

Tourist Authority Act 1995

NIUE LAWS LEGISLATION AS AT DECEMBER 2006

TOURIST AUTHORITY ACT 1995

1995/200 – 2 November 1995

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To reconstitute the Tourist Authority Board as a Tourist Authority

1 Short title

This is the Tourist Authority Act 1995.

2 Interpretation

In this Act –

"accommodation premises" means and includes hotels, motels, guesthouse, boarding houses and all land, buildings and premises used wholly or partly, or intended to be used wholly or partly to provide lodgings for tourists;

"appointed member" means any member of the Board appointed under section 4(2) (a);

"Authority" means the Tourist Authority established under section 3;

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Authority established under section 12;

"Director" means the Director appointed under section 12;

"Member" means a member of the Board;

"Minister" means the Minister of Tourism;

"tourism" means the provision of scenic attractions, recreational activities and services that attract tourists;

"tourism industry" means and includes, not only accommodation, but tour operators, inbound operators, travel agents and airline agents.

PART 1 TOURIST AUTHORITY

3 Establishment of Tourist Authority

(1) There shall continue to be an Authority to be called the Tourist Authority.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal capable of suing and being sued and of doing and suffering all such acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

4 Board of Directors

(1) There shall be a Board of Directors of the Authority which shall, subject to this Act, have overall control of the Authority.

(2) The Board shall consist of –

(a) Six appointed members, being persons from among those of competence and experience in –

(i) The tourism industry; and

(ii) Private commercial interests and having personal attributes, qualifications and experience as will enable those persons to represent the tourist industry as well as the general community interests;

(b) The Financial Secretary or an official of the Treasury nominated by the Financial Secretary who shall be an ex-officio member;

(c) The Director who shall be an ex officio member with no voting rights.

(3) The appointed members of the Board shall be appointed by Cabinet. Cabinet shall from among those appointed members appoint one as Chairperson of the Board.

(4) The powers of the Board shall not be affected by any extraordinary vacancy in its membership.

5 Term of office of members of Authority

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act every appointed member shall hold office for a term of 3 years but may be reappointed.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, every appointed member whose office is terminated by effluxion of time shall continue to hold office until his successor comes into office.

6 Extraordinary vacancies

(1) An appointed member of the Board may resign his office at any time by written notice given to the Minister.

(2) An appointed member may at any time be removed from office by Cabinet for disability, bankruptcy, neglect of duty or misconduct proved to the satisfaction of Cabinet.

(3) If an appointed member dies or resigns his office by written notice given to the Minister or is removed from office the vacancy shall be deemed to be an extraordinary vacancy.

(4) In the case of an extraordinary vacancy, Cabinet may subject to the criteria for the composition of the Board set forth in section 4(2) appoint any person to fill the vacancy.

(5) Any appointed member appointed to fill an extraordinary vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term of office of his predecessor, but may be reappointed.

7 Meetings of Board

(1) The first meeting of the Board shall be held on a day to be appointed by the Chairperson.

(2) Subsequent meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Board or the Chairperson may appoint.

(3) The Chairperson or any 2 members may at any time call a special meeting of the Board with 3 days notice.

(4) At all meetings a majority of the members for the time being of the Board shall form a quorum.

(5) The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings at which he is present. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting, the members present shall appoint one of their number to be Chairperson of that meeting.

(6) At any meeting the Chairperson shall have a deliberative vote and in the case of an equality of votes shall also have a casting vote.

(7) All questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of the valid votes of members recorded on it.

(8) The Minister should request the right to attend and address any meeting of the Board, but not to be present during voting.

(9) Subject to this Act and of any regulations made under it, the Board may regulate its procedure in such manner as it thinks fit.

8 Minutes of meetings

(1) The Board shall cause minutes to be kept in a book provided for the purpose, of all resolutions and proceedings of its meetings.

(2) The minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson at the next meeting.

(3) A copy of the minutes of every meeting shall be furnished to every member.

9 Disclosure of conflicting interest

(1) Any member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the Board or any committee of it (apart from any interest in common with the public or with any section of the public or with any section of the tourist industry affected by the matter in question) shall as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his notice, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Board.

(2) A disclosure under this section shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board and the member shall not take part after the disclosure in any deliberation or decisions relating to the matter, but shall be counted as present for the purpose of forming a quorum of the Board for any such deliberation or decision.

10 Board may refer matters for investigation

The Board may appoint one or more of its members or any other qualified person to investigate and report to the Board on such matters as are referred to him or them by the Board for the purpose of the proper exercise of its powers or functions under this Act.

11 Delegation of powers of Authority

(1) The Authority may appoint a committee or committees consisting of 2 or more persons being members of the Board or officers of the Authority and may delegate to any such committee any of the powers or functions of the Authority except for the power of delegation conferred by this section.

(2) The Authority may delegate any of its powers to any member of the Board or officer or employee of the Authority except for the power of delegation conferred by this section.

(3) Subject to any general or special directions given or conditions imposed by the Authority or committee or person to whom any powers are delegated under this section the committee or person to whom any powers are so delegated may exercise those powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had been conferred directly by this Act and not by delegation.

(4) Every committee or person purporting to act under any delegation under this section shall be presumed to be acting under the terms of the delegation in the absence of proof to the contrary.

(5) Any delegation under this section may be made to a specified person or to persons of a specified class or may be made to the holder for the time being of a specified office or appointment or to the holders of officer or appointments of a specified class.

(6) Any delegation under this section may be revoked at any time.

(7) The delegation of any power by the Authority shall not prevent the exercise of that power by

the Authority.

12 Director and other employees

- (1) The Authority shall appoint a Director of Tourism who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.
- (2) The Director in consultation with the Authority may appoint such other officers and employees including acting or temporary or casual officers and employees as it thinks necessary for the efficient exercise of its functions and powers.
- (3) Any person in the service of the Crown may be appointed to be an officer or employee of the Authority but no such person shall be entitled to hold office concurrently as an officer or employee of the Authority and as a servant of the Crown except in the case of a person subject to the Public Service Commission, with the consent of the Commission.
- (4) Subject to this Act the Authority may employ a Director of Tourism and other employees upon such terms and conditions and at such salaries and allowances as it thinks fit and may at any time remove any officer or employee from his office or employment.
- (5) No person by reason only of being a director or employee of the Authority shall be deemed to be employed in the Public Service except that for the purpose of a government superannuation service as an officer or employee appointed under this Act shall be deemed to be Government Service.

PART 2 OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

13 Objectives of the Authority

The primary objective of the Authority shall be to encourage and promote the development of tourism in Niue in a manner which is appropriate to the interests of developing Niue as a tourist destination having regard also to the community at large and the objectives of Government as set out in the Niue Strategic Plan as promulgated from time to time.

14 Functions of Authority

In pursuance of its objective the Authority shall have the following functions –

- (a) As to policy and planning –
 - (i) To recommend for Cabinet approval national and regional policy for the development, promotion, regulation and control of tourism;
 - (ii) To assist, and advise the Minister, in the implementation of national and regional tourism policy;

- (iii) To co-ordinate policy and planning for the development and promotion of tourism;
 - (iv) To undertake such planning and research (not being undertaken by any other agency or department of the Government) as may be required to provide the Minister with advice and guidance on matters of policy and planning affecting the tourist industry;
 - (v) To undertake such planning and research as may be required to enable the Authority to discharge any other of its functions under this section;
- (b) As to marketing and promotion –
- (i) To promote and encourage travel by the public to Niue under policies as established;
 - (ii) To promote and encourage the development of those tourism facilities, attractions and services which are consistent with the requirements of the tourist industry from time to time;
 - (iii) To provide and co-ordinate national destination and other broad-spectrum marketing services as may be required to ensure orderly promotion of tourism in overseas markets;
 - (iv) To provide advisory and guidance services for travel agents, tour operators and others engaged in the business of encouraging tourists to visit Niue;
 - (v) To establish, maintain, develop and operate publicity, public relations and information services in respect of travel to Niue;
- (c) As to cultural and community issues –
- (i) To establish and promote structures and procedures to facilitate dialogue and consultation on matters affecting tourism between and among the Government, those involved in the tourism industry in Niue and the general public of Niue;
 - (ii) To identify and promote those aspects of Niuean culture and entertainment of interest to tourists;
 - (iii) To advise and inform the Minister as required of matters of particular community concern;
 - (iv) To regulate and control in conjunction with other departments and agencies of the Government the use, development and maintenance of scenic attractions and recreational facilities, standards and licensing of accommodation and inbound operators in Niue;
 - (v) Tourism projects should be subject to environmental impact assessments and authority should have regard to the Niue environment management strategy and other Government policies concerning the environment;
- (d) As to education and training –
- (i) To promote and co-ordinate with other departments and agencies of the Government an ongoing programme of education and training to improve levels of participation by Niueans and permanent residents of Niue in the tourist industry;
 - (ii) To establish and promote a continuing programme of community education as to the benefits and advantages of tourism;
- (e) As to general administration and other matters –
- (i) To hold such inquiries and gather such information as will enable it to determine the requirements of tourists and the public as to the provision of services of all kinds and other amenities on premises licensed under this Act;

- (ii) To conduct enquiries into any matters at the request of or with the approval of the Minister and to make recommendations to the Minister in respect of them;
- (iii) To do such other acts and things as the Authority may be required or authorised to do by this or any other Act or as may in the opinion of the Authority be necessary or desirable for the purposes of this Act.

15 Powers of the Authority

The Authority shall have all the powers reasonably necessary for the effective performance of its functions –

- (a) Subject to the provisions of any enactment applicable to the Authority, fix regulate or make such charges as it determines for the use of service, works, recreation grounds, equipment, apparatus, attractions, amenities or facilities provided, maintained, controlled, or operated by the Authority;
- (b) Contract for the execution or provision by any person of any work or services authorised by this or any other Act to be executed or provided by the Authority in such manner and on and subject to such terms and conditions as the Authority thinks fit;
- (c) For the purpose of promoting and encouraging tourist traffic to Niue, act in combination or association with any person or body of persons whether incorporated or not and whether in Niue or elsewhere or any Government department or agency that may be engaged, concerned or interested in the promotion of tourist traffic from overseas and contribute to the expenses involved in any such combination or association;
- (d) To make recommendations to the Minister to regulate on standards to be complied with by hotels, accommodation, premises, restaurants, scenic attractions and recreational facilities together with services and amenities, in connection with them.

16 Authority to give effect to directions of Government

(1) In the exercise of its functions and powers the Authority shall have regard to any general policy directions that may be made by Cabinet and conveyed to it by the Minister in respect of any functions or activities of the Authority and shall give effect to any decision of the Government in relation to it conveyed to the Authority in writing by the Minister.

(2) A copy of every written directive from the Cabinet shall be included in the annual report required to be made by the Authority to Cabinet under section 22.

PART 3 FINANCIAL

17 Remuneration and allowances of members of the Board

The members of the Board shall be paid out of the Niue Tourist Authority account.

18 Application of fees

All fees and other moneys paid under this Act shall be paid into the Niue Tourist Authority account and all expenses incurred in respect of the administration of this Act and regulations under it shall be paid out of such moneys as may be appropriated by the Assembly.

19 Niue Tourist Authority Account

(1) The Authority shall keep such bank account or accounts as may be approved by the Board.

(2) No money shall be withdrawn from any bank account except by cheque or other instrument (not being a promissory note or bill) signed by such person or persons in such manner as the Board may determine.

20 Preparation of estimates

(1) The Authority shall in each year prepare and submit annual estimates of revenue and expenditure, as the Minister responsible for finance directs, covering the operations of the Authority in the exercise of its powers and functions.

(2) The estimates may in respect of any undertaking of the Authority provide for finance by way of loans or overdraft the terms and conditions of which shall be subject to the approval of Cabinet.

(3) The Minister shall submit the estimates, with such recommendations to Cabinet for approval.

(4) A copy of the estimates as approved by Cabinet shall be attached to the estimates prepared under section 14 of the Public Revenues Act 1959 as an appendix.

21 Authorisation of expenditure

(1) The Board may authorise expenditure in accordance with the estimates approved by the Assembly and as between items of expenditure in the approved estimates may, with the approval of the Cabinet exercise a power of virement to an extent not exceeding 20 per cent of the item to which funds are transferred.

(2) The Cabinet may authorise expenditure in excess of the total provided for in the estimates to the extent that receipts of the Authority exceed the amount estimated.

22 Annual report and accounts

(1) The Authority shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, furnish a report covering its activities for the year ending on 30 June, including financial statements showing estimates and actual expenditure and receipts together with such accounts as are appropriate to

the nature of its financial operations.

(2) The financial statements required to be furnished to the Minister under subsection (1) shall be in such form as may be directed by the Minister responsible for finance and shall be completed and available no later than 2 months after the end of the financial year to which they relate.

PART 4 MISCELLANEOUS

23 Breach of Act or regulations

Every person who commits or attempts to commit or is concerned in committing or attempting to commit a breach or violation of this Act or of any regulations made under this Act for which no special penalty is provided is liable for every offence to a fine not exceeding 10 penalty units and if the breach or violation is a continuing one to a further fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues.

24 Regulations

(1) The Cabinet may make all such regulations as may be necessary or expedient for giving effect to this Act and for the due administration of it.

(2) All such regulations shall be laid before the Assembly within 28 days after the making of it if the Assembly is then in session, and, if not, shall be laid before the Assembly at the commencement of the next ensuing session.

25-26 [Spent]