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Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1:
This Organic Law organizes Education

Article 2:
The mission of the Education is as follows:
a) to educate the citizen in such a way that he/she is not characterized by any form of discrimination or favouritism;
b) to promote the culture of peace, tolerance, justice, respect of human rights, solidarity and democracy;
c) to provide each Rwandan citizen with a complete education based on cultural and moral values, knowledge, physical, social and professional welfare in order to promote competence and one's good behaviour and to build the nation for its sustainable development based on protecting and exploiting environment;
d) to promote science, technology and research;
e) to encourage the Rwandan citizen, to like work, perform it well, to be committed to good quality of work and give priority to competence;
f) to prepare for the country, the necessary, competent and sufficient human resources at each level on its duties in accordance with the country's development scale;
g) to educate the Rwandan to have freedom of thought, be innovative, have abilities to acquire and
analyze ideas from other people and give his/her own ideas to others, to be patriotic and encourage him/her to know what is happening elsewhere in the world;
h) to advocate for the elimination of all obstacles that hinder the education of girls and women as well as of all those who clearly need special attention.

Article 3:
Education consists of:
a) education within the family;
b) formal education;
c) informal education.

Article 4:
Education within the family is provided by the parents and people around him or her; its aim is to teach him/her good behaviour characterized by good physical and intellectual growth, activities and positive actions.

Article 5:
Formal education is given at the following levels:
a) nursery schools;
b) primary schools,
c) vocational schools;
d) secondary schools;
e) special schools;
f) higher learning institutions;
g) and any other types of schools that may be established by law.

Article 6:
Nursery education is given in schools called "nursery schools". The aim of these schools is to teach the child how to socialize with other children and to awaken his/her skills, enabling the child to play with other children, to do physical, rhythmic and manual exercises. It also prepares the child to cope with primary school education.

Article 7:
Primary Education is intended to instill into the pupils' mind, civic education, moral values, intellectual and physical education as well as basic knowledge needed in their daily life and prepare them to be able to cope with secondary school or vocational education.

Article 8:
Vocational Education is intended to teach and prepare the pupils for basic skills enabling them to earn their living so as to enhance the country's development.

Article 9:
The aim of secondary schools is:
a) to provide education that improves the general knowledge of the child and promotes ways and
methods of working and thinking; to train technicians to become self-employed for their own benefit and that of the nation;
b) to train and instill into the Rwandan citizen the positive aspects of the Rwandan culture and those of other peoples that are beneficial to the country;
c) to prepare students for higher education.

**Article 10:**
Secondary schools have two cycles: general cycle and second cycle. The second cycle is composed of two groups: a) general humanities;
b) technical and professional schools of various options.

**Article 11:**
The aim of high schools is:
a) to educate and prepare employees who are highly qualified and needed for the country: so that they can be able to look for and create employment, endowed with good aspects of Rwandan culture without ignoring other peoples' cultures;
b) to promote research, technology and culture for the development of the nation and enhance the country in the concert of nations:
c) to promote information and communication by means of high technology and keep the population informed on achievement of research and technology for a significant role in the development of the nation.

**Article 12:**
The aim of special education is to receive children with mental or physical disabilities or both of them and who can not study in ordinary schools so as to give them knowledge and education that may improve their abilities and skills in order to be self-supporting and participate in the development of the country.

**Article 13:**
Informal education consists of mass education and permanent refresher courses.

**Article 14:**
Mass education is intended for all adults and the youth with special emphasis on those who dropped out. It aims at enabling them to play a role in the country's economic, social and cultural development.

**Article 15:**
The aim of constant refresher courses is to improve all kinds of workers' skills and abilities likely to help them to fulfill better their duties or the duties they are to be assigned for the development of the country.

**Article 16:**
The organization and functioning of each form of education are governed by specific laws and regulations.
Article 17:
All forms of Education curricula are established by Presidential Order.

Chapter II. PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Article 18:
Government with its partners in education: parents, individuals and other associations have to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with partnership and cooperation aimed at promoting student's interests and those of the population, in general. Government is responsible for the organization and implementation of that partnership in accordance with the existing laws of the country and agreements entered in with its partners.

Article 19:
Government:
- a) sets up and runs the general policy of education;
- b) establishes the laws governing the structure and functioning of education;
- c) is responsible for basic education given to everyone;
- d) supervises and assesses all the activities concerning education with the help and contribution of the parents and other education stakeholders;
- e) mobilizes and fairly distributes the means that are meant for education in the country;
- f) establishes and carries out appropriate Education planning.

Article 20:
Government carries out its responsibilities with regard to education through ministries having every type of education in their remit.

Concerning education, Government respects each individual's beliefs as long as they do not violate the laws of the country and the rights of others and respects agreements signed with partners.

Article 21:
The Minister having education in his or her remit supervises and promotes education in accordance with the laws and regulations governing education.

Article 22:
Parents must give good education to their children and to those they are responsible for. Parents have the right to choose for the children, if they fill all conditions, a school that meets their wishes and abilities. They must also participate in developing education and in controlling the financial and administrative management of the school in which, their children are studying.

Article 23:
Any person or group of people may request the authorization to start a private school. They have to prove the objectives of their school and sign an agreement with the Minister having education in his/her
remit. They indicate their responsibilities, objectives and the functioning of that school.

The Minister approves school sites based on proposals made by District and City Councils or by the coordinating committee at Province level as well as those by Kigali City Council in accordance with the school mapping.

Establishment of schools is to be undertaken without any intention of making commercial profits.

**Article 24:**
The founding and starting, of any school must be done in accordance with the school mapping and the inspectorate checks whether all basic requirements are met.

**Article 25:**
Specific laws and regulations govern the requirements from the potential founder of a school and from the students who want to attend it in any cycle or option.

**Chapter III. TYPE OF SCHOOLS**

**Article 26:**
There are three types of schools, depending on the form of management:
- a) public schools;
- b) government subsidized schools;
- c) Private schools.

**Article 27:**
Public schools are:
- a) schools built by Government;
- b) schools built by Government with its own funds, with the help of Rwandan people or associations in that area;
- c) Schools built through foreign cooperation or through the support that colonialists granted to the population or with any other grants given to Government but built on a plot that was not given by Government or any other authorized official;
- d) private schools handed them over to the Government by their owners;
- e) Government-subsidized schools handed over to Government through agreements, in accordance with the modalities provided for by such agreements.

**Article 28:**
Government-subsidized schools are:
- a) schools built by Government on property given to a private person or an association in accordance, with the laws and regulations;
- b) schools built by Government with the help of an association and on the latter's property;
- c) any other school built by an association on the plot legally granted to it through agreements, which
government contributed to its rehabilitation, extension or its equipment except if government gave it as gift in writing.

**Article 29:**
Private schools are:
a) schools built by individuals or an association, but not provided for in article 28 of this Organic Law;
b) government-subsidized schools which Government gave to partners when it found it beneficial to the country or as requested by partners according to agreements.

**Article 30:**
Agreements between the Government and government-subsidized schools owners indicate the role of each party with regard to property, responsibilities, rights, administration and management of the school.

**Chapter IV. PROPERTY AND MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Article 31:**
The school property is made of movable and immovable assets.

The school property must exclusively be used for the activities of the school irrespective of its source.

**Article 32:**
Concerning management:
a) public schools are run by Government but their management may be handed over to associations, Districts, Municipalities, Towns, Provinces, or the City of Kigali in accordance with laws or agreements;
b) government-subsidized schools are run by their owners in collaboration with Government according to their agreements;
c) private schools are run by their owners.

**Article 33:**
In public schools, Government enrolls students, appoints teachers, administration and supporting staff, and pays their salaries.

With the help of parents, it builds schools, repairs and extends them, provides equipment and materials and other necessary assets that make them run properly.

In case the management of these schools is handed over to an association, its contribution is determined by mutual agreement.

**Article 34:**
In government-subsidized schools, the associations that built these schools have the obligation of building, repairing, extending and equipping them. Government alone enrols students, appoints teachers and other supporting staff governed by the Labour Code and pays them. School administration personnel are appointed according to mutual consent between Government and founding associations in accordance with the laws and agreements governing those schools.

In addition, Government contributes to repairing, extending and equipping them and providing other material deemed necessary to make them run properly.

Government-subsidized schools are governed by regulations determined by a Presidential Order.

**Article 35:**
Primary education is compulsory. It is free in public schools and in government subsidized schools.

However, in government-subsidized schools, Government has the duty to provide all the necessary requirements to ensure free education.

Free education refers to a student receiving, without payment, education provided by a teacher together with learning aids and basic textbooks needed both by the teacher and the pupil.

**Article 36:**
In private schools, the owners enrol students, appoint teachers and other staff, pay them and manage the finance and other school assets.

These schools must fulfil the following:
a) to respect laws governing education and other laws of the country; b) to accept Government supervision and inspection as far as education is concerned;
c) to have classrooms and necessary and sufficient equipment;
d) not to be an obstacle to law and order and moral values;
e) admit students without any discrimination at all;
f) to respect the curricula accepted by Government without preventing any additional subjects;
g) to agree not to change the objectives of the school without getting prior authorization from Government.

**Article 37:**
The construction of individuals' schools or associations, maintenance of their premises, extending them and equipping them is the duty of their owners. Government may subsidize them.

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**Chapter V. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**Article 38:**
Diplomas and Certificates given to those who pass each cycle successfully, are determined by law.
Article 39:
Equivalence of the academic and professional qualifications awarded outside Rwanda is determined by a special committee appointed for this purpose and set up by an order of the Minister having education in his/her remit.

Those without an equivalent in Rwanda are evaluated and given appropriate value by this committee.

Article 40:
The academic and professional qualifications that are not officially recognized by the Government of Rwanda or those awarded by foreign countries that were not valued by the committee have no value according to the law.

Chapter VI. SCHOOLS' EMPLOYEES

Article 41:
Without prejudice to articles 33 and 34 of this Organic Law, employees in public and government-subsidized schools are governed by General Statutes for Rwanda Public Service.

Article 42:
Without prejudice to article 36 of this Organic Law, employees in private schools are recruited and appointed by their owners, in accordance with the Labour Code, which governs them..

Chapter VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 43:
Agreements passed before this Organic Law contrary to it will be revised within a period not exceeding 12 months from the date it comes into force.

Article 44:
Organic Law n° 1/1985 of 25 January 1985 establishing National Education in the Republic of Rwanda and any other laws contrary to this Organic Law are hereby repealed.

Article 45:
This Organic Law comes into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda. It is effective as from 19 July 1994.