CENTRAL WATER AUTHORITY ACT 1971

Act No. 20 of 1971

Proclaimed by [Proclamation No. 9 of 1971] w.e.f 19th July 1971 Proclaimed by [Proclamation No. 1 of 1973] w.e.f 15th January 1973 - Schedule Proclaimed by [Proclamation No. 12 of 1973] w.e.f 9th July 1973 - Schedule

I assent.

21st June 1971

A. L. WILLIAMS Governor-General

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title

PART I-PRELIMINARY

2. Interpretation

PART II-ESTABLISHMENT AND POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY

- 3. Establishment of the Authority.
- 4. Objects of the Authority.
- 5. General powers of the Authority.
- 6. Directions of the Minister.
- 7. Constitution of the Board.
- 8. Termination of appointment
- 9. Vacation of office.
- 10. Remuneration of members.
- 11. Meetings of the Board.
- 12. Attendance of the General Manager.
- 13. Execution of documents and signing of cheques.

PART III- STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY

- 14. General Manager.
- 15. Appointment of officers, servants of the Authority
- 16. Officers and servants deemed to be public functionaries.
- 17. Delegation to General Manager.
- 18. Superannuation scheme.
- 19. Other provisions in relation to staff.

PART IV - FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

20. Duties of the Authority.

- 21. Special powers of the Authority.
- 22. Existing water rights.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND ACCOUNTS

- 23. General Fund.
- 24. Board's power in regard to receipt of money.
- 25. Charges to General Fund.
- 26. Provision for loan redemption and depreciation.
- 27. Financial year.
- 28. Annual report and periodical returns.
- 29. Power to borrow money.
- 30. Appointment of auditor.
- 31. Books of accounts.
- 32. Auditor's report.

PART VI- TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

- 33. Vesting of property in Authority.
- 34. Transfer of rights and liabilities.
- 35. Grant of Crown Land.
- 36. Authority not to transfer property.

PART VII - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

- 37. No suit against the Authority.
- 38. Service of documents.
- 39. Legal proceedings by the Authority.
- 40. Protection of members, officers, and servants of the Authority.
- 41. Restriction on execution.
- 42. Immunity of Authority.

PART VIII - COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

- 43. Compulsory acquisition of water rights.
- 44. Appeals against compulsory acquisition of water rights.
- 45. Expenses of compulsory acquisition.

PART IX- GENERAL

- 46. Water works requiring the sanction of the Authority.
- 47. Exemption from tax etc.
- 48. Franking of letters.
- 49. Regulations.
- 50. Temporary provisions.
- 51. Repeal and revocation.
- 52. Commencement.

An Act to provide for the establishment and management of the Central Water Authority

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows-

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Central Water Authority Act, 1971.

PART I-PRELIMINARY

Interpretation

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

"Authority" means the Central Water Authority established by section 3;

"Board" means the Central Water Authority established by section 7;

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board:

"existing water right" means any right -

- (a) in any irrigation works, water works or any work whatsoever relating to water;
- (b) any right to any water from any river, stream or canal,

being a right other than in ground water, which belongs to any person or body corporate (other than a body corporate established by law for public purposes) before the commencement of this Act;

"functions" includes powers and duties;

"General Manager" means the person appointed to that office under section 14;

"General Fund" means the General Fund established under section 23;

"Ground Water" means any water under the surface of the ground, and includes underground streams, natural sub-surface reservoirs and lakes and any water held underground in a zone of saturation but does not include -

- (a) water flowing in or contained in artificial pipes, conduits or reservoirs
- (b) surface water having as its immediate origin atmospheric precipitation or natural springs issuing at the ground surface, and flowing over, or retained on, the surface of the ground.

"Mauritius" includes all the islands within the jurisdiction of the State of Mauritius;

"member" means a member of the Board and includes the Chairman;

"Minister" means the Minister to whom responsibility for the Authority is assigned;

"new water right" means any right -

- (a) in any irrigation works, water works or any works whatsoever relating to water;
- (b) any right to any water from any river, stream or canal,

which is granted by the Authority under this Act;

"Officer" means any person employed by the Authority to perform administrative or technical duties:

"Servant" means any person employed by the Authority other than an officer;

"vesting day" means, in relation to Part VI of this Act, a day to be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette;

Provided that the Minister may appoint different days in relation to -

- (a) the Water Development Branch or the Sewerage Branch of the Ministry of Works;
- (b) the Water Supply undertaking of the Municipality of Port-Louis; or
- (c) the undertaking of the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board;

"water resources" means the surface and ground water, of whatever nature, within Mauritius;

(2) This Act shall apply to all the islands within the jurisdiction of the State of Mauritius.

PART II-ESTABLISHMENT AND POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Establishment of the Authority.

- 3. (1) There is hereby established for the purposes of this Act a Corporation to be known as the Central Water Authority, hereinafter referred to as "the Authority".
 - (2) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal bearing its name.
 - (3) The registered office of the Authority shall be situated at Government House or such other place as the Authority may, from time to time, determine.

Objects of the Authority.

4. The Authority shall be responsible for the control, development and conservation of water resources.

General powers of the Authority.

- 5. Subject to the provisions of the Act the Authority may -
 - (a) acquire by purchase, gift by way of donation *inter vivos*, bequest or otherwise, hold, possess and manage property, both movable and immovable.
 - (b) with the approval of the Government sell or exchange any property;
 - (c) lease, rent or take on lease any property on such terms as it thinks fit;
 - (d) compound or compromise any action, suit or proceedings or any debt;
 - (e) receive all sums due to the Authority and give full and valid discharge and sign any receipt therefor;
 - (f) open any account at any bank, effect any payment into that account or withdraw any sum therefrom;
 - (g) draw, sign and endorse any cheque, draft, bill or other negotiable instrument;
 - (h) effect or accept any payment;
 - (i) borrow money, mortgage any immovable property or give in pledge any movable property;
 - (j) invest any monies in such securities, movable or immovable, in such manner as it thinks fit;
 - (k) consent to the erasure or removal of any inscription, seizure, attachment or other prohibition, with or without payment;
 - (I) with the approval of the Minister make such donations as it thinks fit;
 - (m) do all such other acts or things which a corporate body may do.

Direction of the Minister.

6. The Minister may, in relation to the exercise of the powers of the Authority under this Act, give such directions to the Authority as he considers necessary in the public interest and the Authority shall comply with such directions.

Constitution of the Board.

- 7. (1) The Authority shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be administered and controlled by a Board to be known as the Central Water Board which shall consist of -
 - (a) appointed members -

- (i) a Chairman to be appointed by the Minister;
- (ii) two members to represent small planters, one member to represent large planters, one member to represent millers, one member to represent industry and one member to represent co-operative societies, to be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of their respective association;

(b) nominated members -

- (i) one member who shall be an engineer to be nominated by and to represent the Ministry of works;
- (ii) one member to be nominated by and to represent the Ministry of Finance;
- (iii) one member to be nominated by and to represent the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;
- (iv) one member who shall be a Sanitary Engineer to be nominated by and to represent the Ministry of Health'
- (v) one member to represent the Ministry of Housing, Lands, and Town and Country Planning;
- (vi) one member to represent the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development;
- (vii) one member to represent the Ministry of Co-operatives and Co-operative Development;
- (viii) one member to represent the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (ix) one member to be nominated by the Association of Urban Authorities;
- (x) one member to be nominated by and to represent the District Councils;

(c) ex officio members -

- (i) the Chief Agricultural Officer;
- (ii) the General Manager of the Central Electricity Board;
- (2) Any appointed member shall hold office for a period of three years and shall, at the end of his term of office, be eligible for re-appointment.
- (3) Any nominated member shall hold office until such time as his nomination is revoked and a fresh nomination is made.

Termination of appointment.

- 8. If the Minister is satisfied that any appointed member -
 - (a) is guilty of improper conduct; or
 - (b) is incapacitated by prolonged physical or mental illness; or
 - (c) Is for any other reason, unable or unfit to discharge his duties as a member,

he shall terminate the appointment of the member and notify the termination in such manner as he thinks fit and the termination shall take effect on the date of the notification.

Vacation of office.

- 9. The office of an appointed member shall become vacant -
 - (a) on his death; or
 - (b) seven days after the date on which he gives notice in writing to the Minister of his intention to resign his office; or
 - (c) if his appointment is terminated under section 8; or
 - (d) on the expiration of his term of office; or
 - (e) in the case of a member other than the Chairman, if he is, without the permission of the Chairman, absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board of which he has had notice; or
 - (f) if he becomes a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Remuneration of members.

10. Every appointed member shall be paid such remuneration and allowances from the General Fund as the Minister may determine.

Meeting of the Board.

- 11. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board.
 - (2) In the absence of the Chairman at any meeting of the Board the members present shall elect from among themselves a member to preside at that meeting and the member so elected shall, in relation to that meeting, exercise the functions and have all the powers of the Chairman.
 - (3) The Board shall meet at least once a month and shall be convened by the Chairman at such time and place as the Chairman may appoint.
 - (4) Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

- (5) All acts, matters or things authorised or required to be done by the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes of members present and voting at that meeting.
- (6) At any meeting of the Board each member shall have one vote on the matter in question and, in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding at that meeting shall have a casting vote.
- (7) Subject to the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, the Board shall regulate its meetings and proceedings in such a manner, as it thinks fit.

Attendance of the General Manager.

12. The General Manager shall attend every meeting of the Board and may take part in its deliberations but he shall not be entitled to vote on any question before the Board.

Execution of documents and signing of cheques

- 13. (1) No deed, instrument, contract or other document shall be executed by or on behalf of the Authority unless the approval of the Minister to the execution thereof has first been obtained.
 - (2) Subject to subsection (1), all deeds, instruments, contracts and other documents shall be deemed to be duly executed by or on behalf of the Authority if signed by the Chairman and the General Manager
 - (3) Any cheque upon any banking account kept by the Board shall be signed by any two of the following persons -
 - (a) the Chairman,
 - (b) the General Manager,
 - (c) such other officer as may be appointed for the purpose by the Board.

PART III- STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY

General Manager

- 14. (1) There shall be a member of the Authority to be known as the General Manager who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.
 - (2) The General Manager shall be appointed by the Minister.
 - (3) The General Manager shall be responsible for the execution of the policy of the Authority and the control and management of its day to day business.

(4) In the exercise of his functions the General Manager shall act in accordance with such directions as he may, from time to time, receive from the Board.

Appointment of officers, servants of the Authority

- 15. (1) The Authority may appoint or employ, on such terms and conditions as the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, determine, such officers and servants as may be reasonably necessary for the purposes of or in connection with the discharge of its duties under this Act.
 - (2) The officers and servants of the Authority shall be under the administrative control of the General Manager.

Officers and servants deemed to the public functionaries.

16. All officers and servants of the Authority shall be deemed to be public functionaries within the meaning of the Penal code Ordinance.

Delegation to General Manager.

- 17. The Authority may delegate to the General Manager, subject to such instructions and rules of a general nature as may be given or made by the Authority, such of its functions under this Act as are necessary to enable him to transact effectively the day to day business of the Authority of every kind whatsoever and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Authority shall delegate to the General Manager the power -
 - (a) to exercise supervision and control over the acts of all officers and servants of the Authority in matters relating to the implementation of the policy laid down by the Board;
 - (b) to determine all questions relating to the service of the servants of the Authority and their pay, privileges and allowances.

Superannuation scheme.

18. The Authority shall make provision for a staff superannuation scheme in relation to all its officers and servants.

Other provisions in relation to staff.

19. The Authority may make provisions, in such form as it may determine, to govern the conditions of service of its offices and servants and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, to deal with -

- (a) the appointment, dismissal, discipline, pay and leave of, and the security to be given by, officers and servants;
- (b) appeals by officers and servants against dismissal and other disciplinary measures;
- (c) the establishment and maintenance of medical benefits and loan funds and the contributions payable thereto and the benefits recoverable therefrom.

PART IV - FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

Duties of the Authority

- 20. (1) The Authority shall be the sole undertaker for the supply of water for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes throughout Mauritius.
 - (2) The other duties of the Authority shall be -
 - (a) to investigate water resources and to collect, correlate, interpret any data with regard to those resources:
 - (b) to prepare an inventory of water resources and to keep the inventory continuously up to date;
 - (c) to study and formulate policy in relation to the control and use of water resources for the following purposes -
 - (i) the provision of water resources for domestic, industrial and commercial supply and for hydro-electric power;
 - (ii) irrigation, land drainage, the reclamation of land, flood control, the development of fisheries, the protection of wild life, afforestation and the control of soil erosion;
 - (iii) the disposal of sewage and industrial waste;
 - (iv) the abatement and prevention of pollution of water resources;
 - (v) any other purpose ancillary to the purposes specified in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) or such other purpose as the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, determine;
 - (d) to prepare plans for the conversation, utilisation, control and development of water resources;
 - (e) to prepare schemes for the development of river basins and trans-river basins;
 - (f) to co-ordinate and scrutinize the projects undertaken by any person relating to the conversation, utilisation and development of water resources and to assess the technical possibilities, benefits and economic feasibility of the projects;

- (g) to conduct and co-ordinate research and investigation on the economic use of water;
- (h) to promote, design, construct, operate and maintain schemes and works for the purpose of conversation and development of water resources and for the purposes specified in paragraph (c);
- (i) to inspect any work carried out in relation to water development or utilisation purposes;
- (j) to ensure that water supply conforms with such standards as are laid down by law;
- (k) to grant rights for the use of water and to issue permits, licences and concessions and for this purpose -
 - establish procedures for the recognition of existing water rights, for the reassessment, variation and re-allocation of existing water rights and for the grant of new water rights;
 - (ii) establish procedures for the issue of permits, licences and concessions;
- (I) to supervise the enforcement of any water legislation;
- (m) to advise the Minister on any matter affecting water.

Special powers of the Authority.

- 21. For the purposes of section 20, the Authority shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to carry on all such activities as may appear to the Authority to be requisite, advantageous and convenient and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing shall have power -
 - (a) to construct or cause to be constructed, dams, barrages, reservoirs, power houses, power structures, irrigation and drainage canals, water supplies and sewerage works and systems and such other works, structures and devices as may be necessary;
 - (b) to stock reservoirs and water courses with fish;
 - (c) to undertake, in co-operation with the appropriate Ministries, the re-settlement of the population displaced by its operations;
 - (d) to establish co-operative societies, water users associations and organise irrigation schemes;
 - (e) to undertake measures for the prevention of malaria and other diseases;
 - (f) to enter subject to adequate notice to the owner or occupier, any land for the purpose of making plans and surveys;
 - (g) to establish, maintain and operate laboratories, experimental and research stations and farms for the conduct of experiments and research in relation to any of its functions;

- (h) to enter into arrangements with appropriate Ministries, local authorities, educational and research institutions or any person for the purpose of discharging its duties;
- (i) to determine and levy rates or fees for the supply of water for any purpose including sewerage;
- (j) to acquire compulsorily any existing water rights and to pay compensation therefor.

Existing water rights.

- 22. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Part, the Authority shall not, in relation to any existing water right, exercise the powers conferred under sections 20 and 21 -
 - (a) except with the written consent of the owner thereof; or
 - (b) until the Authority has acquired full title in the water right under section 43 or section 44.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND ACCOUNTS

General Fund

- 23. The Authority shall establish a General Fund -
 - (a) into which all monies received by the Authority shall be paid; and
 - (b) out of which all payments required to be made by the Authority shall be paid.

Board's power in regard to receipt of money.

- 24. The Authority is hereby empowered to receive -
 - (a) Revenue accruing from rates and fees to be levied under any regulations made under this Act.
 - (b) loans raised under this Act; and
 - (c) Any money properly accruing to the Authority from any other source.

Charges to General Fund.

25. The Authority may, in furtherance of its objects and in accordance with the terms and conditions upon which its funds may have been obtained given or derived, charge to the

General Fund all remunerations allowances, salaries, fees, pensions and superannuation fund contributions, gratuities, working expenses and all other charges properly arising including any necessary capital expenditure.

Provision for loan redemption and depreciation.

- 26. The Authority shall make adequate provision for -
 - (a) the redemption of loans at due times;
 - (b) interest on all other charges and expenses incurred in connection with loans;
 - (c) the depreciation or diminution in value of assets.

Financial year

- 27. (1) The financial year of the Authority shall begin on the lst July and end on the 30th June in the following year.
 - (2) The Authority shall, at least four months before the end of any financial year, draw up an estimate of the income and expenditure of the Authority for the next ensuing financial year.
 - (3) An attested copy of the estimate for the next ensuing financial year shall, at least three months before the end of each financial year, be submitted to the Minister for his approval.
 - (4) The Minister in signifying his approval under subsection (3) may -
 - (a) approve part only of the expenditure under any item;
 - (b) amend the expenditure in respect of any item in such manner as he may deem necessary.
 - (5) No new or additional expenditure shall be incurred before the Minister signifies his approval thereto.

Annual report and periodical returns

- 28. (1) The Authority shall, as soon as possible and in any event not later than seven months after the end of each financial year, furnish to the Minister -
 - (a) a report dealing with the activities, policy and financial position of the Authority during that year;
 - (b) a copy of the auditor's accounts for that year duly audited in accordance with the provisions of section 31 together with the auditor's report thereon.

- (2) The Authority shall furnish to the Minister such information and returns relating to its activities as the Minister, may, from time to time, require and shall afford him such facilities for the verification of the information so furnished.
- (3) The Minister shall, at the earliest available opportunity, lay a copy of the annual report and audited accounts of the Authority on the table of the Legislative Assembly.

Power to borrow money

- 29. The Authority may, with the consent of or in accordance with any general authority given by the Minister -
 - (a) borrow money in such manner as the Minister may determine and subject to such conditions as the Minister may think fit to impose;
 - (b) mortgage or charge its undertaking or property or any part thereof and issue debentures, stock or other securities as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Authority.

Appointment of auditor

30. The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint an auditor who shall, not less than once in each financial year, examine, audit and report on the accounts of the Authority.

Books of accounts

- 31. (1) The Board shall cause to be kept proper books of accounts and other books for the purpose of recording all transactions relating to all its undertakings, funds, activities and property.
 - (2) The Authority shall prepare a yearly statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet up to the end of each financial year showing the assets and liabilities of the Authority and shall prepare such other accounts as the Minister may require.
 - (3) The Authority shall produce and lay before the auditor all books and accounts of the Authority with all vouchers in support thereof and all books, papers and writings in their possession or control relating thereto and the auditor shall be entitled to require from all members of the Board and all officers, agents and servants of the Authority such information and explanations as he may require.
 - (4) All expenses in connection with or incidental to an audit shall be borne by the Authority.

Auditors report

- 32. The Auditor shall, in relation to the activities of the Authority, report whether he has obtained-
 - (a) All the information and explanations which to the best of his knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
 - (b) whether in his opinion proper books of accounts have been kept by the Authority so far as appears from his examination of those books;
 - (c) whether the auditor's statement of income and expenditure and balance sheet are in accordance with the books of accounts;
 - (d) whether, in his opinion to the best of his information and according to the explanations given to him, the accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Authority for the financial year of the state of the Authority's affairs at the end of the financial year;
 - (e) whether the provisions of this Act or any directions of the Minister in so far as they relate to the accounts have been complied with.

PART VI - TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Vesting of property in Authority

- 33. There shall be vested in the Authority on the vesting day by virtue of this section and without compliance with any other formality -
 - (a) the Water Development Branch and the Sewerage Branch of the Ministry of Works;
 - (b) the Water Supply undertaking of the Municipality of Port Louis;
 - (c) the undertaking of the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board;
 - (d) all property (other than any interest in Crown Land), liabilities, benefits and contracts (other than contract for personal service) relating to the Water Development Branch or the Sewerage Branch of the Ministry of Works, the Water Supply undertaking of the Municipality of Port Louis or the undertaking of the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board.

Transfer of right and liabilities

- 34. Any contract entered into by -
 - (a) the Government of Mauritius in relation to the Water Development Branch or the Sewerage Branch of the Ministry of Works;
 - (b) the Municipality of Port Louis in relation to the water supply undertaking of the Ministry of Works;
 - (c) the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board in relation to its undertaking,

shall have effect on and after the vesting day as if it had been entered into on the same terms and conditions by the Authority and all obligations, liabilities and arrangements subsisting against the Government of Mauritius, the Municipality of Port Louis or the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board, as the case may be, under the contract shall continue to subsist on the same terms and conditions against the Authority.

Grant of Crown Land

35. The Government of Mauritius may grant to the Authority upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit any interest in or over and Crown Land which immediately before the vesting day was occupied, or in relation to which operations were carried on, for the purpose of the Water Development Branch or the Sewerage Branch of the Ministry of Works, the Water Supply undertaking of the Municipality of Port Louis or the undertaking of the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Board.

Authority not to transfer property

36. The Authority shall not, without the approval of the Minister alienate, charge, demise, sell, dispose of or otherwise deal with any immovable property vested in the Authority under section 33.

PART VII - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No suit against the Authority

- 37. (1) No civil suit shall be commenced against the Authority before the expiry of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit is served upon the Authority by or on behalf of the intending plaintiff.
 - (2) A notice of intention issued under subsection (1) shall clearly and explicitly state -
 - (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) the full particulars of the claim;
 - (c) the name and address of the intending plaintiff; and
 - (d) the relief claimed.

Service of documents

38. (1) Any summons, notice or other document, including a notice under section 37, required or authorised to be served upon the Authority under this Act or any other law in force

- may, unless there is specific provision to the contrary, be served by delivery to the General Manager at the registered office of the Authority.
- (2) Service of process by or on behalf of the General Manager shall be equivalent to service by the Authority.

Legal proceedings by the Authority

39. The Authority shall sue and be sued, implead or be impleaded under its corporate name.

Protection of members, officers and servants of the Authority

40. (1) No liability, civil or criminal shall attach to any member, officer or servant of the Authority in respect of any act which any one of them may have done or omitted to do in good faith in the execution or purported execution of the duties of the Authority under this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

Ord. No. 45 of 1957

(2) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to an not in derogation from the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Ordinance, 1957 and, for the purposes of that Ordinance, every member or officer or servant of the Authority shall be deemed to be a public officer or a person engaged or employed for the performance of a public duty.

Restriction on execution

41. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law in force, no execution by levy or attachment or property or any process of like nature shall be issued against the Authority in any suit against the Authority.

Immunity of Authority

- 42. The Authority shall not be responsible for any damage resulting from -
 - (a) the impurity of water;
 - (b) the irregularity and insufficiency of supply of water for whatever purpose.

PART VIII - COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

Compulsory acquisition of water rights

43. (1) Where the Authority is satisfied that -

- (a) it is necessary or expedient in the interests of the development or utilisation of any existing water right and to promote the public benefit that the Authority should take possession or acquire the water right; and
- (b) that there is reasonable justification for the causing of any hardship that may thereby result to any person having an interest in the existing water right,

the Authority may, by notice published in the Gazette and in at least three daily newspapers direct that the water right is compulsorily acquired and, upon the notification, the Authority shall be deemed to have acquired and, upon the notification, the Authority shall be deemed to have acquired the title in the water right after the lapse of twenty days from the date of the notice unless an appeal has been lodged under section 44.

Appeals against compulsory acquisition of water rights

- 44. (1) Any person aggrieved by any decision under subsection (1), or by the compensation offered under subsection (2) of Section 43 may, not later than twenty days from the date of the publication of the notice in the Gazette. Appeal to the Supreme Court.
 - (2) Any appeal made under subsection (1) shall be proceeded with, heard and determined in such manner as may be provided by rules made by the Chief Justice.
 - (3) The Authority shall only acquire full title to any existing water right subject to an appeal under this section if the Supreme Court so decides.

Expenses of compulsory acquisition

45. The expenses incurred and the compensation paid upon the compulsory acquisition of any existing water right under this Act shall be paid out of the General Fund.

PART IX - GENERAL

Water works requiring the sanction of the Authority

- 46. (1) No person shall, after the commencement of this Act, construct any irrigation works or other water works except with the written permission of the Authority previously obtained.
 - (2) The Authority may, in granting a permission under subsection (1), impose such conditions as it may think fit.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand rupees.

Exemption from tax etc.

- 47. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law in force, the Authority shall be exempted from -
 - the payment of customs duty on the materials and equipment imported by or on behalf of the Authority, in accordance with, but subject to, such conditions as the Minister may impose;
 - (b) the payment of any licence duty, rates or charges leviable upon immovable property, tenant's tax or any tax leviable on income;
 - (c) stamp duty or registration dues in respect of any documents signed or executed by the Authority or under which the Authority is a beneficiary.

Franking of letters

48. The Authority is hereby authorised to frank letters or postal packets or make remittances by money orders free of charge.

Regulations

49. The Board may make such regulations as it deems necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Temporary provisions

- 50. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 27 -
 - (a) the period extending from the date of the coming into force of this Act to the 30th June next following shall be deemed to be the first financial year of the Authority;
 - (b) no estimate of income and expenditure shall be drawn up in relation to the first financial year of the Authority, provided no expenditure is incurred without the prior approval of the Minister;
 - (c) the delays specified in subsections (2) and (3) of section 27 shall not apply in relation to the first financial year of the Authority.

Repeal and revocation

- 51. (1) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act shall be repealed or revoked, as the case may be, on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.
 - (2) Different days may be fixed in respect of the different enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act.

Commencement

Proclaimed by [Proclamation No. 9 of 1971] w.e.f. 19th July 1971

53. This Act shall come into force on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.

SCHEDULE

Сар. 130		 (a)	La Ferme Reservoir Water Rates Ordinance
Cap. 251		 (b)	The District Boards Ordinance
Cap. 276	•••	 (c)	The Port Louis Sewerage Ordinance
Cap. 418		 (d)	The Irrigation Ordinance
Cap. 419		 (e)	The Lease of River Waters Ordinance
Cap. 420		 (f)	The Mare-aux-Vacoas Ordinance
Сар. 421		 (g)	The Rivers and Canals Ordinance
Сар. 422		 (h)	The Waterworks Ordinance
Ord. No. 29 of 1958		 (i)	The Plaine Wilhems Sewerage Ordinance
Act No. 55 of 1969		 (j)	The Ground Water Act 1969
GN No. 128 of 1969		 (k)	The Municipal Council of Port Louis (Water Supply) Regulations 1969
GN No. 108 of 1940		 (1)	Regulations made under the La Ferme Reservoir Water Rates Ordinance and published as Government Notice No. 108 of 1940
GN No. 109 d	of 1908	 (m)	The Water Supply Regulations, 1908
GN No. 172 o	of 1940	 (n)	Regulations made under the District Boards Ordinance and published as Government Notice No. 172 of 1940.

GN No. 110 of 1895	 (0)	The Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works Regulations, 1895
GN No. 250 of 1883 GN No. 95 of 1885 GN No. 238 of 1886 GN No. 255 of 1941	 (p)	Regulations published as Government Notice - (i) No. 250 of 1883 (ii) No. 95 of 1885 (iii) No. 238 of 1886 (iv) No. 255 of 1941
GN No. 12 of 1918	 (q)	The Irrigation Works (Management) Regulations, 1918
GN No. 55 of 1962	 (r)	The Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Regulations, 1962
GN No. 51 of 1970	 (s)	The Plaines Wilhems Sewerage (Levy of Tax) Regulations, 1970
GN No. 68 of 1970	 (t)	The Ground Water Regulations 1970