# National News Agency Act, 2019 (1962)

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An Act made to establish the National News Agency

Preamble: Whereas, it is expedient to make provisions for the establishment of one nation-wide National News Agency and for laying a healthy and solid foundation thereof in order to explore and collect complete and factual news and information within and outside the country and disseminate the collected news and information to the users and also for the proper exchange of news, with a view to contributing to the access of people in the country as well as foreigners to impartial as well as authentic news and information within and outside…….. Nepal and to the enhancement of the feeling of unity in Nepal as well as formation of solid public opinion, in order to maintain the convenience of the general people;

Now, therefore, His Majesty King Mahendra Bikram Shah Dev has enacted this Act, in accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution of Nepal.

Chapter-1

Preliminary

1. Short title, extension and commencement: (1) This Act may be cited as the "National News Agency Act, 2019 (1962)."
(2) This Act shall extend throughout .......... 7 Nepal.
(3) This Act shall come into force immediately.

2. **Definitions:** Unless the subject or the context otherwise requires, in this Act:

   (a) "Agency" means the National News Agency.
   (b) "Board" means the board of directors formed to operate the Agency.
   (c) "News" means any new report or description on any event or circumstance which is considered mention worthy in view of the timeliness, importance and possible impacts.
   (d) "Director" means the member of the Board.
   (e) "General Manager" means the general manager of the Agency appointed pursuant to Section 14.
   (f) "News reporter" means any news reporter who provides news to the Agency.
   (g) "Shareholder" means a shareholder who subscribes a share allotted pursuant to this Act.
   (h) "Prescribed" or "as prescribed" means prescribed or as prescribed in the Rules or Bye-laws 8 framed under this Act.

**Chapter-2**

**Establishment, capital and provision**

3. **Establishment of the Agency:** (1) There shall be established a Agency by the name of "National News Agency".

   (2) The Agency shall be an autonomous body corporate with perpetual succession. The body shall have a separate seal of its own for all of its activities. It may, subject to this Act and the prevailing Nepal laws,

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7 Deleted by Republic Strengthening and Some Nepal Laws Amendment Act, 2066.
8 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2055.
acquire, use, sell and dispose of any movable and immovable property. It may sue by its name and be also sued by the same name.

(3) The head office of the Agency shall be situated in Kathmandu and it shall be lawful for the Agency to appoint representatives, news reporters and editors within …… 9 Nepal and in foreign countries as well.

4. **Capital, share and shareholders of the Agency:** (1) The authorized capital of the Agency shall be as determined by the Government of Nepal.

(2) The Government of Nepal shall subscribe at least Fifty One percent shares of the Agency, and out of the total capital of the Agency, and a maximum of Twenty Five 10 percent shares shall be sold to the employees of the Agency, as prescribed. The remaining shares shall be sold to the general people. Any employee shall not sell the shares subscribed by him or her while he or she serves for the Agency.

(3) Each share shall be indivisible.

(4) Restriction may generally be made on the sale of shares in excess of the prescribed percentage 11 to any person or company except any employee of the Agency.

(5) The liability of shareholders of the Agency shall be limited.

5. **Disqualification for shareholder:** Any person, other than a citizen of Nepal or a company registered under the Nepal laws shall not be entitled to subscribe shares of or be a shareholder of the Agency or to make or cause to be made transmission thereof.

6. **Power to receive grant and borrow loan:** The Agency may borrow cash or in-kind or accept a grant as required to increase its running capital, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the general meeting, after the provision of the general meeting has been made, and failing the provision

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9 Deleted by Republic Strengthening and Some Nepal Laws Amendment Act, 2066.
10 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2055.
11 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
of the general meeting, by obtaining approval of the Government of Nepal, until the provision of the general meeting is made.

Provided that, the Agency shall not borrow a loan or accept a grant from any foreign agency without obtaining approval of the Government of Nepal.

7. **Management:** The Board shall look after, direct and manage all the functions and affairs of the Agency. The Board shall exercise all such powers and perform all such duties of the Agency in relation to the matters other than those clearly mentioned in this Act or the rules framed under this Act, subject to the resolutions adopted by the general meeting after its provision or pending the provision of the general meeting, subject to the decisions made by the Government of Nepal.

Provided that, the Board may so delegate such duties and powers, out of the duties and powers set forth in this Act or the Rules framed under this Act as it deems necessary and appropriate to the general manager or a sub-committee consisting of one or more directors or other officers of the Agency as to be performed and carried out by them.

8. **Formation of the Board and tenure of directors:** (1) The Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as "Board") shall consist of Five directors as follows:

(a) The general manager of the Agency,

(b) One person elected by the general meeting from amongst the non-governmental shareholders,

(c) One person nominated by the Government of Nepal in respect of the governmental shares,

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12 Amended by the First Amendment.
(d) One person nominated by the Government of Nepal from amongst the persons who are renowned in the field of journalism, publication or literature, and

(e) One person elected from the shareholder employees of the Agency.

(2) Pending the provision of election by the general meeting or that of election by the shareholder employees under Clause (e) of Sub-section (1), the Government of Nepal shall also nominate the directors required to be elected by the shareholders.

(3) The Government of Nepal shall designate the chairperson of the Board and the general manager of the Agency shall preside over the Board until the chairperson is designated.

(3a) The tenure of the directors elected or nominated under Clauses (b), (c), (d) and (e) shall be Four years, and upon the expiration of their tenure, they may be re-elected or re-nominated.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in Sub-section (3a), the Government of Nepal may nominate any other person in the place of a director nominated under Clauses (c) and (d) of Sub-section (1) prior to the completion of the tenure of such a director.

(5) Upon assumption of office after being elected by the general meeting or employees of the Agency, the directors nominated by the Government of Nepal shall ipso facto relive of office in relation to them.

(6) ……………………

9. **Disqualification for director:** Any of the following persons shall not be eligible to be a director or hold the office of director:

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13 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
14 Inserted by Second Amendment.
15 Amended by Second Amendment.
16 Amended by Second Amendment.
16 Deleted by Second Amendment.
(a) Who is of unsound mind or is insane;
(b) Who is convicted by a court of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude, and sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding six months and a period of five years has not lapsed from the date of the service of such a sentence of imprisonment;
(c) Who has become insolvent; or
(d) Who has any kind of personal interest in any contract or transaction of the Agency.

10. **Circumstance where director may be removed:** (1) The Government of Nepal may remove any director if a two-thirds majority of the shareholders present at the general meeting make a recommendation to remove him or her, in the following circumstances:

   (a) If he or she suffers any disqualification set forth in Section 9,
   (b) If he or she absents from the meeting of the Board for more than three consecutive meetings without permission of the Board and the reason for such absence is not reasonable in the opinion of the general meeting, or
   (c) If he or she is proved to have partnership in any contract entered into with the Agency in violation of Section 16.

11. **Resignation of directors and fulfillment of vacancy:** (1) Any director may resign from office by giving a notice in writing to the Board. Upon acceptance of resignation, he or she shall be deemed to have abandoned the office.

   (2) If the office of a director falls vacant because of his or her death, resignation or any other reason, the vacancy shall be fulfilled by nomination or election, as the case may be, and such a director shall hold the office only for the remainder of the term of the predecessor.
(3) Any acts of the Board already done shall not be invalid by the reason only that any irregularity was made in the formation of the Board or that the office of any director fell vacant.

12. **Remuneration of directors:** The remuneration of the directors shall be as prescribed.

13. **Meetings of the Board:** (1) The meeting of the Board shall be held at such place and time as specified by the Board, and the rules of procedures of the Board shall be as prescribed. Meetings of the Board shall be presided over by the chairperson and by a director selected by the directors from amongst themselves, in the absence of the chairperson.

   (2) If more than Fifty percent of the then directors of the Board are present in a meeting of the Board, the quorum of the Board shall be deemed to have been constituted, and if the meeting is not attended by the quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned.

   (3) The decision of a majority of the directors who attend and vote at the meeting of the Board shall be binding. In the event of a time, the chairperson or the director presiding over the meeting in the absence of the chairperson shall made decision.

14.** Appointment of general manager, advisers and employees:** (1) The Government of Nepal may appoint one general manager and such other advisers as may be required, and the Agency may appoint other employees, for the efficient operation of the affairs of the Agency. Their terms and conditions of service, tenure and remuneration shall be as prescribed.

   (2) Appointment and terms and conditions of service of employees may be so made that the employees of the Agency has to subscribe the shares of the Agency mandatorily from such figure of remuneration as drawn each month as prescribed.

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17 Amended by First Amendment.
Provided that, no share shall be sold to the employees who have been appointed on the temporary basis and on the contract service.

15. **Director not to take part in meeting:** The general manager or employee who is a director pursuant to Section 8 shall not be allowed to take part, in the capacity of the director, in a meeting of the Agency held to take action against the general manager or that employee.

16. **Restriction on director and general manager of the Agency:** The director or general manager of the Agency shall not be a partner in any contract with the Agency.

   Provided that, immediately when each director or the general manager knows that he or she has directly or indirectly any concern in any contract made by or proposed to be made by the Agency or any contract made by or proposed to be made by any subsidiary body of the Agency and submitted to the Agency for its consideration, such a director or general manager shall disclose the matter to the meeting of the Board as soon as possible. The matter so disclosed shall be recorded in the minutes, and the concerned director shall not take part in any deliberations or decisions made by the Board in relation to that contract.

**Chapter-3**

**Functions and duties of the Agency**

17. **Functions and duties of the Agency:** (1) It shall be the duty of the Agency to collect and disseminate impartial and authentic, pure, unbiased, credible and actual news subject to this Act and having regard to the national viewpoint. In performing the functions and duties pursuant to this Sub-section, the Agency shall not:

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18 Amended by Second Amendment.
19 Amended by First Amendment.
20 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
(a) disseminate news undermining the friendship of other nations with Nepal and world peace or creating doubt or suspicion about the same,

(b) ............21 disseminate unnecessary news making accusation against any one without any evidence and create illusion in the society.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the duties set forth in Sub-section (1), the Agency may do the following matters:

(a)22 To collect and disseminate such kind of news as may promote the sovereignty, integrity and nationality of the country and be in the interests of the people,

(b) To collect and disseminate such kind of news as to elevate the standard of the country and society, and uplift the society, subject to .................23 the prevailing laws and policies,

(c) To collect and disseminate news of national importance without undermining the civic, moral and characteristic feeling,

(d) To provide for education and training for persons within and outside the Agency on matters of the Agency,

(e) To fix and recover fees of various editions of news, and other fees as well,

(f) To take necessary steps in order to bring improvement in the standards of news, taking into consideration of the basic national unity of.............Nepal, in disseminating news,

21 Deleted by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2047.
22 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2047.
23 Deleted by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2047.
(g) To obtain movable, immovable property in order to perform such functions as the Agency is entitled to perform,

(h) To borrow loans against the security of any property of the Agency,

(i) To rent, sell or otherwise deal with any property of the Agency,

(j) To pay interests on deposits/security and distribute share dividends of the Agency,

(k) To perform and implement all kinds of contracts that may contribute to the performance\textsuperscript{24} and exercise of its powers and duties,

(l) To open branch offices, appoint news reporters and employees and editors or make customers in various places within \textsuperscript{25} Nepal\textsuperscript{26} and abroad for the collection and sale and distribution of news,

(m) To provide for pension or gratuity\textsuperscript{27} of its office-bearers and employees and open accounts in the economic interests of the Agency,

(n) To invest its money in such security as specified by the Government of Nepal and earn profits,

(o) To perform all such other functions as may be necessary to perform and exercise its duties and powers under this Act and to implement the objectives of this Act and may be required in that course.

\textsuperscript{24} Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
\textsuperscript{25} Amended by Republic Strengthening and Some Nepal Laws Amendment Act, 2066.
\textsuperscript{26} Inserted by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
\textsuperscript{27} Inserted by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
18. **To obtain prior approval of the Government of Nepal:** The Agency shall not do the following act without obtaining prior approval of the Government of Nepal:

(a) To expend capital to purchase or obtain any immovable property or any other goods valued at more than Ten Million Rupees,\(^{28}\) or  
(b) To take or furnish security of any immovable property for a term more than Ten years,\(^{29}\) or  
(c) To sell or transmit any property or right or facility valued at more than Five Hundred Thousand Rupees.\(^ {30}\)

19. **To submit cost estimate and programs:** (1) The Board shall, at least Three months in advance of the commencement of its financial year, submit proposes cost estimate along with the programs or operations to be carried out by the Agency and its subsidiary organs in the coming financial year, development works, capital investment and details of additional employees, if so required, to the general meeting.

(2) If the Board desires to do any other special business, in addition to the programs already submitted pursuant to Sub-section (1), in any financial year, and it may make a substantial change in the proposed cost, the Board shall submit such supplementary programs and the costs to be borne when remaining amounts to be received in the said financial year to the general meeting for approval.

(3) Until the provision of the general meeting is made, the Board shall submit the statements as referred to in Sub-sections (1) and (2) to the Government of Nepal.

\(^{28}\) Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2055.  
\(^{29}\) Amended by Second Amendment.  
\(^{30}\) Amended by Second Amendment.
Chapter-4

General meeting

20. General Meeting: (1) A general meeting (hereinafter referred to as the annual general meeting) shall be held at the head office of the Agency in each year within Forty Five days after the date of closure of annual accounts of the Agency after the sale of shares of at least Ten percent value of the share capital issued by the Agency for sale. If the shareholders who have subscribed at least One Tenth of the share capital issued by the Agency for subscription by the general people or at least Fifty shareholders make an application in writing or the Board considers necessary so to do, the extra-ordinary general meeting of the Agency shall be held at any other time.

(2) If the shareholders who have subscribed at least One Forth of the shares issued by the Agency for subscription by the general people attend a general meeting in person or by proxy, the quorum for the general meeting shall be deemed to have been constituted.

(3) The shareholders present at the annual general meeting shall discuss the annual accounts, profit and loss account, matters contained in the auditor's report in relation thereto and the Board's report on the affairs of the Agency carried out throughout the previous year. These matters shall be submitted to the Government of Nepal until the provision of the annual general meeting is made.

(4) A shareholder may cast vote at the rate of one vote for each one percent share of the total capital of the Agency subscribed by the shareholder.

Provided that:

31 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
(a) No shareholder who has subscribed shares less than One percent of the total capital of the Agency shall be entitled to case vote.

(b) If the share percentage is more than One unit, the shareholder shall be entitled to cast vote only equal to the lower unit until the higher unit is achieved.

(4a) No shareholder may exercise vote without being present at a general meeting in person or by proxy.

(5) Any decision at the general meeting shall be made by a simple majority of the shareholders and proxies attending and voting thereat.

21. **Power of Government of Nepal to give direction:** If the Government of Nepal considers appropriate so to do for national interest, it may give direction as follows to the Agency, and it shall be duty of the Agency to abide such a direction:

(a) To operate any service or carry out any other act in any specific area, or

(b) Refrain from doing any act being done by the Agency in any specific area, or to alter such an act or close the same totally, or

(c) Not to do any act about to be done by the Agency.

22. **Power of Government of Nepal to make inquiries into activities of Agency:** The Government of Nepal may, if it considers necessary so to do, also cause the activities and accounts of the Agency to be inquired into also by any person.

23. **Power of Government of Nepal to dissolve Board:** (1) If the Government of Nepal is of the opinion that the functions of the Board are not being perform smoothly or the Board has acted in contravention of the

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32 Inserted by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
objectives of the Agency or has frequently violated the directions given by the Government of Nepal pursuant to this Act, it may make an order dissolving the Board.

(2) After the dissolution of the Board pursuant to Sub-section (1), another Board shall be formed pursuant to Section 8.

(3) After the dissolution of the Board pursuant to Sub-section (1), the Government of Nepal also engage One or more than One person to carry out the activities required to be carried out by the Board until another Board is formed pursuant to Sub-section (2).

(4) The order made pursuant to Sub-section (1) shall be final.

Chapter-5

Fund, accounts and audit

24. **Fund of the Agency:** (1) The Agency shall have a separate fund of its own, and all amounts received by the Agency including loans and grants shall be credited to the fund, and expenses to be made on behalf of the Agency shall also be chargeable on that fund.

(2) All amounts of the fund shall be deposited in the *Nepal Rastra Bank* or any other bank as permitted by the Government of Nepal.

(3) The Board shall have powers to make such expenses as considered appropriate for the activities authorized pursuant to this Act and the Rules framed under this Act.

25. **To bear liabilities:** Any liabilities undertaken by the Government of Nepal assumed by the Government of Nepal and contracts in relation to the matters set forth in this Act prior to the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been undertaken, assumed or entered into with or by or on behalf of the Agency, after the commencement of this Act.
26. **Mode of maintaining accounts**: Accounts of incomes and expenses of the Agency shall be maintained in such form and manner as may be approved by the Government of Nepal.

27. **Audit**: (1) The accounts of the Agency shall be audited by a total of Two auditors consisting of One auditor designated by the Government of Nepal and the other selected by the shareholders. The auditor to be selected by the shareholders shall be selected at the annual general meeting, and the remuneration of the auditor shall also be specified by that meeting.

   (2) If the office of the auditor falls vacant for any reason or until the provision of the general meeting is made, only one auditor designated by the Government of Nepal shall perform the audit.

   (3) It shall be the duty of the auditors to audit the annual accounts and profit and loss account and related receipts of the Agency. All records of accounts and books of the Agency shall be made available to the auditors. They may inspect and examine any accounts and documents held by the Agency or any of its office-bearer or employee in any place.

   (4) The auditors shall submit one copy of the audit report made by them to the Government of Nepal and the other copy to the annual general meeting of the Agency, after the provision of the general meeting is made. The report shall clearly state the following matters:

   (a) Whether annual accounts and profit and loss account have been so properly and duly maintained, clearly indicating all required matters as to reflect the actual financial condition of the Agency or not;

   (b) Whether the Agency has provided any such explanation or information as sought by the auditors or not, and if so provided, whether such explanation or information is satisfactory or not.
(5) The auditors may submit such proposals at they consider appropriate for the proper arrangement of the Agency. The Board shall include the proposals so submitted in the agenda of the general meeting.

(6) The Government of Nepal may, at any time, give direction to the auditors submit to it a report indicating whether the steps being taken by the Agency are not sufficient for the proper protection of the shareholders and creditors and the manner of maintaining accounts of the Agency is proper or not.

(7) The Government of Nepal may, based on the report received pursuant to Sub-section (4) or (6), give direction to the Agency for necessary reform or provision.

Chapter-6

Miscellaneous

28. **To take oath to maintain secrecy and not to commit a breach of trust:** Prior assumption of their office, each director, general manager, auditor, officer and other employee of the Agency shall take an oath as set forth in the Schedule that they shall not disclose the matters associated with their office to any person other than the authorized person and shall no commit a breach of trust in the affairs of the Agency.

29. ................

30. **Penalties:** (1) If a person who has the duty to maintain, prepare or submit any statements, accounts report or other document pursuant to this Act or the Rules framed under this Act, knowingly or with ulterior motive, conceals the truth and state a false matter in such accounts or report or other documents or alters the contents or attempts to do such an act, that person shall be liable to the punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding

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33 Repealed by First Amendment.
34 Amended by First Amendment.
Three years or a fine of up to Three Thousand Rupees or with both punishments.

(2) If any director or employee of the Agency causes any loss or damage to the Agency by doing any act knowingly or recklessly or with ulterior motive, other that that set forth in Sub-section (1), such a director or employee shall be liable to the punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding One year or a fine of up to One Thousand Rupees.

(3) If any director or employee of the Agency obstructs the inspector appointed under Section 22 to make inquiry with his or her business or does not provide, except for any reasonable reason, such document or information to such a person as demanded by him or her in accordance with law, or commits recklessness in the provision of such document or information, such a person shall be liable to the punishment of a fine of up to One Thousand Rupees.

(4) If any person uses the name of the Agency in any prospectus or advertisement without obtaining written permission of the Agency, the person shall be liable to the punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding Six months or a fine of up to One Thousand Rupees or with both punishments.

(5) If any person who was the then director or general manager of the Agency becomes a partner in a written contract made with the Agency in violation of Section 16 and without making disclosure as required under that Section and makes or attempts to make any undue benefit in that capacity, that person shall be liable to the punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding Two years or a fine of up to Five Thousand Rupees or with both punishments.
(6) If the Agency has suffered any loss or damage from any offence punishable under this Section, the amount of such loss or damage shall also be recovered from the person who has committed that offence.  

**30A.** Liaison with Government of Nepal: In making contact by the Agency with the Government of Nepal in the course of performing its activities or in giving direction by the Government of Nepal to the Agency pursuant to Section 21, such contact or direction shall be made or given through the Ministry of Communication.

**30B.** Local taxes not to be levied: No local tax of any type shall be levied on the transaction of the Agency.

**32.** Special provisions relating to collection, sale and distribution of news: (1) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Act, other national and international news agencies may, with the approval of the Government of Nepal, to collect news within ...... Nepal and transmit the same to foreign countries.

(2) The news agencies as referred to in Sub-section (1) may sell and distribute their news within ...... Nepal, only through the news agencies established pursuant to the prevailing laws and the Government of Nepal.

**32A.** Saving of officers against loss or damage: The directors or employees of the Agency shall not be held individually liable for any loss or damage.

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35 Amended by Communication Related Some Nepal Acts Amendment Act, 2029, with effect from 2028.12.20.
36 Inserted by First Amendment.
37 Inserted by Second Amendment.
38 Repealed by Judicial Administration Reform (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2043.
39 Amended by Third Amendment.
40 Deleted by Republic Strengthening and Some Nepal Laws Amendment Act, 2066.
42 Deleted by Republic Strengthening and Some Nepal Laws Amendment Act, 2066.
43 Inserted by First Amendment.
caused or to be caused from any act done or purported to be done by them in good faith in the course of performing their duties in accordance with this Act or the rules framed hereunder.

33.44 **Power of Government of Nepal to frame Rules:** The Government of Nepal may frame Rules in order to accomplish the objectives of this Act, and these Rules shall come into force after their publication in the Nepal Gazette.

33A.45 **Power to frame Bye-laws:** The Agency may frame Bye-laws, without being prejudicial to this Act or the Rules framed under this Act, for the proper accomplishment of the activities of the Agency, and such Bye-laws shall come into force upon being approved by the Government of Nepal.

34.46 **Provision applicable when inconsistency:** (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the prevailing Nepal laws, the matters set forth in this Act or the Rules framed under this Act shall be governed by the same.

(2)47 ................

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44 Amended by First Amendment.
45 Inserted by First Amendment.
46 Title of Section amended by Some Nepal Acts Amendment, Repeal and Continuance Through Rearrangements Act, 2019.
Schedule
(Relating to Section 28)
Oath of honesty and secrecy

I…………………… swear that I shall honestly and with truth and faith perform my duties in the capacity of the director, general manager, employee or auditor of the Agency or in relation to the affairs entrusted to my office in the Agency, to the best of my knowledge and capacity.

I again swear that I shall not disclose or cause to be disclosed any information relating to the Agency to any unauthorized person or allow any book or document relating to the Agency and in custody of the Agency for inspection or receipt by any person.