

**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF**   
**SRI LANKA**

**GALAHA BHADDRAWATHIE NATIONAL BHIKKHU**

**CARE CENTRE TRUST ACT, No. 31 OF 2023**

**[Certified on 24th of November, 2023]**

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| *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu* | 1 |

*Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

[Certified on 24th of November, 2023]

L.D.—O. 26/2016

AN ACTTOPROVIDEFORTHEESTABLISHMENTOFATRUSTCALLEDTHE GALAHA BHADDRAWATHIE NATIONAL BHIKKHU CARE CENTRE TRUST ANDFORMATTERSCONNECTEDTHEREWITHORINCIDENTALTHERETO.

WHEREAS a Trust called and known as the “Galaha Preamble Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust” has   
heretofore been established by a Public Trust dated February   
7, 2003 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a   
Bhikkhu Care Centre, for Bhikkhus who are sick and helpless:

AND WHEREAS it has now become apparent that the said Trust is not functioning properly and therefore it is not possible to maintain the said Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre due to various reasons including the absence of proper administration in the said Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre and the absence of a regular and adequate funding system for the proper functioning of the said Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre:

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to enact legislation to provide for the establishment of a Trust called the Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust to achieve the objects of the said Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre for the benefit of the Bhikkhus who are sick and helpless and to matters connected therewith or incidental thereto:

NOW THEREFORE BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

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| **1.** | This Act may be cited as the Galaha Bhaddrawathie | Short title  Establishment of the Galaha Bhaddrawathie National |
| National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023. | |
| **2.** | (1) There shall be established a Trust to be called the |
| Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust (hereinafter referred to as the “Trust”). | |

Bhikkhu Care   
Centre Trust

2 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

(2) The Trust shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1), be a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession and by that name may sue and be sued with full power and authority to have, and use a common seal and to alter the same.

The object of **3.**  The object of the Trust shall be to facilitate the the Trust accommodation and caring for sick and helpless Bhikkhus in the Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre (hereinafter referred to as the “Bhikkhu Care Centre”).

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| Functions of | **4.** | The functions of the Trust are – | |
| the Trust | (*a*) | to maintain the Bhikkhu Care Centre for |

Bhikkhus who are sick and helpless and   
accommodate sick and helpless Bhikkhus in   
the Bhikkhu Care Centre on such conditions   
and criteria as prescribed by section 8;

(*b*) to provide the Bhikkhus residing in the   
 Bhikkhu Care Centre who are sick, with all   
 the necessities including the day to day   
 requirements and to facilitate the obtaining   
 of medicines and medical treatment;

(*c*) to organize and conduct meditation   
 programmes and other Buddhist programmes   
 for the Bhikkhus residing in the Bhikkhu Care   
 Centre with a view to improving the mental   
 health of those Bhikkhus; and

(*d*) to maintain a library in order to facilitate   
 improving and refreshing the knowledge of   
 Buddhism of the resident Bhikkhus.

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| Board of  Management  of the Trust | **5.** | (1) The administration, management and control of |
| the affairs of the Trust shall be vested in a Board of Management (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”). | |

*Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*  3 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*   
(2) The Board shall consist of–  
 (*a*) the following *ex-officio* members:–  
 (i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Health or his representative who is not below the rank of an Additional Secretary; (ii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Buddha Sasana or his representative who is not below the rank of an Additional Secretary;   
 (iii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Social Services or his representative who is not below the rank of an Additional Secretary;   
 (iv) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance or his representative who is not below the rank of an Additional Secretary; (v) the Commissioner-General of the Department of Buddhist Affairs or his representative;   
 (vi) the Public Trustee or his representative; (vii) the District Secretary of the Kandy District;   
 (viii) the Provincial Director of Health Services of the Central Province;

4 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

(ix) the Divisional Secretary of Divisional   
Secretary's Division of Doluwa; and

(x) the Diyawadana Nilame of Sri Dalada   
Maligawa or his representative; and

(*b*) the following members appointed by the Minister   
(hereinafter referred to as the “appointed   
members”):–

(i) two members having knowledge and   
experience in administration and   
accountancy appointed by the Minister   
in consultation with the Secretary to the   
Ministry;

(ii) four Bhikkhus nominated by the   
Mahanayaka Theros of the Malwathu,   
Asgiri, Amarapura and Ramanna Chapters   
to represent such Chapters one of whom   
shall be appointed as the Chairperson of   
the Board; and

(iii) the President of the Dayaka Sabha of the   
 Galaha Bhaddrawathie temple.

(3) Any person who has become a member of the Board in his *ex-offficio* capacity shall hold office as long as he holds such office by virtue of which he is a member of the Board.

(4) Any appointed member of the Board shall unless a vacancy arises in his post by resignation, death or removal from office, hold office for three years from the date of appointment. Any member whose term is due to end otherwise than by removal shall be eligible for reappointment. Such reappointment shall be for not more than one further term, whether consecutive or not.

*Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*  5   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

(5) In the event of the vacation of office by death, resignation or removal of any appointed member, the Minister shall, subject to paragraph (*b*) of subsection (2), appoint another person to fill such vacancy and such person shall hold office for the un-expired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

(6) Any appointed member who is temporarily unable to discharge his duties and functions as a member of the Board due to ill health, infirmity, being absent from Sri Lanka or for other reason for not less than three months shall inform that to the Minister in writing. In such event the Minister shall having regard to the provisions of subsection (2), appoint another person to act in the place of such member.

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| **6.** | Any person– | Disqualification |
| (*a*) if such person is or becomes a Member of | for being a |
| member |

Parliament or a Provincial Council or any   
Local Authority;

(*b*) if such person is under any law in force in   
Sri Lanka or in any other country found or   
declared to be of unsound mind;

(*c*) if such person is a person having been   
declared as an insolvent or a bankrupt person   
under any law in Sri Lanka or any other   
country and is an undischarged insolvent or   
bankrupt;

(*d*) if such person is serving or has served a   
sentence of imprisonment imposed by any   
court in Sri Lanka or any other country,

he shall be disqualified from being appointed or continue to be a member of the Board.

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| **7.** | The Board shall subject to the provisions of this Act | Powers of the Board |
| or any other written law, have the power– | |

6 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

(*a*) to receive grants, gifts and donations, both movable   
 and immovable in cash or in kind, whether from   
 local or foreign sources:

Provided that, the Board shall obtain prior written   
approval of the Department of External Resources   
in respect of all foreign grants, gifts or donations   
made to the Trust;

(*b*) to acquire or hold any property, movable or   
 immovable, which may become vested in the Trust   
 by this Act or by virtue of any purchase, gift, grant,   
 testamentary disposition or otherwise and, for the   
 purpose of this Act to sell, mortgage, lease, grant,   
 convey, device, assign, exchange or otherwise   
 dispose of any property to which the Trust may   
 become entitled to;

(*c*) to enter into and perform, either directly or through   
 officers, employees and agents authorized in that   
 behalf by the Board, all such contracts and   
 agreements as may be necessary for the exercise,   
 performance and discharge of the powers, duties   
 and functions of the Trust; and

(*d*) to open, operate and close bank accounts in any   
 Bank as may be recommended by the Board.

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| Accommodation etc. of Bhikkhus | **8.** | The conditions and criteria for accommodating |
| Bhikkhus in the Bhikkhu Care Centre and caring for such | |

Bhikkhus shall be as prescribed by regulations.

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| Power of the  Trust to hold  property | **9.** | The Trust shall be capable in law to take and hold |
| property, movable or immovable, which may become vested in it by virtue of any purchase, grant, gift, testamentary | |

disposition or otherwise and all such property shall be held by the Trust for the purposes of this Act.

*Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*  7   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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| **10.** | (1) Meetings of the Board shall be held at least once | Meetings of  the Board |
| in three months. | |

(2) The Chairman shall, if present preside at every meeting of the Board. In the absence of the Chairman from any meeting of the Board, the members present at such meeting shall elect from among themselves a member to preside at such meeting.

(3) The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be eleven members.

(4) If there is an equality of votes at any meeting, the Chairman or the member presiding at such meeting shall in addition to his vote, have a casting vote.

(5) The Board may subject to the provisions of this Act regulate the procedure to be followed in regard to its meetings and the transaction of its business.

(6) No act, decision or proceeding of the Board shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the existence of a vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of any member thereof.

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| **11.** | The members of the Board may be paid such | Remuneration  for attending the meetings of the Board |
| remuneration for attendance at meetings of the Board as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of | |

the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

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| **12.** | There shall be an advisory committee consisting of | Advisory  Committee |
| the Mahanayake Theros of the Malwathu, Asgiri, Amarapura | |

and Ramanna Chapters to advise the Board on matters relating to the Bhikkhu Care Centre.

8 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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| Establishment of Galaha  Bhaddrawathie  National  Bhikkhu Care  Centre Trust  Fund | **13.** | (1) There shall be established a Fund called the |
| Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “Fund”). The management, administration, control and operation of the Fund shall be vested in the Board. | |

(2) There shall be paid into the Fund–

(*a*) all such sums of monies allocated by the   
Parliament, from time to time, for the purpose   
of carrying out the objects of the Fund;

(*b*) any grant, gift or donation in cash or kind, from   
Sri Lanka or outside to achieve the objects of   
the Fund, subject to section 7(*a*).

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund all such sums of money required to defray the expenditure incurred by the Trust in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions under this Act.

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| Appointment of the staff of the Trust | **14.** | (1) The Trust may appoint such number of officers |
| and employees as it may consider necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. | |

(2) The Trust may in respect of the officers and employees appointed under subsection (1) –

(*a*) exercise disciplinary control over or dismiss such   
 officers and employees;

(*b*) determine the terms and conditions of employment   
 of such officers and employees; and

(*c*) pay such officers and employees such remuneration   
 as may be determined by the Board in consultation   
 with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

*Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*  9   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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| **15.** | (1) At the request of the Board, any officer in the | Appointment of public officers |
| public service may, with the consent of that officer and of | |

the Public Service Commission be temporarily appointed to the staff of the Trust for such period as may be determined by the Board, or with like consent, be permanently appointed to such staff.

(2) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Trust the provisions of subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

(3) Where any officer in the public service is permanently appointed to the staff of the Trust the provisions of subsection (3) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

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| **16.** | (1) The financial year of the Trust shall be the | Financial year and audit of  accounts |
| calendar year. | |

(2) The Board shall cause proper books of accounts to be

kept of the income and expenditure of the Trust.

(3) The provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution

relating to the audit of accounts of Public Corporations shall

apply to the audit of accounts of the Trust.

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| **17.** | (1) The Board shall within six months of the end of | Annual reports |

each financial year submit to the Minister an annual report

on the activities carried out by the Trust along with the

audited accounts of the Trust for the year.

(2) The Minister shall within three months from the date

of receipt of the annual report, table such report along with

the documents specified in subsection (1) in Parliament for

its consideration.

10 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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| The seal of the | **18.** | (1) The seal of the Board– |
| Board |

(*a*) shall be determined by the Board and may   
be altered in such manner as may be   
determined by the Board;

(*b*) shall be in the custody of such person as   
the Board may determine, from time to   
time;

(*c*) shall not be affixed to any instrument or   
document except with the sanction of the   
Board and in the presence of the Chairman   
and another member of the Board who   
shall sign the instrument or document in   
token of their presence.

(2) The Board shall maintain a register in respect of the instruments and documents to which the seal of the Board is affixed.

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| Recovery of  expenses from any suit or  prosecution | **19.** | (1) Any expense incurred by the Trust in any suit or |
| prosecution brought by, or against the Trust before any court, shall be paid out of the moneys of the Fund and any cost | |

recovered by the Trust in any such suit or prosecution shall be credited to the Fund.

(2) Any expense incurred by any member of the Board or any officer or employee of the Trust in any suit or prosecution brought against him in any court in respect of any act which is done or purported to be done by him under this Act or on the direction of the Board shall, if the court holds that such act was done in good faith, be paid out of the Fund unless such expense is recovered by him in such suit or prosecution.

*Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*  11   
 *Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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| **20.** | (1) The Minister may in consultation with the | Regulations |

Mahanayaka Theros of the Malwathu, Asgiri, Amarapura and Ramanna Chapters, make regulations for matters required by this Act to be prescribed or in respect of which regulations are authorized to be made.

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or such later date as may be specified in such regulations.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for its approval. Every regulation which is not so approved by Parliament shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Notice of the date on which any regulation is so disapproved shall be published in the *Gazette.*

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| **21.** | (1) The Board may make rules in respect of all | Rules |

matters authorized to be made by this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), rules may be made in respect of all or any of the following matters:–

(*a*) the administration and management of the   
 Trust;

(*b*) conduct of its meetings and matters relating   
 thereto;

(*c*) to conduct inquiries in respect of breach of

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| conditions | and | criteria | relating | to |

accommodating and caring for Bhikkhus in the   
Bhikku Care Centre; and

12 *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu*

*Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

(*d*) the programmes organized and conducted by

the Bhikkhu Care Centre.

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| Officers and  servants of the  Trust deemed to be public  servants under  the Penal Code  Trust deemed to be a scheduled  institution within the meaning of  the Anti  corruption Act  Interpretation | **22.** | All officers and servants of the Trust shall be deemed | |
| to be public servants within the meaning and for the purpose of the Penal Code (Chapter 19). | | |
| **23.** | | The Trust shall be deemed to be a Scheduled |
| Institution within the meaning of the Anti Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and the provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly. | | |
| **24.** | | In this Act, unless the context otherwise |

requires–

“Bhikkhu” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in

the Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance (Chapter 318);

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the implementation

of the provisions of this Act is assigned.

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| Sinhala text to  prevail in case  of inconsistency | **25.** | In the event of any inconsistency between the |
| Sinhala and the Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. | |

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| *Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu* | 13 |

*Care Centre Trust Act, No. 31 of 2023*

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