

**LAW NO ..... OF ..... REGULATING VIRTUAL ASSET BUSINESS**

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**LAW NO ..... OF ..... REGULATING VIRTUAL ASSET BUSINESS**

**We, KAGAME Paul,**

President of the Republic.

**THE PARLIAMENT HAS ADOPTED AND WE SANCTION, PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING LAW AND ORDER IT BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

**THE PARLIAMENT:**

The Chamber of Deputies, in its sitting of .....

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda, especially in Articles 64,70, 90, 91,106, 120, 121, 122, and 174.

**ADOPTS:**

**CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article One: Purpose of this Law**

This Law provides for the development and regulation of virtual assets business in Rwanda aiming at –

- (a) preventing and mitigating risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing through virtual assets;
- (b) maintaining market integrity, fair practices and transparency in the virtual asset sector;
- (c) protecting consumers and investors in relation to virtual assets business;
- (d) maintaining financial stability and preventing systemic risk given the interconnectedness of the virtual asset ecosystem, the wider

financial system and the real economy; and

(e) fostering innovation in virtual assets business.

## **Article 2: Interpretation**

In this Law:

- (a) **“anonymity-enhanced digital assets”** refers to virtual assets that incorporate privacy-enhancing features to obscure transaction details, participant identities, or asset flow.
- (b) **“beneficiary”** means a natural person, a legal entity or a legal arrangement that will own the virtual asset on completion of the transfer.
- (c) **“blockchain”** means a digital ledger or database of transactions relating to virtual assets which are recorded chronologically and which are capable of being audited;
- (d) **“client”** means a natural person or a legal entity to whom a virtual asset service provider provides a virtual asset service;
- (e) **“Central Bank”** means the National Bank of Rwanda;
- (f) **“closed-loop system”** refers to a transaction or ecosystem where assets circulate within a restricted environment, without the ability to be converted into fiat currency or transferred outside the system;
- (g) **“distributed ledger technology”** means a technology that enables the operation and use of distributed ledgers;
- (h) **“fiat Currency”** means banknote or coin that is in circulation as a medium of exchange.
- (i) **“freezing a virtual asset”** means prohibiting transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of a virtual asset;
- (j) **“initial virtual asset offering”** means to offer to the public or section of the public for the sale of a virtual asset in exchange for fiat currency or another virtual asset;

- (k) “**issuer**” means a person who issues a virtual asset;
- (l) “**mining facility**” means a place, amenity or equipment, including software or hardware used, as a business for creating cryptocurrency on a blockchain through computational and cryptographic means in order to validate transactions and add them to a public blockchain ledger, in exchange for some form of benefit;
- (m) “**real-world asset**” refers to an asset that exists in the physical or traditional financial world, but which can be represented, tokenized, or traded in digital form on blockchain networks;
- (n) “**mixer or tumbler services**” mean a cryptographic facility or service that mixes different streams potentially traceable virtual assets, concealing the origin of funds of a particular virtual asset;
- (o) “**originator**” means in relation to a transfer of a virtual asset –
- (i) a person that places an order with a licence holder for the transfer of a virtual asset; or
  - (ii) where the transfer is carried out by a licence holder on behalf of a client or other third party, the client or third party who owned the virtual asset immediately before the transfer.
- (p) “**stablecoin**” means a type of cryptocurrency designed to maintain a stable value by being pegged to an external asset, such as a fiat currency, a commodity, or a basket of asset.
- (q) “**tokenization of real world asset**” means the process that involves new technology such as blockchain to represent actual physical asset or financial asset to a digital token.
- (r) “**virtual asset**” means a digital representation of value that may be digitally traded, transferred, and may be used for payment or investment purposes. It also includes digital representation of value that is –
- (i) intended to represent a real-world-asset on blockchain or any other technology whether cryptographically-secured or otherwise, and that may confer rights, obligations, claim, or benefits associated with the underlying real-world asset; or
  - (ii) backed up by assets held as collateral or reserved assets for the primary purpose of maintaining a stable value.

The virtual asset does not include:

- (i) digital representation of fiat currencies;
- (ii) payment instruments that are regulated by the Central Bank;
- (iii) securities or capital market instruments that are regulated under the capital market laws;
- (iv) digital currencies issued by the competent body or any other central bank of a foreign jurisdiction;
- (v) digital representation of value or rights that operate within a closed-loop system;
- (vi) Digital assets generated and minted through blockchain or other technology for private use or any purpose intended by the creator that does not involve any aspect of trading, payment, or investment;
- (vii) anonymity-enhanced digital assets and activities related to them;
- (viii) non-fungible tokens; and
- (ix) any other financial assets to the extent that they are regulated by other laws in Rwanda.

(s) **“virtual asset activities”** means activities related to issuance, trading, exchange, custody and management of virtual assets, and any other activity as may be determined by the Regulatory Authority;

(t) **“virtual asset business”** means any business related to any virtual asset activity as defined under this Law;

(u) **“virtual asset service provider”** means a company incorporated and licensed in Rwanda to provide virtual asset service as a business in or from Rwanda.

(v) **“virtual asset platform”** means a digital platform which is managed by a virtual asset service provider on or through which virtual Assets are –

- (i) sold, purchased and traded;
- (ii) offered and issued;
- (iii) hold and safekept;
- (iv) exchanged to fiat currency and vice versa;
- (v) transferred from one address or account to another; or
- (vi) through which the clearing and settlement of traded virtual assets are made.

(w) “**non-fungible tokens**” means a unique virtual token created for use in specific applications which cannot be divided and is not interchangeable with any other type of virtual token; and sold in a secondary market.

### **Article 3: Scope of application**

- (1) This Law applies to a virtual asset service provider and issuer operating in or from Rwanda.
- (2) This Law does not apply to the following services or products:
  - (a) supply of logistics and technical assistance services;
  - (b) manufacture of hardware and engineering of software services; or
  - (c) services to hardware wallet manufacturers;

## **CHAPTER II: REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

### **Article 4: Designating Regulatory Authority**

The Capital Market Authority of Rwanda is hereby designated as the Regulatory Authority to exercise the powers and functions of the Regulatory Authority in terms of this Law.

### **Article 5: Powers of the Regulatory Authority**

The regulatory authority has the following powers:

- (a) to maintain a general review of the provision of virtual asset services, including taking reasonable measures to identify persons, including natural persons, who are providing virtual asset services in contravention of this Law;
- (b) to issue, suspend, revoke or alter a virtual asset service provider license;
- (c) to issue regulations implementing this Law;
- (d) to take enforcement actions as may be deemed necessary for non-compliance with this law.
- (e) to classify and determine the types of virtual assets and categories of virtual asset service providers.

- (f) to adopt any measures that it deems necessary, in its sole discretion, for or in connection with, or reasonably incidental to, performing its functions in accordance with this law; and
- (g) any other power as conferred by this Law or any other Law.

#### **Article 6: Functions of the Regulatory Authority**

The functions of the Regulatory Authority are the following –

- (a) to establish rules and standards for the issuance, offering, and trading of virtual assets;
- (b) to approve and supervise the issuance of virtual assets, their listing and tokenisation of real-world assets;
- (c) to ensure investor and consumer protection, market integrity, and financial stability in the virtual asset sector;
- (d) to take enforcement actions deemed necessary for non-compliance with this Law;
- (e) to promote innovation and responsible growth of the virtual asset sector while mitigating risks;
- (f) to ensure virtual assets service providers comply with requirements to combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
- (g) to identify and assess money laundering and terrorism financing risks emerging from virtual asset activities and operations of virtual asset service providers and apply a risk-based approach to mitigate those risks;
- (h) to collaborate with local and international bodies in relation to virtual assets global perspective and regulation ; and
- (i) to advise the government on all matters relating to virtual assets business.

#### **Article 7: Cooperation between the Regulatory Authority and the Central Bank**

- (1) The Regulatory Authority and the Central Bank establish a framework for consultation and collaboration to ensure harmonisation of policies and regulations where necessary to maintain financial stability and safeguard the integrity of the broader financial system.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority and the Central Bank establish a joint framework for information sharing, risk assessment, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure effective oversight of virtual asset service providers.



- (3) In collaboration with the Regulatory Authority, the Central Bank:
- (a) oversees the monetary and financial stability implications of virtual assets business;
  - (b) monitors the impact of virtual assets business on the national payment system;
  - (c) ensures that virtual asset transactions do not pose systemic risks to the financial system; and
  - (d) issues guidance on matters of virtual assets ecosystem falling under its purview.

### **CHAPTER III: LICENSING OF VIRTUAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS**

#### **Article 8: Licensing**

- (1) Any legal entity wishing to conduct business of virtual asset services applies for a license to the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The regulations of the Regulatory Authority determine requirements for licensing virtual asset service providers.

#### **Article 9: Activities for a virtual asset service provider**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider applies to the Regulatory Authority to offer the services which include:
- (a) operating virtual asset platforms for issuing, listing, buying, selling and trading virtual assets;
  - (b) operating platforms for the matching of buyers and sellers;
  - (c) providing secure storage for virtual assets on behalf of clients and facilitating exchanges or transfers;
  - (d) facilitating clearing and settlement of virtual asset transactions;
  - (e) safekeeping and custody of virtual assets on behalf of clients;

- (f) providing virtual asset wallets and escrow services;
  - (g) arranging and executing transactions between buyers and sellers of virtual assets;
  - (h) soliciting or accepting orders in virtual assets;
  - (i) facilitating the transfer of virtual assets from one address to another;
  - (j) facilitating virtual asset initial offerings;
  - (k) providing real-world asset tokenisation services;
  - (l) Facilitating exchange between one or more forms of virtual assets;
  - (m) offering on-ramp and off-ramp services for the conversion between virtual assets and fiat currency; and
  - (n) facilitating cross-border funds transfers using virtual assets via distributed ledger technology.
- (2) The regulatory authority may add, remove, classify, categorize, and define the activities outlined in paragraph (1) of this Article, and establish the necessary regulations, define the licensing requirements, along with the applicable fees and charges, for each category of Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs).

#### **Article 10: Prohibition**

- (1) No natural person can conduct virtual asset business in Rwanda.
- (2) Virtual assets are not recognised as legal tender within Rwanda.
- (3) Virtual assets are not to be used, directly or indirectly, as a means of payment for goods, services, debts, or any other financial obligation within Rwanda.
- (4) No natural person or legal entity, in or from Rwanda unless authorized by the Regulatory Authority in collaboration with other

relevant authorities, is permitted to operate –

- (a) a mining facility;
- (b) crypto or virtual asset ATM; or
- (c) a mixer or tumbler service.

**Article 11: Initial minimum paid-up capital requirement**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider is required to maintain an initial minimum paid-up capital.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority's regulations determine the minimum paid-up capital based on the nature and scope of the services to be provided.

**CHAPTER IV: ISSUANCE OF VIRTUAL ASSETS**

**Article 12: Tokenisation of real-world asset**

- (1) Any legal entity wishing to issue tokens representing real-world assets within Rwanda or seeking admission or listing of such tokens to be traded on the trading platform operated by a licensed virtual asset exchange in Rwanda seeks approval from the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The asset underlying a token is properly valued by an accredited valuation authority, and the valuation must be transparent, periodic and regularly updated.
- (3) The valuation confirms that tokens are 100% collateralised, and the underlying assets are to be ring-fenced and not lent out for additional yield.
- (4) Underlying real world assets are to be held by a professional custodian.
- (5) The issuer provides verifiable documentation providing issuer ownership of the underlying asset.

### **Article 13: Initial virtual asset offering**

- (1) Any legal entity wishing to issue initial virtual assets offering within Rwanda, or seeking an admission or listing of such virtual assets to be traded on the trading platform operated by a licensed virtual asset exchange in Rwanda seeks approval of the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The issuer of the initial virtual assets offering submits the white paper that contains relevant information regarding the issuance of virtual assets. The white paper contains such information that would enable an investor to make an informed decision and includes:
  - (a) description of the features, characteristics and functionalities of virtual assets which must adhere to industry standards;
  - (b) targeted investors, whether retail, qualified, institutional or high-net-worthy investors;
  - (c) rights of investors and obligations attached to the virtual assets;
  - (d) features and functionality of the underlying technology and related standards and protocols associated with the virtual assets;
  - (e) clear disclosures regarding all material risks related to investing in virtual assets being issued, including risks associated with volatility, reliability of underlying technology, and cyber security;
  - (f) issuer complies with relevant tax laws and regulations;
  - (g) the issuer and operator of platforms dealing with the issuance of virtual assets periodically submit relevant reports to the Regulatory Authority.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority's regulations may determine additional requirements for granting approval to issue the initial virtual assets offering.

### **Article 14: Issuance of stablecoin**

- (1) Any legal entity wishing to issue stablecoin within Rwanda, or seeking an admission or listing of such stablecoin to be traded on the trading platform operated by a licensed virtual asset exchange in Rwanda, seeks approval of the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) A stablecoin issuer appoints an accredited valuation authority to demonstrate the reserve asset underlying the stablecoin and how the stablecoin is pegged to it.
- (3) The valuation authority confirms that the reserve assets are sufficiently liquid to cover redemption requests of all outstanding stablecoins.

- (4) Stablecoin issuer provides means for verification of underlying reserve assets.
- (5) Reserve assets are safeguarded by a professional and licensed custodian.
- (6) Reserve assets are segregated from the stablecoin issuer's assets or other creditors of the stablecoin issuer to protect stablecoin holders in the event of the issuer's insolvency or bankruptcy.

## **CHAPTER V: TRANSACTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF VIRTUAL ASSETS SERVICE PROVIDERS**

### **Article 15: Reporting obligation**

- (1) A Virtual assets service provider submits a quarterly report on virtual asset-provided services to the Regulatory Authority in such form and manner prescribed by the Regulatory Authority, for preparation purposes, the content of the quarterly report includes:
  - (a) the number of designated accounts opened within the reporting period;
  - (b) the value and volume of transactions conducted in each account within the reporting period;
  - (c) the incidents of fraud or theft, the number of customer complaints, and the remedial measures taken; and
  - (d) If a virtual asset service provider suspects or has reasonable grounds to suspect that funds are the proceeds of criminal activity or are related to terrorism financing, it reports its suspicions promptly to the Competent Authority.
- (2) A virtual assets service providers report all suspicious transactions, including attempted transactions, regardless of the transaction amount.
- (3) A virtual asset service provider files with the Regulatory Authority an audited financial statement covering all transactions related to the virtual asset business activities.

### **Article 16: Obligation to notify certain events**

A virtual assets service provider immediately notifies the Regulatory Authority in writing where it has reason to believe that there is a likelihood of any of the following occurring or having occurred:

- (a) a virtual asset service provider is becoming insolvent;
- (b) a cyber-attack including attempted events;
- (c) involvement of the virtual assets service provider in any criminal proceedings, whether in Rwanda or outside Rwanda;
- (d) a virtual assets service provider opening or ceasing to carry out virtual asset business activities outside Rwanda; or
- (e) Any other event that may threaten, weaken, or adversely impact the stability and integrity of the financial sector.

**Article 17: Professional conduct of a virtual asset service provider**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider must, in carrying out a virtual asset service –
  - (a) act honestly and fairly;
  - (b) act with due care, skill and diligence;
  - (c) observe and maintain a high standard of professional conduct;
  - (d) ensure that appropriate measures are put into place for the protection of customers' virtual assets; and
  - (e) have effective corporate governance in accordance with the relevant regulations.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider implements and maintains measures to preserve customers' confidential information.
- (3) When a virtual asset service provider's license is suspended or revoked, it is responsible for clearing all outstanding obligations up to the date of the event.

**Article 18: Liquidity requirement**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider maintains a minimum liquidity ratio determined by the Regulatory Authority to ensure its ability to meet financial obligations.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider holds sufficient liquid assets, including cash and highly liquid instruments, and implements effective liquidity risk management measures.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority issues a regulation determining the liquidity ratio to be maintained by a virtual asset service provider and other liquidity requirements.

**Article 19: Transfer of virtual assets**

- (1) Where a transfer of virtual asset is made –
  - (a) the originating virtual asset service provider –
    - (i) obtains and holds required and accurate originator information and required beneficiary information on virtual asset transfer; and
    - (ii) immediately and securely submit the above information to the beneficiary virtual asset service provider or any other financial institution and make it available to the competent authorities upon request.
  - (b) beneficiary virtual asset provider obtains and holds required originator information and required, accurate beneficiary information on virtual asset transfer and makes it available to the competent authority upon request.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider establishes transaction limits for each virtual asset based on its risk assessment criteria.
- (3) The limits are prudent and bear a relationship to the risks associated with the conduct and nature of the business of the customer.

**Article 20: Investor protection and education**

- (1) To protect consumer or investor, a virtual asset service provider –

- (a) provides right advice that can incite him or her to buy, invest, make greater use of, or continue to use a certain product;
  - (b) informs him or her of the detailed cost of a product;
  - (c) ensures that appropriate protection systems against risks of fraud are established; and
  - (d) ensures that the information provided to him or her is accurate.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider is not permitted to directly or indirectly transmit information or publish information that may be accessible to customers in connection with the sale, marketing, promotion, distribution, or sale of virtual assets unless it includes the risk disclosure statement and risk warning.
- (3) The risk disclosure statement and risk warnings are always displayed on the front page of the website, at each virtual asset advert pop-up and banner embedded on websites, and on all online communication channels and other communication means of a virtual asset service provider.

**Article 21: Market conduct and fair practices**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider ensures that its platforms promote fair and transparent trading practices.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider pays due regard to its customer's interests and treats him/her fairly. All communications to customers must be accurate and in a form that the customer can understand. Customer complaints or issues are dealt with in a timely and consistent manner.
- (3) A virtual asset service provider ensures that its systems and controls are adequate and appropriate for the scale and nature of the activities relating to the virtual asset services and that they adequately and appropriately address –
- (a) recording, storing, protecting and transmission of information;
  - (b) the effecting and monitoring of transactions;
  - (c) the operation of the measures taken for securing the timely discharge, whether by performance, compromise or otherwise, of the rights and liabilities of the parties to transactions;



- (d) the safeguarding and administration of virtual assets belonging to the customers; and
- (e) business continuity and planning in the event of a disruption of a virtual asset service.

**Article 22: Protection of customer data and assets**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider protects customers' personal data through adequate storage, data protection, maintenance, proper record keeping, and other appropriate measures by relevant laws.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider implements and maintains —
  - (a) record-keeping measures for the accurate collection of information and documents related to the originator, founder, and beneficial owner of a virtual asset business; and
  - (b) in relation to the protection of personal data relative to the customer, data protection measures consistent with the data protection law and as may be prescribed.
- (3) A virtual asset service provider implements and maintains transaction tracing tools to screen incoming and outgoing virtual asset transactions and virtual asset wallet addresses.
- (4) A virtual asset service provider complies with all applicable data protection and privacy requirements.

**Article 23: Technology and information security**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider implements effective systems, processes and controls necessary to ensure –
  - (a) addressing the risks, including cybersecurity-related risks to its business and virtual asset activities, and ensuring the safety of virtual assets, customers and investors' information;
  - (b) its technology systems are resilient and have sufficient capacity to ensure reliability in handling large transactions; and

- (c) business continuity system arrangement, including back-up or disaster recovery systems, facilities and sites to ensure continuity of its services and reporting ability in case there is any failure of its technological systems.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider ensures that its technology risk management framework addresses risks associated with generating cryptographic keys or virtual asset wallets, signing and approving transactions, storing cryptographic keys and seed phrases, and creating and managing virtual asset wallets.
- (3) A virtual asset service provider establishes and maintains sound operational standards, including robust cybersecurity measures, financial reporting standards, and internal controls to ensure its services are reliable and secure.
- (4) A virtual asset service provider ensures that operational functions of the platform and other virtual asset service provider activities continue without any interruption by –
- (a) maintaining proper backup infrastructure;
  - (b) setting and implementing a disaster recovery and business continuity plan;
  - (c) periodically test the effectiveness of the backup infrastructure and business continuity plan; and
  - (d) ensuring sound information technology system that meets the requirements for data readiness, protection, integrity, and quality.

## **CHAPTER VI: SUPERVISION AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **Article 24: Inspection and examination**

- (1) The Regulatory Authority undertakes compliance inspections and examination in accordance with the powers conferred to it under this Law.
- (2) A virtual asset service provider is –

- (a) Subject to inspection or examination by the Regulatory Authority at any time in the way it determines to exercise its powers, perform its functions, or fulfil its objectives under this Law.
  - (b) required to cooperate with the Regulatory Authority.
  - (c) required to provide the Regulatory Authority with any information requested.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority appoints inspectors, examiners or experts and empowers them to undertake inspections or examinations in accordance with the powers conferred to them under this Law.

**Article 25: Power to impose sanctions**

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may, in its sole and absolute discretion, take enforcement action against any virtual asset service provider which –
- (a) violates any provision of this Law and its implementing regulations;
  - (b) recklessly or negligently makes any representation under this Law that it knows to be false or misleading; or
  - (c) obstructs the Regulatory Authority or any person authorised by the Regulatory Authority in performing functions provided under this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority, when determining the appropriate enforcement action, considers the following factors:
- (a) violated legal instrument;
  - (b) the nature, seriousness and impact of the violation;
  - (c) the conduct of a virtual asset service provider after the violation and throughout any investigation or examination by the Regulatory Authority;
  - (d) the previous disciplinary records and compliance history of a virtual asset service provider; or

(e) any action taken by the Regulatory Authority or other domestic or international regulatory bodies in similar cases.

(3) The enforcement actions of the Regulatory Authority include –

(a) issuing written reprimands;

(b) issuing enforcement notices requiring non-compliance to be rectified within a specified period;

(c) suspending or revoking a license;

(d) requiring a virtual asset service provider to cease any of its activity or activities; or

(e) limiting or revising the scope of any virtual assets or a virtual asset service provider's activities under a license.

## **CHAPTER VII: FAULTS, OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS.**

### **Section One: Administrative faults and sanctions**

#### **Article 26: Failure to comply with the provisions of this Law or its implementing regulations, directives and decisions taken**

The Regulatory Authority's regulations determine administrative and related sanctions applicable to a virtual asset service provider, its member of the Board of Directors or senior management and the procedure for their application.

### **Section 2: Offences and penalties**

#### **Article 27: Penalties for unlicensed virtual asset business**

(1) A person who engages in virtual asset business in Rwanda without a licence commits an offence. Upon conviction, he or she is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 3 years but not more than 5 years and a fine of not less than FRW 10,000,000 but not more than FRW 30,000,000 or one of these penalties.

(2) If a legal entity engages in virtual asset business without prior licensing commits an offence. Upon conviction, it is liable to a fine of not less than FRW 30,000,000 but not more than FRW 50,000,000.

(3) In the case of recidivism, the penalties referred to in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article are doubled.

**Article 28: Providing false information, obstructing supervisory activities of the Regulatory Authority, or participating in the membership of the board of directors or senior management without approval**

(1) A person who is a member of the board of directors or senior management of a virtual asset service provider and who provides false information to be adopted by the Regulatory Authority, who obstructs in any manner whatsoever the supervisory activities of Regulatory Authority, management or taking of decisions regarding the virtual asset service provider while he or she has been declared bankrupt in Rwanda or abroad, or who participated in the membership of the board of directors or senior management without prior approval of the Regulatory Authority, commits an offence. Upon conviction, he or she is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years or a fine of not less than FRW 3,000,000 but not more than FRW 5,000,000 or one of these penalties.

(2) In the case of recidivism, the penalties referred to in Paragraph (1) of this Article are doubled.

**CHAPTER VIII: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Article 29: Freezing virtual assets**

(1) The freezing of virtual assets may be ordered by a competent authority in the event of suspected involvement in illegal activities, including money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud, or other financial crimes.

(2) The competent authority may issue a freezing order based on substantiated evidence or an investigation into the suspected illegal activity.

(3) Virtual assets may be frozen in connection with a criminal investigation or compliance with international sanctions and regulations, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions or other recognised sanction lists.

- (4) A virtual asset service provider takes freezing action and complies with prohibitions from conducting transactions with designated persons and entities as prescribed in the Anti Money Laundering and countering the Financing of Terrorism; and

**Article 30: Protection of the Regulatory Authority and its staff**

The Regulatory Authority, its Board members, its senior managers and its staff are protected against liability for actions taken and omissions made while discharging their duties in the exercise of Regulatory Authority powers in good faith.

**Article 31: Compliance with other legal and regulatory requirements**

- (1) A virtual asset service provider complies with relevant laws applicable to its business, including consumer protection, Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism laws and regulations, data and privacy laws, and cybersecurity laws and regulations.
- (2) If there is a conflict between this Law and any other law in relation to a matter specifically dealt with in this Law, the provisions of this Law prevail.



**CHAPTER IX: FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 32: Entry into force**

This Law comes into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.

Kigali, .....

**KAGAME Paul**  
Perezida wa Repubulika  
President of the Republic  
Président de la République

**Dr NGIRENTE Edouard**  
Minisitiri w'Intebe  
Prime Minister  
Premier Ministre

**Bibonywe kandi bishyizweho ikirango cya Repubulika:  
Seal and sealed with the Seal of the Republic:  
Vu et scellé du Sceau de la République :**

**Dr UGIRASHEBUJA Emmanuel**  
Minisitiri w'Ubutabera akaba n'Intumwa Nkuru ya Leta  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux

