

**Third Session Fifth Parliament Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago**



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 27 of 1998

[L.S.]

**AN ACT for the Incorporation of the International
Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)
Trinidad and Tobago and for matters incidental
thereto.**

[Assented to 14th October, 1998]

WHEREAS there has been established in Trinidad and Preamble
Tobago, an organisation known as The International
Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Trinidad
and Tobago:

And whereas it is expedient that the said International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Trinidad and Tobago be incorporated for the purposes hereinafter set forth:

Enactment ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:—

Short title 1. This Act may be cited as The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Trinidad and Tobago (Incorporation) Act, 1998.

Incorporation 2. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Trinidad and Tobago (hereinafter called "the ISKCON") is hereby created a body corporate.

Aims and Objects 3. The aims and objects of the ISKCON are—

(a) to systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all peoples in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world;

(b) to propagate a consciousness of Krishna (Godhead) as it is revealed in the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad Bhagavatam;

(c) to bring the members of the ISKCON together and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, and to develop the idea within members and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna);

(d) to teach and encourage the Sankirtan Movement, the congregational chanting of the holy names of God as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu;

- (e) to bring the members closer together for the purpose of living and teaching a simple and natural way of life;
- (f) to foster unity, co-operation and harmony among the members of the ISKCON and the society at large;
- (g) to establish and maintain temples and education and welfare institutions dedicated to Krishna for the teaching and practice of Vedic theology, deity worship, Sanskrit, agriculture, cuisine, craftsmanship and other art forms;
- (h) to publish and distribute spiritual, educational and cultural media such as books, magazines, periodicals, newsletters and audio-visual materials;
- (i) to engage in missionary work by organising and hosting conferences, seminars, lectures and festivals; and by disseminating Vedic knowledge to educational, welfare, reformatory and other institutions;
- (j) to engage in missionary work for the alleviation of poverty, illiteracy and ill health through the distribution of food, clothing, literature, shelter, medicine and other forms of relief;
- (k) to provide educational facilities such as schools, colleges, universities, libraries, reading rooms and display booths at various locations for members and for the public and scholarship funds or access to such funds for persons wishing to be formally trained in Vaishnava philosophy, worship or art forms;

- (l) to promote concern and care for the proper use of our environment by providing public education on the subject, according to the Vedic paradigm;
- (m) to encourage and support the involvement of the citizenry in family and community life by providing services such as counselling and training in the vocational and performing arts;
- (n) to encourage and promote peace, unity and tolerance amongst all religions, communities and peoples; and
- (o) to do all such other lawful things as may be necessary or incidental to the attainment of the above aims and objects.

Powers of the
ISKCON

4. The ISKCON shall have power—

- (a) to acquire by purchase, transfer, donation, exchange, devise, bequest, grant, gift, conveyance or howsoever otherwise any real or personal property or any estate or interest therein;
- (b) to accept surrenders or reconveyances and to enter into contracts;
- (c) to sell, exchange, demise, mortgage or otherwise dispose of and deal with all property which may for the time being be vested in it subject to any restraint, reservation or condition contained in the document under which it has acquired title.

Transfer and vesting
of property

5. All real or personal property of whatever nature, now held by or vested in any person for the use and benefit of the ISKCON, is hereby transferred to and vested in the ISKCON.

Mode of execution of
documents

6. All documents requiring the seal of the ISKCON shall be sealed with the common seal of the ISKCON in the presence of the President and Secretary for the

time being in office or, in the event of incapacity or absence from the territory of either, in the presence of some other person or persons authorised for that purpose by the ISKCON who shall both sign every such document and such signing shall be *prima facie* evidence that the said seal was duly affixed and that the same is the lawful seal of the ISKCON.

7. (1) The ISKCON shall at all times have a fixed address in Trinidad and Tobago for the service of documents on the ISKCON and that address and any change thereof shall be registered with the Registrar General within twenty-eight days of the date of incorporation or the change of address as the case may be.

(2) Every document to be served on the ISKCON may be served by leaving the same at, or by sending the same by registered post to the registered address of the ISKCON.

(3) Failure to register the address and any change thereof is a summary offence and renders the ISKCON liable to a fine of one hundred and twenty dollars and to a further fine of ten dollars for each day during which the offence continues, after conviction thereof.

8. The ISKCON may, from time to time make rules for the proper conduct of its proceedings and discharge of its duties, powers and functions and such rules may be amended from time to time.

9. Nothing in this act shall affect or be deemed to affect the rights of the State, or of any bodies politic or corporate or of any persons, except such as are mentioned or referred to in this Act and those claiming by, through, from or under them.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 18th day
of September, 1998.

D. DOLLY

Acting Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 22nd day of September,
1998.

N. COX

Clerk of the Senate