Decentralization Act: Summary of Key Provisions

Ref: HC/LAW/01

This is a plain-language sample summary for demonstration. It is not the text of the law. Refer to the official gazette for the authoritative version.

Purpose

The Act establishes a system of decentralised administration, setting out the role of island, atoll and city councils in local development and service delivery.

Council functions

- Make decisions on local development and the use of Council funds.
- Provide and maintain local services such as waste management, roads and harbours.
- Prepare and implement the island development plan and annual budget.
- Issue permits and licences within the Council mandate.
- Promote participation of residents, women and youth in local affairs.

Transparency and accountability

- Council meetings are open to the public, subject to exceptions.
- Council decisions, budgets and financial statements shall be published.
- The Council is subject to annual audit.

Revenue

Councils receive block grants from the State and may collect fees and charges set under Council regulations.

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