

THE UGANDA MEDICAL SOCIETY BILL, 2014

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A BILL for an Act

ENTITLED

THE UGANDA MEDICAL SOCIETY BILL, 2014

An Act to provide for the establishment of the Uganda Medical Society; to provide for its powers and administration; and to provide for other related matters.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the Uganda Medical Society Act, 2014.

2. Interpretation.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

“council” means the council established under section 10;

“member” means a member of the Society under sections 5, 6 and 7;

“Society” means the Uganda Medical Society established under section 2;

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UGANDA MEDICAL SOCIETY

3. Establishment of the Society.

- (1) There is established a body to be known as the Uganda Medical Society.
- (2) The Society shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

4. Objects of the Society.

The objects for which the Society is established are to-

- (a) promote the medical and allied sciences;
- (b) promote and maintain the honor and interests of the medical profession and the Society in Uganda;
- (c) promote and maintain a high standard of professional ethics among members of the medical profession;
- (d) uphold and improve the standards of learning and practice of Medicine in Uganda;
- (e) facilitate members of the Society to acquire new medical knowledge;
- (f) provide counseling services to members of the Society where the situation warrants;
- (g) guide and enable the public to acquire and appreciate health promoting habits;
- (h) liaise with other health professionals in and outside Uganda for purposes of exchanging medical knowledge;
- (i) represent interests of members of the Society as regards conditions of practice and otherwise;
- (j) carry out any role that may be delegated to it by the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council;

- (k) recommend members of the Society for registration and licensing by the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council;
- (l) assist Government in the development and formulation of laws related to health and in implementing health programmes;
- (m) acquire, hold, develop or dispose of properties whether movable or immovable and to generate income for purposes of the objects of the Society;
- (n) raise or borrow money for all or any of the above objects in a manner and upon such security as may be determined by the Society;
- (o) invest and deal with monies of the Society not immediately required in such manner as may from time to time be determined by the Society;
- (p) do all such lawful things as may be incidental to the attainment of any or all of the objects of the Society.

PART III – MEMBERSHIP

5. Ordinary membership.

Any person entitled to practice medicine by virtue of sections 17 and 18 of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act who applies for membership in the manner prescribed by this Act shall be admitted as an ordinary member of the Society.

6. Temporary membership.

Any medical practitioner who is not a permanent resident of Uganda but who qualifies to be registered as such for a limited period of time may be admitted into the Society as a temporary member.

7. Honorary membership.

The council may elect such persons as honorary members of the Society as it may deem fit, either for life or for a specified period.

8. Annual subscription.

(1) A member of the Society under sections 4 and 5 shall pay into the funds of the Society such annual subscription as may be determined from time to time at an Annual General Meeting of the Society.

9. Termination of membership.

(1) An ordinary member whose name has been struck off the register of Medical and Dental Practitioners shall be deemed to have been expelled from the Society.

(2) A member whose practicing licence has been suspended shall cease to be a member of the Society for the duration of the suspension of his or her licence.

(3) A member of the Society, other than an honorary member, who ceases to be qualified for membership, shall cease to be a member.

PART IV – ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY

10. Council of the Society.

(1) The Society shall be governed by a council.

(2) The council shall consist of the following-

(a) members of the Executive Committee under section 11; and

(b) a representative of each of the different branches of the Society in the country.

(3) The General Secretary shall be the secretary to the council.

- (4) The council shall meet once every three months for the purposes of discharging its functions.

11. Executive Committee.

- (1) For purposes of effective management of the affairs of the Society, there shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the following members-

- (a) a president;
- (b) a vice-president;
- (c) a General Secretary;
- (d) an assistant General Secretary;
- (e) a treasurer;
- (f) an assistant treasurer; and
- (g) a publicity secretary.

- (2) All members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Society during the first General Meeting.

- (3) The Executive Committee shall meet once every month.

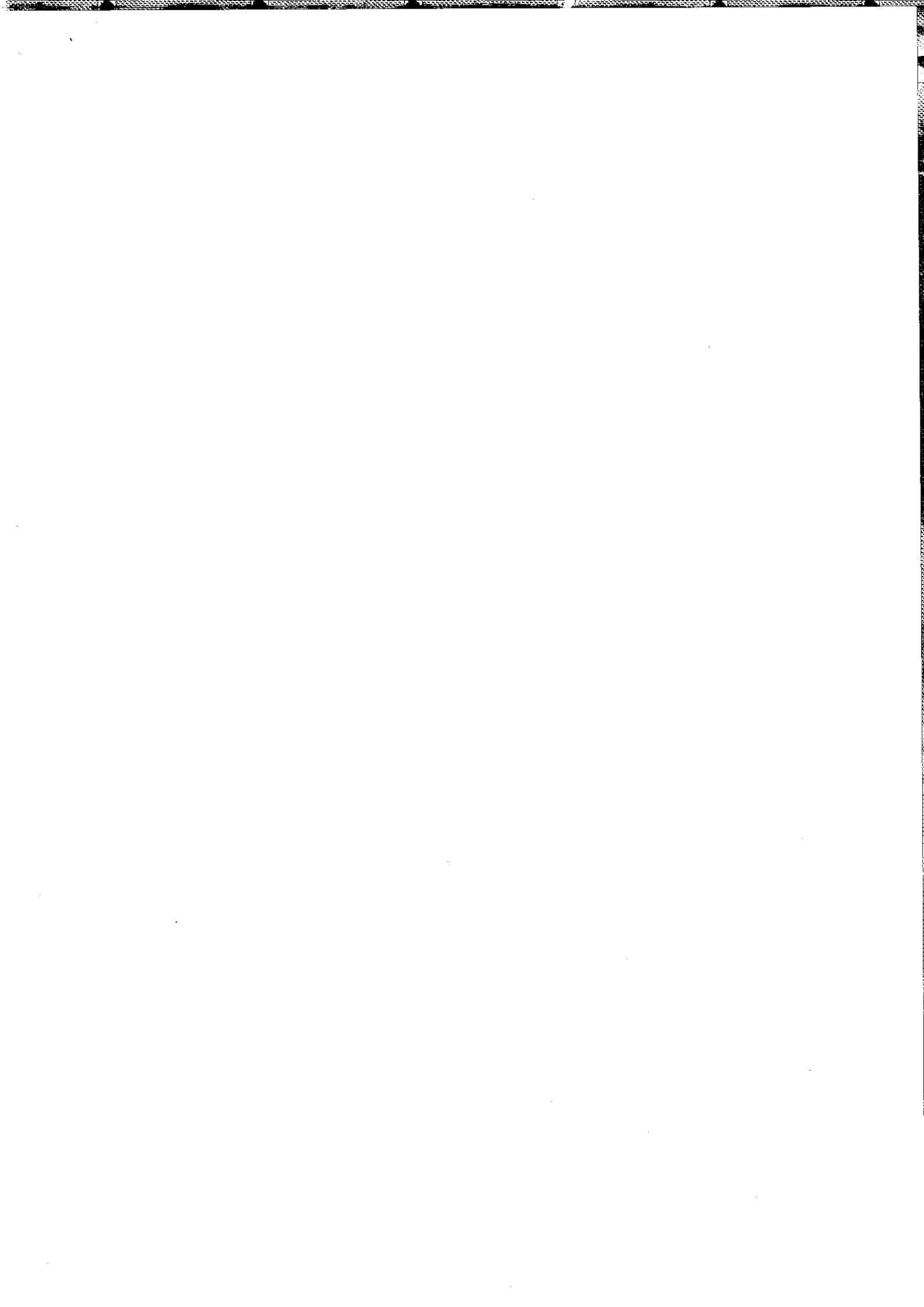
12. Branches of the Society.

There shall such a number of branches of the Society as shall be determined by the members during the General meeting.

PART V – SECRETARIAT AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

13. Secretariat of the Society.

- (1) The Society shall have a secretariat which shall be responsible for the day to day operations of the Society.
- (2) The secretariat shall be headed by the General Secretary.



14. Other officers of the Society.

- (1) There shall be officers of the Society as may be necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the Society.
- (2) The officers of the Society shall be appointed by the council on such terms and conditions as the council shall determine.

15. Representatives of the Society on statutory bodies or other bodies.

All representatives of the Society on statutory bodies or other bodies shall be elected by the Society at a General Meeting.

PART VI – MISCELLANEOUS

16. General Meetings.

- (1) The council shall as soon as convenient after 31st of January but not later than 31st March of every calendar year convene an Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- (2) The council may convene an extraordinary General Meeting as and when it is necessary.
- (3) Any a third of members of the Society may, in writing signed by each of them, demand an extraordinary General Meeting, specifying the agenda to be considered at the General Meeting.
- (4) The council shall, on receipt of the demand for an extraordinary General Meeting, summon such a General Meeting giving twenty-one days' notice.

17. Voting at General Meetings.

- (1) Subject to subsection (4), at every General Meeting, every member present shall have the right to exercise one vote on any issue being

determined by voting and if the votes are equally divided, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

- (2) A member not present may vote by proxy in such a manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by council.
- (3) The voting shall be by secret ballot.
- (4) An honorary member shall not have a right to vote under this Act.

18. Resolutions at General Meetings.

All resolutions of the Society in General Meetings shall be carried by a simple majority.

19. Alterations of resolutions.

No resolution of the Society made at a General Meeting shall be altered or rescinded except otherwise than by a special resolution made at an extraordinary General Meeting called for this purpose.

20. Convening and procedure of General Meetings.

The manner of convening General Meetings of the Society and the procedure at the General Meetings, shall, subject as expressly provided in sections 16 to 19, be as may from time to time be prescribed or determined by the council.

21. Custody and use of the seal.

The common seal of the Society shall be kept by the General Secretary in a manner as may from time to time be determined by the council.

22. Minutes.

The council shall cause proper minutes of all General Meetings of the Society, and of all meetings of the council and committees appointed by the

council to be taken and recorded, and shall make all such minutes available for inspection by any member of the Society at any reasonable time and place, on request.

23. Accounts.

- (1) The council shall cause proper accounts of all funds, property and assets of the Society to be kept, and to be audited as on the 30th day of June in every year by an auditor appointed annually by the Society in a General Meeting.
- (2) The auditor appointed under this section shall not be a member of the Society.
- (3) At every Annual General Meeting of the Society, council shall present to the Society a full report of the activities of the Society, including the activities of the council and of any committees appointed by the council, together with accounts duly audited as provided for in subsection (1) in respect of the twelve months preceding that date.

24. Regulations.

The council may, subject to provisions in this Act and approval by resolutions at General Meetings, make regulations binding on members of the Society, prescribing all or any of the following matters-

- (a) annual subscriptions payable by members of the Society;
- (b) the manner of application for membership of the Society;
- (c) the entitlements of members;
- (d) exemption of members from obligations of the Society;

- (e) the regulation of powers exercisable by the council and committees, and the delegation of powers;
- (f) the manner of convening meetings of the council, the committees, and the quorum and procedure at the meetings;
- (g) the manner of convening General Meetings of the Society, the quorum and procedures at the General Meetings, including provision for the holding of an Annual General Meeting;
- (h) the manner and conditions in which a member of the Society not present at a General Meeting may vote by proxy;
- (i) the manner of election, removal and replacement of elected officers of the council as well as of those representing the Society on statutory bodies and other bodies; and
- (j) such other matters as may be deemed necessary by the council for the proper conduct and regulation of the affairs of the Society.

25. Consequential amendment of Cap. 272.

(1) The Medical and Dental Practitioners Act is amended in section 17 (2) by inserting immediately after the last word 'council' the following-

“(2) and that he or she is a member of a Medical or Dental Society, as the case may be, recognized by the council.”

(2) For purposes of this section, “council” means the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council established under section 2 of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act.

Draft, as at October, 2014

Cross Reference

The Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. 272
