

Law No. 1 of 1996 on the Establishment of the Al Jazeera Satellite Network 1 / 1996

Number of Articles: 32

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We, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,
Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 23, 34 and 51 thereof,
Law No. 13 of 1987 establishing Qatar General Telecommunications,
The bill submitted by the Council of Ministers, and
After taking the opinion of the Shura Council,
Hereby promulgate the following:

Articles

Article 1 (Amended By Law 28/2005) (Amended By Law 21/2001)

An independent public corporation with a legal personality called "The Al Jazeera Satellite Network" shall be established and shall have a separate budget. Its headquarters shall be in the city of Doha. It may establish branches, offices or appoint correspondents in Qatar or abroad. It shall be managed on a commercial basis.

Article 2

The Corporation shall be solely and exclusively responsible for the operation and broadcast of the Qatar Satellite Television Channel in accordance with the provisions of this Law, notwithstanding the provisions of Law No. 13 of 1987 referred to.

In order to achieve its objectives it may carry out all actions that will lead to that, and in particular the following:

- 1 - Acquire all the corporeal and incorporeal assets necessary for the establishment and operation of the channel.
- 2 - Prepare studies and plans for the establishment, operation and development of the channel.
- 3 - Assume the general and daily oversight of the programs and performance of the channel.
- 4 - Found companies, alone or with others, acquire existing companies or participate in them.
- 5 - Cooperate and contract with other parties - Arab and foreign - that work in the same field, for the production, marketing and exchange of programs and experience.
- 6 - Manage, invest and employ the revenue generated by the Corporation in line with the objective of its establishment.
- 7 - Conclude financing or borrowing contracts, with domestic and foreign sources, necessary to finance the establishment and operation of the satellite channel, and the Corporation's investment projects.

Article 3 (Amended By Decree 12/2009)

A Board of Directors, consisting of a chairman, deputy chairman and a number of members shall be responsible for managing the Corporation. A resolution of the Cabinet shall be issued for their appointment and to determine their remuneration.

Article 4

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for drawing up the general policy for the Corporation and to supervise its implementation. It shall be accountable for its actions before the Cabinet.

Article 5

The Board of Directors shall have the powers necessary to manage the affairs of the Corporation, and to engage in the actions required for the proper carrying out of its function. It may take resolutions it deems necessary to achieve its purposes. The resolutions of the Board shall come into effect from the date of their issuance.

Resolutions related to the following matters shall be excluded from the above and shall only take effect after approval by the Cabinet:

- 1 - The Corporation's obtaining of any loans, whether local or foreign.
- 2 - Founding of companies, alone or with others, acquiring existing companies or participating in them.

Article 6

The Board of Directors - without being bound by the regulations and rules in place in the government - shall lay down the internal, financial, administrative and technical bylaws necessary for the management of the Corporation.

Article 7

The Board of Directors shall submit to the Cabinet a comprehensive annual report on the activities of the Corporation in all respects, together with its proposals and views.

The Cabinet may, at any time, request the Board of Directors to provide it with reports on the technical, financial or administrative position of the Corporation, any aspect of its activity, or any information related thereto.

Article 8

The Cabinet may issue to the Board of Directors general directives with respect to what it must follow in matters relating to the general policy of the Corporation. The Board of Directors must comply with these directives.

Article 9

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, or his deputy, shall represent the Corporation in court and in its relations with third parties.

Article 10

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once every month by invitation of the Chairman, or his deputy, in the event of his absence. The Board may also meet whenever at least three of its members request a meeting.

The meeting of the Board shall not be valid unless attended by a majority of its members, provided the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman is present.

The Board shall have a secretary who shall be selected and whose duties shall be determined by the Board.

Article 11

The sessions of the Board of Directors shall be in private. Attendance and voting may not be by proxy.

Resolutions shall be issued by a majority vote of the members present, and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting or second vote.

Article 12 (Amended By Law 21/2001)

The minutes of the sessions of the Board and its resolutions shall be recorded in a special register, the pages of which shall be numbered. The Chairman of the Board, or his deputy in his absence, and the members present shall sign the resolutions. The minutes may be recorded on numbered individual pages kept in a special file. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman or one of the members shall be responsible to approve every page thereof.

Article 13

The Board may invite to attend its meeting any person whose assistance is deemed required, from amongst the employees of the Corporation or other persons of competence and expertise to provide the details or clarification it requires. Such persons may participate in the discussions without their vote being counted when taking the resolutions.

Article 14

The Board may form standing or temporary committees from among its members to assist it in the study of the matters submitted to it. It may include in those committees members from within the Corporation or from outside.

Article 15

The Corporation shall have a Managing Director appointed by a resolution of the Board of Directors. The resolution shall specify his allocations.

The internal bylaws shall define the terms of reference and the duties of the Managing Director who shall be accountable to the Board of Directors for the proper functioning of the Corporation; in accordance with the bylaws of the Corporation, and the resolutions and directives issued by the Board.

Article 16

The Chairman of the Board, or his deputy in his absence, shall have the right to sign on behalf of the Corporation. The Board may grant the right to the Managing Director or any other employee of the Corporation, to sign individually or collectively, for matters determined by the Board, in accordance with the provisions of the internal bylaws.

Article 17

The stamp of the Corporation on documents shall only be valid if accompanied by the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, his deputy or the authorized signatory.

Article 18

The Chairman of the Board, any of its members, or any of the employees at the Corporation, may not have any direct or indirect personal interest in the contracts entered into with the Corporation, or on its behalf, the projects it is carrying out, or any other area of its activities.

Article 19

The authorized capital of the Corporation is five hundred million (500,000,000/-) riyals fully owned by the State.
The capital of the Corporation may be increased or decreased by means of a resolution issued by the Cabinet based upon the proposal of the Board of Directors.

Article 20

The net profit for each financial year shall be determined, after deducting all disbursements and expenses necessary to carry out the activity of the Corporation, from the realized revenues, and in particular the amounts necessary for any purposes approved by the Corporation.

Article 21

- The Corporation shall have a general reserve fund for which (10%) of the net profit shall be deducted annually until the balance becomes equal to the capital.
- 2 - The reserve stipulated in this Article may be increased to the extent and proportion determined by the Corporation, and approved by the Cabinet.
- 3 - Other reserves necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Corporation may be created by means of a resolution of the Cabinet based upon the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- 4 - The general reserve and other reserves may only be disposed of by means of a resolution of the Cabinet based upon the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- 5 - The remaining profits thereafter shall devolve to the State on an annual basis.

Article 22

The financial resources of the Corporation shall consist of the following:

- 1 - The funds allocated to it by the State
- 2 - Proceeds from the revenue generated by the Corporation from the exercise of its activities.
- 3 - The Corporation's return on its share in the capital of companies, establishments and facilities, it created, owned, contributed to, or which devolved to it by means of purchase or depreciation.
- 4 - The net profits that devolve to it in the form of reserves and allocations.
- 5 - Loans that it acquires.
- 6 - Gifts, bequests and donations.

Article 23

The Corporation shall have an annual proposed budget, which shall be approved by the Cabinet, and prepared in the format of commercial budgets. The financial year shall begin on the first of January and end at the end of December of each year provided that the first financial year shall include the period from the date this Law comes into effect until 31 December of the following year.

Article 24

The Board of Directors must prepare, for each financial year, and at a date not later than six months after the date of its expiry, the audited balanced sheet and profit and loss accounts. It shall also prepare a report regarding the Corporation's activity and financial position during the financial year.

Article 25

Subject to the provisions of Law No. 4 of 1995 with respect to the Audit Bureau, the Corporation may have one or more auditors, who are chartered accountants, who shall be appointed and whose annual remuneration shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Article 26

The auditor shall, at times, have the right to access all the books, records and documents of the Corporation, and to request the details that he deems necessary to discharge his duty properly. He may also ascertain the Corporation's assets and liabilities. In the event of the auditor's not being allowed to exercise those rights, he shall submit a report to the Board of Directors.

Article 27

The auditor shall submit his annual report to the Board of Directors. He shall also provide a copy of it to the Audit Bureau.

Article 28

The fixed and movable assets of the Corporation shall be deemed to be of the public funds specially owned by the State, and shall be subject to its provisions.
Notwithstanding the above, they may not be attached for the collection of any debt, nor may they be acquired ownership of by appropriation or prescription, no matter how long the duration.

Article 29

The prescribed laws of taxes and fees shall apply to the Corporation and its subsidiary companies.
Subject to the provisions for exemptions contained in special laws, the Corporation and the companies owned by it, on their own, may be exempted from all taxes and fees or a part thereof by means of a resolution of the Cabinet, based on the request of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade.

Article 30

The Cabinet shall issue the bylaws and resolutions necessary for the implementation of this Law based on the proposal of the Corporation's Board of Directors.

Article 31

The Board of Directors shall issue the resolutions necessary for conducting the business of the Corporation that is not in conflict with the provisions of this Law until such time that the necessary financial, administrative and technical internal bylaws are issued.

Article 32

All competent authorities, each within their competence, shall execute this law which shall come into force from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.