68/1997 Coll. Laws

Law from February 13, 1997

on the "Matica slovenská" (Slovak Cultural Society)

The National Council of the Slovak Republic, in view of the fact that the Matica slovenská has historically proved to be a significant establishment of the Slovak nation in the areas of cultural, social and scientific activities, has adopted the following law:

§ 1

Basic provision

(1) Matica slovenská is a legal and public establishment.

(2) Matica slovenská is a legal entity.

(3) The seat of the Matica slovenská is in Martin.

§ 2

Tasks of the Matica slovenská

(1) Tasks entrusted to the Matica slovenská by the state are to especially:

a) strengthen Slovak patriotism,
b) deepen the respect of citizens for Slovak statehood,
c) obtain significant Slovak documents; further assemble, process, keep, protect and make accessible, maintain, cultivate and present national cultural heritage,
d) undertake basic Slovak research,
e) share in the development of local and regional culture,
f) especially influence young people concerning national, moral and democratic values,
g) increase national awareness in the regions of the Slovak Republic which are multilingual,
h) strengthen relations between cultures of citizens who claim to be national minorities and ethnic groups on the territory of the Slovak Republic with the Slovak national culture,
i) take care to maintain national awareness of Slovak countrymen living abroad,
j) associate bring together creators and supporters of Slovak culture and science all over the world,
k) support promotion of the Slovak Republic through information and cultural centres formed abroad,
l) develop contacts with European and world organizations on issues of culture, national identity, spiritual life and the protection of universal values,
m) establish at home and abroad foundations and funds for support in the national and cultural life of Slovaks and for evaluating the most significant creators in certain

artistic areas,
n) cooperate with state organs and territorial self-administration organs in developing culture and society,
o) issue original Slovak art productions, scientific work and promotion material,
p) cooperate in the creation of schoolbooks and textbooks in some social science subjects for basic and grammar schools based mandates of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

(2) Other tasks of the Matica slovenská should follow from the activities of its organs (§ 4 and 5).

§ 3

Establishments performing tasks committed to the Matica slovenská by the State

(1) The Matica slovenská will cooperates and help effectuate fulfilling of tasks of the state in the areas of culture and science. These tasks are especially fulfilled by the following organizations:

a) Slovak National Library in Matica slovenská,
b) National cultural monuments,
c) Slovak Literary Institute and Slovak Historical Institute,
d) Centre for National Relations of Matica slovenská,
e) National Museum of Matica slovenská,
f) Information and cultural centres of Matica slovenská abroad,
g) Regional centres of Matica slovenská.

(2) The Slovak National Library of Matica slovenská 1) is a legal entity. Its founding document will be issued by the chairman of the Matica slovenská after it has been agreed upon with the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The director is appointed and recalled by the chairman of the Matica slovenská.

(3) The National Cultural Monument acts as a central workplace for archives , 2) museum and biographical documentation, research and protection and support of Slovak culture and literature. It is a legal entity, the founder of which is Matica slovenská. The director is appointed and recalled by the chairman of the Matica slovenská.

(4) The Slovak Literary Institute and Slovak Historical Institute are scientific workplaces of Matica slovenská for basic and Slovak reserach. They are legal entities, the founder of which is Matica slovenská. The director is appointed and recalled by the chairman of the Matica slovenská.

(5) The National Relations Centre of Matica slovenská is the organizational component of Matica slovenská. It acts as a coordinator of research on and documentation of relations between the Slovak nation and national minorities living in the Slovak Republic as well as a consultative source concerning questions about this subject. The director is appointed and recalled by the chairman of Matica slovenská.

(6) The National Museum of Matica slovenská acts as a central workplace for relations and cooperation with Slovaks living outside the territory of the Slovak Republic, and for maintaining and developing their national identity and relations with the Slovak Republic. The head of the National Museum is appointed and recalled by the chairman of Matica slovenská.

(7) The information and cultural centres of Matica slovenská abroad are workplaces of Matica slovenská for informing about Slovakia, for promoting Slovakia around the world and for cooperating with Slovaks living abroad.

(8) The Regional centres of Matica slovenská are professional workplaces, which fulfill cultural, social and methodical aims towards the general public and towards the membership base of Matica slovenská on designated territory. They act as workplaces with legal subjectivity (Matica slovenská property) or without legal subjectivity (regional Matica slovenská workplaces). The directors of workplaces with legal subjectivity are appointed and recalled by the chairman of Matica slovenská.

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1) Law No. 53/1959 Coll. on a uniform library system (Law on libraries) in the wording of subsequent regulations.
2) E.g., § 26 of Law of the Slovak National Council No. 149/1975 Coll. on maintaining archives.

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§ 4

Organization of Matica slovenská.

(1) Matica slovenská consists of

a) local, special interest and scientific departments of Matica slovenská (hereafter only "Department"),
b) the establishments stated in § 3,
c) common workplaces of Matica slovenská and legal entities established by the central organs of the state administration.

(2) The Department unites members of Matica slovenská and cooperates in fulfiling its tasks within communities, social interests and scientific disciplines. The Department is a legal entity; contractual transfers of the ownership of immovable property over one million Sk and contractual transfers of ownership of movable property over five million Sk are subjects requiring of the prior permission of Matica slovenská. Contingent disputes among departments are mutually resolved and decided upon by organs of Matica slovenská.

(3) Common workplaces of Matica slovenská are service workplaces that help to fulfill tasks of Matica slovenská.

(4) Matica slovenská may also establish and form other legal entities and constitute workplaces without legal subjectivity for fulfilling tasks which are assigned to it under this law.

(5) Details on the activities of organizational sections, establishments and common workplaces of Matica slovenská, their positions and relations among them are handled by the statutes of Matica slovenská.

§ 5

Organs of Matica slovenská

(1) Organs of Matica slovenská are the

a) general assembly of Matica slovenská (hereafter only “general assembly”),
b) Board of Matica slovenská,
c) chairman of Matica slovenská,
d) supervisory board of Matica slovenská.

(2) The General Assembly is the highest organ of Matica slovenská and is formed by delegates from the individual departments and workplaces of Matica slovenská designated according to the statutes of Matica slovenská, as well as members of the Board of Matica slovenská. The General Assembly´s specific authority includes:

a) discussing basic questions concerning the direction and activities of Matica slovenská,
b) approving statutes of Matica slovenská and their amendments,
c) election and recalling of the Board of Matica slovenská,
d) election and recalling of the chairman of Matica slovenská,
e) approving the financial rules of Matica slovenská.

(3) The Board of Matica slovenská is the highest executive organ of Matica slovenská. The Board of Matica slovenská´s specific authority includes:

a) deciding on the establishment or foundation of an organization sections, a workplace or a department of Matica slovenská,
b) deciding on establishment or foundation of legal entities, in which the only or majority founder or organizer is Matica slovenská,
c) calling the general assembly,
d) discussing and approving reports on the finances and budget of Matica slovenská.

(4) The chairman of Matica slovenská is a statutory organ of Matica slovenská, who, as the highest representative of Matica slovenská, represents Matica slovenská in public and heads the Board of Matica slovenská. The management and coordination of all the activities of Matica slovenská and running the general assembly belong among his primary duties. The chairman of Matica slovenská is substituted for an administrator of Matica slovenská who is authorized to manage and coordinate the activities of the subjects given under § 4 para 1 letter b) and c). Selection of the chairman of Matica slovenská is determined by election.

(5) The supervisory board of Matica slovenská is the highest supervisory body of Matica slovenská. Two thirds of its members (including the chairman) elect the general assembly. One third of its members are composed of by representatives of the state who are appointed and recalled by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

(6) Details on positions, authority, and the structure and origin of the organs of Matica slovenská are handled by the statutes of Matica slovenská.

§ 6

Economics and financing of Matica slovenská

(1) Matica slovenská manages

a) its own property
b) the property of the state.

(2) Its own property is represented by money, valuables, other movable and immovable things as well as property rights and values appraisable with money, which may serve to fulfill tasks of Matica slovenská according to its nature.

(3) A special regulation refers to handling the property of the state. 3)

(4) Subsidies and earmarked subsidies are presented to Matica slovenská for fulfilling its tasks from the state budget of the Slovak Republic (§ 2 para 1). Matica slovenská manages these subsidies according to special regulations. 4)

(5) Matica slovenská may perform entrepreneurial activities with its own property as a rule by means of trade companies, which it has established. Profits from the entrepreneurial activities are used for fulfilling its tasks.

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3) Law of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 278/1993 Coll. Laws on the administration of property of the state in the wording of the Law of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 374/1996 Coll. Laws.
4) Law of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 303/1995 Coll. Laws on budgetary rules in the wording of the Law of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 386/1996 Coll. Laws.

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§ 7

Common provision
Organs of Matica slovenská, the organizational sections of Matica slovenská, the workplaces of Matica slovenská and the departments of Matica slovenská established on the date of this law become effective and are regarded as if they have been established according to this law.

§ 8

Repeal Provision
Law of the Slovak National Council No. 196/1991 on Matica slovenská is being repealed.

§ 9

Effectiveness

This law comes into effect on the date of its promulgation.

Kováč in his own hand

Ivan Gašparovič in his own hand

Vladimír Mečiar in his own hand

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