

FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION OF THE  
**EDUCATION ACT**

(Act No: 24/2020)

**Chapter One**

**Introduction**

**Introduction and title**

1. (a) This Act establishes the legal framework required to ensure that the right to education enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives is provided to its full extent, it determines the fundamental pillars of the Maldivian education system, establishes the rights of pupils and educators in relation to education, establishes the responsibilities of the State, parents and educators and establishes various other general principles with regard to providing education in the Maldives.
- (b) This Act shall be cited as “Education Act”.

**Objectives**

2. The objectives of this Act are as stated as below:
  - (a) To establish a system that ensures the educational rights of children and adults and safeguards the rights of educators, in consideration of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, the religion of Islam, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) signed by the Maldives and other pertinent international treaties;
  - (b) To establish the responsibilities of the State, parents, guardians and educators in ensuring right to education to children and to establish rules to be followed where such responsibilities are breached;
  - (c) To foster an environment in the Maldives which provides quality education, training, and Islamic values in an equal and fair manner;

- (d) To establish an education system which teaches and promotes Islamic creed and values, to respect human rights in a way that does not contradict Islamic Shariah and Islamic values, and the importance of maintaining peace and cordiality within the community; and
- (e) To facilitate the development of pupils who are versed in national duties and ones who are ingenious and capable, who could fulfill a responsible role in the society.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Rights and duties**

#### **Right to education**

- 3. (a) Every person living in the Maldives, without any discrimination has an equal right to education.
- (b) The right to education is a human right and indispensable for the exercise of other human rights.
- (c) For the purposes of this Section, the right to education, inclusive of the following, is a lifelong right available without any discrimination of age or gender.
  - (1) Right to preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education;
  - (2) Right to an equal opportunity to gain preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education; and
  - (3) Right to opportunity for lifelong learning and continuing education.

#### **Right to lifelong education**

- 4. (a) As the right to education is a lifelong right, a system which provides opportunities for people of all ages to gain education even after completion of formal education within the education system shall be established in Maldives.
- (b) The system referred to in subsection (a) of this Section

shall encompass the following.

- (1) Basic educational and training programmes aimed at individuals who does not have a formal education within the education system.
- (2) Educational and training programmes aimed at individuals who have not completed secondary education; and
- (3) Opportunities to further develop existing skills.

**Providing technical and vocational education within the school system**

5. (a) As professional and vocational education, in addition to being a part of the right to education, is connected to the right to work, the right to education can only be ensured to its full extent if the right to professional and technical education is also ensured. Hence, this Act ensures the right to professional and vocational education through the school system.
- (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this Section, above, the school system of the Maldives shall be framed in such a way that it provides professional and vocational education.
- (c) The purpose of providing professional and technical education within the school system is to facilitate the following.
- (1) To provide opportunities for the diverse capabilities of children and to Guide the children to become productive pupils from within the professional and vocational education system
  - (2) To acquaint pupils to the professional and vocational fields which are necessary for the development of the country; and
  - (3) To instill the belief in pupils that the labour industry is valuable and beneficial to the country.

**Ensuring right to education to children**

6. (a) To ensure the right to education as stipulated in Section 3 of this Act, this Act ensures the following to every child.
- (1) The right to education from the age of 4 (four) to 18 (eighteen) years or from preschool to Grade 12 (twelve);
  - (2) The right to protection from any inhumane or cruel form of punishment;
  - (3) The right to opportunity to gain education in an environment which is safe from acts of bullying, harassment and violence;
  - (4) The right to of persons with disabilities to gain an education and participate within the formal education system
  - (5) The right to opportunity to participate in programmes aimed at developing modern technology and special skills within the education system and the right to access to participate in extra-curricular activities;
  - (6) The right to regularly know the development of the pupil in education; and
  - (7) The right to receive care from guardians and assistance from the State in relation to education.
- (b) No person shall deprive any child from the right to education.

**Aim of the children's education system**

7. In order to ensure the right to education for children, the Maldivian education system shall be based on the following principles.
- (a) Developing the intellect, individuality, skills and physical and mental capabilities of the child to the fullest extent;
  - (b) Structuring educational policies to be inclusive and in a manner that does not discriminate between the two

genders;

- (c) Facilitating development of pupils who are acquainted with religious and national duties and capable of fulfilling a responsible role in the society.;
- (d) Preserving and developing the independence, sovereignty, social unity, nationalism of the Maldives;
- (e) Living peacefully and cordially among everyone;
- (f) Developing the individuality, skills, physical and mental capabilities of the child to their fullest potential;
- (g) Respecting and abiding by human rights;
- (h) Respecting the child's parents, own cultural identity, language and national traditions, and respect the opinion of others.
- (i) Instilling in the child, acceptance of racial and other differences between persons, respecting others, as well as the importance of maintaining peace and cordiality between everyone;
- (j) Refraining from acts which may pollute the environment and harm the natural habitat, while protecting the environment and biodiversity, as well as natural beauty and resources;
- (k) Acquainting children with technology and educating on safe use of the internet; and
- (l) Maintaining self-hygiene cleanliness of the living environment and its surroundings.

**Establishing an inclusive  
education system for children  
with special needs**

- 8.**
- (a) The State shall provide the opportunity for education in schools providing preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education, for children with special needs, without discrimination.
  - (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this Section, the obligation therein shall be considered as discharged where there is equality in receiving, attaining and

achieving results through opportunities.

- (c) In order to accomplish the objectives outlined in subsection (a) and (b) of this Section, it is the duty of the State to establish adequate resources at schools and to train educators and staff who can communicate with and understand the needs of children with special needs and can provide a good quality education to such children.
- (d) In order to accomplish the objectives outlined in subsection (a) and (b) of this Section, within 3 (three) months from the commencement of this Act, the Ministry shall compile and publish a policy that defines the right and resources that should be afforded to pupils with special needs by Maldivian schools in providing opportunities and education to such pupils and the standards to be maintained.
- (e) The policy referred to in sub section (d) of this Section, shall be formed in a way that the disability of the children is taken into consideration at the earliest age possible and allows children with special needs to gain education to the best of their abilities, without discrimination. This policy shall uphold the principles stipulated in Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, and Act Number 8/2010 (Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Provision of Financial Assistance Act) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by the Maldives. This Policy shall further facilitate the fulfillment of State's obligations under The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- (f) An education system that is framed in a way that does not provide opportunities for children with special needs and/or enable discrimination between such

children and other children shall be deemed as discrimination based on disability.

- (g) Educational resources, centres, institutions, and facilities shall be built and arranged in a manner that allows easy access to children with special needs.

## **Duties of the State**

9. In order to ensure the right to education stipulated in Section 3 of this Act, the State shall fulfill the following duties.

- (a) Provide adequate resources and opportunities for an inclusive preschool, primary, secondary and higher secondary education;
- (b) In order to achieve the objectives stated in subsection (a) of this Section, develop an adequate educational system and facilitate the provision of education to every child;
- (c) Ensure that every child is enrolled in an educational or skill development programme until the age of 18 (eighteen) years;
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this Section, children who complete their higher secondary education before the age of 18 (eighteen) years may be exempt from subsection (c) of this Section;
- (e) Develop an adequate system to teach modern technology, workmanship and skills and arrange a mechanism which ensures equal opportunity;
- (f) Build a generation, through the education system, that is devoted to Islamic principles and respects the Dhivehi language and Maldivian culture;
- (g) Develop a system that teaches good health, fitness and sports skills and provide such opportunities in an equal manner;
- (h) Promote regular attendance to school and take necessary steps to reduce the number of children who drop out of school without completing their education;

and

- (i) Build a generation that is confident, takes initiative, and is productive, through the educational system.

**Responsibilities of parents and guardians** 10.

The responsibilities of parents and guardians in relation to providing education to children are as stated below:

- (a) To enroll children of mandatory age for compulsory education to school and to send such children to school regularly;
- (b) To fulfill basic needs of children, including ensuring that the child has received proper food and sleep and is in good health when attending school;
- (c) To provide support to educators and the school in matters concerning the child's education; and
- (d) To encourage children to be hardworking, responsible and raise children to abide by the principles of Islam and to have good discipline.

**Responsibilities of the pupils** 11.

The pupils studying in Maldivian schools are imposed with the responsibilities stated below:

- (a) Participating in educational programmes implemented in schools, fully utilising educational opportunities and responsibly studying, while attending school regularly;
- (b) Respecting the Regulations of the school, and maintaining conduct according to the regulations of the school;
- (c) Respecting school staff, other pupils and the society;
- (d) Being accountable on issues regarding their disciplinary conduct.

### **Chapter Three**

#### **Establishment and implementation of the education policy**

**Establishment of education policy** 12.

- (a) The education policies of the Maldives shall be formulated by the Minister and shall be established in a manner that achieves the objectives of this Act and

does not contravene with the principles of this Act.

- (b) The policies established by the Minister under subsection (a) of this Section, shall be implemented by the Ministry and institutions operated under the Ministry.

**Obligations of the Ministry**

**13.** The obligations of the Ministry as imposed by this Act are stated below:

- (a) To implement policies regarding preschool education, primary education, secondary education, higher secondary education and informal education;
- (b) To ensure fair and equal opportunities to formal and informal education;
- (c) To establish a safe and peaceful environment in the schools and to establish a system by which an education can be gained in a safe and peaceful environment;
- (d) To register educational institutions and monitor such institutions;
- (e) To do what is required to ascertain, maintain and improve the quality of education provided in the Maldives;
- (f) To arrange, facilitate and review matters related to examinations of pupils;
- (g) To ensure that schools organise extra educational activities in order to meet the objectives of the national curriculum;
- (h) To establish guidelines regarding arrangement of extra educational activities by parties other than schools in order to achieve the objectives of the national curriculum;
- (i) To ensure that programmes conducted at every educational environment and platform are created in a manner that facilitates the social, spiritual and

emotional wellbeing of the pupils;

- (j) To review educational programmes held at a school level conducted in association with international organisations and other countries;
- (k) To collaborate with international organisations and other countries in order to provide educational opportunities for pupils studying in schools;
- (l) To grant opportunity to private parties who wish to be engaged in providing education, pursuant to relevant guidelines;
- (m) To work towards raising the standard of teachers and other professionals working in the education industry;
- (n) To make parents and citizens aware of educational policies and the importance of education and to strive to increase inclusivity in such areas;
- (o) To determine the educational calendar of the subsequent academic year;
- (p) To determine the budget for public schools and to ensure that such budget is adequate to implement the obligations of such schools;
- (q) To ensure that the rights provided under Act Number 2/2008 (Employment Act) and Regulations made thereunder, are afforded to school staff;
- (r) To enact and implement regulations regarding the conduct of parties who carry out early childhood education programmes and regulations on the information required by guardians; and
- (s) To ensure that all the provisions of this Act are implemented in a manner that achieves the objectives set out in this Act.

## Chapter Four

### School education system

- Mandatory age for compulsory education**
14. Every child between the ages of 4 (four) and 16 (sixteen) living in the Maldives is required to complete compulsory education.
- Obligation to provide education to children of the mandatory age for compulsory education**
15. (a) Guardians are obligated to send every child of the mandatory age for compulsory education to school to gain education starting from preschool education until secondary education and to enroll the child in the level of the Maldivian national education system established for the child's age.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Section, if a child has completed secondary education which is accepted by the Maldivian national education system, before the age of 16 (sixteen), such child is not obligated to attend school under subsection (a) of this Section.
- Exceptions**
16. (a) Notwithstanding Section 15 of this Act, the Minister has the discretion to exempt a child from attending school in the event the child does not have the ability based on the circumstances, the Regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- (b) An exception as provided for under subsection (a) of this Section shall only be given if doing so works for the best interest of the Child.
- (c) In the event an exception is granted under this Section, the Child still has the right to education through an educational programme determined by the Ministry.
- Providing free preschool education**
17. The State shall arrange a mechanism for provision of free preschool education to every Maldivian child residing in the Maldives.
- Providing free primary, secondary and higher secondary education**
18. (a) The State shall provide the opportunity to gain primary and secondary education, for free of charge to every Maldivian child residing in the Maldives.
- (b) Upon completion of secondary education, the State

shall provide the opportunity to gain an education or training in one of the following ways, free of charge to interested Maldivian child residing in the Maldives, and has fulfilled the requirements determined by the Ministry.

- (1) Higher secondary education; or
- (2) Upon completion of Grade 10 (ten), 2 (two) further years of school education.

**Providing education to foreign children 19.**

- (a) Every foreign child residing in the Maldives has an equal right to preschool education, primary education, middle school education, secondary education and higher secondary education, as Maldivian children. The opportunity to gain education in schools operated in the Maldives shall be open to foreign children without any form of discrimination whatsoever.
- (b) Notwithstanding Sections 17 and 18 of this Act, the State may arrange free education for foreign children residing in the Maldives, under a specific policy established by the Government.

**Arrangement of providing free education 20.**

- (a) As stipulated in Sections 17 and 18 of this Act, the Ministry shall make arrangements for providing free education to every Maldivian child residing in the Maldives.
- (b) For the purposes of Sections 17 and 18 of this Act, books, stationaries and other such items required for education shall be provided by the Ministry free of charge and in an equal manner, pursuant to the Regulation made under this Act.
- (c) Where there is no school system which can provide the educational service stipulated in Sections 17 and 18 of this Act in the island in which the child is registered as residing, the arrangements necessary for providing such education to the child in another island shall be made

at the cost of the Government, under the Regulation made by the Ministry.

- Religious upbringing**                    **21.**    At every school providing preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education in the Maldives, Islamic creed and values shall be taught to every child, who is a Maldivian citizen.
- Dhivehi language**                    **22.**    Dhivehi language shall be taught at every school providing preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education in the Maldives.
- Establishing an environment which fosters good health**                    **23.**    An environment which fosters good health shall be established at every school within the Maldivian education system. The following programmes, services and resources shall at least be available at every school.
- (a)    An established environment for providing education to children in accordance with their capabilities, after assessing the intellectual development of the children with respect to their age;
  - (b)    An established environment which facilitates the emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing and resources and staff required to foster such an environment at schools;
  - (c)    In addition to providing education in accordance with the age and developing capabilities of children, arranging and conducting sports activities, social activities, environment related activities and religious activities;
  - (d)    An established environment free and safe from acts such as bullying and harassment;
  - (e)    In addition to schools being a clean environment, having an established mechanism for prevention of diseases;
  - (f)    Providing morning breakfast at every Public School;
  - (g)    Conducting activities at the school which promote and

aid good health and fitness of children;

- (h) Every school shall conduct age-appropriate sports activities for its pupils;
- (i) Establishing a mechanism to supervise the health of the pupils; and
- (j) Establishing a mechanism for identifying pupils who require assistance and providing assistance to such children.

**School curriculum and examinations**

**24.**

- (a) In order to achieve the objectives of this Act, the Ministry shall compile and publish a curriculum inclusive of all levels of the school system.
- (b) Guidelines for compiling the school curriculum stated in subsection (a) of this Section shall be stipulated in the Regulation made under this Act.
- (c) The Ministry shall establish a mechanism to conduct general examinations in order to examine and assess the subjects taught at various levels of schools.
- (d) Examinations taken by pupils who complete secondary and higher secondary education shall be international examinations or of the same standard as international examination.
- (e) In order to achieve the objectives stipulated in subsection (c) of this Section, The Regulation made under this Act must comprise of a mechanism for conducting general examinations.

**Attending school**

**25.**

- (a) Unless with a reasonable excuse, every child of the mandatory age for compulsory education shall attend school regularly.
- (b) Reasonable excuse for absence from school shall include the following.
  - (1) Being unable to attend school due to ill health;
  - (2) Inability to attend school in order to having to participate in an activity set by the school;

(3) Not attending school for any other reasonable cause, with the permission of the school.

(c) For the purposes of this Section, attendance to school is inclusive of attending extra-curricular activities organised by the school.

**Prohibition of employment**      **26.** Children within the mandatory age for compulsory education shall be prohibited from employment. However, this Section does not bar such a child from attending age-appropriate employment with the permission of the guardian, in order to obtain training in relation to education and learning, in a manner which does not contravene the Act Number 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act).

**Prohibition of inhumane punishments**      **27.** Any persons belonging to the school shall not, whether as a disciplinary action or otherwise, subject any child to inhumane and cruel punishment or punishment which may cause physical or mental harm to the child. Additionally, any persons belonging to the school shall not subject a child to any form of harm whatsoever. Further, the school shall not allow any other persons to commit such an act against a child while the child is under the supervision of the school.

**Enacting Safety Regulations and Disciplinary Regulations**      **28.**

(a) Every school in the Maldives shall compile and publish a safety and disciplinary Regulation to be followed by its pupils, school staff and persons visiting the school for various reasons.

(b) The Safety Regulation of schools shall consist of the necessary steps to be taken for the safety of children, teachers and other school staff, precautionary steps to be taken to prevent danger to such persons and emergency steps and procedure to be followed if such an event occurs.

(c) The code of conduct for teachers and other school staff shall include guidelines on how such persons shall behave, acts they shall refrain from when dealing with

pupils and measures to be taken if the Regulation is contravened.

- (d) The Ministry shall compile a policy which stipulates the main provisions to be included in the Regulations to be made by the schools under this Section.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Management of schools**

#### **Schools**

**29.** Schools operated in the Maldives shall be categorised into the 4 (four) categories stated below.

- (a) Public schools;
- (b) Private schools;
- (c) Public Private Partnership (PPP) schools; and
- (d) Community schools.

#### **Public schools**

**30.** (a) Public schools shall be operated under the supervision of the Ministry and in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Regulation made hereunder.

- (b) The Regulation made pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section, shall incorporate the following; policies for the establishment of public schools, how such schools shall be named, how children shall be enrolled and terminated from such schools, how such schools shall be operated, how staff shall be hired to and terminated from such schools, policies for merging multiple schools, policies to be followed where such a school needs to be closed temporarily or permanently, and all other policies related to operation of such schools.

#### **Private schools, public private partnership schools and community schools**

**31.** (a) Private schools, Public Private Partnership schools and Community schools in the Maldives shall be operated after registering at the Ministry in accordance with this Act and the Regulation made hereunder.

- (b) The Regulation made under this Section shall incorporate the following.
  - (1) Registration requirements and procedure;

- (2) Facilities and services to be provided at the school;
- (3) Policies for enrolment and termination of children from the school;
- (4) Policies for determining enrolment fees of the school;
- (5) Policies for the programmes conducted at the school; and
- (6) Policies on management responsibilities and operation of the school.

**Re-registration of private schools, public private partnership schools and community schools**

**32.** All Private schools, Public Private Partnership schools and Community schools registered under the Ministry prior to the commencement of this Act shall be re-registered under this Act within 2 (two) years from the commencement of this Act.

**Chapter Six**

**Teachers and principals of schools**

**Rights and standards of teachers**

**33.** (a) Teachers working in the Maldivian education system shall possess adequate qualifications and shall be qualified.

(b) In addition to the protections granted by the Employment Act, the Ministry shall establish the standard for allowances and protections afforded to teachers, in the Regulation made under this Act.

(c) Schools employing teachers shall ensure that the allowances and protections provided to teachers are afforded in accordance with the standards established by the Ministry pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section

**Responsibilities of teachers**

**34.** Responsibilities of teachers are as follows.

(a) Protecting the rights of children and to take all necessary steps in the capacity of a teacher necessary to ensure such rights;

(b) To encourage children to learn, and to instill in them

the spirit of studying in order to achieve the learning objectives expected from them;

- (c) To develop their own skills and knowledge in order to better help and facilitate the children to achieve their learning objectives;
- (d) To monitor regularly the progress of children in achieving their learning objectives, and recognise the development and the standard of the child's education, and reviewing them on a regular basis;
- (e) To encourage pupils to care for and maintain their own health dignity, and to encourage them to care for the health and dignity of other people;
- (f) To regularly inform the guardians about the development of the child, their educational standard and any other relevant information about the child;
- (g) To act in accordance with the policies and standards set out for teachers;
- (h) To ensure that all measures are taken to maintain a safe and peaceful environment in the school; and
- (i) To carry out obligations pertaining to teachers that are stipulated in this Act and in the Regulation made under this Act;

**Responsibilities of principals 35.**

Responsibilities of school principals are as follows.

- (a) To implement the educational policies set by the Ministry, and to conduct the affairs of the school in line with those policies;
- (b) To ensure that studies at the school are carried out in accordance with the curriculum;
- (c) To take all reasonable steps in accordance with relevant regulations of the school, in order to ensure regular attendance of the children;
- (d) To inform the guardians of the children about their studies and other school related matters;

- (e) To do everything necessary for creating and maintaining a safe environment which promotes the spirit of learning;
- (f) To implement the policies and standards determined by the Ministry, within the school;
- (g) To utilise the labour and other resources of the school in the most beneficial way in operating the school, to supervise the standard of the work of teachers and other school staff and to conduct professional development programmes for such persons; and
- (h) To do everything necessary for providing assistance and support to the children of the school.

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Registration of educational institutions and teachers**

#### **Registration of educational institutions other than schools**

- 36.**
- (a) Educational institutions other than schools, shall be operated in the Maldives after registering with the Ministry in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in the Regulation made under this Act.
  - (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) this this Section,, the following shall be deemed to be educational institutions other than schools;
    - (1) Baby nursery and nursery;
    - (2) Preschool and centres providing childhood education or education of that level;
    - (3) Tuition centres;
    - (4) Quran centres;
    - (5) Other educational institutions stipulated in the Regulation made under this Act.
  - (c) The Regulation regarding educational institutions made under this Act by the Ministry shall include the following.
    - (1) Requirements and procedures for registration of an educational institution;

- (2) Facilities and services required to be provided in an educational institution;
- (3) Policies regarding enrolment and termination of children from educational institutions;
- (4) Guidelines for determining the enrolment fees of the educational institution;
- (5) Guideline for the programmes conducted at the educational institution;
- (6) Guidelines on responsibilities of the management and operation of the educational institution; and
- (7) Guidelines for revoking the registry of the educational institution.

(d) All educational institutions that were registered and operating prior to the commencement of this Act shall be re-registered in accordance with this Act within 2 (two) years from the commencement of this Act.

(e) Institutions that were operating without registration prior to the commencement of this Act shall register in accordance with this Act within 6 (six) months from the commencement of this Act.

**Registration of teachers**

**37.**

(a) No person shall work as a teacher at any school or educational institution of the Maldives without being registered under this Act and no school shall employ any person as a teacher unless they are registered in this manner.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this Section, teachers teaching in institutions stipulated in Section 29 and Section 36 (b) of this Act, shall register and obtain their licenses in accordance with the Regulation made under this Act.

(c) The guidelines determined under subsection (a) and (b) does not apply to trainee teachers working directly

under the supervision of a teacher.

- (d) For the purposes of this Section, the word “teacher” includes the following persons teaching at educational institutions stipulated under subsection (b) of this Section; tutors, therapists, teachers, school leading teachers, supervisors, department heads, head teachers, any professional personnel occupying a position of the same level, deputy principals, acting principals, principals and any professional personnel occupying a position of the same level.

**Registration and licensing of  
teachers**      **38.**

- (a) For the purposes of doing everything necessary in relation to the registration of teachers, a board consisting of 5 (five) members under “Teachers Registration Board” shall be formed by the Minister within the Ministry within 1 (one) month from the commencement of this Act.
- (b) The registrar appointed by the Minister shall preside over the Board stipulated in subsection (a) of this Section.. The registrar appointed shall be a person working in the Ministry, in the position of Deputy Minister or a higher position.
- (c) The board formulated under subsection (a) of this Section, above shall comprise of the following members.
- (1) The Registrar;
  - (2) A person from the educational management profession or educational policy profession;
  - (3) A person from the teaching profession;
  - (4) A person involved in formulating educational curriculum; and
  - (5) A person from child psychology profession or educational psychology profession.
- (d) Policies and Regulations on registration of teachers in

the Maldives and licensing of teachers pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section shall be compiled and published by the Board.

- (e) Teachers in service at the time of commencement of this Act shall register at the Board stipulated in subsection (a) of this Section and obtain their license, within 2 (two) years from the commencement of this Act.
- (f) The Regulation made under this Act shall stipulate the guidelines relating to the operation of the Board stipulated in subsection (a) of this Section.

## **Chapter Eight**

### **Maintaining the standard of the education system**

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| <b>Maintaining the standard of the education system</b>            | <b>39.</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) In order to ensure the standard of the Maldivian education system, the Ministry shall implement a mechanism which maintains the standard of education by ensuring that the schools and other educational institutions of the Maldives are operated under the principles set out under this Act and the Regulations, guidelines and standards established hereunder.</li><li>(b) The mechanism established for the purposes of subsection (a) of this Section, shall provide for a mechanism that ensures regular monitoring and inspection of schools and educational institutions.</li></ul> |
| <b>Making Regulation regarding the maintenance of the standard</b> | <b>40.</b> | <p>In order to achieve the objectives of Section 39 of this Act, the Ministry shall make a Regulation that includes the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Procedures to ascertain whether schools and other educational institutions are operated in accordance with the guidelines and standards stipulated in this Act;</li><li>(b) Guidelines for ensuring the standard of educational institutions, guidelines for ensuring that the guidelines and standards required to ensure the safety of staff and</li></ul>   |

pupils of such institutions are fulfilled, and guidelines to be followed in notifying to revise and amend guidelines and standards being followed;

- Unregistered educational institutions**
- 41.**
- (c) Penalties for non-compliance with Ministry directives.
  - (a) If the Ministry receives a complaint or information regarding an unregistered educational institution, the Ministry or party designated by the Ministry has the power to enter for the search and inspection such institutions.
  - (b) Where a search conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section shows that the institution is operated in contravention to this Act, the Ministry is vested with the power to order such institution to be shut down immediately, along with ordering such institution to register in accordance with this Act.

## **Chapter Nine**

### **Gathering, storing and dissemination of data**

- Storing and maintaining data**
- 42.**
- (a) The Ministry shall establish guidelines on the storage and maintenance of all education related data in accordance with the Regulation made under this Act and arrangements for compiling data in accordance with the Regulation.
  - (b) With the exception of institutions that provide higher education, data collection and compilation of data at all other educational institutions in the Maldives shall be carried out by a person designated by the Ministry.
- Dissemination of information**
- 43.**
- (a) The Ministry shall publish the annual educational related statistics every year
  - (b) Statistics required from schools and other educational service providers in the Maldives shall be provided in accordance with the guidelines determined by the Ministry. In the provision of such information, any information which could damage the reputation and

character of any person shall not be published.

- (c) Statistics and data related to education and activities conducted at schools shall be provided by the parties obligated to conduct such activities, to the party designated by the Ministry, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ministry.
- (d) Statistics and data related to education required by researchers and other parties shall be provided in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ministry.

## **Chapter Ten**

### **General provisions**

#### **Formulating and implementing Regulations**

- 44. (a) Unless otherwise stipulated in this Act, all the Regulations to be made under this Act shall be and implemented by the Ministry.
- (b) Unless otherwise stipulated in this Act, Regulations to be made under this Act shall be made and published in the Government Gazette within 12 (twelve) months from the commencement of this Act.

#### **Repealed Act**

- 45. Upon commencement of this Act, all provisions stated in Act Number 1/2012 (Preschool Administration Act) shall be repealed.

#### **Commencement**

- 46. This Act shall commence on the date of the first day of the presiding academic year after this Act is passed, enacted and published in the Government Gazette.

#### **Definitions**

- 47. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Act, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings.
  - (a) "Guardians" shall mean parents, judicial guardians, legal custodian, legal guardians and persons who have the guardianship of the child at that time. Judicial guardians, legal custodian and legal guardians shall be defined in accordance with Act No. 4/2000 (Family Act) and the Regulations made pursuant to that Act.

- (b) “Formal education” shall mean preschool education, primary education and secondary education following the national curriculum.
- (c) “Informal education” shall mean the obtaining of skills, knowledge and ideologies in an informal manner by individuals who did not receive formal education or individuals who wish to gain further education after completing formal education, in order to become useful members of the society. This shall include the concepts of community education or social education, continuing education, lifelong learning, adult education and second chance education.
- (d) “Lifelong learning” shall mean education obtained by a person on their own, outside of formal education, at any age.
- (e) “Continuing education” shall mean the obtaining of education in a specific field, after completion of formal education.
- (f) “Formal education institution” shall mean an institution registered in order to provide school education.
- (g) “International examination” shall mean school examinations conducted in various countries and conducted by an institution or company which is widely recognized.
- (h) “National examinations” shall mean examinations conducted by the Maldives Examination Board.
- (i) “School education” shall mean preschool education, primary education, secondary education and higher secondary education.
- (j) “Preschool education” shall mean the education provided to children between the ages of 4 (four) and 6 (six), prior to primary education.
- (k) “Primary education” shall mean the educational level

completed between the grades of 1 (one) and 6 (six) in the educational system established in the Maldives.

- (l) “Secondary education” shall mean the educational level completed between the grades of 7 (seven) and 10 (ten) in the educational system established in the Maldives.
- (m) “Higher secondary education” shall mean the educational level completed between the grades of 11 (eleven) and 12 (twelve) in the educational system established in the Maldives.
- (n) “Compulsory education” shall mean the education mandatory to be provided to children of the mandatory age group for compulsory education under Section 15 of this Act.
- (o) “Children of the mandatory age for compulsory education” shall mean children of the age stipulated in Section 14 of this Act.
- (p) “School” shall mean preschools and institutions providing primary, secondary and higher secondary education, operating under the Maldivian education system.
- (q) “School staff” shall mean the head of the school, teachers and other employees employed at the school.
- (r) “Curriculum” shall mean the information and skill determined to be taught in order to prepare for the examination of a specific subject.
- (s) “Ministry” shall mean the government institution mandated with the responsibility of implementing education related policies at that time.
- (t) “Minister” shall mean the Minister of the government institution mandated with the responsibility of implementing education related policies at that time.
- (u) “Teacher” shall mean a person employed to educate

pupils in preschool, primary, secondary and higher secondary education under the Maldivian education system.

- (v) “Teachers Registration Board” shall mean the Board formed under this Act to impose the work of registering and licensing teachers and maintaining the disciplinary, professional and ethical standards of teachers.
- (w) “Principal” shall mean the most senior person in charge of the management of a public or private school.
- (x) “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) signed by the Maldives and other pertinent international treaties” shall mean “Convention on the Rights of the Child” signed by the Maldives and other international treaties, including the protocols thereof, signed by the Maldives pertaining to protection of rights of children, economic, social and cultural rights and rights of persons with disabilities and pertaining to education.
- (y) “Public Private Partnership (PPP) schools” shall mean schools established under agreements entered into between the State and private service providers to provide education at a defined standard and price, for a defined period of time.
- (aa) “Community schools” shall mean schools that are managed by both the State and community.
- (ab) “Baby nursery and nursery” shall mean educational level completed prior to preschool (LKG, UKG).
- (ac) “Tuition center” shall mean classes conducted to further clarify and teach lessons taught at schools or institutions providing general education. A class shall be deemed to be a tuition class where more than 5 (five) pupils are being taught at the same time, in the same place.

(ad) "Quran centre" shall mean classes conducted to teach Quran for children of the ages 18 (eighteen) and under. A class shall be considered to be a Quran centre where more than 5 (five) pupils are being taught at the same time, in the same place.

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