

## **Law No 13 of 1979**

### **Egyptian Radio and Television Union**

---

In the name of the People of Egypt and the President of the Republic;

The People's Assembly shall hereby decree the following Law,

#### **Article One**

A public organization shall hereby be mandated and established under the name of the 'Egyptian Radio and Television Union' (ERTU). The ERTU shall assume all the functions and duties associated with the audio-visual media and broadcasting services in the Arab Republic of Egypt (ARE). The respective Union shall maintain a legal status, and shall be headquartered in Cairo.

#### **Article Two**

The primary purpose of the ERTU shall be to contribute to the fulfilment of the mission statement of the audio-visual media and broadcasting services, at the policy-making, planning, delivery and execution levels, in compliance with the overall public policy and widely acknowledged professional standards and criteria. To this end, the ERTU shall hereby keep up with the new developments and updates and state-of-the-art technologies in relation to the modern applications of mass media, particularly in terms of the effective utilization of the audio-visual media for the benefit of the Society, and the attainment of the respective goals and objectives.

Towards this goal, the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall undertake to fulfil certain purposes, as follows:

1. Deliver and guide the audio-visual media and broadcasting services in an effective and efficient manner, for the benefit of the national interests, consistent with the authentic values and traditions of the Egyptian Society, and in compliance with the guiding principles prescribed by the Constitution;
2. Enhance and promote the concepts and values associated with democratic socialism, national unity, social peace; maintain the human dignity and freedoms; and, preserve the rule of law, across all the audio-visual media and broadcasting functions and services;
3. Support the spread of knowledge; create and provide programs oriented towards a wide range of subjects, especially in relation to education, humanitarian disciplines, and civilization for the benefit of a cross-section of the Egyptian Society; and, dedicate specific programs for the development of different population groups, including children, adolescents, young men and women, professionals, and farmers. In return, this shall promote the social welfare and wellbeing of the Society, as well as the family stability and coherence.
4. Leverage and improve the performance of the audio-visual media and broadcasting services and networks, with due observance of the religious and ethical values in the broadcast media content;

5. Provide avenues for the broadcasting and transmission of public requests, demands, and issues; and, present the current trends in public opinion and political development;
6. Announce the discussions and deliberations carried out by the People's Assembly and the local and municipal councils; and, respond to the requests made by the Government of Egypt to publicize and release official statements, as well as any additional matters related to the public policies, guidelines. and norms;
7. Comply with the requirements and guidelines and norms regarding allocating part of the broadcast transmission and air time, on a regular basis, for the presentation of the main perceptual trends of the public opinion;
8. Provide and expand the broadcast coverage of television and radio services and networks nationwide, in an efficient manner;
9. Create an enabling environment and adequate conditions, so as to promote the creative faculties and innovative capabilities of the Egyptians; and, allow individuals to realize and demonstrate their potentials;
10. Foster relationships and connections with comparable structures and unions in the Arab and Islamic World, as well as internationally;
11. Develop and improve the overseas services of broadcasting and TV program transmission geared towards the international audience, in a manner that shall maintain the national and sovereign interests of Egypt;
12. Foster and support news bulletins and broadcasting coverage of events at the domestic and global levels; provide objective briefings and commentaries thereon; and build the capacity of correspondents, reporters, and representatives, whether they work inside or outside Egypt; and,
13. Promote and upgrade the technical and professional performance of audio-visual broadcasting networks and service providers

### **Article Three**

The Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall hereby carry out all the functions and actions required in the pursuit of the common goals, with due observance of the government systems and conditions. Specifically, the ERTU may opt to:

1. Found and establish sole proprietorships and/ or joint stock companies in relevant areas of focus and business sectors;
2. Pursue the merger or acquisition of companies, or enter into joint or collaborative partnerships with like-minded second parties that operate in related fields; at the domestic and international levels;
3. Facilitate the development, promotion, and/ or marketing of artistic products and materials, in relation to the radio broadcast and TV transmission services, in Egypt and beyond, as per the terms and conditions deemed appropriate for the achievement of the purposes thereof;
4. Retain the intellectual property rights, such as copyright and publication ownership and trademarks of the broadcast materials and products developed thereby;

5. Ensure that the ERTU funds shall be used solely for the authorized purposes;
6. Receive bank and credit concessions and facilities to finance the investment enterprises launched thereby, within the credit limits identified by the Government of Egypt;
7. Maintain and manage the revenue collections generated thereby, in response to identified needs and requirements; notwithstanding the existing laws, regulations and systems;
8. Offer advertising and commercial broadcasting services, pursuant to the policies established in this respect; without prejudice to the public and common traditions and values;
9. Set up and launch personnel rehabilitation and training centers and capacity building programs across the various fields of audio-visual broadcasting; and enhance the implementation of academic research studies in this respect;
10. Contract international news agencies and organizations; and,
11. Publish and release publications, periodicals, and newsletters that give expression to the mission statement of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union

#### **Article Four**

A decree shall be issued by the President of the Republic designating the competent Minister, under whose jurisdiction the television and radio broadcasting services shall be operated. The Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall form a board of trustees, a board of managing directors, and a general assembly.

#### **Article Five**

The composition of the ERTU Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

1. The Board Chairperson shall be designated and appointed; and, the mandate, rate of pay, and term of office thereof shall be specified by the virtue of a presidential decree, upon the recommendation of the Cabinet
2. A number of public figures involved in effective think-tanks in the intellectual, religious, artistic, scientific, cultural, journalistic, economic, architectural, financial, and legal fields, as well as other individuals interested in the development of the youth, women, children ,etc

A decree shall be issued by the Prime Minister regarding the designation of the respective members, as well as the remuneration, compensation and term of office thereof.

3. The managing directors of the main sectors of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union;
4. The President of the General Authority for Information

#### **Article Six**

The Board of Trustees shall hereby be mandated to formulate the public policies of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union; approve the main activity plans intended to apply and execute such policies; and monitor and assess the conduct and performance by the ERTU sectors and departments.

The Board of Trustees shall take the actions and measures necessary for the fulfilment of the purposes thereof, pursuant to the provisions of the present Law. Specifically, the Board of Trustees shall:

1. Formulate the professional code of conduct and ethics of the audio-visual media and broadcasting services, and determine the mandatory functional approaches in compliance therewith;
2. Approve the rules, regulations and systems standardizing the management and functioning of the ERTU sectors, as well as the partnerships and joint stock companies owned thereby, in a manner that shall ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the audio-visual media and broadcasting services, on the basis of sound economic management approaches;
3. Approve the rules and regulations standardizing the ERTU administrative and financial functions and requirements, using adaptable and decentralized methods;
4. Release bylaws and internal statutes in relation to the management of human resources and the personnel remuneration and pay scale and structure, which shall be commensurate with professional duties and responsibilities, in a manner geared towards upgrading the professional performance thereof; notwithstanding the schemes and norms that apply to the regular civil servants;
5. Approve the annual investment programs, public policy regarding the production of media and broadcasting materials, and basic standards and criteria for the identification and utilization of international content materials and programs;
6. Approve the rules and regulations for drafting the ERTU budget projections, in line with the budgeting norms and guidelines that apply to economic enterprises;
7. Approve the standards and criteria for the designation and recruitment of international expertise and resources in the audio-visual broadcasting sector;
8. Approve the basic standards and criteria concerning the selection and procurement of materials and programs obtained from international sources;
9. Approve the basic standards and criteria regarding the process of performance appraisal and competency assessment;
10. Approve the basic standards and criteria regarding the administration and direction of the advertising and commercial activities undertaken by the ERTU;
11. Provide input and insight in the range of draft legislations and regulatory framework in relation to the audio-visual broadcasting and media sector;
12. Approve the establishment of theatrical performance groups and musical bands, in line with the ERTU mandate, purposes, and activities; and,
13. Approve the manpower planning, placement and deployment schemes; pay structure; and job family categorization

## **Article Seven**

The Board of Trustees shall hereby undertake to form standing and ad hoc committees, from among the members thereof. The respective committees shall be mandated to provide assistance, as necessary, in reviewing and assessing a range of subjects, as appropriate. The said committees may recruit additional members, at their sole discretion, whether from inside or outside the Egyptian Radio and Television Union.

## **Article Eight**

Sessions of the Board of Trustees shall be convened at least once every month. In addition, the Board of Trustees may hold an extraordinary session, upon the call of the Board Chairperson, or otherwise at the request of half the members of the Board of Trustees. The Board meetings shall not be deemed as legally valid unless the minimum quorum is secured. A meeting without a quorum shall be invalid, and the decisions taken therein shall be invalidated. The quorum shall be achieved by securing the attendance of half the members of the Board of Trustees. The decisions of the Board of Directors shall be made by a majority vote. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall hold the tie-breaking or casting vote, if there shall be a vote tie.

## **Article Nine**

The Board Chairperson shall oversee the ERTU functions and performance; shall ensure the effective conduct and course of action of action of the ERTU; and shall follow through the execution of the decisions reached by the Board of Trustees.

Specifically, the Board of Trustees shall be responsible to:

- (A) Represent the Egyptian Radio and Television Union in all its relations with the other; before the judiciary system; and at the regional and international conferences and events;
- (B) Review and present to the Board of Directors the status reports provided by the managing directors regarding the performance and functioning of their respective sectors;
- (C) Identify and designate the official co-signatory(ies) on behalf of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union in all aspects;
- (D) Determine and delineate the roles and responsibilities of the ERTU Secretary-General and managing directors, particularly in relation to the execution of the decisions reached by the Board of Trustees, each in their respective area of focus

The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees may opt to authorize or delegate one or more of the managing directors to assume specific roles and responsibilities, as appropriate.

## **Article Ten**

The Board of Trustees shall designate from among its members a deputy chairperson, who shall act in the stead of the Chairperson, in his/ her absence.

## **Article Eleven**

A board of managing directors shall hereby be formed under the chairmanship of the President of the Board of Trustees. The membership of the respective board shall be composed of the managing directors of the ERTU main sectors.

The Board of Managing Directors shall include a number of departmental heads from different sectors, in their official capacity, as well as other employees from the ERTU, who shall be designated by the Board of Trustees.

## **Article Twelve**

Each managing director shall hereby undertake to manage and oversee a specific sector, in conformity with the overall policies, systems, and regulations, as determined by the Board of Trustees. The managing directors shall hold specific financial and administrative powers, as deemed appropriate, to enable them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. The managing directors shall be required to develop and present monthly status reports on the overall performance of their respective sectors to the Board of Trustees. The managing directors may delegate or transfer some of their entrusted powers or functions to other employees, as necessary.

## **Article Thirteen**

The Board of Managing Directors shall be mandated to:

- (1) Ensure that the decisions and policies devised by the Board of Trustees shall be dully executed;
- (2) Pursue an effective approach to mobilize concerted and coordinated efforts of the ERTU sectors;
- (3) Draft annual plans and propose the overall policy regarding the development of broadcast materials and products; as well as the basic standards and criteria for the identification and utilization of international broadcast resources materials, for review by the Board of Trustees;
- (4) Review the annual reports on the financials status of the ERTU; provide input on the respective reports to the Board of Trustees; develop norms and guidelines for ERTU budgeting process; and, identify the budget line items of the investment plans, in line with the budgeting guidelines and norms of economic enterprising;
- (5) Examine the new investment proposals for review by the Board of Trustees; and open bank accounts in commercial banks, both in Egypt and overseas;
- (6) Pursue an effective approach to coordinate the draft budgets of the ERTU operational sectors;
- (7) Plan and delineate the organizational structures within the different sectors, formulate the roles and responsibilities thereof; develop manpower placement and deployment plans; identify staffing requirements; develop job structures and description, and selection and

recruitment norms and criteria; draft ERTU personnel training and rehabilitation plans; and delineate the overall policy for scientific and academic research;

- (8) Provide ongoing monitoring of performance across the ERTU sectors; especially in relation to the revenue collections and actual disbursements;
- (9) Enter into, and conclude grant and credit agreements; and, receive gifts, endowments, contributions, and/ or subventions in support of the ERTU functions, as per the applicable norms and guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees;
- (10) Develop guidelines and norms to regulate the relationship and interface between the ERTU and the companies and corporations fully owned by the ERTU;
- (11) Develop rules and regulations regarding the overall performance and functioning of the ERTU sectors, as well as the companies and corporations fully owned by the ERTU;
- (12) Maintain and keep the broadcast and media materials, as per the rules and systems established by the Board of Trustees; and,
- (13) Introduce all the measures required to ensure the ongoing upgrading of the broadcast media equipment and tools, in support of the effective performance of the multimedia transmission and reception apparatus

#### **Article Fourteen**

The Board of Managing directors shall convene once at least every two weeks at the call of the Chairperson; or otherwise at the request of at least half the members of the Board.

#### **Article Fifteen**

Each managing director shall hereby form a committee consisting of the departmental heads and managers, each in their respective sectors. The respective committee shall be mandated to assist with managing and expediting the day-to-day operations of the respective sector; and, to propose the sector-wide policy, based on the directives, norms and guidelines established by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managing Directors. Specifically, the respective committee shall undertake to:

- (1) Make decisions in relation to the thematic and specialized functions associated with the respective sector;
- (2) Approve the draft annual budget of the respective sector;
- (3) Propose the different duty rates, fees, and applicable charges, in relation to the various services performed by the respective sector; and,
- (4) Decide on personnel issues related to the sector-based human resources

The competent Managing Director shall hereby be responsible to approve the functions of the respective Committee.

## **Article Sixteen**

The ERTU systems, human resource management schemes, and financial accounts management configurations shall hereby be subject to the provisions set forth in the present Law, as well as applicable regulations and guidelines released by the Board of Trustees; notwithstanding the laws, regulations and directives carried out by the Government of Egypt.

## **Article Seventeen**

The principle capital of the ERTU shall hereby be decreed by the President of the Republic. The Minister of Finance shall hereby decree the formation of an ad hoc committee mandated to:

- (1) Make an inventory and assessment of the capital assets and liabilities of the ERTU;
- (2) Assess and identify the debts and liabilities falling due and payable by the ERTU to the Ministry of Finance;
- (3) Propose motions to deal with the liabilities and debts falling due and payable by the ERTU, whether partially or entirely, as match contributions by the Government to the ERTU principle capital;

The recommendations drawn by the respective Committee shall be reviewed and approved by the virtue of a decree to be issued by the Minister of Finance.

## **Article Eighteen**

The Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall maintain an independent budget, as decreed and mandated by the President of the Republic. The development of the respective budget shall abide by the rules and norms applicable to the development of economic enterprising. It shall be permissible for the Egyptian Radio and Television Union to establish an investment budget, for a period that shall exceed a one-year term, by the virtue of a decree to be issued by the President of the Republic.

## **Article Nineteen**

The ERTU fiscal year shall commence on the first of January and shall end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, of each year.

## **Article Twenty**

The ERTU gross revenue shall consist of all the following revenue items:

- (1) revenue collected from the statutory fees and charges in support of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union;
- (2) Revenue collected from the business activities and services performed by the ERTU;
- (3) Budget allocations and assignments provided by the Government of Egypt to the ERTU;



- (4) Subventions, grants and endowments made to the ERTU;
- (5) Revenue generated from grant agreements concluded by the ERTU, within the boundaries established by the Prime Minister (revenue surplus shall be carried forward at year end);
- (6) ERTU share in the revenue surplus generated by the companies and corporations owned by, and affiliated to the ERTU

### **Article Twenty One**

Each sector shall maintain an internal budget, including the resources, revenues, expenditures, and the revenue surplus and deficit.

### **Article Twenty Two**

Without prejudice to the oversight powers and functions exercised by the Central Audit Organization, the ERTU general assembly may designate one or more financial controller to review and audit the ERTU accounts. The respective financial controller(s) shall be a natural person, and shall hold the Egyptian nationality.

The General Assembly shall determine the appropriate compensation rate of the financial controller. S/he shall be eligible to receive all the entitlements and rights granted to the regular financial comptrollers employed by joint stock companies, and shall hereby be under the same obligations.

### **Article Twenty Three**

The Board of Trustees shall determine the rate of duties, fees and charges in consideration for the programs and services performed for the government apparatuses and public entities, including the economic units thereof. The specified value of such services shall be incorporated in the annual budgets of the respective agencies and departments, on the beginning of each year.

### **Article Twenty Four**

The Government of Egypt shall hereby deposit into the Egyptian Central Bank the annual subventions specified thereby for the ERTU.

### **Article Twenty Five**

Applicable laws and legislations shall hereby regulate the imposition of statutory duties and charges for the benefit of the Egyptian Radio and Television and Union, as well as the methods of collection of such revenues and the importation thereof to the Egyptian Radio and Television Union.

### **Article Twenty Six**

The Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall, as appropriate, reserve the right to demand and claim for the rights and entitlements thereof, either by means of direct law enforcement and/or the administrative seizure measures; pursuant to the provisions of Law No (308) of Year 1955 regarding the Administrative Seizure Process.

#### **Article Twenty Seven**

The engineering equipment, appliances and tools, the recording tapes and discs, the processed and unprocessed media and broadcast materials procured by, or provided to, the ERTU, shall be exempted from the statutory customs duties.

#### **Article Twenty Eight**

The General Assembly of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall be headed by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The membership of the ERTU shall be composed of the following:

- Members of Board of Trustees
- Competent Minister, under whose jurisdiction the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall be operated
- Ministers of Economy, Foreign Trade, Planning, Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, and People's Assembly Functions
- Deputy Chairperson of Al-Azhar
- A number of human resources with demonstrated experience and expertise in the fields of media, and other related areas of focus, to be designated by the virtue of a decree to be issued by the Prime Minister

#### **Article Twenty Nine**

The General Assembly of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall hereby undertake to...

- (a) Approve the annual reports developed and submitted by the Board of Trustees concerning the functions and activities executed by the ERTU and the affiliated companies and corporations, within the limits identified under Articles (2) and (3) of the present Law;
- (b) Approve the financial reports submitted by the financial controller;
- (c) Approve draft budget projections of the ERTU (in the event that the respective draft budget shall result in certain financial implications or burdens on the state budget, the ERTU budget may not be executed unless with the prior consent of the Government of Egypt);
- (d) Approve the actual annual budgets; closing accounts, profit and loss accounts of the ERTU, assess and identify the reserve funds, allocations and assignments, and profit sharing;
- (e) Approve any incremental increases in the principle capital of the ERTU, along with the identified sources of funding;

- (f) Authorize and permit the utilization of budget allocations for purposes other than those for which the ERTU budget shall be allocated;
- (g) Approve the establishment, merger, acquisition, and/ or liquidation of the companies owned by the Egyptian Radio and Television Union; and,
- (h) Approve the designation of the financial comptroller, and the compensation thereof

### **Article Thirty**

The General Assembly of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall convene its regular sessions twice at least every year, at the call of the Chairperson thereof.

The General Assembly may call for the convening of an extraordinary session, upon the call of the Chairperson thereof or at the request of half the members of the General Assembly, or otherwise in response to a request made by the competent Minister.

The general assembly meeting may not be deemed or considered as legally valid unless attended by no less than two thirds of the General Assembly members. In the event that the specified quorum cannot be achieved, the general assembly meeting shall be postponed for another session. The second meeting of the general assembly shall be deemed as valid with the attendance of any given number of members.

### **Article Thirty One**

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be made by majority vote. In the event that there shall be a vote tie, the Chairperson, or his/ her representative or delegate, shall hold the casting (tie-breaking) vote.

### **Article Thirty Two**

Representatives of the Central Audit Organization and the ERTU financial comptroller shall hereby reserve the right to attend the meetings of the General Assembly, as non-voting observers.

### **Article Thirty Three**

Law No (1) of 1971 on the Establishment of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall hereby be repealed. Other provisions in conflict with the provisions of the present Law shall hereby be revoked. The existing executive regulations, laws and systems shall remain in effect, pending the issuance of the new regulations.

### **Article Thirty Four**

The present Law shall hereby be published in the official Gazette, and shall take effect as of the date of the promulgation thereof.

The present Law shall hereby be stamped by the State Seal, and shall be fully enforced.

Issued at the Presidency on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1979

Hosni Mubarak