**THE GAZETTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF**   
**SRI LANKA**   
**Part II of July 16, 2021**   
**SUPPLEMENT**   
*(Issued on 20.07.2021)*



**UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT)**   
**A**   
**BILL**

**to amend the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978**

*Ordered to be published by the Minister of Education*

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*STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT*

*Clause 2:* This clause inserts new section 23A to the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) and the legal effect of the section is to provide for the establishment of Universities for specific purposes.

*Clause 3:* This clause amends section 26 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 4:* This clause amends section 27 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 5:* This clause amends section 101 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 6:* This clause amends section 102 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 7:* This clause amends section 103 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 8:* This clause amends section 104 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 9:* This clause amends section 105 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 10:* This clause amends section 107 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 11:* This clause amends section 124 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 12:* This clause amends section 128 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 13:* This clause amends section 145 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendment made by clause 2.

*Clause 14:* This clause amends section 147 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to replace the definitions of the expressions “governing authority”, “Higher Educational Institution” and “principal executive officer”.

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| *Universities (Amendment)* | 1 |

L.D.—O. 8/2021

AN ACTTOAMENDTHE UNIVERSITIES ACT, NO. 16 OF 1978

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | This Act may be cited as the Universities | Short title |

(Amendment) Act, No. of 2021.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **2.** | The Universities Act, No.16 of 1978 (hereinafter | | | Insertion of |
| 10 | referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended | | | | new section |
| 23A in the |
| by the insertion immediately after section 23, of the | | | |
| Act, No.16 |
| following new section which shall have effect as section | | | |
| of 1978 |
| 23A, of that enactment: - | | | |
| “Establishment | | 23A. (1) The Minister may, in consultation | |
| 15 | of  Universities for specific purposes | | with the Commission, by an Order (hereinafter referred to as a “University for a specific purpose Order”)- | |
| (*a*) | | | establish a University for a specific |
| purpose, which shall be a body | | | |

corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal for the purpose of providing, promoting and developing higher education in all such branches 20 of learning as shall be specified in such Order to those who are not students of any of the institutions referred to in sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 24A and 25;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (*b*) | assign a name and style to such |
| (*c*) | University; and |
| specify the location or site which shall |

be the seat of such University.

2 *Universities (Amendment)*

(2) The structure, powers, duties and   
functions of such University shall be prescribed   
by Ordinance.”.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **3.** | Section 26 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| of section 26 |
| amended as follows: - | |
| of the |
| (1) | by the substitution for the words “Open University | principal |
| enactment |

Order, University College Order, Institution for Higher Learning Order”, of the words “Open University Order, University for a specific purpose 10 Order, University College Order, Institution for Higher Learning Order”; and

(2) by the substitution in the marginal note to that   
 section for the figures “23, 24,”, of the figures “23,   
 23A, 24”.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **4.** | Section 27 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| amended as follows: - | | of section 27 |
| of the |
| (1) | in paragraph (*a*) of subsection (1) of that section by | principal |
| enactment |

the substitution for the words “Open University

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 20 | Order, University College Order, or Institution for Higher Learning Order”, of the words “Open |

University Order, University for a specific purpose   
Order, University College Order or Institution for   
Higher Learning Order”; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (2) | by the substitution in the marginal note to that |
| section for the figures “23, 24”, of the figures “23, |

23A, 24”.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 30 | **5.** | Section 101 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| amended as follows:- | | of section |
| 101 of the |
| (1) | by the substitution for the words “University or | principal |
| enactment |
| Open University or the Treasurer of a University | |

*Universities (Amendment)*  3

College”, of the words “University, Open   
University or University for a specific purpose, or   
the Treasurer of a University College”;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (2) | by the substitution in paragraph (*a*) of that section |
| for the words “University, Open University, |
| University College”, of the words “University, Open |

University, University for a specific purpose,   
University College”; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (3) | by the substitution in the proviso to paragraph (*d*) |
| of that section for the words “University, Open |

University, University College”, wherever such   
words appear in that proviso of the words  
“University, Open University, University for a   
specific purpose, University College”.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **6.** | Section 102 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| 20 | amended by the substitution for the words “University, Open | | of section |
| 102 of the |
| University, University College”, wherever such words appear | |
| principal |
| in that section, of the words “University, Open University, | |
| enactment |
| University for a specific purpose, University College”. | |
| Amendment |
| **7.** | Section 103 of the principal enactment is hereby |
| 25 | amended by the substitution for the words “University, Open | | of section |
| 103 of the |
| University, University College”, of the words “University, | |
| principal |
| Open University, University for a specific purpose, | |
| enactment |
| University College”. | |
| Amendment |
| **8.** | Section 104 of the principal enactment is hereby |
| 30 | amended by the substitution for the words “University, Open | | of section |
| 104 of the |
| University, University College”, wherever such words appear | |
| principal |
| in that section, of the words “University, Open University, | |
| enactment |
| University for a specific purpose, University College”. | |
| Amendment |
| **9.** | Section 105 of the principal enactment is hereby |
| amended by the substitution for the words “University or | | of section |
| 105 of the |
| Open University or the Treasurer of a University College” | |
| principal |
| and “University, Open University, University College”, of | |
| enactment |

4 *Universities (Amendment)*

the words “University, Open University or University for a specific purpose, or the Treasurer of a University College”and “University, Open University, University for a specific purpose, University College” respectively.

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| 5 | **10.** | Section 107 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| amended in subsection (6) as follows: - | | of section |
| 107 of the |
| (1) | in paragraph (*b*) of that subsection by the | principal |
| enactment |

substitution, for the words “University or Open University or the Secretary of the University 10 College”, of the words “University, Open University or University for a specific purpose, or the Secretary of the University College”; and

(2) in sub paragraph (iii) of paragraph (*d*) of that   
 subsection, by the substitution for the words

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | “University or Open University or the Secretary of the University College”, of the words “University, |

Open University or University for a specific purpose,   
or the Secretary of the University College”.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **11.** | Section 124 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| amended by the substitution for the words “Universities, the | | of section |
| 124 of the |
| Open University or University Colleges”, of the words | |
| principal |
| “Universities, the Open University, Universities for a specific | |
| enactment |
| 25 | purpose or University Colleges”. | | Amendment |
| **12.** | Section 128 of the principal enactment is hereby |
| of section |
| amended in subsection (1) by the substitution for the words | |
| 128 of the |
| “University, Open University, Centre for Higher Learning”, | |
| principal |
| of the words “University, Open University, University for a | | enactment |

specific purpose, Centre for Higher Learning”.

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| 30 | **13.** | Section 145 of the principal enactment is hereby | Amendment |
| of section |
| amended by the substitution for the words and figures | |
| 145 of the |
| “sections 21, 22, 23, and 24,”, of the words and figures | |
| principal |
| “sections 21, 22, 23, 23A, and 24,”. | |
| enactment |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | *Universities (Amendment)* | | 5 | Amendment |
| **14.** | Section 147 of the principal enactment is hereby | |
| amended as follows: - | | | of section |
| 147 of the |
| (1) by the repeal of the definition of the expression | | | principal |
| enactment |
| “governing authority” and the substitution therefor | | |
| of the following definition: - | | |

““governing authority” in relation to-

(i) a University, means the Council of that   
 University;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (ii) | an Open University, means the Council |
| (iii) | of that Open University; |
| a University for a specific purpose, |

means the Council of that University   
for a specific purpose; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (iv) | a University College, means the Board |
| of Management of that University |

College;”;

(2) by the repeal of the definition of the expression  
 “Higher Educational Institution” and the   
 substitution therefor of the following definition: -

20 ““Higher Educational Institution” means a University, Campus, Open University, University for a specific purpose, University College, or Centre for Higher Learning established or deemed to be

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (3) | established under this Act;”; and |
| by the repeal of the definition of the expression |

“principal executive officer” and the substitution   
therefor of the following definition: -

6 *Universities (Amendment)*

““principal executive officer” in relation to-

(i) a University, means the Vice-

Chancellor of that University;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (ii) | an Open University, means the Vice- |
| (iii) | Chancellor of that Open University; |
| a University for a specific purpose, |

means the Vice-Chancellor of that

University for a specific purpose; and

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (iv) | | a University College, means the | Sinhala text |
| Director of that University College;”. | | |
| **15.** | In the event of any inconsistency between the | |
| Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall | | | to prevail in |
| case of |
| prevail. | | |
| inconsistency |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Universities (Amendment)* | 7 |

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