**Disclaimer: The official version of the law and any amendments thereto is published in Arabic in the Official Gazette. This version of the law, including amendments thereto, is provided for guidance and easy reference purposes. The Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission does not accept any liability for any discrepancy between this version and the official version as published in the Official Gazette and / or any inaccuracy or errors in the translation.**

**For any corrections, remarks, or suggestions, kindly contact us on translate@lloc.gov.bh**

**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Law No.(21) of 2013 regarding Regulation of General-Purpose Fund-raising**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Charitable Fund raising Law of 1956;

Penal Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1976, as amended;

Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by the Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (12) of 1993 on the Establishment of the Zakat Fund;

And the National Audit Office Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (16) of 2002, as amended by Legislative Decree No. (49) of 2010;

And upon the submission of the Prime Minister,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article (1)**

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

Ministry: The ministry to be determined by decree.

Minister: The Minister designated by decree.

General-Purpose: All legitimate public benefits, whether charitable, social, educational, cultural or religious.

Money Collection: Any activity carried out by a natural or legal person whose purpose is to collect funds or accept cash or in-kind donations by any means of collecting money from any natural or legal person inside or outside the Kingdom.

Licensee: Any natural or legal person who has been granted a license to collect money or has been notified of the acceptance of a donation in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article (2)**

Natural or legal persons shall be prohibited from collecting money for public purposes except after obtaining a license to do so from the Minister and in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article (3)**

The application for a license to collect funds shall be submitted to the Ministry in accordance with the form prepared for this purpose at least two months before the start of the collection, provided that the application includes the method of collection, its duration, place and purpose.

The Ministry may waive the period specified in the preceding paragraph if the public interest so requires.

The implementing regulation of this law shall determine the methods of collecting money, the means and regulations of collection, the duration of the license and the number of times the same person may be licensed to collect money.

**Article (4)**

In order to grant a license, a legal person shall be registered or licensed in accordance with the legal system subject to it, and the purpose of collecting the money shall be consistent with the purpose for which such person was established. As for the natural person, he shall be a Bahraini with full capacity and good conduct and no verdicts have been issued against him in a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, trust or public morals.

**Article (5)**

The Ministry shall decide on the application for a license to collect funds within thirty days from the date of its submission, and before deciding on the application, it shall seek the opinion of the relevant government authorities for the purpose for which the money is collected.

The license applicant shall be notified of the acceptance or rejection of the application, as well as the competent government authorities. The lapse of the period referred to without a response shall be considered as an implicit rejection of the application.

**Article (6)**

The licensee shall open an account in one of the banks approved by the Central Bank of Bahrain in which the collected amounts shall be deposited, and shall notify the Ministry of the account number.

**Article (7)**

Every natural or legal person who receives a donation for public purposes without a license shall inform the Ministry within seven days of the value and purpose of such donation and the donor, and the Ministry shall notify him within fifteen days of the acceptance or rejection of such donation in accordance with the agreement of its purpose, with the public purposes or not. The lapse of this period without a response shall be deemed to be an implicit consent to accept the donation.

The implementing regulation shall specify the regulations for accepting donations, the procedures related thereto, the rules for their disbursement and the report thereon.

**Article (8)**

The licensee may not spend the money for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected, and in the event of a desire to change this purpose, the approval of the Ministry shall be obtained, and the licensee shall bear the responsibility towards the donor if the donation is conditional without the slightest responsibility on the Ministry.

The licensee shall, within fifteen days of the expiry of the period specified for collecting funds or notifying the acceptance of the donation, submit to the Ministry a report on the proceeds of the amounts collected and the disbursements thereof, supported by the documents proving their authenticity, and such report shall be submitted annually if the period specified for collecting the funds exceeds one year.

The Implementing Regulations shall specify the methods of verifying the spending of the money for the purpose for which it is intended.

**Article (9)**

The Licensee may not transfer any amounts of money collected to a person or entity outside the Kingdom except with the approval of the Minister and in accordance with the regulations specified in the Implementing Regulations.

In order to accept donations from outside the Kingdom, the license issued shall include the permission to do so.

**Article (10)**

The Ministry's employees who are determined by a decision of the Minister concerned with justice affairs in agreement with the Minister shall have the capacity of judicial seizure in respect of crimes committed in violation of the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued in implementation thereof.

Such officials shall have the authority to inspect funds collected for public purposes under this Law and the registers of licensed legal persons to ensure their compliance with the provisions of this Law and the conditions of the licence issued to collect funds.

**Article (11)**

The Licensee is prohibited from violating the conditions of the license, and in case of violation, the ministry may issue a decision to revoke the license, cease the money collection operations and withdraw the sum collected and spend it on the public benefit it consider appropriate.

**Article (12)**

Funds collected in accordance with the provisions of this Law shall be deemed to be public funds in the application of the provisions of the Penal Code, and the licensed natural persons and those in charge of legal persons are considered as public officials in the application of the provisions of the aforementioned Law.

The National Audit Office shall, at the request of the Minister, review such funds, and the licensee shall enable the Audit Office to do so.

**Article (13)**

Government authorities and entities established or originated by laws, decrees or royal orders shall be excluded from the application of the provisions of this Law. The Council of Ministers or the minister concerned with such authorities may, and after presenting to the Council of Ministers, establish regulations for the collection of funds for public purposes in such authorities.

**Article (14)**

Whoever collects funds for a terrorist purpose shall be punished by life imprisonment or imprisonment of not less than ten years and a fine of not less than one hundred thousand dinars and not exceeding five hundred thousand dinars.

Whoever collects funds for public purposes without obtaining a license in accordance with the provisions of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine not exceeding one thousand dinars, or by either of these two penalties, and collecting money for purposes other than the public purposes stipulated in this law is considered as an aggravating circumstance.

Violation of the rest of the provisions of this law and the decisions issued in implementation thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars, or by either of these two penalties.

In all cases, the court shall order the confiscation of the collected funds or any funds of equal value belonging to the perpetrator of the crime, and the confiscated funds shall be transferred to charitable works determined by the Ministry.

**Article (15)**

The Charitable Fundraising Act of 1956 shall be repealed, as well as any provision contrary to the provisions of this Law.

**Article (16)**

The implementing regulation of this law shall be issued by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

**Article (17)**

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

**Prime Minister**

**Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 22 Ramadan 1434 A.H.

Corresponding to: 31 July 2013