

CHAPTER 40:01

NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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1929 Ed.
c. 89
1953 Ed.
c. 160

An Act to make provision for the establishment of a National Library in Georgetown.

12 of 1908

[8TH JULY, 1908]

1. This Act may be cited as the National Library Act.

Short title.
[4 of 1972]

2. In this Act—

Interpretation.
[4 of 1972]

“the committee” means the committee appointed under this Act;

“library” means the National Library established under this Act;

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“library buildings” means any buildings forming part of or used by the National Library and any building leased or let, temporarily or otherwise, by the Government or any person, for the purposes of the National Library.

Establishment
of National
Library.
[4 of 1972]

3. (1) There is hereby established a library to be known as the National Library of Guyana, the headquarters of which shall be situated in the City of Georgetown.

(2) The committee may establish branches of the library and other public library services at any place in Guyana.

Existing
libraries;
transitional
provisions.
[4 of 1972]

4. (1) As from the date of coming into operation of the amendments to the National Library Act contained in the Law Revision Act, the Public Free Library in the city of Georgetown established under this Act shall be deemed to be the Principal branch of the National Library established by the committee under section 3(2) and shall be known as the Central Library of the National Library and the branches of the Public Free Library in the town of New Amsterdam and in the town of Linden established under this Act and in operation at the date mentioned above in this subsection shall be deemed to be branches of the National Library established by the committee under section 3(2).

(2) All other library services established under this Act and in operation at the date mentioned in subsection (1) shall be deemed to be library services established under section 3(2).

Maintenance
of library.
[4 of 1972]

5. The library shall be maintained and all pensions and gratuities awarded shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament and such other moneys as may be contributed by local government authorities.

National
library
committee.
[4 of 1972]

6. (1) This Act shall be carried into effect by a committee consisting of a chairman, who shall be the Minister or someone designated by him, and not more than twelve nor less than nine other persons, six to be appointed by the Minister and the remainder to be appointed by such local government authorities as may be designated by the Minister having regard to the contributions made by such local government authorities to the maintenance of the library.

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(2) A member of the committee shall hold office for two years from the date of his appointment.

(3) As from the date of coming into operation of the amendments to the Library Act contained in the Law Revision Act, 1972, the committee of the Public Free Library as constituted at that date shall be deemed to be the committee established by subsection (1) and from that date shall be known as the committee of the National Library.

7. (1) Subject to this Act, the committee may provide a collection of exhibits indicative of the resources of Guyana, and its industries at their various stages, and may arrange for lectures and classes to be held for the instruction of school children and others in those resources and industries and in scientific subjects, and may supply and fit up the library buildings with the requisite furniture, fittings and conveniences.

Establishment of library. [13 of 1950 4 of 1972]

(2) No charge shall be made for admission to the library or the lectures or classes aforesaid.

8. The plot of land situate at the corner of High Street and Church Street and known as lots seventy-six and seventy-seven, in South Cummingsburg, west ward, in the City of Georgetown, together with all buildings erected or in the course of erection thereupon, are hereby vested in the committee for the purposes of this Act.

Vesting of land in committee.

9. All property presented to, or purchased or acquired for, the library, or for lectures or classes under this Act shall be vested in the committee.

Property vested in committee.

10. (1) The general management, regulation and control of the library and of any exhibits or other property shall be vested in and exercised by the committee, and the committee—

Functions and powers of committee. to manage and control library.

(a) shall perform such of the functions of the national library agreed upon by the committee with the approval of the Minister, collect, receive and preserve all books required to be deposited in the library by the Publications and Newspapers Act;

[17 of 1957 4 of 1972]

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(b) may provide in the library books, newspapers, periodicals, prints, maps, philosophical, musical and other instruments, apparatus and equipment, and specimens of art and service, and cause them to be repaired when necessary; and

(c) may cause books, newspapers, periodicals, or prints to be bound or, when superfluous or useless, to be sold or otherwise disposed of as the committee shall decide, and when sold pay the proceeds thereof into the general revenue of the library.

To make appointments and necessary regulations.

(2) The committee may appoint salaried officers and servants and dismiss them, and make all necessary regulations for the good government, arrangement, and preservation of the library and exhibits, and for the temporary loan of books therefrom, under any precautions and restrictions to them seeming right, and from time to time may alter and amend the regulations and make others in lieu thereof.

(3) The committee may, in accordance with any regulations that the committee may, with the approval of the Minister, make for this purpose, award pensions and gratuities to any of its officers or servants, and such pensions and gratuities shall be paid out of the moneys provided under section 5.

(4) All awards and payments of pensions and gratuities made by the committee to any of its officers or servants prior to the commencement of the Public Free Library (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957, shall be, and are hereby deemed to have been, validly made.

17 of 1957

Rules.
[13 of 1950
4 of 1972]

11. (1) The committee may—

(a) make rules for the conduct of its business and the regulation of its proceedings;

(b) let to any person or body of persons on any terms it thinks fit, and charge rent for, any of the rooms or halls of any library building vested in the committee for the purpose of lectures, or holding classes or exhibitions or for such other purposes as the committee may consider desirable.

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(2) A lease granted under this section—

(a) shall contain a clause empowering the committee to determine the lease by not more than twelve months' notice in writing given at any time; and

(b) shall be filed as of record in the deeds registry within three months of its execution.

12. (1) The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the committee, but in his absence the members present shall choose one of their number to act as chairman.

Chairman of committee and quorum.

(2) Five members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

13. Accounts shall be kept of the receipts and expenditure under this Act, and the accounts shall be audited by the Director of Audit in like manner and with the like incidents and consequences as if they were accounts which he is bound to examine, inquire into, and audit under the Audit Department Act.

Accounts and audit.

c. 73:01
