of any written law which requires any consent or concurrence to the passing of a law or any consultation with respect thereto, or which restricts the coming into force of a law after it is passed or the presentation of a Bill to the President for his assent, shall not apply to a Bill for such a law or an amendment to such a Bill.

(5)(a) Subject to Paragraph (b), no provision of any ordinance promulgated under this article, and no provision of any Act which is passed while a Proclamation of Emergency is in force and which declares that the law appears to Parliament to be required by reason of the emergency, shall be invalid on the ground of inconsistency with any provision of this Constitution.

(b) Paragraph (a) shall not validate any provision inconsistent with

(i) Article [5 \(2a\)](#);

(ii) the provisions of this Constitution specified in Article [5 \(2a\)](#) conferring discretionary powers on the President; and

(iii) the provisions of this Constitution relating to religion, citizenship or language.

(6) At the expiration of a period of 6 months beginning with the date on which a Proclamation of Emergency ceases to be in force, any ordinance promulgated in pursuance of the Proclamation and, to the extent that it could not have been validly made but for this article, any law made while the Proclamation was in force, shall cease to have effect, except as to things done or omitted to be done before the expiration of that period.

### **Article 151 Restrictions on Preventive Detention**

(1) Where any law or ordinance made or promulgated in pursuance of this Part provides for preventive detention

(a) the authority on whose order any person is detained under that law or ordinance shall as soon as may be, inform him of the grounds for his detention and, subject to clause (3), the allegations

of fact on which the order is based and shall give him the opportunity of making representations against the order as soon as may be; and

(b) no citizen of Singapore shall be detained under that law or ordinance for a period exceeding 3 months unless an advisory board constituted as mentioned in clause (2) has considered any representations made by him under paragraph (a) and made recommendations thereon to the President.

(2) An advisory board constituted for the purposes of this article shall consist of a chairman, who shall be appointed by the President and who shall be or have been, or be qualified to be, a Judge of the Supreme Court, and two other members, who shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice.

(3) This article does not require any authority to disclose facts the disclosure of which would, in its opinion, be against the national interest.

(4) Where an advisory board constituted for the purposes of this article recommends the release of any person under any law or ordinance made or promulgated in pursuance of this Part, the person shall not be detained or further detained without the concurrence of the President if the recommendations of the advisory board are not accepted by the authority on whose advice or order the person is detained.

### **Article 151a Defence and Security Measures**

(1) Articles [22b \(7\)](#), [22d \(6\)](#), [148g \(2\) and \(3\)](#), and [148h](#) shall not apply to any defence and security measure.

(2) For the purpose of Clause (1), a defence and security measure means any liability or proposed transaction which the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for defence, on the recommendations of the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the Chief of Defence Force, certify to be necessary for the defence and security of Singapore, and any certificate under the hands of the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for defence shall be conclusive evidence of the matters specified therein.

## **Part XIII General Provisions**

### **Article 152 Minorities and Special Position of Malays**

(1) It shall be the responsibility of the Government constantly to care for the interests of the racial and religious minorities in Singapore.

(2) The Government shall exercise its functions in such manner as to recognize the special position of the Malays, who are the indigenous people of Singapore, and accordingly it shall be the responsibility of the Government to protect, safeguard, support, foster and promote their political, educational, religious, economic, social and cultural interests and the Malay language.

### **Article 153 Muslim Religion**

The Legislature shall by law make provision for regulating Muslim religious affairs and for constituting a Council to advise the President in matters relating to the Muslim religion.

### **Article 154 Impartial Treatment of Government Employees**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, all persons of whatever race in the same grade of the service of the Government shall, subject to the terms and conditions of their employment, be treated impartially.

### **Article 154a Exemption**

The President, acting in his discretion, may by order in the Gazette exempt any transaction or class of transactions, from the application of Article [144](#).



## **Article 155 Authorized Reprints of Constitution**

(1) The Attorney-General may, with the authority of the President, as soon as may be after 4 May 1979 cause to be printed and published a consolidated reprint of the Constitution of Singapore, as amended from time to time, amalgamated with such of the provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia as are applicable to Singapore, into a single, composite document.

(2) The President may, from time to time, authorize the Attorney-General to cause to be printed and published an up-to-date reprint of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, incorporating therein all amendments in force at the date of such authorization.

(3) Any reprint of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, printed and published pursuant to clause (1) or (2), shall be deemed to be and shall be, without any question whatsoever in all courts of justice and for all purposes whatsoever, the authentic text of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore in force as from the date specified in that reprint until superseded by the next or subsequent reprint.

(4) In the preparation and compilation of any reprint pursuant to clause (1) or (2), the Attorney-General shall have, *mutatis mutandis*, the powers conferred upon the Law Revision Commissioners by section 4 of the Revised Edition of the Laws Act in addition to the powers conferred on him by section 38 of the Interpretation Act.

(5) In the preparation and compilation of the consolidated reprint pursuant to clause (1), the Attorney-General shall have the power in his discretion

(a) to merge the existing provisions of both Constitutions, making thereto such modifications as may be necessary or expedient in consequence of the independence of Singapore upon separation from Malaysia;

(b) to re-arrange the Parts, Articles and provisions of the Constitution of Singapore and of the Constitution of Malaysia in such connected sequence as he thinks fit, omitting inappropriate or inapplicable provisions, in the latter Constitution;

(c) where provisions exist in both Constitutions on the same subject-matter, to include in the consolidated reprint the provisions of the Constitution of Singapore on such subject-matter and to omit the duplicated provisions appearing in the Constitution of Malaysia from the consolidated reprint; and

(d) generally, to do all other things necessitated by, or consequential upon, the exercise of the powers conferred upon the Attorney-General by this article or which may be necessary or expedient for the perfecting of the consolidated reprint of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

## **Article 156 Date of Coming Into Operation of the Constitution**

Subject to the provisions of [Part XIV](#), this Constitution shall come into operation immediately before 16 Sep 1963.

## **Part XIV Transitional Provisions**

### **Article 157 Existing Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly established by the Singapore (Constitution) Order in Council 1958 which are in force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall, subject to amendment or revocation under Article [52](#), be the Standing Orders of Parliament.

### **Article 158 Public Officers to Continue in Office**

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution every person who immediately before the commencement of this Constitution holds a public office shall on its commencement continue to hold the like office in the public service.

### **Article 159 Terms of Service of Persons who Continue in Office**

(1) Except where other provision is made by this Constitution, any person who holds any office as

from the commencement of this Constitution by virtue of having been the holder of any office immediately before its commencement shall, as from its commencement, be entitled to the same terms of service as were applicable to him immediately before its commencement, and those terms, in so far as they relate to remuneration, shall not be altered to his disadvantage during his continuance in the public service thereafter.

(2) For the purposes of this article, in so far as the terms of service of any person depend upon his option, any terms for which he opts shall be taken to be more advantageous to him than any for which he might have opted.

#### **Article 160 Succession to Property**

(1) Subject to this article, all property and assets which immediately before the commencement of this Constitution were vested in Her Majesty for the purposes of the State of Singapore shall on its commencement vest in the State of Singapore.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, any land in the State of Singapore which immediately before the commencement of this Constitution was vested in Her Majesty shall on its commencement vest in the State of Singapore.

(3) Any property which was immediately before the commencement of this Constitution liable to escheat to Her Majesty in respect of the Government shall on its commencement be liable to escheat to the State of Singapore.

#### **Article 161 Rights, Liabilities, and Obligations**

(1) All rights, liabilities and obligations of Her Majesty in respect of the Government shall on and after the commencement of this Constitution be rights, liabilities and obligations of the State of Singapore.

(2) In this article, rights, liabilities and obligations include rights, liabilities and obligations arising from contract or otherwise, other than rights to which Article [160](#) applies.

#### **Article 162 Existing Laws**

Subject to this article, all existing laws shall continue in force on and after the commencement of this Constitution and all laws which have not been brought into force by the date of the commencement of this Constitution may, subject as aforesaid, be brought into force on or after its commencement, but all such laws shall, subject to this article, be construed as from the commencement of this Constitution with such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary to bring them into conformity with this Constitution.

#### **Article 163 Person Holding Office of President Immediately Prior to 13 Nov 1991 to Continue**

(1) The person holding the office of President immediately prior to 30 Nov 1991 shall continue to hold such office for the remainder of his term of office and shall exercise, perform and discharge all the functions powers and duties conferred or imposed upon the office of President by this Constitution as amended by the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 1991 (referred to in this article as the Act), as if he had been elected to the office of President by the citizens of Singapore, except that if that person vacates the office of President before the expiration of his term of office, a poll shall be conducted for the election of a new President within 6 months from the date the office of President became vacant.

(2) The Act shall not affect the appointment of any person made before 30 Nov 1991 and that person shall continue to hold his office as if he had been appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution as amended by the Act.

(3) This Constitution as amended by the Act shall have effect subject to the following modifications:

(a) the initial term of office of the Government shall be the period beginning from 30 Nov 1991 and ending on the date immediately before the Prime Minister and Ministers first take and

subscribe the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with Article [27](#) after the first general election following that date;

(b) Articles [22b](#) and [22d](#) shall apply from the first financial year of a statutory board or Government company beginning not less than 3 months after that date;

(c) in relation to the first financial year of a statutory board or Government company beginning not less than 3 months after that date, any reference in Articles [22b](#) and [22d](#) to the approved budget of the preceding financial year of the statutory board or Government company shall, in the absence of such a budget, be read as a reference to the budget of that preceding financial year; and

(d) Article [148a](#) shall apply in respect of the first financial year of the Government beginning on or after that date as if the resolution of Parliament authorizing expenditure from the Development Fund for the preceding financial year forms part of the Supply law or Final Supply law for such preceding financial year.