

Decree-Law No. 18 of 2001 Establishing the General Postal Corporation (Q-post) 18 / 2001

Number of Articles: 35

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We, Jassim Bin Hamad A-Thani, Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar,
Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 22, 23, 27 and 34 thereof;
Law No. 2 of 1962 regulating the public fiscal policy in Qatar, as amended by Decree-Law No. 19 of 1996;
Law No. 5 of 1989 on the State's general budget;
Law No. 14 of 1990 regulating postal works, as amended by Law No. 4 of 1994;
Law No. 15 of 1991 organising the Ministry of Communications and Transport, and assigning the competences thereof;
and
The draft Law submitted by the Council of Ministers;
Hereby promulgate the following:

Chapter One

Definitions

Article 1

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

"Corporation" means the General Postal Corporation (Q-post);
"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;
"Director" means the Director-General of the Corporation.

Chapter Two

Establishment of the Corporation

Article 2

A general corporation named "the General Postal Corporation" (hereinafter "the Corporation") shall be established and shall have a legal personality and a separate budget. The Corporation shall be managed on commercial bases.

Article 3

The headquarters of the Corporation shall be located in Doha City and it may establish branches, offices and agencies thereof in Qatar or abroad.

Chapter Three

Objectives of the Corporation

Article 4

The Corporation shall aim at advancing the postal facility and developing the performance of the postal services. In the execution of its objectives, it may conduct the following:

1. Performing all postal services, including postal financial services.
2. Establishing, managing and maintaining the facilities and equipment necessary for the provision of such services.
3. Implementing the necessary projects to achieve the Corporation's purposes or projects related thereto and to develop their services.
4. Cooperating with international, regional and Arab postal bodies, organisations, associations and authorities, and representing the State therein.
5. Incorporating businesses by itself or in partnership with others.
6. Owning established companies or contributing thereto.
7. Managing and investing the Corporation's funds and using the funds in the fields consistent with the nature of its business.
8. Contracting with companies or bodies engaged in business similar to its own or assisting in the fulfilment of its purposes, as well as participating therewith in any form, or purchasing thereof, joining, or merging them in the Corporation, whether they are national or foreign.

Article 5

The Corporation may entrust the performance of some of the postal services to others for its account under contracts concluded in accordance with its bylaws.

Chapter Four

Management of the Corporation

Article 6

1. A Board of Directors (hereinafter "the Board") shall assume the management of the Corporation and shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and not less than three and not more than five members whose appointment and remuneration shall be determined by a resolution of the Emir.

1. The Board shall have a Secretary chosen by the Board, whose duties and financial remuneration shall be determined by the Board.

Article 7

The term of the Board shall be four years, renewable for the same or a similar period.

Article 8

The Board shall have all the necessary powers and authorities to manage the affairs of the Corporation and undertake actions necessary for its good governance, in particular the following:

1. Drawing the policy of the Corporation and supervising its implementation.
2. Identifying the categories of postage stamps and postal financial publications of various kinds and proposing the due fees and charges applicable to all postal services.
3. Establishing an investment system for the funds of the Corporation.
4. Adopting the organisational structure and issuing the administrative, financial, technical and personnel bylaws without being restricted by the regulations and rules applicable in the Government.
5. Approving the draft contracts and agreements to which the Corporation is a party, in accordance with the terms and conditions determined by the Corporation's bylaw regulations.
6. Warranting the incorporation of businesses by itself or with third parties or owning established companies or contributing thereto.
7. Securing necessary banking and credit facilities to finance the Corporation's investment projects.
8. Accepting gifts, endowments, donations and grants.
9. Adopting the Corporation's annual budget and its final account.
10. Approving the conclusion of financial loans with the Government or with others.
11. Considering periodic and follow-up reports that are submitted on the Corporation's workflow.
12. Proposing legislation related to the Corporation's work.

The Board's decisions stated in items 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 shall become effective only upon adoption by the Council of Ministers.

Article 9

1. The Board shall meet at the invitation of the Board's Chairperson at least four times each year or whenever requested by three of the members thereof.
 1. The meeting of the Board shall not be valid unless attended by at least a majority, including the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.
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Article 10

The Board's meetings shall be confidential and neither attendance nor voting by proxy shall be permitted. The Board shall issue resolutions by majority vote of the members present. Where there is a deadlock, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 11

1. The Board may invite to attend its meetings any competent and experienced person among the Corporation's employees or others to provide the Board with required data and explanations.
 1. Such invited persons shall have the right to participate in the discussions but without the right to vote.
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Article 12

The Board may establish permanent or ad-hoc committees from among its members in order to assist the Board in considering matters submitted for its review. The Board may appoint to such committees members from inside or outside the Corporation.

Article 13

The Board's minutes of meetings and decisions shall be noted in a special numbered record which shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary.

Article 14

The Chairperson shall represent the Corporation before the judiciary and in its relations with third parties.

Article 15

The Chairperson shall have the right to sign on behalf of the Board. The Board may authorise the Director or another person working within the Corporation to sign, severally or jointly, in matters which the Board shall define.

Article 16

The Corporation stamp on their letterheads shall not be deemed valid unless accompanied by the signature of the Chairperson of the Board or a person authorised to sign.

Article 17

The Chairperson of the Board, a member thereof or any person working for the Corporation may not derive any direct or indirect personal benefit from the contracts which are concluded with the Corporation or on the Corporation's behalf, or the projects it undertakes, or in the fields of its activities.

Article 18

The Corporation shall have a Director-General (hereinafter "the Director") appointed by a decision of the Board on the nomination of the Board's Chairperson. The decision shall determine the remuneration of the Director-General.

Article 19

The Director shall manage the technical, administrative and financial affairs of the Corporation according to the bylaws, regulations, rules and plans set by the Board within the limits of its annual budget. The Director shall, in particular:

1. Propose plans, programmes and projects for the Corporation.
 2. Propose the organisational structure and the administrative, financial, technical and personnel bylaw regulations.
 3. Implement the decisions of the Board.
 4. Prepare the Corporation's estimated annual budget and its final account.
 5. Prepare an annual report on the achievements and work programmes of the Corporation and submit it to the Board at the end of each fiscal year.
 6. Perform any other works assigned to the Director by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
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Chapter Five

Capital, Profits and Reserves of the Corporation

Article 20

1. The Corporation's licensed capital shall be forty million (40,000,000) Riyals, entirely owned by the State. Such capital may be increased or decreased by a resolution of the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Board.

1. A resolution of the Council of Ministers shall be issued on the evaluation of the Postal Department assets.

Article 21

The Corporation's net profits shall be defined for each fiscal year after the subtraction of the following:

1. All expenses and expenditures necessary for the pursuit of the Corporation's activities.
2. Doubtful and bad debts and the depreciation of assets.
3. Amounts necessary for any of the purposes which the Corporation shall authorise within the limits of its powers and which are approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 22

1. The Corporation shall have a general reserve fund to which ten (10) percent of the annual net profits shall be added so that it shall become equal to half of the capital.
1. Such reserve fund may be increased to the extent and in the manner determined by a decision of the Board and on approval of the Council of Ministers.
2. It shall be permitted, by a resolution of the Council of Ministers, based on the proposal of the Board, to constitute other reserve funds necessary for the fulfilment of the Corporation's purposes.
3. It shall not be permitted to make disbursements from the general reserve or other reserve funds, except by a resolution of the Council of Ministers based on a proposal of the Board.
4. Any remaining annual profit shall belong to the State.

Article 23

The financial resources of the Corporation shall comprise the following:

1. Funds and appropriations assigned by the State.
2. Revenues earned from the exercise of its activities.
3. Revenues from the Corporation's shares in the capital of other companies, facilities and utilities which it establishes, owns or has a share therein, or which belong to it.
4. Net profits in the form of reserves and allocation.
5. Revenues from the investment of its funds.
6. Loans concluded by the Corporation.
7. Gifts, endowments, donations and grants.

Chapter Six

The Corporation's Budget and Accounts

Article 24

1. The Corporation shall have an annual estimated budget, prepared in the form of commercial budgets, which shall be approved by a resolution of the Council of Ministers.
1. The Corporation's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last of December of each year, with the first fiscal year commencing from the date of the coming into effect of this Law until the end of December of the following year.

Article 25

The Board shall, no later than six months from the date of the end of each fiscal year, prepare an audited budget for the Corporation and its profit and loss account, as well as a report regarding the activities of the Corporation during the fiscal year and its financial situation for that year, including suggestions

Article 26

The Board may appoint one or more auditors or chartered accountants to audit the Corporation's accounts and shall determine their remuneration.

Article 27

The auditor shall at all times have the right to inspect any of the Corporation's account books, records and documents, and to request any information he deems necessary for the proper performance of his duties. The auditor shall also have the right to investigate the Corporation's assets and liabilities, and in the case of a lack of supporting evidence in the course of performing such investigation, the auditor shall submit a report thereon to the Board.

Article 28

The auditor shall submit his annual report to the Board and submit a copy thereof to the Audit Bureau.

Chapter Seven

General Provisions

Article 29

1. The Council of Ministers may at all times request the Board to submit reports on the Corporation's financial, administrative or organisational status, or any of the aspects of its activities, or any information related thereto.
 1. The Council of Ministers may issue general guidance to the Board, on what the Corporation shall follow in matters relating to public policy, and the Board shall comply with such guidance.
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Article 30

The Corporation shall be exempted from the costs of depreciation of the main postal building. The Corporation and any company owned thereby may be exempted by a resolution of the Council of Ministers from all or part of the taxes and fees prescribed by Law.

Article 31

1. All movable and immovable assets owned by the Ministry of Communications and Transport related to the Postal Department shall be devolved to the Corporation from the date of coming into effect of this Law and shall be deemed part of the capital of the Corporation.
 1. All rights and liabilities of the Ministry relating to the Postal Department and financial appropriations assigned thereto in the State general budget shall be devolved to the Corporation.
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Article 32

1. Employees of the Postal Department shall be transferred to the Corporation with the same grades and all employment rights and privileges.

1. The Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing shall regulate the status of employees who are not transferred to the Corporation.

Article 33

The current regulations, resolutions and rules which are not incompatible with the provisions of this Law shall remain in effect until bylaws for the Corporation are adopted.

Article 34

Each provision that contradicts the provisions of this Law shall be deemed null and void.

Article 35

All competent authorities, each within its own jurisdiction, shall enforce this Law which shall come into effect from 25 October 2001 and shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

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