

Law 3512 (Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic A' 264/5-12-2006)

Mosque of Athens– Miscellaneous provisions

Article 1

A non-profit Legal Entity of Private Law (LEPL) is hereby established, under the name: “Committee of the Mosque of Athens”, having its seat within the Municipality of Athens, supervised by the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs. The said LEPL shall not be subject to the broader public sector.

Article 2

The aim of the said Legal Entity of Private Law named “Committee of the Mosque of Athens” shall be to administer, manage, and maintain the Mosque to be constructed within the limits of the Municipality of Athens, in order to meet the religious needs of Muslims living in Attica.

Article 3

The Mosque shall be constructed by the Directorate of Implementation of Educational Planning, of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs. The costs shall be covered by the Public Investment Program. The Mosque shall be constructed on a land, the use of which is to be granted by the State, in compliance with the building terms and restrictions set forth in a presidential decree, upon a proposal made by the Minister of Environment, Planning & Public Works and the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs.

Article 4

- 1) Ownership of the Mosque and the land to be granted according to article 3 here above shall belong to the grantor.
- 2) The LEPL resources, shall be:
 - a) ordinary resources, coming from the subsidies of the State Budget of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs for the operation and maintenance of the Mosque; and
 - b) extraordinary resources, coming from subsidies, donations, legacies, bequests and any kind of contribution made by natural persons or legal entities etc.

Article 5

1. The legal entity established hereby shall be directed by a seven-member Management Board of the Committee of the Mosque of Athens to be appointed by decision of the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs, for a period of three years which may be renewed for one more term. The Director General of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs shall be appointed as Chairperson of the Management Board. The Director of Other Religions and Denominations shall be appointed as alternate Chairperson by the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs.

The members of the Management Board are:

- a) the Director General of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs; Alternate: the Director of Other Religions and Denominations;
- b) a Director General of the Ministry of Economy & Finance and an alternate to be appointed by the Minister of Economy & Finance;
- c) two representatives of the Municipality of Athens and their alternates, to be appointed by the Mayor of Athens;
- d) one expert designated by the Academy of Athens and an alternate or a faculty member of a Greek University and an alternate, specialized in Islamic religion or Islamic civilization; failing such an expert, faculty members of a Greek University their subject matter being as relevant as possible. Such persons shall be designated by the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs, upon a recommendation made by the competent organs of Greek Universities;
- e) two representatives of Muslims living in Attica and their alternates, to be selected by the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs among the persons designated by two lawfully established and most representative associations of Muslims living in Attica. To determine the representative nature of such associations, the number of their members, their general popularity among Muslims living in Attica and the correlation with their number shall be taken into account.

Each of these associations shall propose four representatives.

An A' Grade civil servant of the Central Administration of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs shall be appointed as Secretary of the Management Board.

2. The Management Board shall administrate the funds granted by the Budget of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs for the operation and maintenance of the Mosque, as well as its extraordinary resources (subsidies, donations, legacies etc). The Management Board shall have all competences provided for by law and those which shall be assigned by its rules of procedure, as stipulated in the following paragraph.
3. Joint Decisions of the Minister of Economy & Finance and the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs shall approve of:
 - a) the rules of procedure of the LEPL to be established under the name: "Committee of the Mosque of Athens" and
 - b) the rules of procedure of its Management Board, upon its opinion, to be put forward at its first meeting.

4. a) The rules of procedure of the “Committee of the Mosque of Athens” LEPL shall set forth its structure and operation, the number, positions, qualifications and status of the personnel to be employed with such LEPL, the topics of studies and service rendering regarding the operation and maintenance of the Mosque and the procurements. Civil servants employed with the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs may be seconded to the LEPL established positions.
- b) The rules of procedure of the Management Board shall set forth its operation, as well as the manner and time that the Mosque may be made available for individual use by Muslim communities residing in Attica, in order for them to satisfy their worship needs, depending on the number thereof.

Article 6

1. A Muslim religious minister (imam) shall be appointed to the Mosque under establishment, by decision of the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs, following a proposal of the Management Board. The term of office is fixed at two years and it may be renewed. Competences and duties of the said religious minister shall be limited to the responsibilities for the internal operation of the Mosque in order to facilitate the satisfaction of the adherents’ worship needs. He shall exercise his duties and shall offer his services to the religious communities to which the Mosque has been granted, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4(b), article 5, if requested by such communities.
2. The salary of the Muslim religious minister shall be borne in total by the regular budget of the Ministry of National Education & Religious Affairs and shall be determined by a joint decision of the Minister of Economy & Finance and the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs.

Article 7

1. Audits of the LEPL shall be conducted in accordance with the legal provisions in force.
2. The remuneration of the Management Board members shall be determined by a joint decision of the Minister of Economy & Finance and the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs.
3. Specific matters and details that may arise in application of the above mentioned provisions shall be regulated by decision of the Minister of National Education & Religious Affairs and any jointly competent Minister(s).

Translated by Callis MITRAKA