

## Private voluntary organisations amendment

---

H.B. 2A, 2024.]

DISTRIBUTED BY VERITAS

e-mail: [veritas@mango.zw](mailto:veritas@mango.zw); website: [www.veritaszim.net](http://www.veritaszim.net)

Veritas makes every effort to ensure the provision of reliable information,  
but cannot take legal responsibility for information supplied.



PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2024

---

MEMORANDUM

This Bill will amend the Private Voluntary Organisations Act [*Chapter 17:05*]. The amendments are being made, firstly, in order to comply with the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF) recommendations made to Zimbabwe in the area of the abuse of charities for the financing of criminal and terrorist activity. Further to this, it has also become necessary to streamline administrative procedures for private voluntary organisations to allow for efficient regulation and registration of charities, which are registered in Zimbabwe as “private voluntary organisations”.

FATF is an Intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 countries. Its main objective is to develop policies to combat money laundering, and Zimbabwe is a member. Each member country is assessed periodically for compliance with the policies and legislation on money laundering and financing of terrorism. Countries are assessed on two major criteria, namely: technical compliance and effectiveness. Technical compliance is concerned with deficiencies related to the country’s anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism legislation, while effectiveness is concerned with deficiencies which highlight practical implementation challenges. This Bill seeks to comply with recommendations under technical compliance raised under Zimbabwe’s Mutual Evaluation Report. As a result of the said deficiencies, Zimbabwe was placed under a monitoring programme in October, 2018 by FATF in order to ensure the country aligns its laws on private voluntary organisation to “recommendation 8”. This recommendation arose from FATF’s finding that private voluntary organisations can be abused by money launderers and terrorist financiers. It recommends the enactment and implementation of clear measures as part of a framework to prevent potential abuse in key sectors having the potential to act as conduits for tainted money.

Thirdly, following upon FATF’s engagement with stakeholders in 2018 on the issue of abuse of charities, a subsequent public consultation in March 2021, highlighted the need for both public and private sectors to conduct risk assessments in the context of proliferation financing, and how they can mitigate the risks they identify. Proliferation financing covers a wide spectrum of activities connected with the illegal sourcing of materials and accessing of finance to build, export and deploy weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This Bill includes FATF recommended measures to prevent and mitigate proliferation financing, including consequential amendments to Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act and the Criminal Matters (Mutual Assistance) Act.

Fourthly, provisions have been added to safeguard against the abuse of charitable giving for political or socially undesirable ends. In particular it will be enacted that:

- ensure the good internal administration and financial accountability of private voluntary organisations for the benefit of their stakeholders;
- ensure that private voluntary organisations do not undertake political lobbying;
- foreign or domestic organisations purporting to engage in charitable work in Zimbabwe by the use of funds solicited from within or outside Zimbabwe must be registered unless they fall within one of the statutory exemptions;

In more detail, the individual clauses of the Bill provide as follows:

*Clause 1*

This clause sets out the Bill's short title.

*Clause 2*

This Clause amends the existing section 2 which houses the interpretations of words and phrases used in the principal Act. The clause provides for the inclusion of the definition of "funds or other assets" which is very wide ranging to include all financial assets and funds or other assets of every kind. The clause also amends the definition of "private voluntary organisation" to ensure it covers all relevant organisations that fall under this law. In view of the international dimension of terrorist and proliferation financing through the abuse of charities, a definition for "Financial Intelligence Unit" of the Reserve Bank is necessary because of the role the Unit will play in assisting the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations in that regard.

The definition of "private voluntary organisation" excludes from the scope of that term certain activities (for example fundraising for schools or hospitals by or on behalf of the schools or hospitals concerned). However, even excluded activities may come within the scope of monitoring against money-laundering if the activities are carried on by any "high risk" entity (see new section 22C inserted by clause 10)

*Clause 3*

This clause seeks to formally establish the Office of the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations as a statutory office in the Ministry responsible for social welfare. The object of this establishment is to ensure the office of the Registrar is able to perform its functions more efficiently by enabling it (through the Public Service Commission) to employ dedicated staff to assist the Registrar.

The Registrar will be given the task of assessing the fitness of private voluntary organisations to be registered under the Act (a task which had previously been undertaken by the PVO Board, which will be abolished). In order to ensure continuous liaison with registered PVOs, the new Part IIA will establish a forum for the discussion of issues of mutual concern to the Office and private voluntary organisations.

*Clause 6*

This clause repeals the existing section of the principal Act requiring the registration of private voluntary organisations and replaces it with a more comprehensive provision that brings within the scope of registration certain entities previously excluded from registration and excluding from registration certain other entities. In particular:

1. Insofar as the Bill requires organisations not previously within the scope of the PVO Act to now register as PVOs (that is to say, those organisations not registered as trusts which receive external funding to pursue objects of a charitable nature), such organisations will be afforded a reasonable period to comply with the Act as now amended, because to the extent that they were receiving external funding they were not in breach of the PVO Act before its amendment.
2. Insofar as the Bill requires trusts not previously within the scope of the PVO Act (because they were testamentary trusts under the Act before its amendment), to

now register because they receive external funding, the same considerations apply to them as apply to the organisations referred to in the previous paragraph: they too will be afforded a reasonable period to comply with the Act as now amended.

3. Insofar as the Bill requires non-testamentary trusts to now register because they receive external funding, those non-testamentary trusts which have registered themselves with the Registrar of Deeds under section 70A of the Deeds Registries Act [*Chapter 20:05*] will be afforded a reasonable period to comply with the Act as now amended.

In each of the foregoing circumstances (1, 2 and 3), a trust, body, or association of persons corporate or unincorporate or any institution that immediately before the commencement of the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill, 2024, was lawfully operated in Zimbabwe before being required to be registered under the new section 6 may, after commencing registration proceedings, continue to operate pending the outcome of those proceedings.

The new section 6 will also specifically exempt from registration charitable entities operating in Zimbabwe pursuant to bilateral and multilateral agreements that the Government enters with other States, in terms of which entities belonging to or connected with such States are tasked to provide aid and assistance within our country. Such entities should not be required to register as PVOs because the Government has agreed in advance to the scope and conditions of their operation within our country.

#### *Clause 5*

This clause amends section 9 on the procedure for PVO registration to take account of the fact that the PVO Board is now abolished and the Registrar alone evaluates applications for registration of PVOs.

#### *Clause 6*

This clause inserts a new section in the principal Act setting forth the circumstances under which a registered PVO must apply for the amendment of its original particulars of registration, in particular, where there has been a “material change” to those particulars. In some cases of “material change” the involving a substantial change in its objects or of its proprietary structure (for instance, where the PVO merges with or is taken over by another PVO or other entity), PVO may be required by the Registrar to re-register.

#### *Clause 7*

This clause makes new proviso for appeals against the Registrar’s decisions under the principal Act, setting for the grounds on which the Minister may set aside or substitute the Registrar’s decisions on appeal.

#### *Clause 8*

This clause inserts a new Part and section governing the prudential and ethical principles by which all PVOs are expected to conduct themselves within Zimbabwe. The breach of some of these principles are declared to be civil defaults for which the offending PVO may become liable to pay a civil penalty.

*Clause 9*

This clause repeals and substitutes section 21 of the existing Act to make provision for the suspension of an executive committee of a private voluntary organisation by the Minister where there is maladministration and the power of the Minister to make an application to the Court for trustees for the organisation to be able to continue operation as investigations are being carried out

This clause also makes provision for a new section 22 which is directly related to the requirements that Zimbabwe must comply with under recommendation 8 of the FATF. The recommendation speaks to the process of assessment of risks in relation to private voluntary organisations that the Minister, in corporation with the Financial Intelligence Unit, must make at prescribed intervals in order to identify high risk sectors or organisations and prescribe special measures that must be applied in order to mitigate the risk. The new section also extends the scope of monitoring of charitable activities to activities that are otherwise exempted by this Act, where the entities conducting these activities are at high risk of being infiltrated or perverted from their original purposes. The Minister is empowered to designate what are called “high risk” private voluntary organisations and entities (those deemed especially vulnerable to being abused by criminals and terrorists) in order to allow for closer monitoring and more stringent regulation.

The new section 22A which provision for the power of the Registrar to impose of civil penalty orders under this Act on non-complying private voluntary organisations. The scope of such power and the safeguards against abuse of its exercise are set forth in the Schedule governing the issuance civil penalties to be inserted by this Bill.

The new sections 22B and 22C provide for the President or the Minister with President’s authority to enter into agreements with other countries with a view to the rendering of reciprocal assistance on the registration of private voluntary organisations, and the exchange of information related thereto, as well as mutual assistance to combat the transnational abuse of private voluntary organisations charities for criminal purposes.

The new section 22D enables the Minister administering the principal Act to give policy directions to the Registrar.

*Clause 10*

This clause criminalises the abuse of charitable giving for political purposes.

*Clause 11*

This clause makes additions to the areas that the Minister may make regulations under the Act.

*Clause 12*

This clause will insert a Schedule in the Act that provides for the civil penalty regime contemplated in the new section 22A.

*Clause 13*

This clause and the First Schedule will effect certain minor and consequential amendments to the PVO Act, including the removal of references to the abolished PVO Board.

*Clauses 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23*

These clauses amending the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*] and the Criminal Matters (Mutual Assistance) Act [*Chapter 9:06*] will implement FATF's recommendations to combat proliferation financing. Of particular note is the insertion in [*Chapter 9:24*] of a new offence (see Clause 16) of "Financing or partaking in the proliferation or use of weapons of mass destruction", covering a wide spectrum of activities connected with the illegal sourcing of materials and accessing of finance to build, export and deploy weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

*Clause 22*

This clause and the Second Schedule will effect certain minor and consequential amendments to the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*] (No. 4 of 2013).



# BILL

To amend the Private Voluntary Organisation Act [*Chapter 17:05*]; the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*] (No. 4 of 2013); and the Criminal Matters (Mutual Assistance) Act [*Chapter 5 9:06*] (No. 13 of 1990); and to provide for matters connected therewith.

ENACTED by the Parliament and the President of Zimbabwe.

## PART I

### Preliminary

#### **1 Short title**

10 This Act may be cited as the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill, 2024.

## PART II

### Amendments to Private Voluntary Organisations Act [*Cap. 17:05*]

#### **2 Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 17:05**

15 Section 2 (“Interpretation”) of the Private Voluntary Organisation Act [*Chapter 17:05*] (hereinafter in this Part called “the principal Act”) is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the repeal of the definition of “Board”;

(ii) by the insertion of the following definitions—

---

*Printed by the Government Printer, Harare*

““beneficial owner”, in relation to a private voluntary organisation, means a person who through the ownership of any share or stake in the organisation or of all or any of the assets of the organisation is able to exert a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of the organisation, including a person who exerts such control through a nominee who holds such stake, share or assets on behalf of such person

5

“controller”, in relation to a private voluntary organisation, means a person other than a beneficial owner who, notwithstanding the formal arrangements for the exercise of control over the organisation as specified in its constitution, exerts (whether by virtue of the size of that person’s contributions to the organisation or otherwise) a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of the organisation;

10

“Financial Intelligence Unit” or “Unit” means the Financial Intelligence Unit referred to in section 6A of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*];

15

“funds or other assets” means any assets, including but not limited to economic resources (including oil and other natural resources), financial assets, property of every kind (whether tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, however acquired) and legal documents or instruments in any form (including electronic or digital documents or instruments) evidencing title to or any interest in such funds or other assets (including, but not limited to, bank credits, travellers’ cheques, bank cheques, money orders, shares, securities, bonds, drafts or letters of credit), and any interest, dividends or other income on or value accruing from or generated by such funds or other assets, and any other assets which potentially may be used to obtain funds, goods or services;

20

25

30

“Office” refers to the Office of the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations established in terms of section 3;

“State-sponsored aid entity” means an entity which—

(a) is an arm, agency or representative of a State whose government is party to any bilateral or other agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe, in terms of which that entity is permitted to operate in Zimbabwe or any part thereof; or

35

(b) is not an arm, agency or representative of a State referred to in paragraph (a), but which is appointed as the agent or representative of a State in terms of any bilateral or other agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe for the purpose of operating in Zimbabwe or any part thereof (which appointment must be evidenced in the agreement itself or by notice in writing by that State to the Government of Zimbabwe);”;

40

45

(iii) in the definition of “private voluntary organisation”—

A. by the insertion of the words “legal person, legal arrangement” after the words “means any”;

- B. by the repeal of sub paragraph (iii) and substitution of—  
“(iii) any trust established directly by any enactment; or”
- C. by the repeal of sub-paragraph (x) and substitution of—  
“(x) subject to section 6(7), any trust registered with the High Court, or with the Registrar of Deeds under section 70A of the Deeds Registries Act [Chapter 20:05];  
(xi) any State-sponsored aid entity;”;

(b) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (2)—

- “(3) For the purposes of the definitions of “beneficial owner” and “controller”—

(a) a person exerts a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of an organisation if (singly or in combination)—

- (i) that person’s decision on any matter or policy concerning the governance of the organisation or the exercise of any of its functions is binding on the organisation or the governing body of the organisation; or
- (ii) that person is able to overrule or veto any decisions of the governing body of the organisation; or
- (iii) that person directly or indirectly controls twenty-five *per centum* or more of the votes in the governing body;

(b) reference to a “person” exerting a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of an organisation 25 includes a State, or an arm, organ, agency or representative of a State.

### **3 New Parts substituted for Part II of Cap. 17:15**

Part II of the principal Act is repealed and the following Parts are substituted—

#### **“PART II**

##### **OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION**

### **3 Office Of the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations**

- (1) There shall be an Office of the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations in the Ministry responsible for social welfare, in which shall be lodged the register of private voluntary organisations.
- (2) The Office shall be headed by a Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations who shall exercise general supervision and direction of the registry and shall be assisted by one or more Assistant Registrars, inspectors and such other officers as may be necessary for the proper administration of this Act, whose offices shall be public offices and form part of the Public Service:

Provided that until an appointment of a Registrar is made, the person for the time being holding the office of Director of Social Welfare shall be the Registrar.

(3) Subject to this Act, the Registrar shall—

- (a) consider and determine every application for registration and every proposed cancellation or amendment of a certificate of registration; and
- (b) hear representations by any association, organization or institution claiming entitlement to be registered as a private voluntary organisation; and
- (c) advise the Minister and registered private voluntary organisations in respect of any matter arising out of the administration or operation of this Act or any other matter referred to it by the Minister or the Registrar; and
  - (d) to promote and encourage the co-ordination of the activities of registered private voluntary organisations having similar or related objects; and
- (e) to submit to the Minister an annual report concerning the administration and operation of this Act; and
- (f) maintain at his or her office a Register of Private Voluntary

Organisations in which he or she shall enter all such particulars in relation to the registration of private voluntary organisations and their constitutions as he or she is required to enter by or in terms of this Act or any other enactment or decision of the Court;

(4) The Register shall be open to inspection during office hours by any member of the public on payment of the prescribed fee, if any:

Provided that the Registrar shall endeavour to create and maintain up to date a website which, among other things, will enable members of the public to have access to the Register at all hours.

(5) Subject to the directions of the Registrar, the other officers referred to in subsection (1) shall perform such of the Registrar's functions as the Registrar may assign to them.

30

(6) The Registrar shall have power to delegate any of his or her powers to any officer other than the power of delegation.

(7) The Registrar may in writing authorise an assistant registrar, inspector or other officer referred to in subsection (2) to exercise any of the functions of a Registrar under this Act.

35

(8) Subsection (7) shall not be construed as limiting the power of the Registrar to delegate his or her functions under any other law.

(9) The Registrar shall provide every inspector with a document identifying him or her as an inspector, and the inspector shall produce it on request by any interested person.

40

## **PARTIIA**

### **PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM**

#### **4 Private Voluntary Organisation Forum**

(1) The Registrar shall annually, on a date and at a venue to be notified not less than three months beforehand in the *Gazette*, organise, 45

convene and host a Private Voluntary Organisations Forum to discuss any issue or issues of concern generally to private voluntary organisations:

Provided that the venue of the Private Voluntary Organisations Forum shall rotate annually through every provincial centre of Zimbabwe in such order as the Registrar shall determine.

(2) The notice of intention to organise, convene and host the Forum shall include the following—

- (a) the proposed venue or venues and the proposed date or dates for the Forum; and
- (b) the proposed agenda for the Forum, if any; and
- (c) an invitation to relevant stakeholder organisations and other persons interested in issues of concern generally to private voluntary organisations to submit—
  - (i) suggestions for topics to be included in the agenda for discussion at the Forum; and
  - (ii) lists of proposed participants at the Forum, specifying for each proposed participant what credentials he or she possesses that may be of benefit to the Forum's deliberations.

(3) Before publishing a notice in terms of subsection (1) the Registrar shall constitute (whether on a permanent or ad hoc basis) a committee ("the Pre-Forum Committee") of the Forum with the following terms of reference—

- (a) to draw up a proposed agenda for the Forum; and
- (b) to advise the Registrar on the financial, organisational and logistical requirements for convening and hosting the Forum; and
- (c) to solicit financial support or sponsorship from the State, the private and parastatal sectors and
- (d) civil society organisations to enable the Forum to be convened; and
- (e) receive reports from the subcommittees (if any) constituted in terms of subsection (4).

(4) To assist the Pre-Forum Committee in discharging its terms of reference the Registrar may constitute a subcommittee in every provincial centre of Zimbabwe chaired by a member of the Pre-Forum Committee.

(5) Not less than five or more than fifteen members shall constitute the Pre-Forum Committee, and not less than three or more than seven members shall constitute a subcommittee, of whom—

- (a) the majority shall be representatives from private voluntary organisations or organizations which the Registrar considers are representative of private voluntary organizations;
- (b) in the case of—

(i) the Pre-Forum Committee, at least one member

shall represent a private voluntary organisation or organisation of such private voluntary organisations

based or operating in Harare Metropolitan Province, and another member shall represent a private voluntary organisation or organisation of such private voluntary organisations based or operating in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province;

5

(ii) a subcommittee, the majority must be members representing private voluntary organisations or organisations of such private voluntary organisations based or operating in the province for which the subcommittee is constituted.

10

(6) On the establishment of—

(a) the Pre-Forum Committee, the Registrar—

(i) shall appoint at least one officer of the Office as a member of the Committee, and that officer or, if two or more officers of the Office are so appointed, one of

15

(ii) those officers, as the case may be, shall be chairperson of the Committee; and

(iii) may appoint as members of the Committee persons who are not members of the Office and may fix terms and conditions of their appointment;

(b) a subcommittee, the Registrar—

(i) shall appoint a member of the Pre-Forum Committee to chair the subcommittee; and

(ii) may appoint as members of the subcommittee persons who are not members of the Office and may fix terms and conditions of their appointment.

(7) Meetings of—

(a) the Pre-Forum Committee may be convened at any time and at any place approved by the Registrar;

(b) a subcommittee may be convened at any time by the chairperson thereof or at the request of the Registrar, at any place approved by the chairperson of the subcommittee.

(8) If the chairperson of the Committee or a subcommittee is absent from any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, the members present forming a quorum may elect one of their number to preside at that meeting as chairperson.

(9) A majority of members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall form a quorum at any meeting of a committee.

(10) Anything authorised or required to be done by the Committee or a subcommittee may be decided by a majority vote at a meeting of the

5

Committee or subcommittee at which a quorum is present.

(11) At all meetings of the Committee or a subcommittee each member present shall have one vote on each question before the committee:

Provided that in the event of an equality of votes the chairperson or person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition 45 to his or her deliberative vote.

(12) Subject to this section, the procedure to be followed at any meeting of the Committee or a subcommittee shall be as fixed by the Registrar.

(13) The Registrar shall cause minutes of all proceedings of and decisions taken at every meeting of the Pre-Forum Committee to be entered in books kept for the purpose (and the chairperson of a subcommittee shall do likewise).

(14) Any minutes which purport to be signed by the person presiding at the meeting to which the minutes relate or by the person

10 presiding at the next following meeting of the Pre-Forum Committee or the subcommittee concerned, as the case may be, shall be accepted for all purposes as *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings and decisions taken at the meeting concerned.

(15) The person presiding at the meeting shall cause copies of all 15 minutes taken at the Committee or a subcommittee that have been signed to be sent to the Registrar for his or her information.

(16) After publishing a notice in terms of subsection (1) the PreForum committee shall—

(a) draw up a proposed final agenda for the Forum; and

20 (b) select from the lists referred to in subsection (2)(c)(ii) a proposed final list of participants at the Forum; and

transmit its proposals made under paragraphs (a) and (b) to the Registrar for onward transmission to the Minister, whose decision on these issues shall, subject to section 16, 25 be final.

(17) After the Minister has approved the agenda and list of invitees for the Forum, the Registrar shall despatch, together with a copy of the approved agenda, an invitation —

(a) to those persons on the list of approved invitees to attend 30 the Forum on the date and at the venue notified in terms of subsection (1);

(b) for one representative from each of the following Ministries to attend the Forum at the aforementioned date and venue—

(i) the Ministry for which the Minister is responsible; and

35 (ii) the Ministry responsible for health and child welfare; and

(iii) the Ministry responsible for justice; and

(iv) the Ministry responsible for finance; and

(v) the Ministry responsible for co-operatives; and

40 (vi) the Ministry responsible for foreign affairs; and

(vii) any other Ministry whose attendance is, in the opinion of the Minister communicated to the Registrar in writing, desirable or necessary for the success of the Forum.

5 Conduct of Private Voluntary  
Organisations Forum

(1) For the purpose of conducting the Private Voluntary

Organisations Forum the Registrar shall constitute (whether on a permanent

or ad hoc basis) a committee (“the Forum committee”) of the Office of

the Registrar with the following terms of reference—

5

(a) to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the Forum;

and

(b) to keep minutes of or record the proceedings of the Forum,

or to cause the proceedings of the Forum to be minuted or

recorded.

10

(2) The conclusions of every Forum shall be embodied in written resolutions for presentation to the Minister.”.

**4 New section substituted for section 6 of Cap. 17:15**

Section 6 of the principal Act is repealed and the following is substituted—

“6 Private Voluntary Organisations to be registered

15

(1) In this section—

“sanctionable trust” means a trust that may be dealt with by the Registrar in terms of subsection (7) on the basis that it is reasonably suspected of being in violation of subsection (2);

(2) No trust, body, or association of persons corporate or 20 unincorporate or any institution—

5

(a) whose objects or any of them include any of the objects specified in paragraphs (a) to (h) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation”; and

(b) is not exempted by virtue of any of the sub-paragraphs (i) to (xi) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation”; 25

shall, to the extent that it does not exclusively use its own funds or assets (that is to say, funds or assets generated by its own investments or other gainful activities carried on by itself) but instead—

(c) seeks or obtains financial assistance from any source within 30 or outside Zimbabwe; or

(d) collects contributions from the public, for the fulfilment or purported fulfilment of those objects;

shall commence or continue to carry on its activities unless, within thirty days of the commencement of the Private Voluntary Organisations 35

(Amendment) Act, 2024 or within thirty days of the commencement of its operations in Zimbabwe, whichever is the later date, it has been registered in terms of this Act (even if it is a trust registered as described in sub-paragraph (x) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation”

in section 2): 40

Provided that a trust, body, or association of persons corporate or unincorporate or any institution that immediately before the commencement of the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Act, 2024, lawfully operated in Zimbabwe before being required to be registered under this section may, after commencing registration proceedings, 45 continue to operate pending the outcome of those proceedings.

(3) No person shall collect contributions from the public except in terms of this Act.

(4) No person (other than a trustee of a sanctionable trust in respect of which no action by the Registrar in terms subsection (7) has yet been taken) shall in any

manner take part in the management or control of a private voluntary organisation, knowing that the organisation is contravening subsection (2).

(5) Any person (other than a trustee of a sanctionable trust referred to in subsection (4)) who contravenes subsection (2), (3) or (4) shall be 10 guilty of an offence and liable—

(a) in the case of a contravention of subsection (2), to a fine not exceeding level 12 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and such imprisonment;

15 (b) in the case of a contravention of subsection (3), to a fine not exceeding level 12 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year one years or to both such fine and such imprisonment;

(c) 20 in the case of a contravention of subsection (4), to a fine not exceeding level 12 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(6) No unregistered private voluntary organisation shall be entitled to receive a grant from the State.

25(7) The Registrar may in respect of any sanctionable trust dispatch to the trustee or any of the trustees of the trust in question, a written notice setting forth the basis on which the Registrar reasonably suspects the trust of being in violation of subsection (2) and requiring that the trustee commence within thirty (30) days the registration of the trust as a private voluntary organization in terms of this Act:

Provided that until such date as its application for registration is finally determined, the sanctionable trust may continue to operate in Zimbabwe if its operations are in other respects lawful.

(8) Any trustee who having received a notice in terms of subsection 35 (7) fails to comply with such notice shall, together with any other person who is a joint trustee of the trust in question, be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level 10 or imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, and the trust in question shall (even if no trustee is prosecuted under this subsection) 40 be guilty of an offence in terms of subsection (2), and depending on the circumstances, subsections (3) and (4).

(9) Notwithstanding the common law, a trust together with its trustees can be charged jointly in respect of any offence alleged to have been committed by it and its trustees against subsection (2), (3) or (4).

45 (10) A trustee served with a notice under subsection (7) shall have a right within fourteen days of the date when the notice was dispatched to make written representations to the Registrar to have the notice withdrawn on the basis that the notice was made in error and if the Registrar—

5

- (a) accepts such representations, the Registrar shall notify to the trustee in writing, of the withdrawal of the notice; or
- (b) rejects such representations the Registrar shall notify the trustee in writing accordingly and the thirty (30) day period within which the trustee must take the actions specified in subsection (7) commences from the date of the notification of such rejection.”.

## 5 Amendment of section 9 of Cap 17:05

Section 9 (“Registration”) of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by the repeal of subsection (1) and the substitution of—
  - “(1) The secretary of any private voluntary organisation which is required to be registered shall lodge with the Registrar—
    - (a) in the prescribed manner and together with the prescribed fee, an application for such registration together with the constitution of the organisation; and
    - (b) if (on written notice to the applicant) it appears to the Registrar from the application or on the basis of information available to the Registrar that any person as a beneficial owner or controller exerts a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of an organisation, 20 an affidavit sworn by the secretary or a member of the governing body of the organisation disclosing the name of the beneficial owner or controller and the nature and extent of such beneficial ownership or control.”;
- (b) in subsection (3) by the deletion of “submit any such objection to the 25 Board for consideration” and the substitution of “take such objection into consideration.”;
- (c) by the repeal of subsection (5) and substitution of—
  - “(5) Where the Registrar is satisfied that the requirements referred to in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) have been complied with, 30 he or she shall consider the application, together with the constitution of the organisation, any objection to the grant of the application and any further information supplied in connection with the application may—
    - (a) after considering the application, grant it and issue to 35 the organisation concerned a certificate of registration subject to such conditions as he or she may impose; or
    - (b) reject the application if it appears to the him or her that—
      - (i) the organisation is not bona fide operating in furtherance of the objects mentioned in its application 40 for registration; or
      - (ii) the organisation does not, in respect of its consti-

tution or management, or any other information required to be provided by the Registrar, comply with the provisions of this Act.”;

45

(d) in subsection (6) by the deletion of “Board” and substitution of “Registrar”.

## 6 Insertion of new section in Cap 17:05

The principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 13—

“13A Re-registration or

5 certain circumstances

(1) In this section—

“material change” in relation to the amendment of the particulars of the original application for registration means—

(a) a change in the constitution governing the private voluntary organisation concerned regarding the disposal of the organisation’s assets upon the winding up or dissolution of the organisation; or

15 (b) any change with respect to the beneficial ownership or control of the private voluntary organisation concerned, not involving the transfer of the certificate of registration of the organisation to another private voluntary organisation or to another person; or

20 (c) any addition, diminution or variation to the objects of the private voluntary organisation concerned which may significantly impact the scope or nature of its operations in Zimbabwe;

25 (d) any variation of the territorial scope of the operation of the private voluntary organisation concerned within Zimbabwe.

(e) any change with respect to the beneficial ownership or control of the private voluntary organisation concerned, by virtue of the transfer of the certificate of registration of the organisation to another private voluntary organisation or to another person (not being a private voluntary organisation);

30 “provisional transfer”, in relation to the provisional transfer of a certificate of registration of a private voluntary organisation, means, for the purpose of subsection (4), the date on which the certificate was provisionally agreed to be transferred or purported to be transferred before the approval of the transfer by the Registrar.

35 (2) If there is any material change in the particulars furnished in or together with the application for the registration of a private voluntary organisation that involves a material change referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of the definition of “material change”, the secretary of the private voluntary organisation must make an application to the Registrar in the prescribed form to amend the particulars of registration in relation to the private voluntary organisation, for which purpose the secretary must

45 submit to the Registrar an amendment application in the prescribed form no later than one month from the date when the material change occurred.

(3) Upon receiving an application in terms of subsection (2) that involves a material change referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of the definition of “material change”, the Registrar may—

(a) if in his or her opinion the material change does not have

any adverse consequences for the defence, public safety, 5

public order, public morality, public health, or general public interest of Zimbabwe (on which subject the Registrar shall be guided by any policy direction of the Minister issued in terms of section 22D) approve the application and cause

the appropriate entry in the Register of private voluntary 10

organisations to be made and notify the operator accordingly;

or

(b) if the Registrar is not satisfied as to the matters specified in paragraph (a)—

(i) reject the application and allow the applicant the option, 15 within a specified time, of—

A. reversing the material change that prompted the application within a specified period; or

B. reregistering in terms of section 9:

Provided that— 20

(a) if the applicant commences reregistration proceedings, the private voluntary organisation concerned may not lodge an appeal in terms of section 14 against the

Registrar's decision until after the application for re-registration has been rejected;

(b) within the time allowed for it to

reverse any material change, or for the duration of the reregistration proceedings, the private voluntary organisation concerned may continue to operate pending the reversal of the material change or the outcome of those proceedings.

(ii) accept the application subject to specified conditions.

(4) If there is any material change with respect to the beneficial ownership or control of the private voluntary organisation concerned, by

virtue of the transfer of the certificate of registration of the organisation  
40

to another private voluntary organisation or to another person (not being  
a private voluntary organisation), the secretary of the first-mentioned  
private voluntary organisation must, before the provisional transfer is  
completed, make application to the Registrar in the prescribed form for

approval of the transfer for which purpose the secretary must submit to  
45

the Registrar an amendment application in the prescribed form no later  
than one month from the date of the date of provisional transfer of the  
certificate concerned, and the Registrar shall thereafter treat the application  
as if it is an application for the approval of a material change to which

the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) shall apply.

50

(5) In an application under subsection (4), the applicant must specify whether, in  
the event of the application being approved, it is the wish of the  
private voluntary organisation being transferred to continue to hold a  
separate certificate of registration, or to be issued with a new  
5 certificate of registration in the name of the new beneficial owner or controller of the  
organisation (and in the event that the Registrar approves the transfer,  
the Registrar must cancel the certificate of registration of the private  
voluntary organisation being transferred if it wishes to be issued with a  
new certificate of registration).

10 (6) Any private voluntary organisation that fails to comply with  
subsections (2) or (4) shall be guilty of a civil default and liable to the  
penalty specified in paragraph 3(1) of the Schedule”.

## **7 New section substituted for section 14 of Cap 17:05**

Section 14 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section is substituted—

15 “14 Appeals

(1) Any private voluntary organization which is aggrieved by any decision of the  
Board relating to the rejection, either wholly or in part, of an  
application for registration or exemption, or to the cancellation,  
amendment, surrender or restoration of a certificate of registration or  
20 exemption, or to the conditional registration of a private voluntary organization,  
may appeal within fourteen days of receiving notification of the  
Board’s decision, appeal to the Minister.

(2) Upon an appeal the Minister may—

(a) uphold the decision of the Board; or

(b) refer the decision back to the Registrar for re-

25 consideration;(whether with or without directions on how the decision is to be reconsidered) on any one or more of the following grounds—

(i) allowing extraneous or irrelevant considerations to affect the decision; or

30 (ii) failure to take into account relevant considerations in arriving at the decision; or

(iii) any material mistake of fact or law that tainted the decision; or

35 (v) interest in the cause, bias, malice or corruption on the part of any person involved in making or contributing to the decision;

(vi) gross irregularity in the proceedings or the decision of any person involved in making or contributing to the decision.”.

(3) Any private voluntary organisation aggrieved by the decision of the Minister under subsection (2) may, within fourteen days of receiving notification of the Minister’s decision, appeal to the Administrative Court, which on such appeal shall have the same powers as the Minister to dispose of such appeal.

40 **8 New Part inserted in Cap.17:05**

The principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following Part after Part IV—

“PART IVA

ConducTofPrivaTeVolunTaryOrganisaTions

private 20A Principles governing voluntary organisations

(1) Every private voluntary organisation shall endeavour to conduct itself and its operations in accordance with the following principles

5

namely that—

(a) to ascertain the identity of donors and the sources of donations:

Provided that if the donor is anonymous, the private voluntary organisation must satisfy itself by other means that the donor is acting in good faith within the law and that the 10 donation is made in good faith without intent to evade the

law;

(b) to refuse donations from illegitimate or **illegal** sources and

to report to the Registrar and the appropriate authorities any

such donation of which it becomes aware; 15

(c) to ensure that its resources and every donation is used

for the charitable objects for which the private voluntary

organisation is registered;

(d) to account transparently to its stakeholders including its

donors and beneficiaries for the manner in which it distributes 20

its funds and implements its programmes;

(e) to use formal channels (that is to say registered banking

institutions or other financial intermediaries regulated in

Zimbabwe or in any other state) for the transmission of its

funds at every point from source to destination; 25

(f) not to discriminate between beneficiaries on the grounds of

nationality, race, colour, tribe, place of birth, ethnic or social origin, language, class, religious belief, political affiliation, opinion, custom, culture, sex, gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, disability or economic or social status, or they were born in or out of wedlock:

Provided that it shall not be deemed to be discriminatory for a private voluntary organisations to favour beneficiaries of a particular group if its express object or one of its express objects is to benefit any disadvantaged group or members of such group of a particular description

in terms of ethnicity, social origin, language, class, religious

belief, custom, culture, sex, gender, marital status, age,

pregnancy, disability, economic or social status, or persons

born out of wedlock; 40

(g) not to conduct themselves in any politically partisan

manner whether by using its resources to benefit members

of a particular affiliation or making any test of the political

allegiance of its beneficiaries;

(h) to be sensitive generally to the cultural values and norms 45

of the community in the area where they will be primarily

operating;

- (i) to economically and socially benefit the community in the area where they will be operating;
- (j) in as far as possible to employ personnel who are Zimbabwean citizens or permanent residents as members of their staff;
- (k) the implementation of fair and safe labour practices.”.

## **9 Substitution of section 21 and 22 of Cap 17:05**

Sections 21 and 22 of the principal Act is repealed and substituted by the following sections—

“21 Suspension of executive  
committee

**10 (1)** If it appears to the Minister on information supplied to him or her in respect of any registered private voluntary organisation that there are reasonable grounds for believing that—

- (a) the organisation has ceased to operate in furtherance of the objects specified in its constitution; or
- (b) the maladministration of the organisation is adversely affecting the activities of the organisation; or
- (c) the organization is involved in any illegal activities; or
- (d) it is necessary or desirable to do so in the public interest;

the Minister may make application to the High Court to—

- (e) appoint one or more persons as trustees to run the affairs of the organisation for a period not exceeding sixty days pending the election of members of a new executive committee;

(f) suspend all or any of the members of the executive committee of a registered private voluntary organisation from exercising all or any of their functions in running the affairs of the organisation.

**(2)** An application in terms of subsection (1) shall be made on notice to the private voluntary organisation concerned, but, pending the determination by the High Court of the application, the Minister may, on or

30 not more than seven days before the notice of the application being served on the private voluntary organisation, appoint one or more provisional trustees who shall exercise all the powers of the substantive trustee (if the application is granted) until the provisional trustee's appointment is confirmed by the High Court or some other person is appointed with the leave of the court as a substantive trustee.

**(3)** If the High Court refuses an application to appoint or confirm the appointment of one or more trustees, the refusal of the application shall not affect the validity of anything done by the provisional trustee in good faith pursuant to this section before the date of such refusal.

**(4)** Subject to any directions the Minister may give him or her,

5

any provisional trustee shall exercise all the functions of the executive committee of the organisation:

(5) Where the Minister has suspended any member of the executive committee of a registered private voluntary organisation in terms of subsection (1)(f) from exercising all his or her functions and has not revoked the suspension within thirty days after it was effected—

(a) the office of the person so suspended shall thereupon become 5

vacant; and

(b) whether or not he or she has earlier resigned his or her office, the person shall thereupon be disqualified from being nominated as a candidate for election to any office of the

organization until such time (whichever is the later) as— 10

- (i) the Minister, by notice in the *Gazette* removes such disqualification; or
- (ii) the High Court refuses an application.

(6) Where the Minister has suspended some but not all the members

of the executive committee of a registered private voluntary organisation  
15

in terms of subsection (1)(f), the remaining members shall, on the expiry of the period referred to in subsection (5), forthwith call for the election of new members in accordance with the constitution of the organization.

(7) Any provisional or final trustee who is not in fulltime

employment of the State, shall be entitled to be paid from the funds of the organisation, for so long as he or she holds office as such, a monthly salary at such rate as the Minister may determine.

(8) If after due investigation by a trustee appointed in terms of this section, he or she finds sufficient evidence on a balance of probabilities

that any person who is or has been an office-bearer or employee of  
the organisation has misappropriated any funds or other assets of the

organisation, the trustee may—

- (a) make an affidavit to that effect incorporating, referring to or annexing thereto any evidence so found; and
- (b) lodge, on due notice to the office-bearer or employee or former office bearer or employee concerned (“the respondent”), an application to the High Court, together with the affidavit, for an order directing the respondent by a certain day (the “restitution day”) not being earlier than thirty days from

30

the date that the application is set down to for hearing (the  
35

“return day” of the application) to refund or return to such organisation any funds or other assets which the respondent has misappropriated from such organisation, employers organisation or federation.

- (9) If, on the return day of the application, the respondent makes 40 no appearance or, after a hearing, the High Court grants the application for the order with or without amendment, the trustee shall, if the respondent does not comply fully or at all with the order by the return day, submit the order for registration to whichever court would have had jurisdiction to

make such an order had the matter been determined by it, and thereupon  
45

the order shall have effect, for purposes of enforcement, of a judgment of the appropriate court.

- (10) For the purposes of subsection (8), “misappropriate” in relation to the funds or other assets or moneys of the organisation under

trusteeship includes doing either or both of the following in defiance of a notice referred to in subsection (9)—

- (a) expending or disposing of the funds or other assets of the organisation; or
- (b) withdrawing moneys from any account with any bank, building society or other financial institution operated on behalf of the organisation:

- (11) Any person who—

5

10 (a) makes any false representation to, or otherwise wilfully  
hinders or obstructs a trustee in the exercise of his or her  
functions under this section; or  
  
(b) falsely holds himself or herself out to be a trustee; or  
  
(c) contravenes subsection (4);

15 shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level seven  
or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and such  
imprisonment.”.

22 Identification, appreciation and assessment of risks in  
relation to private voluntary organisations and  
other institutions

(1) In this section—

20 “Financial Action Task Force” or “FATF” refers to the inter-  
governmental body established in 1989 whose  
responsibility include is to development of anti-money  
laundering and combating of terrorist financing policies  
to combat money laundering and for adoption by  
countries;

25 “Financial Intelligence Unit” or Unit means the financial  
intelligence unit referred to in section 6A of the Money  
Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*];

“proliferation” means the manufacture, acquisition, possession, development,  
export, transhipment, brokering, transport,  
30 transfer, stockpiling or use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means  
of delivery and related materials (including both  
technologies and dual-use goods used for non-legitimate  
purposes), in contravention of national laws or, where  
applicable, international obligations. It includes  
technology, goods, software, services or expertise;

35 “proliferation financing convention” refers to the United Nation Security Council’s  
International Convention for the Suppression of the  
Financing of Proliferation;

40 “proliferation financing” means the act of providing funds or  
financial services which are used, in whole or in part, for the manufacture, acquisition,  
possession, development, export, transhipment,  
brokering, transport, transfer, stockpiling or use of  
nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means  
of delivery and related materials (including both  
45 technologies and dual-use goods used for non-legitimate  
purposes), in contravention of national laws or, where  
applicable, international obligations;

“proliferation financing offences” means any criminal offence which constitutes proliferation or proliferation financing under the laws of Zimbabwe, and any criminal offence which constitutes proliferation or proliferation financing under a law of a foreign jurisdiction, in relation to acts or omissions which, had they occurred in Zimbabwe, would have constituted an offence in Zimbabwe. A Proliferation financing offence relates specifically to the development, production, acquisition, retention and transfer of nuclear,

biological and chemical weapons;

10

“risk identification, appreciation and assessment” in relation to private voluntary organisations and those institutions set out in paragraphs (i) to (ix) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation” in section 2(1) means an assessment (in accordance with the criteria furnished from time to time by 15 the Financial Action Task Force) of the risk or vulnerability of such organisations or institutions to being misused for purposes of a serious offence as defined in terms of the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter*

9.24] or proliferation financing;

20

“serious offence” means—

- (a) a money laundering offence; or
- (b) a terrorist financing offence; or
- (c) a terrorist act, under whatever offence that act is prosecuted; or
- (d) an offence for which the maximum penalty is death or life imprisonment; or

25

5

(e) an offence for which the penalty is—

(i) imprisonment of four years or more whether or not any portion is suspended by the convicting court; 30

(ii) imprisonment for any period of less than four years but not less than one year, any portion of which equal to or exceeding one year is not suspended by the convicting court, without the option of a fine; or

35

(f) an offence under the law of a foreign State in relation to any act or omission which, had it occurred in Zimbabwe, would have constituted an offence under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(2) Notwithstanding the exemptions set out in subparagraphs (i) to 40

(x) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation” in section 2(1), in the Minister may, through regulations, designate by name, type, class, or characteristics, any legal person, legal arrangement, body or association of persons, corporate or unincorporated, or institution, which the Minister deems to be at high risk of or vulnerable to misuse for purposes of funding 45

terrorism, terrorist organisations or terrorist causes, and—

(a) shall require such person, arrangement, body or association or institution to register as a private voluntary organisation in terms of this Act; and

(b) may prescribe such additional or special requirements, obligations or measures, not inconsistent with this Act, that shall apply in respect of such legal person, legal arrangement, body or association of persons, or institution, in order to mitigate against such risk or vulnerability.

(3) The Minister shall, in cooperation with the Financial Intelligence

10 Unit at intervals of not less than once in five years undertake a risk assessment of all private voluntary organisations and those institutions set out in paragraphs (i) to (ix) of the definition of “private voluntary organisation” in section 2(1), and in so doing may make such an assessment with respect to individual organisations or institutions or organisations 15 or institutions of a specified class, or both.

(4) An organisation or institution designated under subsection (2) shall have a right within fourteen days of a designation to make written representations to the Minister to have the designation set aside or amended on the basis that—

20 (a) the designation was made in error; or

(b) the measures specified by the Minister to mitigate the identified risk or vulnerability are unreasonable or disproportionate in relation to the identified risk or vulnerability;

and the Minister may, on written notice to the organisation or institution concerned, reject or accept, conditionally or unconditionally such representations.

25 (5) The Minister may prescribe measures and requirements (not inconsistent with this Act) that apply especially to designated organisations or institutions for the purpose of eliminating or minimising the risk of abuse.

30 (6) The matters to be prescribed by the Minister in terms of this section may include—

(a) identifying the at risk or vulnerable private voluntary organisations;

35 (b) any additional or special reporting requirements which the private voluntary organisations may be required to comply with, such as beneficial ownership;

(c) any records or other information which the private voluntary organisations may be required to maintain;

40 (d) powers of the Registrar to monitor and enforce compliance with the Act, including powers to revoke licensing or registration of a non-compliant private voluntary organisation or to order removal of a director, trustee,

employee or other office bearer of a private voluntary organization;

45 (e) powers of the Financial Intelligence Unit or other competent authority as may be prescribed by the Minister, to receive or access information held or maintained by the private voluntary organisations; and

(f) designation of a contact person or authority for purposes of cooperating with foreign counterparts in sharing information and preventing the abuse of private voluntary organisations or designated institutions for purposes of financing or supporting terrorism;

(7) A designated institution referred to in subsection (2)(a) that

fails to register as a private voluntary organisation shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level 14, and each of the members

of the governing body of that organisation or institution shall be liable to the same offence and penalty and additionally or alternatively to the fine,

10

shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten years.

(8) In respect of a designated private voluntary organisation that

fails to comply with such of the requirements prescribed under subsection

(4) as are applicable to it, the Registrar, at the direction of the Minister,

shall impose one or both of the following measures—

15

(a) revoke or suspend the registration of the private voluntary organisation;

(b) order the removal of a named director, trustee, employee or other office holder of the private voluntary organisation.

(9) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister in terms 20

of this section may appeal to the High Court in terms section 4 of the

Administrative Justice Act [*Chapter 10:28*]:

Provided that such appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the Minister's decision.

(10) Upon an appeal in terms of subsection (9) the High Court 25

may—

- (a) uphold the decision of the Minister; or
- (b) refer the decision back to the Minister for reconsideration

(whether with or without directions on how the decision is to be reconsidered) on any one or more of the following 30 grounds—

- (i) allowing extraneous or irrelevant considerations to affect the decision;
- (ii) failure to take into account relevant considerations in arriving at the decision;

35

- (iii) any material mistake of fact or law that tainted the decision;

(iv) interest in the cause, bias, malice or corruption or the part of any person involved in making or contributing

to the decision;

40

- (v) gross irregularity in the proceedings or the decision of any person involved in making or contributing to the decision.”

## 22A Civil penalty orders and amendment or substitution of Schedule

(1) The provisions of the Schedule apply to any infringement of this Act in respect of which it is provided that a civil penalty is payable.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) and (4), the Minister, may by notice in a statutory instrument amend or replace the Schedule.

(3) When the Minister, wishes to amend or replace the Schedule, the Minister shall cause to be tabled before the National Assembly the draft statutory instrument amending or replacing the Schedule, and if the National

Assembly makes no resolution against the publication of the statutory instrument within the next seven sitting days after it is so laid before the National Assembly, the Minister shall cause it to be published in the *Gazette*.

(4) A request by the Minister to the Speaker to table before the National Assembly the draft statutory instrument referred to in subsection (3) shall be deemed to be a referral to the Parliamentary Legal Committee for the purposes of section 152(3)(e) of the Constitution.

(1) 22B Co-operation with foreign counterpart authorities

10 (1) The President, or the Minister with the President's authority, may enter into agreements with the Government of any other country or territory with a view to the rendering of reciprocal assistance in any or all of the following—

(a) the registration of private voluntary organisations and the 15 exchange of information related thereto;

(b) the exchange of information and the rendering of mutual assistance to combat the transnational abuse of private voluntary organisations or charities for criminal purposes, the monitoring of the quality of the assistance given and the

20 keeping of records of requests for information or assistance and of the responses thereto;

(c) the administration of any office or offices that are a counterpart to the Office of the Registrar of Private Voluntary

25 Organisations, including the mutual secondment and training of the staff of the Office and such offices.

(2) In particular, an agreement referred to in subsection (1) may empower the Registrar or the financial intelligence unit of the Reserve Bank, on his or her or its own behalf or on behalf of any law enforcement agency, to seek beneficial ownership or other information in respect of

30 any company from the foreign counterpart, and, likewise, may provide beneficial ownership or other information in respect of any company to the foreign counterpart.

(3) The President may at any time revoke any such proclamation by a further proclamation in the *Gazette*, and the agreement shall cease

35 to have effect upon the date fixed in such latter proclamation, but the revocation of any proclamation shall not affect the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Any agreement referred to in subsection (1) may be made with retrospective effect if the President considers it expedient so to do.

40 22C Information sharing on private voluntary organisations of concern with foreign counterpart authorities

(1) In this section—

“private voluntary organisation of concern” means a private voluntary organisation suspected of terrorist financing, 45 proliferation financing or involvement in other forms of terrorist support.

(2) The FIU, may in consultation with the Registrar enter into agreements with a counterpart agency of another Government of any other country or territory with a view to the exchange of information and the rendering of mutual assistance related to the combating of the transnational abuse of private voluntary organisations for criminal purposes, the monitoring of the quality of the assistance given and the keeping of records of requests for information or assistance and of the responses thereto.

(3) In particular, an agreement referred to in subsection (1) may empower the Registrar or the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Reserve

10

Bank, on his or her or its own behalf or on behalf of any law enforcement agency, to seek beneficial ownership or other information in respect of any

private voluntary organisation from the foreign counterpart, and, likewise, may provide beneficial ownership or other information in respect of any company to the foreign counterpart.

15

(4) Any agreement referred to in subsection (1) may be made with retrospective effect.

(5) For the avoidance of doubt, the FIU shall be the point of contact to respond to international requests relating to private voluntary organisations of concern.”.

20

22D Minister may give policy directions to Registrar

5

(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Minister may give the Registrar such general directions relating to the policy the Registrar is to observe in the exercise of his or her functions as the Minister considers to be necessary in the national interest, which policy directions must—

25

(a) not be inconsistent with any provision of this Act; and  
(b) be issued in good faith, apply prospectively and not retrospectively, and be of general applicability; in particular the policy directions—

(i) must not be issued in relation to any particular application 30

or appeal pending before the Registrar and must not apply so as to influence or direct the Registrar on the outcome of any particular application, appeal or other matter that is being considered by the Registrar

immediately before the directions are issued, or

35

(ii) must not prejudice the application of the rules of natural

justice by the Registrar in the exercise of his or her quasi-judicial functions;

(c) clearly delimit the scope of their application and must otherwise not be vague or ambiguous in their terms; and 40

(d) clearly express the national interest at stake;

(e) must be clear (whether expressly or by necessary implication)

that they apply or are in force for a fixed or indefinite period,

or that they expire on the happening of any event.

(2) Before giving the Registrar any policy direction, the Minister

45

shall inform the Registrar, in writing, of the proposed direction and the Registrar shall, within thirty days or such further period as the Minister

may allow, submit to the Minister, in writing, his or her views on the proposal.

- (3) The Registrar shall take all necessary steps to comply with any direction given to it in terms of subsection (1).
- (4) When any direction has been given to the Registrar in terms of subsection (1), the Registrar shall ensure that the direction and any views the Registrar has expressed on it in terms of subsection (2) are set out in the Registrar's annual report.”.

#### **10 Amendment of section 23 of Cap. 17:05**

10 Section 23 (“General offences and penalties”) of the principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (3)— “(4) Any private voluntary organisation—

- (a) that supports or opposes any political party or candidate in a presidential, parliamentary or local government election; or
- (b) is a party to any breach of Part III of the Political Parties (Finance) Act [*Chapter 2:12*] as a contributor of funds to a political party or candidate or otherwise; or wilfully denies any beneficiary assistance
- (c) in furtherance of its charitable objects solely on the basis of that beneficiary’s political affiliation, or wilfully makes such assistance conditional upon that beneficiary’s political affiliation; or

shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level 12, and if—

- (a) it fails to pay the fine imposed on it within fourteen days of conviction (or, if the conviction or sentence is appealed, within fourteen days of the appeal being dismissed or abandoned), the national-level office-bearers of the organisation in Zimbabwe shall become jointly liable to pay the fine in equal shares; or any national-level office-bearer in Zimbabwe fails to pay the share of the fine that becomes payable by him or her under paragraph (d), that office-bearer shall be liable to
- (b) imprisonment for a period of thirty days.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to a private voluntary organisation which assists members of disadvantaged groups to become candidates for election to parliament or any local authority:

Provided that such assistance must be afforded in a strictly non-partisan manner.”.

#### **11 Amendment of section 28 of Cap 17:05**

5

Section 28 (“Regulations”) of the principal Act is amended—

(a) by the insertion after paragraph (e) of the following paragraphs—

“(e1) requirements to be complied with when applying for registration;

40 (e2) increased monitoring and supervision measures for private voluntary organisations found to be high risk;

(e3) measures of systems that private voluntary organisations can use in order to self regulate and prevent being misused in terms of section 22;

(e4) the disclosures of sources of funding from outside Zimbabwe whether in the application, the audit report or both;

(e5) any other matter of concern to assist in the combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing in the area of private voluntary organisations;

(e6) any other measures that promote accountability, integrity and public confidence in the administration and management of 10 private voluntary organisations;

(e7) any other measures in addition to provisions in the law and the Money laundering and proceeds of Crime act or any other enactment to ensure effective coordination and information sharing to

the extent possible among all levels of appropriate authorities or

15

organisations that hold relevant information on private voluntary organisations;

(e8) any other matter of concern to ensure efficient regulation of private voluntary organisations;”;

(b) in subsection (2) by the deletion of “fine of level four” and the substitution 20

of “fine of level 12.”.

## **12 Insertion of new section in Cap 17:05**

The principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE (Section 22A)

CIVIL PENALTY ORDERS

arrangeMenTofParagraPhs

*Section 1. Interpretation in Schedule.*

2. Power of Registrar to issue civil penalty orders.
3. Limitation on issuance and enforcement of civil penalty orders. 30
4. Service and enforcement of civil penalties and destination of proceeds thereof.
5. When hearings on question whether to serve civil penalty orders may be held.
6. Evidentiary provisions in connection with civil penalty orders.
7. Designated officers.

*Interpretation in Schedule*

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires—

“citation clause”, in relation to a civil penalty order, is the part of the order

in which the Registrar names the defaulter and cites the provision of this Act in respect of which the default was made or is alleged, together with (if necessary) a brief statement of the facts constituting the default; 40

“date of issuance”, in relation to the service of a civil penalty order, means the date on which it is served in any of the ways specified in paragraph 3(1);

“defaulter” means the person on account of whose default a civil penalty order is served, and includes an alleged defaulter;

5 “designated officer” means an officer of the Registry or other person designated and authorised by the Registrar to undertake duties in connection with the implementation of this Schedule;

“penalty clause”, in relation to a civil penalty order, is the part of the order that fixes the penalty to be paid by the defaulter, and “fixed penalty clause” and “cumulative penalty clause” shall be construed accordingly;

“remediation clause” in relation to a civil penalty order, is the part of the order that stipulates the remedial action to be taken by the defaulter;

“show cause clause” in relation to a civil penalty order is the part of the order that requires the defaulter to show cause why the civil penalty order should not have been served or should be withdrawn.

*Power of Registrar to issue civil penalty orders*

152. (1) Where default is made in complying with any provision of this Act or of regulations or orders made under this Act for which a civil penalty is specified in this Act and Schedule to be leviable, the Registrar may, in addition to, and without derogating from, any criminal or non-criminal penalty that may be imposed by this

Act or any other law for the conduct constituting the default, serve upon the defaulter 20 a civil penalty order of the appropriate description specified in this paragraph.

*Specified Civil defaults*

3. (1) A registered private voluntary organisation shall be guilty of a civil default if there is well founded information available to the Registrar indicating that it has been affected by any “material change” as defined in section 13A(1) and 25 has not, within the time specified in section 13A(2) or (4), made an application for amendment as required by that section.

(2) Upon receipt of the information referred to in paragraph (1) the Registrar shall serve upon the defaulter a civil penalty order providing—

(a) the making of the requisite application in terms of section 13A;

30 (b) the suspension of the penalty for a specified period not exceeding fourteen days, by the end of which the PVO must have commenced making the requisite application in terms of section 13A;

(c) upon the civil penalty becoming operative because of non-compliance with 35 subparagraph (b), a penalty of one hundred United States dollars (or the equivalent at the auction rate of exchange ruling on the date of issuance of the order) for each day not exceeding ninety days during which the PVO is non-compliant;

(d) the suspension of the operation of the civil penalty order for a period of 48 hours from the date of its issuance to enable the alleged defaulter 40 to show cause to the Registrar why the order should not have been

issued, that is to say, to show that the order was issued in error:

Provided that—

(i) if no such cause is shown within that period the order shall be deemed to have been issued with effect from the beginning of such period;

45

(ii) if within that period it is shown that the order was issued in error the designated officer shall withdraw the order and make the appropriate notation of withdrawal in the civil penalty register.

(3) A registered private voluntary organisation shall be guilty of a civil default if there is well founded information available to the Registrar indicating that it has received any donation from an illegitimate or immoral source.

(4) Upon receipt of the information referred to in paragraph (3) the Registrar shall serve upon the defaulter a civil penalty order providing for—

(a) the taking by the PVO of the remedial action specified in the order to enable the PVO to ascertain the legitimacy of the source of future donations received by it;

10

(b) the suspension of the penalty for a specified period not exceeding fourteen days, by the end of which the PVO must satisfy the Registrar that it is in a position to be compliant in the future;

(c) upon the civil penalty becoming operative because of non-compliance with the requested remedial action, a penalty of one hundred United States dollars (or the equivalent at the auction rate of exchange ruling on the date of issuance of the order) for each day not exceeding ninety days during which the PVO is non-compliant;

(d) the suspension of the operation of the civil penalty order for a period of 48 hours from the date of its issuance to enable the alleged defaulter to show cause to the Registrar why the order should not have been issued, that is to say, to show that the order was issued in error:

Provided that—

(i) if no such cause is shown within that period the order shall be deemed to have been issued with effect from the beginning of such period;

(ii) if within that period it is shown that the order was issued in error the designated officer shall withdraw the order and make the appropriate notation of withdrawal in the civil penalty register.

30

45

5

(5) A registered private voluntary organisation shall be guilty of a civil default if there is well founded information available to the Registrar indicating that it has not used formal channels (that is to say registered banking institutions or other financial intermediaries regulated in Zimbabwe or in any other state) for the transmission of its funds at every point from source to destination.

35

(6) Upon receipt of the information referred to in paragraph (5) the Registrar shall serve upon the defaulter a civil penalty order providing for—

(a) a combination of—

- (i) a fixed penalty of the amount of one thousand United States dollars (or the equivalent at the auction rate of exchange ruling 40 on the date of issuance of the order)
- (ii) a cumulative penalty over a period not exceeding ninety days of five per centum of the outstanding amount of the fixed penalty for each day (beginning on the day after the service of a civil penalty order) that the fixed penalty or any outstanding amount thereof remains unpaid by the defaulter;
- (b) the opening (within a period not exceeding fourteen days) by the PVO of a banking account with a registered banking institution or other regulated financial intermediary; and
- (c) upon the civil penalty referred to in paragraph (b) becoming operative because of non-compliance with the requested remedial action, a penalty of one hundred united states dollars (or the equivalent at the auction rate of exchange ruling on the date of issuance of the order) for each day not exceeding ninety days during which the PVO is non-compliant;
- (d) the suspension of the operation of the civil penalty order for a period of 48 hours from the date of its issuance to enable the alleged defaulter to show cause to the designated officer why the order should not have been issued, that is to say, to show that the order was issued in error:

10

Provided that—

- (i) if no such cause is shown within that period the order shall be deemed to have been issued with effect from the beginning of such period;

15 (ii) if within that period it is shown that the order was issued in error the designated officer shall withdraw the order and make the appropriate notation of withdrawal in the civil penalty register.

*Limitation on issuance and enforcement of civil penalty orders*

3. (1) No civil penalty order may be issued more than twelve months from the <sup>20</sup> date when the default or alleged default occurred or ceased to occur.

(2) A single civil penalty order may be served in respect of two or more defaults committed by the defaulter within a single period not exceeding six months, but if the aggregate of such defaults results in the defaulter becoming liable (either immediately or within seven days from the service of the civil penalty order) to a

<sup>25</sup> penalty or combined penalties in excess of the equivalent to more than twice the highest monetary penalty for which that person is liable in respect of any of those civil defaults, the Registrar may select one or any combination of those defaults which will not result in the defaulter becoming so liable, while reserving the right to serve a second or further additional civil penalty orders in respect of the defaults <sup>30</sup> not so selected if the defaulter does not comply with the first civil penalty order.

*Service and enforcement of civil penalties and destination of proceeds thereof*

4. (1) References to the Registrar serving upon a defaulter any civil penalty order in terms of this Schedule, are to be interpreted as requiring the Registrar to serve such order in writing to the defaulter concerned—

<sup>35</sup> (a) by hand delivery to the defaulter or his or her director, manager, secretary or accounting officer in person, or to a responsible individual at the place of business of the defaulter; or

<sup>40</sup> (b) by delivery through a commercial courier service to the defaulter's place of business or his or her principal office in Zimbabwe or other place of business of the defaulter; or

(c) by electronic mail to the defaulter whose electronic mail address is known to the Registrar:

(2) The Registrar officer shall not extend the period specified in a civil penalty order for compliance therewith except upon good cause shown to him or her by the

<sup>45</sup> defaulter, and any extension of time so granted (not exceeding in any case 30 days) shall be noted by the Registrar in the civil penalty register.

(3) The Registrar may, if the defaulter is a corporate defaulter—

(a) in the same civil penalty order, name the corporate defaulter and every officer of the company, syndicate, other corporate person or partnership concerned as being so liable separately, or issue separate civil penalty orders in respect of the defaulter and each of the officers concerned;

(b) choose to serve the order only upon the corporate defaulter without naming the officers if, in his or her opinion (which opinion the Registrar shall note in the civil penalty register), there may be a substantial dispute of fact about the identity of the particular officer or officers who may be in default:

10 Provided that nothing in this subparagraph affects the default liability of officers of the defaulter mentioned in subparagraph (6).

5

(4) The Registrar may, in the citation clause of a single civil penalty order, cite two or more defaults relating to different provisions of this Schedule if the defaults in question—

15

(a) occurred concurrently or within a period not exceeding six months from the first default or defaults to the last default or defaults; or

(b) arose in connection with the same set of facts.

(5) Where in this Act the same acts or omissions are liable to both criminal and civil penalty proceedings, the Registrar may serve a civil penalty order at any time before the commencement of the criminal proceedings in relation to that default, 20 that is to say at any time before—

- (a) summons is issued to the accused person for the prosecution of the offence; or
- (b) a statement of the charge is lodged with the clerk of the magistrates court before which the accused is to be tried, where the offence is to 25 be tried summarily; or
- (c) an indictment has been served upon the accused person, where the person is to be tried before the High Court;

as the case may be, but may not serve any civil penalty order after the commencement of the criminal proceedings until after those proceedings are concluded (the criminal 30 proceedings are deemed for this purpose to be concluded if they result in a conviction or acquittal, even if they are appealed or taken on review). (For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that the acquittal of an alleged defaulter in criminal proceedings does not excuse the defaulter from liability for civil penalty proceedings).

(6) Every officer of a corporate defaulter mentioned in the civil penalty order 35 by name or by office, is deemed to be in default and any one of them can, on the basis of joint and several liability, be made by the Registrar to pay the civil penalty in the event that the defaulter does not pay.

(7) Upon the expiry of the ninety-day period within which any civil penalty order of any category must be paid or complied with, the defaulter shall be guilty of 40 an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level 6 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both (in the case of a corporate defaulter, every one of its officers is liable to the penalty of imprisonment, and to the fine if the corporate defaulter fails to pay it).

(8) The amount of any civil penalty shall—

(a) be payable to the Registrar and shall form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or if a retention fund for the Office is established in terms of section 18 of the Public Finance Management Act [*Chapter*

22:19] shall form the funds of that retention fund; and

(b) be a debt due to the Consolidated Revenue Fund or retention fund referred to in paragraph (a) and shall be sued for by the Registrar on behalf of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or the Registrar in any proceedings in the name of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or the Registrar in any court of competent civil jurisdiction:

Provided that for this purpose, the court of the magistrate in the district where the defaulter has his or her principal place of business shall be deemed to have jurisdiction to hear the suit even if the monetary amount sought would otherwise exceed its prescribed jurisdiction.

10(9) Proceedings in a court for the recovery of a civil penalty shall be deemed to be proceedings for the recovery of a debt as if the defaulter had acknowledged the debt in writing.

(10) If the designated officer in terms of subparagraph (8)(b) desires to institute proceedings to recover the amounts of two or more civil penalties in any 15 court of competent civil jurisdiction, the designated officer may, after notice to all interested parties, bring a single action in relation to the recovery of those penalties if the orders relating to those penalties—

(a) were all served within the period of twelve months preceding the institution of the proceedings; and

20 (b) were served—

(i) on the same defaulter; or  
(ii) in relation to the same default or set of defaults, whether committed by the same defaulter or different defaulters; or

(iii) on two or more defaulters whose registered offices are in the same 25 area of jurisdiction of the court before which the proceedings are instituted.

(11) Unless the Registrar has earlier recovered in civil court the amount outstanding under a civil penalty order, a court convicting a person of an offence against subparagraph (7), may on its own motion or on the application of the 30 prosecutor and in addition to any penalty which it may impose give summary judgement in favour of the designated officer for the amount of any outstanding civil penalty due from the convicted defaulter.

*When hearings on question whether to serve civil penalty orders may be held*

5. (1) If, in response to a show cause clause, an alleged defaulter satisfies the 35 designated officer, that it is not possible within 48 hours to demonstrate that the civil penalty order was issued in error due to a material dispute of fact, or because the alleged default in question was not wilful or was due to circumstances beyond the alleged defaulter's control, the designated officer shall afford the alleged defaulter an opportunity to be heard by making oral representations to the designated officer,

40 for which purpose—

5

(a) no later than 96 hours after the issuance of the civil penalty order, the alleged defaulter must furnish to the designated officer an affidavit sworn by him or her giving reasons to show that the civil penalty order was issued in error due to a material dispute of fact, or because the 45 alleged default in question was not wilful or was due to circumstances beyond the alleged defaulter's control;

(b) within a reasonable period from the receipt of an affidavit referred to in paragraph (a) the designated officer may serve copies of the affidavit on any person who, in the designated officer's opinion, is affected by or may be a party to the default, together with an invitation to the parties to attend at a meeting to be presided over by the designated officer (giving particulars of its time and venue) to enable the parties to make oral and written representations at that meeting on the question whether the civil penalty order was issued in error to the alleged defaulter and whether it should be issued to some other person or not issued at all; and

Provided that in such invitation or at the meeting the designated officer may restrict the parties to submitting written representations only, before or no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the meeting. 10

(2) The following provisions apply to every meeting convened under this paragraph in connection with the issuance of a civil penalty order—

(a) if the alleged defaulter fails to attend at the meeting the designated officer may proceed to issue the civil penalty order;

(b) the alleged defaulter bears the burden of showing on a balance of 15 probabilities that the civil penalty order was issued in error due to a material dispute of fact, or because the alleged default in question was not wilful or was due to circumstances beyond the alleged defaulter's control;

(c) at the conclusion of the meeting the designated officer may— 20

(i) in the presence of the parties (if any) at the meeting announce his or her decision verbally whether or not to issue a civil penalty order, and, if so to whom, and if the designated officer decides to issue the civil penalty order the designated officer shall do so within twenty-four hours; 25

(ii) cancel the civil penalty order or re-issue it with effect from the date of his or her decision on the same or another defaulter, or re-issue it with effect from the date on which it was initially issued if the designated officer finds that the defaulter's objections to its issuance were baseless, vexatious or frivolous: 30

Provided that the designated officer may defer making a decision by no more than 48 hours after the conclusion of the meeting and give notice of his or her decision, and the reasons for it (together with the civil penalty order, if any), to the alleged defaulter or any other

person found to be liable for the civil penalty. 35

*Evidentiary provisions in connection with civil penalty orders*

6. (1) For the purposes of this Schedule the designated officer shall keep a civil penalty register wherein shall be recorded—

- (a) the date of service of every civil penalty order, the name and the physical or registered office address of the person upon whom it was served, 40 the civil penalty provision in relation to which the defaulter was in default, and the date on which the civil penalty order was complied with or the penalty thereunder was recovered as the case may be;
- (b) if the alleged defaulter responded to the show cause clause in the civil penalty order with the result that—
  - (i) the order was cancelled because it was issued in error, the fact and the date of such cancellation; or
  - (ii) a meeting was held in accordance with paragraph 5, then—
    - A. a record or an adequate summary of any representations made at the hearing by way of an entry or cross-reference in, or annexure to, the register (and if recorded by way of annexure or cross-reference, the representations must be preserved for a period of at least six years from the date when they were made to the designated officer);
    - B. a record of the outcome of the hearing, that is to say, whether or not the civil penalty order was cancelled, and if not the date from which it was to have effect and whether a different

10 defaulter was served with it. (2) A copy of—

- (a) any entry in the civil penalty register, and of any annexure thereto or record cross-referenced therein, authenticated by the designated officer as a true copy of the original, shall on its mere production in any civil
- (b) or criminal proceedings by any person, be *prima facie* proof of the contents therein; or any civil penalty order that has been served in terms of this Act, authenticated by the designated officer as a true copy of the original, shall on its mere production in any civil or criminal proceedings by any person, be *prima facie* proof of the service of the order on the date stated therein upon the defaulter named therein, and of the contents of the order.

*Designated officers*

7. (1) Any reference to the Registrar in this Schedule shall be construed as a 25 reference to a designated officer.

5

(2) The Registrar shall furnish each designated officer with a certificate signed by or on behalf of the Registrar stating that he or she has been appointed as a designated officer for the purpose of this Schedule.

(3) A designated officer shall, on demand by any person affected by the exercise of the powers conferred upon the Registrar under this Schedule, exhibit the certificate issued to him or her in terms of subsection (2).".

#### 14 Transitional provisions: Pre-existing charitable entities

(1) The secretary of a pre-existing charitable entity shall lodge with the Registrar—

(a) no later than three months after the commencement the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Act, 2024, together with the prescribed fee and the constitution or other foundational document of the organization, an application for registration as a private voluntary organisation setting forth—

(i) the name and address of the proposed private voluntary organisation; and

(ii) particulars of when it begin operating in Zimbabwe and what kind of entity it was operating as (as evidenced by a certificate of registration as a trust or proof of incorporation); and

(iii) the aims and objects of the proposed private voluntary organisation; and

(iv) the area or areas in which the proposed private voluntary organisation proposes to render its services; and

(v) the sources or proposed sources of the applicant's funding;

and

(b) if (on written notice to the applicant) it appears to the Registrar from the application or on the basis of information available to the Registrar that any person as a beneficial owner or controller exerts a significant or preponderant voice in the affairs of an organisation, an affidavit sworn by the secretary or a member of the governing body of the organisation disclosing the name of the beneficial owner or controller and the nature and extent of such beneficial ownership or control (in which case the date on which the Registrar is deemed to have received the application shall be the date on which such affidavit is received by the Registrar); and

(c) such further information in connection with the application as may be prescribed or as the Registrar may reasonably require to process the application (in which case the date on which the Registrar is deemed to have received the application shall be the date on which such information is received by the Registrar).

(2) Where the Registrar is satisfied that the requirements referred to

in subsection (1) have been complied with, he or she shall submit to the Board at its next sitting after the requirements have been complied with, the application together with—

- (a) the constitution of the organization; and
- (b) any affidavit referred to in subsection (1)(b) and any further information supplied in connection with the application; and
- (c) the written recommendation of the Registrar that the Board approve or reject the application (giving reasons to the Board if the Registrar recommends the rejection of the application):

Provided that if the Registrar recommends the approval of the application, the Registrar shall notify the applicant in writing that its application is provisionally approved, the effect of which notification is that the applicant may commence and continue conducting its operations, apart from collecting contributions from the public, until the date when it receives notification of the determination of its application by the Board.

(3) Having received from the Registrar the application and any supporting documentation referred to in subsection (2) the Board may—

- (a) after considering the application, grant it and direct the Registrar on the Board's behalf to issue to the organization concerned a certificate of registration subject to such conditions as it may impose; or
- (b) reject the application if it appears to the Board that—
  - (i) the organisation is not *bona fide* operating in furtherance of the objects mentioned in its application for registration; or
  - (ii) the organisation does not, in respect of its constitution or management, or any other information required to be provided by the Registrar, comply with the provisions of this Act.

(4) Where the Board rejects an application for registration wholly or in part, the Registrar shall notify the applicant organisation of the rejection, and inform it of the grounds upon which the rejection was based.

5) The registration of an organisation under this section and the objects in respect of which it has been registered shall be published by the Registrar in the *Gazette*.

5  
35

## PART II

ConsequenTialAMendMenTs: Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act  
[Chapter 09:24] (no. 4 of 2013)

### **14 Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 9:24**

The Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [Chapter 9:24] (No. 4 of 40 2013) (hereinafter in this Part called the “principal Act”) is amended in section 2 (“Interpretation”) by—

(a) in the definition of “competent authorities” by the insertion of the following paragraph —

45 “(vii) by the Office of the Registrar of Private Voluntary Organisations established in terms of the Private Voluntary Organisations Act [Chapter 17:05];

(b) by the insertion of the following definitions —

“financing or partaking in the proliferation or use of weapons of mass destruction” means the offence referred to in section 9A;

“proliferation financing” means any activity falling within the scope of the offence of financing or partaking in the proliferation or use of weapons of mass destruction;”;

(c) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (c) in the definition of “serious offence”—

“(c1) financing or partaking in the proliferation or use of weapons of mass destruction;”

10

## 15 Amendment of section 6E of Cap.9: 24

Section 6E (“Unit to have access to information”) of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (3)(b) by the deletion of “Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Chapter 10:27] and the substitution of “Freedom of Information Act [Chapter 10:33] (No. 1 of 2020), Cyber and Data Protection Act [Chapter 12:07] (No. 5 of 2021)”.

(b) In subsection (6)(d) by the deletion of “Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Chapter 10:27]” and the substitution of “Freedom of Information Act [Chapter 10:33] (No. 1 of 2020) or Cyber and Data Protection Act [Chapter 12:07] (No. 5 of 2021)”. 20

## 16 New section inserted in Cap. 9:24

The principal Act is amended by the insertion after section 9 of the following section—

in	“9A	Financing	or	partaking	
of	the	proliferation	or	use	
	weapons				
	of		mass		destruction

(1) In this section—

“dual use”, means having a civilian or legitimate application as well as a military or illegitimate application;

(2) Any person who by any means, directly or indirectly, provides or collects funds, or provides financial services, or makes such services available to persons, or attempts to do so, with the intention or in the knowledge that such funds are to be used in whole or in part—

(a) to manufacture, develop, produce or contribute to the development or production of a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon for use in terrorist acts; or

(b) to acquire, obtain possession of, export, tranship, broker, transport, transfer, stockpile or use a nuclear, chemical or biological weapon, with or without their means of delivery and related materials

(including dual-use technologies and goods used for non-legitimate purposes), for use in terrorist acts;

(c) to distribute or supply a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon to carry out a terrorist act; or

(d) to train persons or groups of persons to develop or produce or participate in the development or production of any nuclear, 45 biological or chemical weapon for use by a terrorist or by a terrorist organization for any purpose;

(e) to carry out any other act involving the use or threatened use of any nuclear, biological or chemical weapon —

5(i) with purpose, whether express or inferred from its nature or context, to intimidate the public or to compel a government or an international organisation to do or refrain from doing any act; or

10 (ii) that is intended to cause—

A. death or serious bodily harm to a civilian or in a situation of armed conflict to any person not taking an active part in the hostilities; or

B. damage, interference or disruption of any of the following kinds—

15 I. serious risk to the health or safety of the public or any section of the public; or

II. substantial property damage whether to public or private property involving a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or any section of the public; or

20 III. serious interference with or serious disruption of an essential service, facility or system whether private or public.

commits the offence of financing or partaking in the proliferation or use 25 of weapons of mass destruction and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five million United States dollars and imprisonment and to imprisonment for not less than thirty-five years imprisonment, or both.

(2) An offence under subsection (1) is committed regardless of whether—

30 (a) the funds are actually used to manufacture, develop or produce a nuclear, biological or chemical weapons to commit or attempt to commit a terrorist act; the funds are

(b) actually used to distribute or supply a nuclear biological chemical weapon to carry out a terrorist act; the person

35 (c) alleged to have committed the offence is in the same country or a different country from the one in which the actual, intended, threatened or attempted terrorist act occurred or was to occur.

(3) Every director, manager, secretary, officer or other person in 40 charge of or holding any office in a body corporate or other legal entity which commits an offence under this section is liable (unless on the evidence before the court the intention of the body corporate or legal entity cannot be imputed to any

45

particular director, manager, secretary, officer or other person in question because of his or her ignorance of such intention)—

- (a) jointly and severally to pay to the fine imposed upon the body corporate or legal entity in terms of subsection (1) to the extent that the fine cannot be paid by the body corporate or legal entity or from the realisation of its assets; and
- (b) to imprisonment for a term of not less than thirty-five years.

(4) Where a body corporate or other legal entity or its director, manager, secretary, officer or other person in charge of or holding any office in the body corporate or entity has been convicted of an offence under this section, the court shall have power, on its own motion or on the motion of the prosecutor to order any one or more of the following—

- (a) to revoke its business or operating licences; or
- (b) to order the body corporate or entity to be wound up or dissolved; or
- (c) to forfeit the assets of the body corporate for the benefit of the Recovered Assets Fund; or
- (d) to prohibit the body corporate or entity from performing any further activities pending its winding up or dissolution.

(5) For the avoidance of doubt, the taking of any material step that is preparatory steps to the commission of an offence under this section, including but not limited to acquiring or financing the acquisition of any of the goods, technologies, services or other means for use in its commission, or partaking in the planning of its commission shall, itself constitute the offence of financing or partaking in the proliferation or use of weapons of mass destruction.”.

## 17 Amendment of section 12A of Cap. 9:24

Section 12A (“National Money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment and risk mitigation”) of the principal Act is amended—

25

- (a) in subsection (1) by the deletion of the words “and terrorist financing” and substitution of “, terrorist financing and proliferation financing”;
- (b) in subsection (3)—
  - (i) in paragraph (a) by the deletion of the words “and terrorist financing” and substitution of “, terrorist financing and proliferation financing”;
  - (ii) in paragraph (b) by the insertion after the words “terrorist financing” of “and proliferation financing”;
  - (iii) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (b)—
    - “(c) identify and assess the money laundering, terrorist

35

financing and proliferation financing risks that may arise in relation to virtual asset activities or operations of virtual asset service providers.”;

(c) in subsection (7) by the deletion the words “and anti- financing of terrorism” and substitution of “anti-financing of terrorism and anti- proliferation financing”.

#### **18 Amendment of section 12D of Cap. 9:24**

Section 12D (“Establishment of National Taskforce on Anti-Money Laundering and combating of Financing of Terrorism”) of the principal Act is amended—

(a) by the deletion of the section heading and its substitution by “Establishment of National Taskforce on Anti-Money Laundering, and combating of Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing”;

(b) in subsection (1) by the deletion of the words “and combating terrorist financing” and substitution of, “combating terrorist financing and proliferation financing”;

(c) in subsection (2) by the deletion of the words “and terrorist financing” and substitution of “, terrorist financing and proliferation financing”;

(d) in subsection (4) by the deletion of “anti-financing of terrorism” and substitution of, “anti-financing of terrorism and anti-proliferation financing”;

10 (e) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (4)—

“(5) The national taskforce shall come up with a charter defining its mandate, mission, vision, objectives and values, outlining matters of particular concern falling within its mandate of combating money-laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, including processes and procedures of cooperation and coordination within and outside Zimbabwe;

15 (6) The Minister responsible for finance may cause the Charter referred to in subsection (5) to be published in the *Gazette*.”.

#### **20 Amendment of section 15 of Cap. 9:24**

Section 15 (“Customer Identification Requirements”) of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)(e) by the insertion after “financing of terrorism” of “or proliferation financing”;

25 (b) in subsection (2) by the insertion after “financing of terrorism” of “or proliferation financing”.

#### **20 Amendment of section 16 of Cap. 9:24**

Section 16 (“Timing of customer identification and verification”)(1) of the principal Act is amended—

30(a) in the chapeau by the insertion after “financing of terrorism” of “or proliferation financing”;

(b) in the proviso by the repeal of paragraph (b) and the substitution of—

“(b) the financial institution or designated non-financial business or profession adequately manages the money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing risk through adoption of risk management procedures concerning the conditions under which the customer may so utilize the business relationship.”.

## **21 Amendment of section 103 of Cap. 9:24**

Section 103 (“Regulations”)(2) is amended by the insertion of the following 40 paragraph after paragraph (d)—

“(e) any matters related to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions as may be required to be prescribed.”.

## **22 Minor amendments to Cap. 2:13**

The provisions of the principal Act specified in the first column of the Schedule are amended to the extent set out opposite thereto in the second column.

### **PART III**

ConsequenTialaMendMenTs: CriMinalMaTTers (MuTualassisTance) acT [*Chapter 9:06*] (no. 13 of 1990)

5

## **23 Amendment of Cap. 9:06**

The Criminal Matters (Mutual Assistance) Act [*Chapter 9:06*] (No. 13 of 1990) is amended—

- (a) in section 2 (“Interpretation”) by the repeal of subsection (2) and the 10 substitution of—
  - “(2) The terms “benefit recovery order”, “financial institution”, “monitoring order”, “production order” and “property-tracking document”, “terrorist financing” and “proliferation financing” have the meanings assigned by the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime 15 Act [*Chapter 9:24*].”;
- (b) in section 2A (“Purpose of Act and powers and responsibilities of Prosecutor-General”)(1) by the deletion of “and financing of terrorism” with the substitution of “,financing of terrorism and proliferation financing”;
- (c) in section 6 (“Refusal of Assistance”)(3) by the deletion of “and financing of terrorism” and the substitution of “,financing of terrorism and proliferation financing”.

20

### **PART IV** **Amendment of Other Acts**

## **28 Substitution of First Schedule to of Cap. 9:23**

The First Schedule to the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act [*Chapter 9:23*] is repealed and substituted by—

“FIRST SCHEDELE (Sections 2(1) and 280)

Standard Scale of Fines

On the first schedule,

The ZiG equivalent of the United States Dollar fines specified in this Schedule can be paid by applying the closing interbank rate of the United States Dollar for the ZiG on the day previous to the date of the imposition of the fine

<b>Level Monetary Amount</b>	
	US\$
1.....	5
2.....	15
3.....	30
4.....	100
5.....	200
6.....	300
7.....	400
8.....	500
9.....	600
10.....	700
11.....	1 000
12.....	2 000
13.....	3 000
14.....	5 000.”;

#### **Amendment of section 6 of Cap. 9:06**

The National Social Security Authority Act [*Chapter 17:04*] is amended in section 6 (“Constitution of Board”)(1) by the repeal of paragraph (a) and the substitution of—“(a) the general manager, *ex officio* (but nonvoting); and”.

#### **SCHEDULE (Section 27)**

Minor Amendments to Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [*Chapter 9:24*] (no. 4 of 2013)

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Extent of Amendment</i>
Section 3(3a), 6B(1)(c), 6C(1), 12B(1) and (4), 12C(1), 19(1)(a), 20(1)(a) and (3), 25 (in section heading) and (1), (4) and (4)(a), 26A(3)	By the deletion of the words “and terrorist financing” and substitution of “, terrorist financing and proliferation financing”.
Sections 12A(3)(b), 21(e) and (f), 25(1)(c)	By the deletion of the words “terrorist financing” and substitution of “terrorist financing and proliferation financing”.
Section 15(1)(c) and (2), 18(1)(a)	By the insertion after “financing of terrorism” of “or proliferation financing”

Section 30(1)(b)	By the deletion of “who finance terrorism” and the substitution of “who finance terrorism or proliferation”.
Section 31(2)	By the insertion after “financing of terrorism” wherever it occurs of “or proliferation financing”
Section 37(2)	By the deletion of “or potential financing of terrorism” and the substitution of “or potential financing of terrorism or proliferation”

