

# **CONSTITUTION OF VEGETARIAN SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)**

## **NAME**

- 1.1 This Society shall be known as the “Vegetarian Society (Singapore)”, hereinafter referred to as the “Society”.

## **PLACE OF BUSINESS**

- 2.1 Its place of business shall be at “3 Pemimpin Drive, #07-02, Lip Hing Bldg, Singapore 576147” or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Committee and approved by the Registrar of Societies.

## **OBJECTS**

- 3.1 Its objects are:
- a) To promote vegetarianism among the public and
  - b) To support and link individuals and organisations that practice, promote or endorse vegetarianism.

## **MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION AND RIGHTS**

- 4.1 Individual membership is open to individuals of all ages who are vegetarians including lacto vegetarians, ovo-lacto vegetarians, vegans, macrobiotic vegetarians, fruitarians and to non-vegetarians who support the objectives of the society.
- 4.2 Only members who are above 18 years of age shall have the right to vote and to hold office in the Society.
- 4.3 Corporate membership is open to all organisations that support the objectives of the society.
- 4.4 Corporate members shall NOT have the right to vote or to hold office in the Society.

## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 A person or an organisation wishing to join the Society should submit her/his particulars to the Secretary on a prescribed form.
- 5.2 The Committee will decide on the application for membership.
- 5.3 A copy of the Constitution shall be furnished to every approved member upon payment of the entrance fee.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES AND OTHER DUES**

- 6.1 The annual membership fees for both individual and corporate members shall be determined by the General Meeting on recommendation from the Committee from time to time.
- 6.2 For retiree and student membership, annual membership fees will be reduced, as determined by the General Meeting on recommendation from the Committee from time to time.
- 6.3 Annual membership fees are payable in advance. When the membership is about to expire, a notice of renewal will be sent to the member. If he or she fails to renew the membership for a period of more than 3 months, he or she will automatically cease to be a member.
- 6.4 Any additional fund required for special purposes may only be raised from members with the consent of the general meeting of the members.

## **SUPREME AUTHORITY AND GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 7.1 The supreme authority of the Society is vested in a General Meeting of the members presided over by the President.
- 7.2 An Annual General Meeting shall be held in March.
- 7.3 At other times, an Extraordinary General Meeting must be called by the President on the request in writing of not less than 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is the lesser, and may be called at any time by order of the Committee. The notice in writing shall be given to the Secretary setting forth the business that is to be transacted. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened within 2 months from receiving this request to convene the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 7.4 If the Committee does not within 2 months after the date of the receipt of the written request proceed to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, the members who requested for the Extraordinary General Meeting shall convene the Extraordinary General Meeting by giving 10 days' notice to voting members setting forth the business to be transacted and simultaneously posting the agenda on the Society's notice board.
- 7.5 At least 2 weeks' notice shall be given of an Annual General Meeting and at least 10 days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to all voting members. The particulars of the agenda shall be posted on the Society's notice board 4 days in advance of the meeting.
- 7.6 Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, voting by proxy shall be allowed at all General Meetings.
- 7.7 The following points will be considered at the Annual General Meeting:
- a) The previous financial year's accounts and annual report of the Committee.
  - b) Where applicable, the election of office-bearers and Honorary Auditors for the following term.
- 7.8 Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a General Meeting may do so provided he gives notice to the Secretary one week before the meeting is due to be held.
- 7.9 At least 25% of the total voting membership or 30 voting members, whichever is the lesser, present at a General Meeting shall form a quorum. Proxies shall be constituted as part of the quorum.
- 7.10 In the event of there being no quorum at the commencement of a General Meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for half an hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the existing Constitution.

### **MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE**

- 8.1 The administration of the Society shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the following to be elected at alternate Annual General Meetings;
- A President
  - A Vice-President
  - A Secretary
  - An Assistant Secretary
  - A Treasurer
  - An Assistant Treasurer
  - A Social Officer
  - A Publicity Officer
  - 3 Ordinary Committee Members
- 8.2 Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual General Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers, except the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of office of the Committee is 2 years.

- 8.3 Election will be either by show of hands or, subject to the agreement of the majority of the voting members present, by a secret ballot. In the event of a tie, a re-vote shall be taken and if it still results in a tie, a lot shall be drawn to determine who shall be the successful candidate unless the contesting candidate(s) withdrew in favour of one of themselves.
- 8.4 A Committee Meeting shall be held at least once every 2 months after giving seven days' notice to Committee Members. The President may call a Committee Meeting at any time by giving five day's notice. At least half of the Committee Members must be present for its proceedings to be valid.
- 8.5 Any member of the Committee absenting himself from three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Committee and a successor may be co-opted by the Committee to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Any changes in the Committee shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two weeks of the change.
- 8.6 The duty of the Committee is to organise and supervise the daily activities of the Society. The Committee may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the General Meeting without prior reference to it and always remains subordinate to the General Meeting.
- 8.7. The Committee shall not expend any sum exceeding a total of \$35,000 per month and/or \$10,000 per transaction, from the Society's funds.

### **DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS**

- 9.1 The President shall chair all General and Committee meetings. He shall also represent the Society in its dealings with outside persons.
- 9.2 The Vice-President shall assist the President and deputise for him in his absence.
- 9.3 The Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the society and shall be responsible for their correctness. He will keep minutes of all General and Committee meetings. He shall maintain and up-to-date Register of Members at all times.
- 9.4 The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary and deputise for him in his absence.
- 9.5 The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. He is authorised to expend up to \$250 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Society. He will not keep more than \$500 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Committee. Cheques, etc. for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer on the one hand, and either the President or the Vice-President or the Secretary on the other hand.
- 9.6 The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and deputise for him in his absence.
- 9.5 The Social Officer shall organise all social events connected with the Society.
- 9.6 The Publicity Officer shall liaise with the media, arrange the design and printing of all the Society's literature and publicise all Society's events.
- 9.7 Ordinary Committee Members shall assist in the general administration of the Society and perform duties assigned by the Committee from time to time.

### **AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR**

- 10.1 Two voting members, not being members of the Committee, shall be elected as Honorary Auditors at the Annual General Meeting and will hold office for a term of 1 year only and shall not be re-elected for consecutive terms. Alternatively, a firm of Certified Public Accountants shall be appointed as Auditors at the Annual General Meeting for a term of one year and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 10.2 They:
  - (a) Will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual General Meeting.
  - (b) May be required by the President to audit the Society's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Committee.
- 10.3 The financial year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **TRUSTEES**

- 11.1 If the Society at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to the declaration of trust.
- 11.2 The trustees of the Society shall:
- (a) Not be more than 4 and not less than 2 in number.
  - (b) Be elected by a General Meeting of members.
  - (c) Not effect any sale or mortgage of property without the prior approval of the General Meeting of members.
- 11.3 The Office of the trustee shall be vacated:
- (a) If the trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind.
  - (b) If he is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one year.
  - (c) If he is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a trustee.
  - (d) If he submits notice of resignation from his trusteeship.
- 11.4 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by posting it on the notice board in the Society's premises at least two weeks before the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such General Meeting shall then be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.
- 11.5 The address of each immovable properties, name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

## **VISITORS AND GUESTS**

- 12.1 Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of the Society but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of the Society. All visitors and guests shall abide by the Society's rules and regulations.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

- 13.1 Gambling of any kind, excluding the promotion or conduct of a private lottery which has been permitted under the Private Lotteries Act Cap 250 is forbidden on the Society's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 13.2 The funds of the Society shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in a court of law.
- 13.3 The Society shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- 13.4 The Society shall not attempt to restrict or interfere with trade or make directly or indirectly any recommendation to, any arrangement with its members which has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of fixing or controlling the price or any discount, allowance or rebate relating to any goods or service which adversely affect consumer interests.
- 13.5 The Society shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 13.6 The Society shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Society or its office-bearers, Committee or members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 13.7 The Society shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Head, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.

## **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

- 14.1 No alteration or addition/deletion to this Constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting and with the consent of two-thirds of the voting members present at the General Meeting, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

#### **INTERPRETATION**

- 15.1 In the event of any question or matter pertaining to day-to-day administration which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Committee shall have power to use their own discretion. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless it is reversed at a General Meeting of members.

#### **DISPUTES**

- 16.1 In the event of any dispute arising amongst members, they shall attempt to resolve the matter at an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with this Constitution. Should the members fail to resolve the matter, they may bring the matter to a court of law for settlement.

#### **DISSOLUTION**

- 17.1 The Society shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than 3/5 (three-fifths) of the total voting membership of the Society for the time being resident in Singapore expressed, either in person or by proxy, at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 17.2 In the event of the Society being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Society shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be donated to an approved charity or charities in Singapore which is or are registered under the Charities Act as the General Meeting of members may determine.
- 17.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

Certified by:

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George M. Jacobs  
President

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Pauline Menezes  
Honorary Secretary