

## OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would revise and consolidate the law relating to the administration of the public service for the purpose of achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in the management of that service and for matters related thereto.

### *Arrangement of Sections*

#### PART I

##### *Preliminary*

##### *Section*

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application.

#### PART II

##### *Management of the Public Service*

4. Management of the Public Service.
5. Functions of Service Commissions.
6. Head of the Public Service and the special powers of the Head.
7. Committee of Permanent Secretaries.
8. Functions of the Committee.
9. Procedure of the Committee.
10. Safety at work.

*Section*

11. Codes.
12. Grievance handling.

**PART III**

*Establishment of Offices*

13. Establishment of offices.
14. Creation and establishment of temporary offices.
15. Holders of offices not to be disadvantaged.
16. Increments.
17. Emoluments payable out of Consolidated Fund.

**PART IV**

*Appointment, Transfer, Promotion, Secondment*

18. Appointments.
19. Transfer.
20. Promotions.
21. Secondment.
22. Period of secondment.

*Section*

PART V

*Management of Training and Human Resource Development*

23. Policy of training.
24. Training Committee.
25. Public Service Training Fund.
26. Training Loan Fund.
27. Reports.
28. Awards under *Training Act* to continue in force.

PART VI

*Other Conditions of Service*

29. Pensions, retirement benefits.

PART VII

*Appeals*

30. Public Service Appeal Board.
31. Right to appeal to the Privy Council not affected.

*Section*

PART VIII

*Miscellaneous*

32. Regulations.
33. Administrative Orders, General Orders.
34. Amendment of Schedules.
35. Repeal and Savings.
36. Transitional provisions relating to officers appointed retrospectively.
37. Agreements in existence at the commencement of this Act.
38. Oaths of Secrecy and Allegiance.
39. Proceedings started prior to the commencement of this Act.
40. Commencement.

FIRST SCHEDULE

SECOND SCHEDULE

THIRD SCHEDULE

FOURTH SCHEDULE

FIFTH SCHEDULE

SIXTH SCHEDULE

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

**BARBADOS**

**A Bill entitled**

**An Act to revise and consolidate the law relating to the administration of the public service for the purpose of achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in the management of that service and for matters related thereto.**

**ENACTED** by the Parliament of Barbados in accordance with the provisions of section 49 of the *Constitution* as follows:

## PART I

*Preliminary*

- Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the *Public Service Act, 2007*.
- Interpretation. 2. In this Act,  
 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries;
- Second Schedule. "Code of Conduct and Ethics" means the Code established by paragraph (b) of section 11(1) and set out in the *Second Schedule*;
- "Committee of Permanent Secretaries" or "Committee" means the Committee established by section 7;
- "established office" means an office established by this Act or the former Act as the case may be;
- Cap. 21. "former Act" means the *Civil Establishment Act, 1949*;
- Cap. 35. "former Training Act" means the *Training Act, 1972*;
- "Head of the Public Service" means the person designated as such under section 6(1);
- Eighth Schedule. "Permanent Secretary" includes, a holder of an office in a related grade and the holder of an office specified in the *Eighth Schedule*;
- "public office" or "office" means any office of emolument in the Public Service;
- "public officer" or "officer" means the holder of any public office and includes any person appointed to act in that office;

"Public Service" or "Service" means the service of the Crown in a civil capacity in respect of the Government of Barbados but shall not be construed as including service in

- (a) the office of Governor-General, Prime Minister or other Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, Leader of the Opposition, President, Deputy President or member of the Senate, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, or member of the House of Assembly or member of the Privy Council;
- (b) the office of a member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, the Public Service Commission or the Police Service Commission;
- (c) the office of a member of any board, committee or other similar body (whether incorporated or not) established by any law in force in Barbados; or
- (d) except as otherwise provided in the *Constitution*, the office of a Judge;

"Public Service Training Fund" or "Fund" means the Fund established by section 25;

"Recruitment and Employment Code" means the Code established by paragraph (a) of section 11(1) and set out in the *First Schedule*;  
First  
Schedule.

"secondment of a public officer" means the temporary transfer of that officer from a substantive office to another position or employment within or outside the Public Service at the request of and for the benefit of the Department, Government of Barbados or the entity to which the officer is transferred;

"Service Commission" or "Commission" means the

- (a) Judicial and Legal Service Commission established by section 89(1) of the *Constitution*;
- (b) Public Service Commission established by section 90(1) of the *Constitution*; or
- (c) Police Service Commission established by section 91(1) of the *Constitution*,

as the case may be;

"temporary employee" or "employee" means a person other than a public officer who holds a temporary office in the Public Service;

"temporary office" means a public office that has not been established under any enactment;

"Training Committee" means the Training Committee established by section 24(1);

Cap. 35. "Training Loan Fund" means the Training Loan Fund established by section 4(1) of the former *Training Act* and continued under section 26 of this Act;

Application. 3. (1) This Act applies to the following persons in the Public Service whether appointed before or after the commencement of this Act:

- (a) public officers; and
- (b) temporary employees.

(2) A reference in any provision of this Act to a period of employment shall, unless the context otherwise provides, be construed as including employment before, on or after the date of commencement of this Act.



## PART II

*Management of the Public Service*

4. (1) The Public Service shall be managed by the
- (a) Service Commissions in accordance with their functions under the
- (i) *Constitution*;
- (ii) *Services Commissions (Public Service) Regulations, 1978*; S.I. 1978 No. 18
- (iii) *Services Commission (Police Service) Regulations, 1964*; and S.I. 1969 No. 69
- (iv) the provisions of the Codes as set out in the *Schedules* to this Act;
- (b) Head of the Civil Service; and
- (c) Committee of Permanent Secretaries.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a Permanent Secretary has responsibility for the management of the Ministry or Department to which that Permanent Secretary is assigned.

5. (1) Each Commission, in carrying out its functions mentioned under section 4(1),
- (a) shall be responsible for giving such advice or making such recommendations as the case may be, in respect of appointments in the Public Service in both established and temporary offices;
- (b) shall give directions of a general nature and provide guidance to officers or employees in the Public Service in relation to the performance of their duties in order to promote the development of the Service; and

Management of the Public Service.

S.I. 1978 No. 18

S.I. 1969 No. 69

Functions of Service Commissions.

(c) may appoint committees, panels or other bodies established for the purpose of

(i) recruitment or promotion to the Service, or

(ii) any other matter the Commission thinks fit.

(2) Each Commission shall, in carrying out its functions under this Act, ensure transparency, fairness and justice; and shall regard the proper management of the Public Service including the development of the human resources of the Service, as its primary goal.

Head of the  
Public  
Service and  
the special  
powers of  
the Head.

6. (1) There shall be a Head of the Public Service who

(a) shall be the holder of the office of Permanent Secretary; and

(b) shall be designated as Head of the Public Service by the Prime Minister in his own discretion.

(2) The person designated as Head of the Public Service pursuant to subsection (1) shall be the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Secretaries established by section 7.

(3) The Head of the Public Service may

(a) request information from Ministries concerning the activities of those Ministries;

- (b) in carrying out functions in respect of the Public Service, conduct such inspections or investigations and make or receive such reports as the Head may consider necessary or the Prime Minister may direct.

7. There is hereby established a Committee of Permanent Secretaries comprising

Committee  
of  
Permanent  
Secretaries.

- (a) the Head of the Public Service; and
- (b) Permanent Secretaries.

8. The functions of the Committee are to

Functions of  
the  
Committee.

- (a) advise the Minister on
  - (i) such areas of the management of the Public Service as the Minister requires; and
  - (ii) the policies necessary to administer and develop the Public Service;
- (b) consider and make recommendations on any specific matter referred to it by the Minister;
- (c) co-ordinate those functions of the Public Service that relate to the management of the Service to ensure that there exists the capacity of Government to provide a modern and efficient Public Service;
- (d) expedite the decision making process particularly in matters requiring the involvement of several ministries, departments or agencies;

- (e) submit to the Minister not later than 3 months after the end of each financial year, a report outlining the activities of the Committee; and
- (f) generally create a working environment that is conducive to increased productivity and greater job satisfaction in the Public Service.

Procedure of  
the  
Committee.

**9. The Committee shall**

- (a) meet as often as it deems necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions but not less than once every 3 months; and
- (b) regulate its own procedure, including the appointment by the Chairman of a Secretary who shall be the holder of an office that is not below that of Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Safety at  
work.

**10. (1)** Notwithstanding paragraph (f) of section 8, it shall be the duty of every Permanent Secretary to ensure that the standards required for occupational health and safety under any enactment are observed in relation to the Ministry or Department to which the Permanent Secretary is assigned.

(2) A Permanent Secretary shall be regarded as having discharged the duty of a Permanent Secretary under subsection (1) where the Permanent Secretary has taken all actions that are necessary or appropriate in the circumstances.

Codes.

**11. (1)** There is hereby established for the Public Service the following Codes:

- (a) the Recruitment and Employment Code that governs the methods to be used in recruitment and promotion in the Service;

(b) the Code of Conduct and Ethics that establishes standards of conduct in the Public Service; and

(c) the Code of Discipline that is aimed at enforcing the standards mentioned in paragraph (b).

(2) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of the Codes referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) in respect of which a penalty is specified, is liable to the penalty so specified.

12. (1) Where an officer or employee is aggrieved by any action or decision of Grievance handling.

(a) a person appointed by the Commission who has or had supervisory powers over that person;

(b) a person other than a person referred to in paragraph (a) who has supervisory powers in respect of that employment; or

(c) a fellow employee,

the officer or employee may invoke the procedure with respect to grievance handling that is set out in the *Fourth Schedule*. Fourth Schedule.

(2) An officer or employee referred to in subsection (1) may, in place of the procedure specified in subsection (1), seek the process of mediation or other method of dispute resolution.

(3) In this section, "grievance" includes a complaint regarding the alleged violation of

(a) the provisions of any agreement between a Union and the Government of Barbados;

(b) the rules or regulations applicable to the category of officers to which that person belongs; or

(c) the principles of natural justice.

## PART III

*Establishment of Offices*

Establish-  
ment of  
offices.

**13. (1) The Minister may by Order**

- (a)* establish offices in the Public Service;
- (b)* determine the number of persons who may be appointed to those offices;
- (c)* prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by persons appointed to those offices; and
- (d)* determine the emoluments to be attached to those offices.

(2) An Order made under subsection (1) may contain such incidental, consequential and supplemental provisions as the Minister thinks necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the Order, including provisions

- (a)* for the making of such modifications as may be expedient, in any enactment regulating the number of offices in respect of which, or the number of office-holders in respect of whom, salaries may be paid ; or
- (b)* relating to the appointment, powers, duties, rights and liabilities of any officer holding any office specified in an Order.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), an Order made under subsection (1) shall be subject to affirmative resolution.

(4) Subsection (3) shall not apply to any Order that relates to the qualifications required in respect of the offices in the Public Service.

(5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of section 94 of the *Constitution*, with effect from the date of the commencement of this Act,

- (a) all offices in the Public Service that were created as temporary offices, except temporary offices created in respect of a specific project, that at the date of the commencement of this Act, have been in existence for 3 or more years shall hereby be established as public offices in the Public Service;
- (b) each officer who
  - (i) is either the sole person appointed to the temporary office; or
  - (ii) acted for the longest continuous period in the temporary office during the three-year period immediately before the commencement of this Act; and
  - (iii) is qualified to be appointed to the office; and
  - (iv) is not appointed to an office in the public service

shall be deemed to be appointed as a public officer upon terms no less favourable than those that applied during that officer's acting appointment.

(6) Notwithstanding subsection (5)(b), a person who satisfies the criteria for appointment set out in subsection (5), but who is appointed to an established office in the public service shall be entitled to be appointed to the newly established office where he elects, within 30 days of being notified of the new vacancy, to accept appointment to the newly established office.

(7) Where, on the date of the commencement of this Act a vacancy exists in an established public office and the person who occupies the office has been acting for a period of not less than 3 years immediately before the commencement of this Act and is suitably qualified to be appointed to the office, the person shall be entitled to be appointed to the office.

(8) Where as a consequence of an appointment referred to in subsection (7), any other office that is established becomes vacant each person who has acted in such an office and who satisfies the criteria set out in subsection (7) shall be entitled to be appointed to the office in which he has acted.

(9) A person who satisfies the conditions referred to in subsection (7) or (8) and who is appointed to an established office within the public service shall, within 30 days of the notification of the proposed appointment, elect to be appointed to the newly established office or to revert to his appointed office.

(10) The provisions of sections 13(5)(b), (6), (7) and (8) shall have effect notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of section 94 of the *Constitution*.

(11) The amendment to section 94 of the *Constitution* shall cease to have effect on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.

Creation  
and  
establish-  
ment of  
temporary  
offices.

14. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Minister may, by Order, create temporary offices in the public service for a period of not more than 3 years.

(2) The Minister may extend the duration of a temporary office beyond the initial period for which it was created where

(a) an office has been created for the implementation of a specific project of the Government and the project extends beyond the period for which the office has been created,

for the period required to complete the project; and

(b) in every other case, for a further period that does not exceed 3 years.

(3) Where the Minister is satisfied, either during the currency of a temporary office or at the end of the period for which it was created, that it is necessary that the office be established, the Minister shall make an order for the establishment of the office.



(4) Where an office is established in accordance with subsection (3) and the person who occupies the office, on the date of its establishment

- (a) is not appointed to an established post in the public service;
- (b) was acting in the office on the date of its establishment and had been acting in that office as a temporary officer for the last 3 years of its creation; and
- (c) is suitably qualified to be appointed to the office; and there is no other person whose qualifications render that person more eligible for appointment;

the person who occupies the office shall be appointed to the office, unless he expresses, in writing, within 30 days of notification of his proposed appointment, his desire not to be so appointed.

(5) Where a person meets the requirements referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) but is appointed to an established office within the Public Service, the person may within 30 days elect to be appointed to the newly established office or to revert to his appointed office.

15. (1) An Order made under the former Act or under paragraph (d) of section 13(1) shall not be varied or revoked to the disadvantage of the holders of offices established under the former Act or this Act. Holders of offices not to be disadvantaged.

(2) The salaries and allowances payable to the holders of offices established under the former Act or this Act shall not be altered to their disadvantage.

16. Where the emoluments attached to an office established by an Order under section 2 of the former Act or under section 13 of this Act include a salary on an incremental scale, the Governor-General may order increments.

- (a) that the initial salary of any person appointed to that office shall include such an amount on increment as he thinks expedient;

- (b) that in any case in which it appears to the Governor-General that there are special circumstances relating to the amount of salary or annual increments of a person already appointed to that office which operate unfairly upon, or to the prejudice of, that person and which warrant special adjustment, the salary of that person shall be adjusted within the limits of the scale in such manner as the Governor-General may deem expedient.

Emolu-  
ments  
payable out  
of  
Consoli-  
dated Fund.

17. All moneys payable under the provisions of any Order made under section 13 shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

#### PART IV

##### *Appointment, Transfer, Promotion, Secondment*

Appoint-  
ments.

18. (1) Appointments to established offices in the Public Service shall be made in accordance with

- (a) the provisions of Part 2 of Chapter VIII of the *Constitution*; and
- (b) the Recruitment and Employment Code.

(2) Appointments on contract for a specific duration may be made to any public office; but the terms shall not conflict with the relevant law, Code and administrative practices applicable to persons in the same category of public office to which the contract relates.

(4) Appointments to offices in the Public Service other than those to which paragraph (a) of subsection (1) refers shall be made in accordance with the Recruitment and Employment Code.

Transfer.

19. (1) Appointments on transfer in respect of the holder of a public office

- (a) referred to in Part 2 of Chapter VIII of the *Constitution*, shall be made in accordance with those provisions;

(b) other than an office referred to in paragraph (a), shall be made by the Chief Personnel Officer; or

(c) to which the *Delegation of Functions (Public and Police Services) (Miscellaneous Provisions), Order 1974* refers, shall be made in accordance with those provisions

S.I. 1974  
No. 122.

and in accordance with the Recruitment and Employment Code.

20. Section 33 and the Recruitment and Employment Code apply in respect of the procedure to be followed regarding promotions to offices in the Public Service.

Promotions.

21. (1) Where a person who holds an established office is seconded to service under another Government or under an authority, body or agency approved by the Governor-General for the purposes of this section, referred to as "an approved employer", that person shall, during the period of the secondment, cease to receive the emoluments attached to that office but shall nevertheless, if the approved employer agrees to pay and pays to the Government of Barbados a contribution in respect of his pension during the period of the secondment at the rate prescribed by the Governor-General, be deemed to continue to hold that office for the purposes of the *Pensions Act*.

Second-  
ment.

Cap. 25.

(2) Where the holder of an established office, in this section referred to as "the substantive holder", is withdrawn from that office for the purpose of being seconded in accordance with subsection (1), the Governor-General may appoint a person to that office as if it were vacant; and that person

(a) shall be deemed to be the holder of that office; and

(b) shall receive the emoluments attached to the office

during such time as the substantive holder of that office is seconded in accordance with this section or the former Act.

Period of  
secondment.

22. (1) Where the holder of an established office is seconded to service in accordance with section 21(1), the period of secondment shall be for a period not exceeding 2 years.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where the holder of a public office is being seconded to an office in the service of an international or regional body approved by the Governor-General under section 21(1), the period of secondment may be extended for such period as the Cabinet determines.

(3) The Cabinet may determine that the period of secondment be extended under subsection (2) where

- (a) the "approved employer" makes a written request for the retention of the person on secondment; and
- (b) the Cabinet is of the opinion that Barbados is receiving substantial benefits from the secondment.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where the holder of a public office is seconded to service from one Government Ministry or agency to another Government Ministry or agency under a particular programme or project, the period of secondment for the holder shall be for a period not exceeding the life of the programme or project.

(5) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), where an officer remains on secondment for a period in excess of 2 years, that officer shall be required to exercise the option of remaining in the service of the organization or body to which he is seconded or of returning to his substantive position in the Public Service.

PART V

*Management of Training and Human Resource Development*

**23. (1)** In this Part, "Minister" means the Minister responsible for Training. Policy of training.

(2) The Minister shall in writing, state the policy of Government with respect to

- (a) the goals and objectives of training; and
- (b) the management of training and human resource development in the Public Service.

(3) The Minister shall in stating the policy under subsection (2), give due regard to ensuring that training at all levels of the Public Service is

- (a) given high priority;
- (b) structured, mandatory, ongoing; and
- (c) aimed at enhancing the skills of persons in the Public Service.

(4) The Minister shall also in stating the policy under subsection (2), give due regard to the changing requirements of the Service and of Barbados, particularly in the areas of management, technical skills at both national and international levels and all those are as required to give effect to the national goals of Government to ensure that the Service is capable of meeting those requirements.

(5) The Minister may, on the advice of the Training Committee and pursuant to section 32, make Regulations to give effect to the policy referred to in subsection (2).

Training  
Committee.

24. (1) There is hereby established a Training Committee that shall advise the Minister on training requirements and study leave in the Public Service.

(2) The Training Committee shall,

- (a) advise the Service Commissions in respect of officers to be granted training and study leave; and
- (b) determine the terms and conditions under which officers shall be granted training and study leave.

Fifth  
Schedule.

(3) The composition and procedure of the Training Committee are set out in the *Fifth Schedule*.

Public  
Service  
Training  
Fund.

25. (1) There is established under the control and management of the Minister, a Public Service Training Fund into which shall be paid

Cap. 35

- (a) all moneys which at the commencement of this Act, stand to the credit of the Training Fund established under the former *Training Act*;
- (b) all moneys that represent the repayment after the commencement of this Act, of
  - (i) a loan including interest on the loan repaid by any person to whom a loan was made out of the Training Fund; or
  - (ii) the proceeds of the forfeiture carried out after the commencement of this Act in respect of any bond that secured an award made out of that Training Fund; and
- (c) all moneys provided by Parliament for payment into the Public Service Training Fund.

(2) The Minister may, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, award free scholarships and training courses out of the Fund to public officers.

26. (1) The Training Loan Fund into which shall be paid

Training  
Loan Fund.

- (a) all moneys provided by Parliament for payment into that Loan Fund; and
- (b) all moneys which represent the repayment of a loan including interest thereon repaid by any person to whom a loan is made under subsection (2),

shall continue under and be subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Minister may, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, make loans from the Training Loan Fund to any person other than a person mentioned in section 25(2), for the purpose of assisting that person to pursue a course of study or training approved by the Training Committee.

(3) A loan made under subsection (2) shall not exceed \$10 000 or such greater amount as the Minister may by Order prescribe and shall bear interest at the prescribed rate.

(4) Where repayment of a loan made under subsection (2) remains outstanding contrary to the provisions of this Act or Regulations, the Minister may recover that loan in civil proceedings before a magistrate for District "A".

27. The Minister shall, not later than 4 months after the end of each financial year, cause to be laid before Parliament separate reports on the Public Service Training Fund and the Training Loan Fund showing

- (a) in the case of each Fund, the number of awards made and in force and the amount of each award;

- (b) in the case of the Training Loan Fund, the number of loans made and the amount of each loan; and
- (c) in each case, the state of the Fund.

Awards  
under  
*Training Act*  
to continue  
in force.  
Cap. 35.

28. An award made under the former *Training Act* and in force at the commencement of this Act shall, subject to the terms and conditions on which it was made, continue to have effect as if it were made under this Act.

## PART VI

### *Other Conditions of Service*

Pensions,  
retirement  
benefits.  
Cap. 25.  
S.I. 1947  
No. 20.

29. (1) The
- (a) *Pensions Act* and *Pensions Regulations*; and
  - (b) all other laws relating to the pensions and retiring benefits of public officers and other persons holding public office

that applied to those persons immediately before the date of commencement of this Act, shall continue to apply to those persons.

(2) The enactments referred to in subsection (1) shall apply to public officers who hold office on or after the date of commencement of this Act.



PART VII

*Appeals*

**30. (1)** An appeal shall lie to the Public Service Appeal Board established by section 98A of the *Constitution* from any decision of a Service Commission or of any person to whom the powers of the Commission have been delegated as a result of disciplinary proceedings other than dismissal, brought against a public officer.

Public  
Service  
Appeal  
Board.

(2) An appeal under subsection (1) shall be to the Board at the instance of the public officer in respect of whom the decision was made within 14 days of the date when the decision was communicated in writing to that officer.

**31. (1)** Subject to subsection (2), the right of a public officer to have his case referred to the Privy Council under section 98 of the *Constitution* shall not be affected by the right to appeal under section 30.

Right to  
appeal to the  
Privy  
Council not  
affected.

(2) Where a public officer has had his case determined by the Privy Council under section 98 of the *Constitution*, section 98A(6) shall apply in respect of those proceedings.

(3) The right of appeal provided in this Part does not affect the right of a public officer to redress before the court.

## PART VIII

*Miscellaneous*

- Regulations. **32.** (1) The Minister may make Regulations
- (a) prescribing and regulating
    - (i) increments; and
    - (ii) awards based on merit, ability and integrity;
  - (b) respecting the grant of leave to public officers;
  - (c) prescribing anything that is required to be prescribed under this Act; and
  - (d) generally for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.
- (2) The Minister responsible for Training may make Regulations in respect of the training of officers.

Administra-  
tive Orders,  
General  
Orders.

- 33.** (1) The Minister may make administrative orders to give effect to any provisions of the Codes or any other provisions of this Act.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the General Orders are from the date of the commencement of this Act, deemed to have been made under subsection (1) and shall remain in force until revoked by an instrument in writing by the Minister under this Act.
- (3) Where any provision of the General Orders is inconsistent or in conflict with a Code or any regulation made under this Act, the Code or regulation shall prevail and the general order shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid.

34. The Minister may by Order amend any of the Schedules. Amendment  
of  
Schedules.
35. (1) The *Civil Establishment Act* is hereby repealed. Repeal and  
Savings.  
Cap. 21.  
Cap. 35.
- (2) The *Training Act* is hereby repealed. Cap. 21.
- (3) All Orders that were made under the *Civil Establishment Act* and are in force at the commencement of this Act, shall continue in force as if made under this Act in so far as they are not inconsistent with this Act, until revoked by an Order made under this Act.
- (4) The following provisions of the *Service Commissions (Public Service) Regulations, 1978* are revoked: S.I. 1978  
No. 83.
- (a) regulations 11 to 15 of Part III; and
- (b) Parts V and VI except
- (i) regulation 25; and
- (ii) regulation 40A as amended by this Act.
- (5) The *Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) Order* shall continue in force in respect of those officers who entered the public service prior to January 1st, 1980 and who are entitled to the payment of passages under that Order. S.I. 1966  
No. 17.
36. (1) The provisions set out in the *Sixth Schedule* apply with respect to Transitional  
provisions  
relating to  
officers  
appointed  
retrospec-  
tively.  
Sixth  
Schedule.
- (a) officers who on the date of the commencement of the former Act were officers in the Public Service; and
- (b) officers to whom section 6 of the former Act applied.

Agreements  
in existence  
at the  
commence-  
ment of this  
Act.

**37.** Any Agreement in existence between the Government of Barbados and a representative body of public officers that is in effect at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be in existence for the unexpired term of the Agreement and the provisions of this Act shall apply thereto for that period.

Oaths of  
Secrecy and  
Allegiance.

**38.** Every public officer shall, if and when required by the Commission or any person delegated by the Commission, subscribe to the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, or the Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy, or both, set out in the *Seventh Schedule*.

Seventh  
Schedule.

Proceedings  
started prior  
to the  
commence-  
ment of this  
Act.

**39.** Investigations or legal proceedings in respect of all disciplinary or other matters that commenced prior to the coming into operation of this Act and are pending on the date of commencement of this Act shall continue under the relevant law existing immediately before the commencement of this Act.

Commence-  
ment.

**40.** This Act comes into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(a))*

**INDEX TO RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CODE**

- 1. Application of existing enactments.**
- 2. Notification of vacancies within the Public Service.**
- 3. Selection of officers.**
- 4. Adherence to recruitment principles.**
- 5. Techniques in selection.**
- 6. Length of time list is valid.**
- 7. Composition of selection panels.**
- 8. Adherence to recruitment principles.**
- 9. Exceptions.**
- 10. Performance, Review and Development System.**

## FIRST SCHEDULE

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(a))*

## RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CODE

General

Appointments and promotions of officers in the Public Service who are employed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission are governed by the provisions of the Constitution as regards appointments, the *Service Commissions (Public Service) Regulations, 1978*<sup>1</sup>, and the *Civil Establishment (Qualifications) Order*. This Code supplements those provisions and, seeks to extend these provisions to those public officers who are employed by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission or the Police Services Commission as the case may be, and for whom no specific Regulations apply in this regard. Its principles seek to ensure that recruitment and appointments are made on the basis of merit, impartiality and the highest standards of integrity but in addition, consideration is also given to seniority and experience where the nature of the work so requires. The same principles that apply to recruitment and promotion to established offices apply to the filling of offices that have not been established under an enactment, even where those offices are filled on a contractual basis.

S.I. 1978  
No. 183.  
S.I. 2001  
No. 121.

Subject to the foregoing, the following principles are to be applied:

1. The process in respect of recruitment and promotion shall be in accordance with

Applica-  
tion of  
existing  
enactments.

(a) the provisions of the *Services Commissions (Public Service) Regulations, 1978* in so far as those provisions are not inconsistent with this Code;

S.I. 1978  
No. 183.

(b) the *Civil Establishment (Qualifications) Order* until revoked by an Order made under the Act; and

S.I. 2001  
No. 121.

(c) this Code; and

any breach of the provisions of these enactments is a breach of this Code.

Notifica-  
tion of  
vacancies  
within the  
Public  
Service.

2. Job opportunities or vacant offices shall be advertised or published within the Public Service or outside Barbados as the case may require and all relevant information in respect of a vacant office shall be accessible to prospective applicants and shall include:

- (a) the statutory qualifications required;
- (b) the duties, functions and responsibilities of the office;
- (c) the major terms and conditions of service applicable to the office;
- (d) a description of the skills, competencies, experience and personal qualities required; and
- (e) the nature of the procedure of the selection process that shall be based on relevant criteria that are applied to all candidates.<sup>2</sup>

Selection  
of officers.

3. (1) Every individual to be appointed to an office in the Public Service shall be selected on merit<sup>3</sup> but where the nature of the work so requires, consideration shall be given to seniority and experience.

(2) The method of selection shall be governed by objectivity, impartiality and transparency.

(3) A criminal conviction shall not operate as a bar to consideration of an application by a candidate for employment in the Public Service.

(4) An applicant shall not be disqualified for employment as a public officer by reason only that the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence.

(5) The Service Commission may recommend the employment of a person who has a criminal conviction where it is satisfied that the person with a criminal conviction is suitably qualified and is otherwise a suitable candidate for employment.

4. (1) The procedure for selection shall be such that the merit of each person is given equal consideration throughout the entire procedure for selection.<sup>4</sup>

Procedure  
for  
selection.

(2) The procedure for selection shall be such that there is a consistent application of the relevant criteria in respect of each candidate.

5. (1) The recommendations of selection panels that have been established to fill vacancies, either through recruitment or promotion, shall be followed in the order of rank<sup>5</sup>.

Techniques  
in selection.

(2) Where the candidates

(a) are not accepted; or

(b) the order of rank recommended by the selection panel is not accepted by the recruiting authority,

a new panel shall be established to make new recommendations.<sup>5</sup>

6. The priority list of a selection panel to fill vacancies, either through recruitment or promotion, once accepted, shall be valid for 2 years.<sup>6</sup>

Length of  
time list is  
valid.

7. Selection panels established by recruiting authorities shall comprise persons

Composi-  
tion of  
selection  
panels.

(a) trained in or experienced in the process of interviewing;

(b) knowledgeable in the area for which the candidate is being considered; and

(c) who are impartial.

8. Subject to paragraph 9, no departure from the recruitment principles is permitted.<sup>6</sup>

Adherence  
to recruit-  
ment  
principles.



**9. Exceptions to the recruitment principles mentioned in this Code are permitted only** Exceptions.

- (a) when filling short-term vacancies of up to no more than 3 months; and only when such vacancies are being filled from within the Ministry or department<sup>7</sup>; or
- (b) when employing physically and mentally challenged persons.<sup>8</sup>

**10. The Commission shall ensure that**

- (a) effective performance review and development instruments for measuring competence, performance and productivity exists to facilitate appointment on merit;
- (b) joint meetings of the Commissions are held at least once a year to ensure uniformity and strategic direction;
- (c) meetings with the Committee of Permanent Secretaries are held at least annually to provide guidance, strategic direction and support for development in the Public Service.

Perform-  
ance,  
Review and  
Develop-  
ment  
System.

**NOTES:**

- <sup>1</sup> The *Service Commission (Public Service) Regulations, 1978* make provision for the manner in which appointments and promotions are to be made to established offices in the Service. *The Civil Establishment (Qualifications) Order* sets out the qualifications required for each established office.
- S.I. 1978  
No. 183.
- S.I. 2001  
No. 121.
- <sup>2</sup> The purpose of this principle is to create fair and open competition from the outset of the selection process and to ensure that there has been no deviation from this approach when the final decision is made.
- <sup>3</sup> Merit is to be interpreted so as to ensure that
- (i) persons are not appointed to offices unless they are competent to perform the duties of those offices;
  - (ii) in circumstances where more than one individual satisfies the criteria for appointment, the office should be offered to the person who is considered to be best capable of performing the duties.

Fairness and transparency seek to ensure that any scrutiny of the selection process will reveal no bias in the assessment of candidates at any time during that process.

The selection of candidates at each stage must be such that it can be demonstrated that there has been absolute fairness without any form of discrimination or the introduction of any irrelevant considerations. Where the selection process includes the specific testing of the skills and aptitudes of candidates, then all such tests must have been proven previously to be acceptable on the basis of their reliability as indicators of future performance. No psychological tests should be administered or interpreted by persons who are not professionally trained.

- <sup>4</sup> The selection procedure should be so ordered that the decision on which candidates should progress from one stage to the next is determined solely by considerations of the individual merits of those candidates. At the conclusion of the exercise all those candidates who are deemed to possess the requisite qualifications, skills and competencies for appointment should be ranked in order of merit. Appointments must be offered in accordance with that rank order, unless it is possible to appoint all applicants immediately.
- <sup>5</sup> This is intended to ensure that the principles of this Code are adhered to in all cases except those permitted by the Code itself.
- <sup>6</sup> The purpose of setting criteria is to differentiate on a consistent and objective basis between candidates at each stage of the selection process. The criteria must be relevant to the job.
- <sup>7</sup> In order to give managers flexibility to meet short-term needs sensibly and economically, recruitment to appointments of up to 3 months may be carried out without open competition if personnel from within the organisation are filling such vacancies. If there is any possibility that staff may be needed for more than 3 months, or if the vacancy is being filled by external recruitment then the procedures for full, fair and open competition should be used at the outset.
- <sup>8</sup> Persons with disabilities of the kind mentioned in paragraph 9(b) of this Code and who are found to be competent to do the job should have full employment opportunities in the Public Service.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(b))*

## INDEX TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

1. Definition.
2. The Role of the Public Service.
3. Application.
4. Principles of accountability, legality and the upholding of ethical standards.
5. Integrity, impartiality, honesty.
6. Mode of dealing with public and other officers
7. Use of public funds.
8. Conflict of interest.
9. Actions to instil confidence.
10. Records and non-disclosure of information.
11. Improper behaviour to be reported.
12. Reports to be made to Service Commission.
13. Declining to act on decisions.
14. Hours of work, punctuality.
15. Absence without permission.
16. Prohibited activities.
17. Dress.
18. Loss or damage to property.
19. Private work.
20. Strikes.

- 21. Criminal conviction.**
- 22. Sexual harassment.**
- 23. Use of information technology and the internet.**
- 24. Use of the media.**
- 25. Application of code.**
- 26. Other misconduct not specifically mentioned.**
- 27. Penalties.**

## SECOND SCHEDULE

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(b))*

## THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

1. For the purposes of this Code, "public officers" or "officers" include those persons who are temporary employees within the meaning of this Act. Definition.

2. This Code specifies the values that public officers are expected to uphold in the Public Service. Application.

3. (1) The role of the Public Service is to The Role of  
the Public  
Service.

(a) provide and administer the public services for which the Government is responsible with integrity, honesty, and impartiality;

(b) assist with the formulation of the policies of Government by providing frank, honest, comprehensive, accurate and timely advice;

(c) implement policy, programmes and decisions of Government; and

(2) All officers in the Public Service, while carrying out the role referred to at sub-paragraph 1, shall uphold those values that reflect a Service that

(a) is apolitical, impartial and professional;

(b) maintains the highest ethical standards;

- (c)* recruits and promotes persons based on merit;
- (d)* is responsive to the Government in implementing the Government's policies and programmes;
- (e)* provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and promotes the fair treatment of officers;
- (f)* delivers services fairly, effectively, impartially and courteously to the public;
- (g)* has the leadership of the highest quality;
- (h)* establishes relations in the workplace that value communication, consultation, co-operation and input from employees on matters that affect their workplace;
- (i)* provides conditions conducive to the good health and welfare and safety in the workplace;
- (j)* focuses on achieving results and managing performance;
- (k)* provides a reasonable opportunity to all eligible members of the community to apply for employment in the Public Service;
- (l)* is a career-based service to enhance the effectiveness and cohesion of Barbados' democratic system of Government;
- (m)* provides a fair system of review of decisions taken in respect of persons in the Public Service; and
- (n)* provides a system of preserving employee privacy.

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(d), a decision relating to engagement or promotion is based on merit where an assessment for that purpose

- (a) is made of the relative suitability of the candidates for the duties, using a competitive selection process;
- (b) is based on the relationship between the candidates' work-related qualities and the work-related qualities genuinely required for the duties;
- (c) focuses on the relative capacity of the candidates to achieve outcomes related to the duties; and
- (d) is the primary consideration in making the decision.

(4) The Commissions shall issue directions in writing in relation to each of the values mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) for the purpose of

- (a) ensuring that the Public Service incorporates and upholds those values; and
- (b) determining where necessary, the scope or application of those values.

(5) Officers shall uphold and promote the values referred to in sub-paragraph (1).

4. Officers shall serve the Government in accordance with the principles set out in this Code recognising:

- (a) the accountability of officers to the officer in charge of their department;
- (b) the duty of all officers to discharge their functions reasonably and in accordance with the law;
- (c) the duty to comply with the law, including international law and treaty obligations, and to uphold the administration of justice; and

Principles  
of  
account-  
ability,  
legality and  
the  
upholding  
of ethical  
standards



- (d) the ethical standards governing particular professions.
- Integrity, impartiality, honesty.**
- 5. Officers shall**
- (a) conduct themselves with integrity, impartiality and honesty;
- (b) give honest and impartial advice to the Minister, Permanent Secretaries or Heads of Departments or to the office holder in charge of their department as the case may be; and make all information that is relevant to a decision, available to them; and
- (c) not deceive or knowingly mislead Ministers, Parliament, Permanent Secretaries or the public.
- Mode of dealing with public and other officers.**
- 6. Officers shall endeavour to deal with the affairs of the public sympathetically, efficiently, promptly and without bias or maladministration, being courteous and respectful in words and demeanour to members of staff and to the public.**
- Use of public funds.**
- 7. (1) Officers shall endeavour to ensure the proper, effective and efficient use of public funds; and officers are strictly accountable in respect of the use of those funds in accordance with the provisions of**
- 2007-11 (a) the *Financial Management and Audit Act*;
- (b) any Rules made under the *Financial Management and Audit Act*; and
- S.I. 1971 No. 46. (c) the *Financial Administration (Financial) Rules, 1971*.
- (2) Officers shall not appropriate or use public funds in contravention of this Act or any other law.

- 8. Officers shall not** Conflict of interest.
- (a) misuse their official position or information acquired in the course of their official duties to further their private interests or those of others; or
  - (b) receive benefits of any kind from a third party that might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity.
- 9. (1) Officers shall conduct themselves in a manner that will ensure the efficient and effective discharge of their duties.** Actions to instil confidence.
- (2) Officers shall comply with restrictions on their political activities in accordance with this Act or Regulations.
- (3) Public officers shall conscientiously carry out their duties and obligations and impartially assist, advise and carry out the lawful policies of the Government.
- 10. (1) Officers shall not, without authority, disclose official information that has been communicated in confidence within the Ministry or department, or received in confidence from others.** Records and non-disclosure of information.
- (2) Officers shall maintain official records
    - (a) where a failure to do so would amount to a grave injustice; or
    - (b) as required by this Act or Regulations made thereunder or by any other law.
  - (3) Nothing in this Code should be taken as overriding existing statutory or common law obligations to keep confidential, or not to disclose, certain information.
  - (4) Officers shall not seek to frustrate or influence the policies, decisions or actions of Ministers, or of the Government by the unauthorised, improper or premature disclosure outside the Service of any information to which they have had access as officers.

Improper  
behaviour  
to be  
reported.

**11. (1) Where an officer believes that he is being required to act in a way that:**

- (a)* is illegal, improper, or unethical;
- (b)* is in breach of an accepted convention or a professional code;
- (c)* may involve possible maladministration; or
- (d)* is otherwise inconsistent with this Code,

that officer shall report the matter in accordance with procedures laid down in the appropriate guidelines or rules of conduct for that officer's Ministry or Department or in accordance with the provisions of the relevant law.

**(2) An officer shall report to his Head of Department or where the matter involves the Head of Department, the Head of the Public Service**

- (a)* evidence of any criminal or unlawful activity by others, in accordance with the relevant procedures; or
- (b)* instances of breaches of this Code of which he becomes aware.

Reports to  
be made to  
Service  
Commis-  
sion.

**12. Where an officer has reported a matter referred to in paragraph 11 in accordance with the relevant procedures and believes that the response does not represent a reasonable response to the grounds of his concern, the officer may report the matter in writing to the Service Commission.**

Declining to  
act on  
decisions.

**13. (1) Subject to this Code, officers shall not frustrate the policies, decisions or actions of the Government by declining to act on decisions by Ministers or the Cabinet.**

(2) Where a Permanent Secretary disagrees with a Minister on a matter involving a decision by a Minister or by the Cabinet, the Permanent Secretary shall place on record his disagreement with any decision or proposed course of action which the Permanent Secretary finds difficult to defend or which he regards as inconsistent with his obligation to see that the administration of his department is carried out with due regard to the propriety of the proposed course of action; and he shall set out the reasons for his disagreement.

(3) Where the Minister adheres to his decision, the Minister shall communicate that decision in writing to the Permanent Secretary, who shall carry the decision into effect.

(4) Officers shall continue to observe their duties of confidentiality after they have left the Public Service.

14. (1) The hours of work of officers of the Public Service are those published by the Minister, and may be different for different categories of officers but shall not be varied except with the approval of the Minister. Hours of work, punctuality.

(2) Officers shall attend work punctually; habitual lateness is a breach of this Code.

(3) Each Ministry or Department shall maintain

(a) a register of attendance; or

(b) some other form of time keeping acceptable to the Permanent Secretary or the Head of Department as the case may be

for the purpose of recording the arrival and departure of officers who, except with the permission of the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department, are required to record their arrival and departure.

Absence  
without  
permission.

**15. (1)** Officers who are absent from duty without permission, except in the opinion of the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department, the absence is due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, are in breach of this Code, and their pay may be reduced appropriately by the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department to take account of such absence.

(2) Absence as a result of illness or unavoidable circumstances referred to in sub-paragraph (1) shall be communicated to the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department as soon as possible on the day on which the officer is absent or expected to be absent.

Prohibited  
activities.

**16. (1)** Officers while on duty shall not indulge in activities that would bring themselves or the office which they hold into disrepute.

(2) Activities such as betting, gambling, the possession or use of illegal drugs and the use of profane language shall be considered to be activities referred to in sub-paragraph (1).

Dress.

**17. (1)** Officers are, while on duty, required to dress soberly, neatly and tidily and in accordance with the requirements of the job, having regard to the desirability of maintaining standards of attire consistent with the dignity of the Public Service.

(2) The suitability of any particular form of dress to the requirements of the office should be determined at the discretion of the Head of Department, but shall not be contrary to the provisions of sub-paragraph (1).

Loss or  
damage to  
property.

**18. (1)** Officers are accountable for any equipment, tool or other property of the government which is entrusted to them or which may come under their control in the course of duty; and shall report immediately to their Supervisor, or in the absence of the Supervisor, to another senior officer, any malfunction, damage or loss of any equipment so entrusted.

(2) Officers may be liable for any loss or damage of any equipment, tool or other property.

19. (1) Officers are permitted to undertake other paid employment only with the permission of the Service Commission. Private work.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (1) the Governor-General, on the advice of the Service Commission, shall designate offices, the holders of which are permitted to engage in private work outside of official hours.

(3) The Governor-General, on the advice of the appropriate Service Commission, shall determine the conditions under which the holders of offices designated under sub-paragraph (2), in any individual case, are permitted to perform private work.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) the general conditions applicable to the grant of permission for an officer to engage in private work under sub-paragraph (1) are as follows:

- (a) at no stage shall there be any conflict of interest between the official duties and private work of the officer;
- (b) the facilities, equipment, time and services of the employer shall not be used in furtherance of private work without the express permission of the employer.

(5) The permission to engage in private work may be withdrawn at any time by the Governor-General, on the advice of the Service Commission, where the Governor-General is satisfied that the private work is adversely affecting the official duties of the officer or the business of the Public Service; and the officer so affected shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the withdrawal.

20. (1) Officers shall not be paid for any day or portion of a day during which they are on strike. Strikes.

(2) Officers who are not on strike and who report for duty as usual but are unable to work because of the prevailing circumstances shall be paid.

(3) All officers who are on leave at the commencement of a strike shall immediately report for duty unless that leave is overseas leave, approved study or training leave, special leave, maternity leave or sick leave that is supported by adequate medical evidence.

(4) When the Permanent Secretary is satisfied that an officer who is on leave during a strike fails to report for duty as provided at paragraph (3), the Permanent Secretary may withhold payment of the salary or wages for that officer in respect of the period of the strike during which he failed to report.

Criminal conviction.

21. (1) An officer who is convicted of a criminal offence or who is guilty of misconduct of a serious nature while holding public office is liable to be dismissed.

(2) Officers who fail to disclose to the recruiting authority any criminal conviction that they incurred prior to employment in the Public Service may be liable to be dismissed.

Sexual harassment.

22. (1) Engaging in any activity that amounts to sexual harassment is a breach of this Code that renders an officer liable to dismissal.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), "sexual harassment" includes unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in circumstances where

- (a) submitting to or rejecting such conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment;
- (b) submitting to or rejecting the conduct is a basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or
- (c) the conduct unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

**23. Officers are required to use information technology, including the intranet, the internet and other networks lawfully and responsibly and in accordance with policies and guidelines of the Public Service stipulated in writing.**

Use of information technology and the internet.

**24. Officers shall not**

Use of the media.

- (a) be editors of any newspaper or directly or indirectly take part in the management of newspapers;**
- (b) contribute to any newspapers in Barbados or elsewhere on questions that can properly be called political or administrative, but may furnish articles upon subjects of general interest;**
- (c) make a statement to the media or allow themselves to be interviewed on questions of public policy or on matters affecting the defence, military resources or diplomatic relations of Barbados without the prior approval of the Minister concerned;**
- (d) make public or communicate to the media or cause to be made public or to be communicated to the media or to unauthorised persons, any documents, papers or information which may come into their possession in their official capacity or make private copies of those documents or papers;**
- (e) give broadcast talks or engage in any discussion, that is being broadcast on any subject that may properly be regarded as of a political or administrative nature, without the prior permission of the Minister concerned; or**
- (f) disclose or produce in evidence any official document of a confidential character in any court of law without obtaining the previous permission of the Minister.**



Application of Code. **25.** Subject to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Barbados and the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union with respect to the terms and conditions of employment of the teachers mentioned therein, the provisions of this Code shall apply to every officer employed on or after the date of the commencement of this Act.

Other misconduct not specifically mentioned. **26.** Any case of misconduct for which no provision is otherwise made by this Code shall be reported to the Chief Personnel Officer, who shall deal with the misconduct in a manner approved by the Commission.

Penalties. **27.** A person who either

- (a) fails to comply with; or
- (b) engages in behaviour that is proscribed by
  - (i) the provisions of paragraphs 5(c), 7(2), 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, and 25 of the Code is guilty of misconduct that shall be regarded as a "misconduct of a serious nature" within the meaning of paragraph 2(1) of the Code of Discipline; and
  - (ii) the provisions of paragraphs 14(2), 15, 16 and 18 is guilty of misconduct that shall be regarded as a minor offence within the meaning of paragraph 2(1) of the Code of Discipline,

Third Schedule. and is subject to the penalty for the misconduct as is specified in the Code of Discipline set out in the *Third Schedule*.

**THIRD SCHEDULE**

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(c))*

**INDEX CODE OF DISCIPLINE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

1. Aim.
2. Definition.
3. Criminal investigation.
4. Adjudication of misconduct of a serious nature.
5. Adjudication of minor offences.
6. Penalties.

## THIRD SCHEDULE

*(Sections 2 and 11(1)(c))*

## CODE OF DISCIPLINE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Aim.

1. This Code is aimed at ensuring
  - (a) that standards of conduct laid down in this Act, in any Regulations made thereunder or in the Code of Conduct for persons in the Public Service are observed;
  - (b) the existence of general principles that guide the disciplinary process including:
    - (i) procedural fairness;
    - (ii) determining each case on its merits;
    - (iii) indicating the factors to be taken into account; and
    - (iv) the powers and responsibilities of the investigating officer.

Definition.

2. In this Code,

"misconduct of a serious nature" means conduct that warrants the dismissal of the offending person and in addition to the misconduct specified in paragraph 27 of the Code of Conduct and Ethics, include the following:

- (a) absence from duty without leave or approval;

- (b) conviction of a criminal offence punishable by a term of imprisonment;
- (c) failure to report or disclose any information that ought reasonably to be reported or disclosed where the consequence of that failure amounts to a grave injustice;
- (d) unauthorised disclosure of information pertaining to the Government;
- (e) habitual intoxication or possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs while on duty;
- (f) reporting for duty or performing duties while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- (g) failure to observe any laws, orders, rules or regulations;
- (h) falsification of accounts or records, either manual or electronic;
- (i) wilful mutilation, alteration or destruction of property including official documents or records, either manual or electronic;
- (j) the threatening of a fellow officer or any person or threatening the destruction of any property while on duty;
- (k) the causing of grievous bodily harm;
- (l) the carrying of an unauthorised firearm or other device that can be considered an offensive weapon;
- (m) acceptance of bribes or other inducements;
- (n) misappropriation of public funds;

- (o) dishonesty;
- (p) major loss of or damage to property of the employer;
- (q) failure to perform the duties assigned to the office;
- (r) negligence in the performance of duty;
- (s) sexual harassment;
- (t) failure to maintain official records where the consequence amounts to a grave injustice;
- (u) the commission of three or more minor offences within a period of 2 years;

"misconduct of a minor nature" means misconduct that does not warrant dismissal and includes the following:

- (a) use of obscene, abusive or insulting language while on duty;
- (b) malingering on duty;
- (c) failure to maintain official records as required;
- (d) insubordination;
- (e) unpunctuality without just cause;
- (f) loss of or damage to property of the Crown other than that considered as a misconduct of a serious nature;
- (g) misuse of the Government's intranet, the internet and any other information technology network;
- (h) disorderly conduct.

"officer" includes a temporary employee;

"sexual harassment" has the meaning assigned to it by paragraph 24(2) of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*.

3. (1) Notwithstanding the fact that an officer is under investigation in respect of the commission of an offence leading to criminal charges, disciplinary proceedings or action may be instituted or continued under this Code in relation to a breach of this Code or the Code of Conduct and Ethics. Criminal investigation.

(2) Where the investigation referred to under sub-paragraph (1) or an investigation into any other misconduct has been or is about to be instituted, and the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department is of the opinion that the public interest requires that the officer should forthwith cease to perform the functions of his office, the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department may interdict the officer or recommend to the Commission that the officer be interdicted.

4. (1) The Permanent Secretary shall conduct or depute a panel of senior officers being not more than three, to conduct the necessary enquiry into any charge against an officer for the commission of misconduct of a serious nature. Adjudication of misconduct of a serious nature.

(2) Any officer in a panel deputed to conduct such an enquiry under sub-paragraph (1) shall be the holder of an office which is at a grade higher than that of the officer against whom the charge is brought; but in any case shall not be below the level of senior personnel officer.

(3) The Permanent Secretary shall, within 7 days of becoming aware of a breach of the Code of Conduct on the part of an officer, bring a charge against that officer for the breach.

(4) An officer who is charged under sub-paragraph (3) may be suspended from duty by the Permanent Secretary and

- (a) notice of the suspension shall be in writing, and shall be sent to the Service Commission and the concerned officer as soon as practicable;
- (b) the Service Commission may confirm or set aside the suspension, or impose some other penalty it deems appropriate.

(5) An officer who is suspended under sub-paragraph (4) may be entitled, during the period of suspension, to such reduced pay as the Service Commission determines in the circumstances.

(6) The reduction in a person's rate of pay under sub-paragraph (5) shall not exceed one half the salary to which the officer would have been entitled had he not been suspended; and the reduction shall be for a period not exceeding 4 months.

(7) A charge against an officer under sub-paragraph (3) shall be defined in a written statement which also sets out the nature of the case to be answered, together with

- (a) an individual statement signed by the officer, if any;
- (b) signed statements from all witnesses, supervisors, and any other relevant parties; and
- (c) advice to the officer that he may be assisted, if he so wishes throughout the hearing by a trade union representative, an attorney-at-law or a friend.

(8) A copy of the statements and all documentary evidence that is to be used in an enquiry relating to a charge of misconduct of a serious nature shall be given to the officer who is charged.

(9) The officer charged shall be given 14 working days after receipt of the statements and documentary evidence supplied at sub-paragraph (7) to reply to the charges, and to make any observations he may wish to make in writing in respect of the charge.

(10) The panel that has conducted an inquiry into a major offence shall submit a report of the hearing to the Permanent Secretary not more than 14 working days after completion of the enquiry, giving the opinion of the panel as to

- (a) whether the person is guilty as charged;
- (b) the reasons for its opinion; and
- (c) the maximum penalty to be imposed for the offence.

(11) The Permanent Secretary shall, within 5 working days of receiving a report relating to a disciplinary charge,

- (a) make a decision on the matter, as he considers appropriate; and
- (b) convey in writing his decision and any recommendation as to the penalty to be imposed, to the Chief Personnel Officer who shall submit the decision for consideration by the appropriate Service Commission.

(12) The consideration of the Service Commission should be concluded within 28 days of the receipt of that information pursuant to sub-paragraph (11).

(13) A copy of the report and the recommendation submitted to the Chief Personnel Officer at sub-paragraph (11) shall be given to the officer on whom it is made at the same time that it is given to the Chief Personnel Officer.



Adjudica-  
tion of  
minor  
offences.

5. (1) A personnel officer or other officer in the Public Service deputed by the Permanent Secretary, shall conduct the necessary enquiry into any charge relating to the commission of a minor offence by a public officer.

(2) The person who conducts an enquiry under paragraph (1) shall be at a grade that is higher than that of the officer who is charged.

(3) The person who conducts the hearing of a charge shall at the end of the hearing,

(a) decide whether the officer committed the offence for which he is charged; and

(b) recommend to the Permanent Secretary a penalty which is permissible under this Code if the officer is found to have committed the offence.

(4) The decision of the person who is conducting the enquiry and any penalty imposed shall be conveyed to the person charged in writing within 7 working days of the completion of the enquiry.

(5) A copy of all the material relating to the case shall be submitted to the Chief Personnel Officer within 7 working days of the completion of the case.

Penalties.

6. (1) The penalties that may be imposed on an officer against whom a disciplinary charge constituting misconduct of a serious nature is proved are as follows:

(a) suspension on half pay for a period not in excess of 6 months;

(b) reduction in rank;

(c) suspension of future increments for a period not exceeding 3 years;

(d) compulsory retirement; or

(e) dismissal.

(2) The penalties that may be imposed on an officer against whom a disciplinary charge constituting a minor offence is proved, are as follows:

(a) an oral warning; or

(b) reprimand in writing.

## FOURTH SCHEDULE

*(Section 12(1))**Grievance Handling Procedure*

1. The procedure for handling grievances is as follows but may be varied where the union and the Government agree to do so:

- (a) the aggrieved worker, the shop steward of the union that represents the worker and the supervisory officer of the worker may seek to resolve the grievance within 3 working days after the grievance has been reported;
- (b) where there is no resolution of the matter in accordance with paragraph (a), the aggrieved party may, in writing, appeal to the Permanent Secretary assigned to the ministry or department within which the office to which the aggrieved party is appointed falls, to determine the matter within 7 working days;
- (c) an appeal shall be brought within 3 working days after the date on which the matter referred to in paragraph (b) ought to be determined;
- (d) where the union representing the worker is dissatisfied with the decision of the Permanent Secretary made pursuant to paragraph (c), the aggrieved party may so inform the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Service or Chief Personnel Officer, in writing, and the Permanent Secretary or Chief Personnel Officer shall determine the matter within 10 working days;
- (e) where the aggrieved party is dissatisfied with the decision made pursuant to paragraph (d), he may, within 10 working days of that decision, appeal to the Head of the Public Service;
- (f) where the decision made by the Head of the Public Service is not accepted, the union may declare that a dispute exists.

2. For the purposes of this Schedule "union" means the trade union or other body authorised to represent an officer or employee in respect of employment matters.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

*(Section 24(3))*

TRAINING COMMITTEE

1. (1) The Training Committee shall consist of the following:

- (a) Head of the Public Service;
- (b) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Civil Service;
- (c) Permanent Secretary responsible for Training or the Principal Training Officer;
- (d) Chief Personnel Officer;
- (e) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance; and
- (f) Permanent Secretary with responsibility for international donor or development agencies.

(2) The Head of the Public Service shall be chairman of the Committee and may at any time summon a meeting of the Committee.

(3) Four members of the Committee shall form a quorum, and, subject to this Act and the Regulations, the Committee may regulate its procedure.

2. The Committee shall, in the exercise of its functions under the Act or the Regulations, be subject to the policy to be followed pursuant to section 23.

## SIXTH SCHEDULE

*(Section 36)**Transitional Provisions in Relation to Public Officers who were employed under the Former Act*

1. The following provisions apply with respect to public officers who on the date of the commencement of this Act, were officers in the public service (and who are hereinafter referred to as "existing officers"):

- (a) where the Governor-General appoints an existing officer to an office established by an order under section 13(1), the Governor-General may, subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), appoint the officer with effect from a date prior to the date of the commencement of this Act or such later date as he thinks fit, so, however, that the emoluments of the officer shall, in respect of any period during which his appointment is deemed to have had retrospective effect, be reduced by the amount of the emoluments attached to the office or offices actually held by him during that period;
- (b) for the purposes of paragraph (a), there shall be excluded from any period during which an appointment is deemed to have had retrospective effect, any period during which the officer received less than the emoluments attached to the office or offices actually held by him;
- (c) the period during which the appointment of an existing officer may be deemed to have had retrospective effect shall not exceed the period during which the officer was in the Public Service;

- (d) if the Governor-General considers that an existing officer appointed to an office established under section 13(1) will, unless the conditions of service prescribed by that order are modified, be in a worse position with respect to the conditions of his service as compared with the conditions of his service before being so appointed, he may make such modifications to such conditions as appear to him to be necessary to ensure that they are, as nearly as maybe, equal to the conditions of service obtaining in respect of that officer before his appointment.

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

*(section 38)*

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, (A.B) do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Government of Barbados according to law, So help me God!

AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

I, (A.B) do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Government of Barbados accordingly to law.

OATH OF OFFICE AND SECRECY

I, (A.B) do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will faithfully and honestly fulfil the duties that devolve upon me by reason of my employment in the Public Service and that I will not, without due authority in that behalf, in any manner whatsoever, publish or communicate any facts or expressions of opinion based on such facts that come to my knowledge by reason of such employment.

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE AND SECRECY

I, (A.B) do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will faithfully and honestly fulfil the duties that devolve upon me by reason of my employment in the Public Service and that I will not, without due authority in that behalf, in any manner whatsoever, publish or communicate any facts or expressions of opinion based on such facts that come to my knowledge by reason of such employment.

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

*(section 2)*

*Offices in Related Grades for the purposes of this Act*

Chief Agricultural Officer

Chief Education Officer

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Public Works

Commissioner of Police