2. Interpretation.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

"Assistant Registrar" means any officer appointed as an Assistant Registrar of Societies under section 3;

"benefit" means a payment made by a mutual benefit society for the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers or on birth or death in accordance with the rules of the mutual benefit society;

"local society" means any society organised and established in Malaysia or having its headquarters or chief place of business in Malaysia, and includes any society deemed to be established in Malaysia by virtue of section 4;

"Minister" means the Minister for the time being charged with responsibility for the registration of societies;

"mutual benefit society" means any society which by its objects and rules either as the principal object or as an ancillary object makes provisions by voluntary subscriptions of the members thereof or subscribers thereto with or without the aid of donations for-

(a) the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers, their husbands, wives, children, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or wards, during sickness or other infirmity, whether bodily or mental, in old age or in widowhood or for the relief or maintenance of the orphan children of members or subscribers during minority; or

(b) the payment of money on the birth of a member's or subscriber's child or on the death of a member or subscriber or of the child, husband, wife, parent or grandparent of a member or subscriber or on the death of any other person or for the funeral expenses of the member or subscriber or of the child, husband, or wife of a member or subscriber or of the widow of a deceased member or subscriber; or

(c) the relief or maintenance of the members or subscribers when unemployed or when in distressed circumstances;

"office-bearer" of a society means any person who is the president or vice-president, or secretary or treasurer of such society or any branch of a society, or who is a member of the
committee or governing body thereof or of any branch thereof or who holds in such society or branch of a society any office or position analogous to any of those mentioned above;

"political party" means-

(a) any society which by any of its objects or rules, regardless whether such object or rule is its principal object or rule, or constitutes merely an object or rule which is ancillary to its principal object or objects or to its principal rule or rules, makes provision for the society to participate, through its candidates, in elections to the Dewan Rakyat, or to a Dewan Undangan Negeri, or to a local authority, or makes provision for it to seek the appointment or election of a person proposed or supported by it to the Dewan Negara; or

[Ins. Act A515]

(b) any society which, notwithstanding anything contained in its objects or rules, carries on any activity or pursues any objective which involves its participation, through its candidates, in elections to the Dewan Rakyat, or to a Dewan Undangan Negeri, or to a local authority, or which involves its seeking the appointment or election of a person proposed or supported by it to the Dewan Negara;

"political society" (Deleted by Act A557 w.e.f. 13-5-83).

"Registrar" means the Registrar of Societies appointed under section 3 and includes any Deputy Registrar of Societies appointed under the same section;

"registered society" means any society for the time being registered under section 7;

"society" includes any club, company, partnership or association of seven or more persons whatever its nature or object, whether temporary or permanent, but does not include-

(a) any company registered under the provisions of any written law relating to companies for the time being in force in Malaysia;

(b) any company or association constituted under any written law;

(c) any trade union registered or required to be registered under the provisions of any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Malaysia;

(d) any company, association or partnership formed for the sole purpose of carrying on any lawful business that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the company, association or partnership, or by the individual members thereof;

(e) any co-operative society, registered as such, under any written law;

(f) any organisation or association in respect of which there is for the time being in force a certificate (which may be granted, refused or cancelled at his discretion) by a person or authority appointed under the provisions of the written law for the time being in force relating to the registration of schools that such organisation or association forms part of the curriculum of a school; or

[Am. Act 45/66]
(g) any school, management committee of a school, parents' association or parent-teachers' association registered or exempted from registration under any law for the time being in force regulating schools;

"subscription" means a subscription paid by a member or subscriber to a mutual benefit society and where a mutual benefit society carries on activities other than those of a mutual benefit society means the subscription paid by the member or subscriber for the purpose of obtaining the benefits provided by the rules of the society.