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

*————————*

**NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION**

**A**

**BILL**

**to provide for the establishment of the National Land Commission for giving effect to the provisions of paragraph 3 of appendix II to the list I (Provincial Council list) of ninth schedule to the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto**

*————————*

*Presented by the Minister of Tourism and Lands*   
*on 03rd of September, 2024*

(Published in the Gazette on August 16, 2024)

*Ordered by Parliament to be printed*

*————————*

**[Bill No. 294]**

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| *National Land Commission* | 1 |

L.D. – O. 24/2024

AN ACTTOPROVIDEFORTHEESTABLISHMENTOFTHE NATIONAL LAND COMMISSIONFORGIVINGEFFECTTOTHEPROVISIONSOFPARAGRAPH 3 OFAPPENDIXIITOTHELISTI (PROVINCIAL COUNCILLIST) OFNINTH SCHEDULETOTHE CONSTITUTIONANDFORMATTERSCONNECTED THEREWITHORINCIDENTALTHERETO.

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

**1.** This Act may be cited as the National Land Short title Commission Act, No. of 2024.

5 PART I

ESTABLISHMENTOFTHE NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2.** (1) There shall be established a Commission called and known as the National Land Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”). | Establishment of the  National  Land |

Commission

10 (2) The Commission shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1), be a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in that name.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **3.** (1) The Commission shall consist of the following | | | Constitution |
| members:- | | | of the |
| Commission |
| (*a*) | *ex officio* members - | |
| (i) | | the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister |

assigned the subject of Lands or his representative not below the rank of an 20 Additional Secretary of such Ministry;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | (ii) | *National Land Commission* |
| the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister |

assigned the subject of Home Affairs or his   
representative not below the rank of an   
Additional Secretary of such Ministry;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (iii) | the Commissioner-General of Lands |

appointed under section 3 of the Land   
Development Ordinance (Chapter 464);

(iv) the Director-General of the Central Environmental Authority appointed under 10 section 13 of the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980;

(v) the Director-General of Agriculture   
appointed under section 3 of the Department   
of Agriculture Ordinance (Chapter 441);

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (vi) | the Director-General of the Urban |

Development Authority appointed under   
section 13 of the Urban Development   
Authority Law, No. 41 of 1978;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (vii) | a representative of the Treasury not below |
| the rank of a Director-General nominated by |

the Secretary to the Treasury;

(viii) the Conservator-General of Forests appointed   
 under section 58 of the Forest Conservation   
 Ordinance (Chapter 451); and

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (ix) | the | Director-General | of | Wildlife |

Conservation who is the Director-General   
appointed for the purpose of the Fauna and   
Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469);

*National Land Commission* 3

(*b*) four members from among persons who have the knowledge and expertise in the field of land, agriculture, soil science, land use planning, urban development, watershed management or plantation 5 agriculture, appointed by the President (hereinafter referred to as the “appointed members”); and

(*c*) nine members who have experience and knowledge in the subject of land, to represent the Provincial Councils, nominated by each Provincial Council 10 (hereinafter referred to as the “nominated members”).

(2) The President shall, having regard to the provisions of section 8, appoint members referred to in paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1).

15 (3) The Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed by the President from among the appointed members.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **4.** A person shall be disqualified from being appointed, | Disqualification |
| nominated or continuing as amember of the Commission, if | from being a |
| member of |
| such person– |
| the |

Commission (*a*) is not, or ceases to be, a citizen of Sri Lanka;

(*b*) is or becomes a member of, Parliament, any   
 Provincial Council or any local authority;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (*c*) | is a person who having been declared an insolvent |
| or a bankrupt under any law in Sri Lanka or any |

other country is an undischarged insolvent or   
bankrupt;

(*d*) is, under any law in force in Sri Lanka or any other   
 country, found or declared to be of unsound mind;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | (*e*) | *National Land Commission* |
| is convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude |

punishable with imprisonment for a term not less   
than six months;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (*f*) | is serving or has served a sentence of imprisonment |
| imposed by a Court of Sri Lanka or any other |

country; or

(*g*) has any financial or other interest as is likely to   
affect prejudicially, the discharge by him of his   
functions as a member of the Commission.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **5.** Every appointed and nominated member of the | Term of |
| 15 | Commission shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, | office of the |
| appointed |
| resignation or removal, hold office for a period of five years |
| and |
| from the date of his appointment or nomination, as the case |
| nominated |
| may be, and unless removed from office, shall be eligible for | members of |
| the |
| re-appointment or re-nominationfor not more than one |
| Commission |
| 20 | further term, whether consecutive or otherwise. |
| Removal, |
| **6.** (1)Any appointed member of the Commission may, at |
| any time, resign fromhis office by letter in that behalf | resignation |
| etc., of |
| addressed to the President, and such resignation shall take |
| appointed |
| effect from the date on which the resignation is accepted in |
| members |

writing by the President.

(2) The President may, for reasons assigned therefor, remove any appointed member from office. An appointed member who has been removed from office shall not be

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | eligible for re-appointment as a member of the Commission or in any other capacity. |

(3) In the event of vacation of office by death, resignation or removal from office of any appointed member, the President shall, having regard to the provisions of paragraph

30 (*b*) of subsection (1) and subsection (2)of section 3, appoint

*National Land Commission* 5

another person to fill such vacancy, and such person shall hold such office for the un-expired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

**(**4) Where any appointed member of the Commission is 5 temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office on account of ill health or any other cause, or being absent from Sri Lanka for a period of not less than three months, the President shall, having regard to the provisions of paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 3, appoint 10   
any other person to act in place of such member during his absence.

(5) Where any appointed member of the Commission fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission without notifying his absence in advance to the Chairperson, 15 such member shall be deemed to have vacated his office from the date of such third meeting andthe President shall, having regard to the provisions of paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 3, appoint another person to fill such vacancy.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **7.** (1) Any nominated member of the Commission may be | Removal, |
| removed from office by the Provincial Council which | resignation |
| etc., of |
| nominated such member. | nominated |
| members |

(2) Any nominated member of the Commission may, at any time, resign from his office by letter in that behalf 25 addressed to the Chairman of the Provincial Council which nominated him and the Chairperson of the Commission, and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which the resignation is accepted in writing by the Chairman of the Provincial Council.

6 *National Land Commission*

(3) In the event of the vacation of office by death, resignation or removal from office of any nominated member, the respective Provincial Council shall, nominate another person who has experience and knowledge in the subject of 5 land to fill such vacancy, and such person shall hold such office for the un-expired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

(4) Where any nominated member of the Commission is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office on 10 account of ill health or any other cause, or being absent from Sri Lanka for a period of not less than three months, the respective Provincial Council shall nominate another person to act in place of such member during his absence.

(5) Where any nominated member of the Commission 15 fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission without notifying his absence in advance to the Chairperson of the Commission, such member shall be deemed to have vacated his office from the date of such third meeting and the respective Provincial Council shall nominate another

20 person who hasexperience and knowledge in the subject of land to fill such vacancy.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | **8.** (1) Every appointed member of the Commission shall | Appointed |
| submit to the President a general disclosure of any financial | members of |
| the |
| or other interests as at the time of appointment, before |
| Commission |
| assuming office as such member, in the prescribed form and | to disclose |
| shall submit to the President such declaration once a year | any interest |

during his term of office.

(2) A member of the Commission who is directly or indirectly, interested in any contract, agreement or business

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | or any matter made or proposed to be made by the Commission shall forthwith disclose the nature and extent |

*National Land Commission* 7

of his interest to the Commission and every such disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Commission and such member shall not thereafter participate in any deliberation or decision of the Commission with regard to 5 such contract, agreement, business or other matter.

(3) The Commission shall maintain a register or a record of such interest as referred to in subsections (1) and (2), on case-by case basis.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **9.** (1) The meetings of the Commission shall be held at | Quorum and |
| least once in every month or as is required for the purpose of | the meetings |
| of the |
| exercising, performing and discharging the powers, duties |
| Commission |

and functions of the Commission specified in this Act.

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Commission shall be eleven members including the Chairperson.

15 (3) A meeting of the Commission may be held either –

(*a*) by the number of members who constitute a quorum   
 being assembled at the place, date and time   
 appointed for the meeting; or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (*b*) | by means of audio-visual communication by which |
| all members participating and constituting a |

quorum can simultaneously see and hear each   
participating member during the meeting.

(4) All questions for decision at any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by the vote of the majority of 25 members present and voting at such meeting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall, in addition to his vote, have a casting vote.

8 *National Land Commission*

(5) The Chairperson, if present, shall preside at every meeting of the Commission. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting of the Commission, any member elected by the members present shall preside at such meeting of the 5 Commission.

(6) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the Commission may regulate the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meetings of the Commission and the transaction of business at such meetings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **10.** The Commission may act notwithstanding any | Acts or |
| 15 | vacancy among its members, and any act or proceeding of | proceedings |
| of the |
| the Commission shall not be, or deemed to be, invalid by |
| Commission |
| reason only of the existence of any vacancy among its | deemed not |
| to be invalid |
| members or any defect in the appointment of a member |
| by reason of |
| thereof. | any vacancy |
| 20 | **11.** The members of the Commission shall be paid such | Remuneration |
| remuneration in such manner and at such rates as may be | of the |
| members of |
| determined by the President in consultation with the Minister |
| the |
| assigned the subject of Finance. | Commission |
| **12.** (1) The Commission may, whenever it considers |
| Commission |
| necessary, invite experts to any meeting of the Commission, | to invite |
| experts to |
| who have expertise on any subject which is dealt with by |
| meetings |

the Commission at such meeting for the purpose of obtaining their views on such subject matter for the effective discharge 25 of the functions of the Commission:

Provided however, the Commission shall have the absolute discretion of accepting or rejecting the views of such experts.

*National Land Commission* 9

(2) The experts shall have no voting rights.

(3) The experts may be paid such honorarium as may be determined by the Commission for attending meetings of the Commission.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **13.** (1) The seal of the Commission shall be as determined | Seal of the |
| Commission |
| by the Commission. |

(2) The seal of the Commission –

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (*b*) | shall be in the custody of such person or persons as |

the Commission may determine from time to time.

(3) The seal of the Commission shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the Commission and in the presence of the Chairperson and one 15 other member of the Commission who shall sign the instrument or document in token of their presence:

Provided however, where the Chairperson is unable to be present at the time when the seal of the Commission is affixed to any instrument or document, any other member of the 20 Commission authorized in writing by the Chairperson in that behalf shall be competent to sign such instrument or document in accordance with the preceding provisions of this subsection.

(4) The Commission shall maintain a register of the

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | instruments and documents to which the seal of the Commission has been affixed. |

10 *National Land Commission*

PART II

POWERS, DUTIESAND FUNCTIONSOFTHE COMMISSION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **14.** (1) The powers, duties and functions of the | | Powers, |
| Commission shall be to– | | duties and |
| functions of |
| (*a*) | formulate the national policy with regard to the use | the |
| Commission |

of State lands as specified in paragraph 3:1 of   
APPENDIX II to the List I (Provincial Council List)   
of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, based   
on technical aspects but not on political or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (*b*) | communal aspects; |
| lay down general norms in regard to the use of State |

lands as specified in paragraph 3:3 of APPENDIX II to the List I (Provincial Council List) of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, having regard to 15 matters such as soil, climate, rainfall, soil erosion, forest cover, environmental factors, economic viability;

(*c*) carryout necessary surveys, inspections or   
 investigations relating to State lands and prepare

20 reports on them, in the formulation of the national policy under paragraph (*a*);

(*d*) open, maintain and operate current, savings or other   
deposit accounts in any bank and, if necessary, to   
close such accounts; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (*e*) | generally, to do such other acts or things incidental |
| or connected with powers, duties and functions of |

the Commission.

*National Land Commission* 11

(2) Upon the formulation of the national policy under paragraph (*a*) of subsection (1) by the Commission, the Minister shall take steps to submit such national policy to the Cabinet of Ministers for information, which shall be

5 published in the *Gazette* by the Minister and be published on the official website of the Ministry of the Minister.

(3) The Commission may, in exercising, performing and discharging, its powers, duties and functions under paragraph (*c*) of subsection (1), authorize any employee of the 10 Commission to enter any State land at any reasonable time of the day after giving three day’s prior notice in writing to the owner or occupier of such State land.

**15.** (1) For the purposes of enabling the Commission to Information exercise, perform and discharge any of its powers, duties   
15 and functions under this Act, the Commission or any person   
 authorized in that behalf by the Commission may, by notice   
 in writing require any person to furnish to the Commission   
 or to the person authorized by the Commission, within such   
 period as shall be specified in the notice, such information

20 or document regarding the State lands as shall be specified in such notice.

(2) It shall be the duty of any person who is required in that regardby a notice under subsection (1), to furnish any information or document within the period specified in such

25 notice, except where such person is prohibited from furnishing such information or document under the provisions of any other written law.

12 *National Land Commission*

PART III

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **16.** The National Land Commission shall have a Technical | Technical |
| Secretariat representing all the relevant disciplines as | Secretariat |
| specified in paragraph 3:2 of APPENDIX II to the List I |

(Provincial Council List) of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, required to evaluate the physical as well as the socio-economic factors that are relevant to natural resources management.

10 PART IV

DIRECTORANDTHE STAFFOFTHE COMMISSION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **17.** (1) There shall be appointed by the Minister, in | Director of |
| consultation with the Commission, a Director of the | the |
| Commission(hereinafter referred to as the “Director”), whose | Commission |
| qualification and experience, the terms and conditions of |
| appointment shall be as prescribed. |

(2) The Director shall, subject to the general directions and supervision of the Commission –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (*a*) | be charged with the administration of the affairs of |
| the Commission including the administration and |

control of the staff;

(*b*) be responsible for the execution of all decisions of   
the Commission; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (*c*) | carry out all such functions as may be assigned to |
| him by the Commission. |

*National Land Commission* 13

(3) The Director shall be entitled to be present and speak at any meeting of the Commission, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meeting.

(4) The Director may, with the written approval of the 5 Commission, whenever he considers it necessary to do so, delegate in writing to any officeror employee of the Commission, any of his powers, duties or functions under the Act and the officer or employee to whom any such power, duty or function is delegated shall exercise, perform or 10 dischargethem subject to the directions of the Commission.

(5) The Minister may, in consultation with the Commission remove the Director from the office –

(*a*) if he becomes permanently incapable of exercising,   
 performing or discharging his powers, duties or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (*b*) | functions under the Act; |
| if he had done any act which, in the opinion of the |

Commission, is of a fraudulent or illegal nature or   
is prejudicial to the interests of the Commission; or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (*c*) | if he has failed to comply with any directions issued |
| by the Commission. |

(6) The office of the Director shall become vacant upon the death, removal from office under subsection (5) or resignation by letter in that behalf addressedto the Minister by the holder of such office.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | (7) If any vacancy occurs in the office of the Director, the Minister may, in consultation with the Commission, appoint |

an appointed member of the Commission to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of the Director, until an appointment is made under subsection (1).

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(8) The Director shall be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **18.** (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the | Appointment |
| Commission may appoint such officers and employees as | of the staff |
| of the |
| may be necessary for the efficient exercise, performance and |
| Commission |
| discharge of its powers, duties and functions. |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (*a*) | exercise disciplinary control over or dismiss such |
| (*b*) | officers and employees; |
| determine the terms and conditions of employment |

of such officers and employees; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (*c*) | fix the rates at which such officers and employees |
| shall be remunerated in keeping with relevant |

guidelines of the Government and in consultation   
with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

(3) The Commission shall not, however, appoint as an officer or other employee of the Commission, any person

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | who has been dismissed from any previous position held by | Appointment |
| such person in the public or private sector. |
| **19.** (1) At the request of the Commission, any officer in |
| 25 | the public service may, with the consent of that officer and | of the |
| officers in |
| of the Public Service Commission be temporarily appointed |
| the public |
| to the staff of the Commission for such period as may be |
| service to the |
| determined by the Commission, or with like consent, be | staff of the |
| Commission |
| permanently appointed to such staff. |

(2) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission, the provisions of

30 subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport

*National Land Commission* 15

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 Commission, the provisions of

5 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.

PART V

FINANCE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **20.** (1) The Commission shall have its own Fund. | Fund of the |
| Commission |

(2) There shall be credited to the Fund –

(*a*) all such sums of money as may be voted by   
 Parliament, from time to time, for the use of the   
 Commission; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (*b*) | all such sums of money as may be received by the |

Commission for the exercise, performance and   
discharge of its powers, duties and functions by   
way of loans, donations, gifts, bequests or grants   
from whatsoever source within or outside Sri Lanka:

20 Provided that, the Commission shall obtain the prior written approval of the Department of External Resources of the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance, in respect of all foreign grants, gifts or donations made to the 25 Commission.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **21.** (1) The financial year of the Commission shall be the | Financial |
| calendar year. | year and |
| audit of |
| (2) The Commission shall cause proper books of accounts | accounts of |
| the |
| to be kept of the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities | Commission |

and all other financial transactions of the Commission.

10 (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 Commission.

PART VI

GENERAL PROVISION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **22.** (1) The Commission may, subject to such terms and | Delegation of |
| conditions as may be specified in writing, delegate to the | powers, |
| functions and |
| Chairperson or a member of the Commission or theDirector |
| duties |
| any of its powers, duties or functions under this Act, and the |

Chairperson or such member or theDirector shall exercise,

20 perform or discharge such power, duty or function subject to any special or general directions issued by the Commission.

(2) Notwithstanding any delegation made under subsection (1), the Commission may exercise, perform or discharge any such power, duty or function so delegated.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | **23.** (1) The Commission may establish committees and | Establishment |
| panels to assist it in the exercise, performance and discharge | of |
| committees |
| of its powers, duties and functions under this Act, and may |
| and panels |
| appoint such persons as the Commission may deem necessary |

to be members of any such committee or panel.

*National Land Commission* 17

(2) A committee or panel shall carry out its functions and fulfil its obligations as stipulated in the terms of reference given to such committee or panel by the Commission.

(3) The Commission may, where it considers necessary, 5 co-opt as a member to a committee or panel any person who possesses the required knowledge and experience in the relevant field.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **24.** (1) The Commission shall, within six months of the | | Annual |
| end of each financial year, submit to the Minister an annual | | reports |
| report on the activities carried out by the Commission. The | |
| following documents shall be attached to such report- | |
| (*a*) | the audited accounts of the Commission for the |

year along with the Auditor-General’s report; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (*b*) | a report of proposed activities for the year |
| immediately following the year to which such report |

and accounts relate.

(2) The Minster shall table the annual report along with the documents specified in subsection (1) in Parliament for its consideration.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **25.** The Chairperson andmembers of the Commission | Declaration |
| andthe Director, officers and other employees of the | of secrecy |

Commission and every expert consulted by the Commission under section 12 and members of committees or panels appointed under section 23, shall, before entering upon his 25 duties, sign a declaration pledging to observe strict secrecy in respect of all matters connected with the affairs of the Commission, which has come to his knowledge in the exercise, performance and discharge of his powers, duties and functions under this Act and by such declaration pledge 30 himself not to disclose any such matter except –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18 | (*a*) | *National Land Commission* |
| when required to do so by a court of law; or |
| (*b*) | for the purpose of exercising, performing and |

discharging the powers, duties and functions under

this Act or any other written law.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **26.** The Chairman and other members of the Commission, | Members of |
| the Director,officers and other employees of the Commission | the |
| Commission, |
| shall be deemed to be public officers within the meaning |
| the Director, |
| and for the purposes of the Penal Code (Chapter 19). | **o**fficers and |
| employees of |

the   
Commission   
deemed to be   
public   
officers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **27.** The Commission shall be deemed to be a Scheduled | Commission |
| institution within the meaning of the Anti-Corruption Act, | deemed to be |
| a Scheduled |
| No. 9 of 2023 and the provisions of that Act shall be construed |
| institution |
| accordingly. | for the |
| purpose of |

the Anti-  
Corruption   
Act

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **28.** Any person who – | | Offences |
| (*a*) | resists or obstructs any person in performing or |
| carrying out his functions or duties under | |

subsection (2) of section 14;

(*b*) fails or refuses to furnish any information or

document when requested to do so under section

15; or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (*c*) | submits any information or a document under |

section 15 knowing it to be false or misleading,

*National Land Commission* 19

commits an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial by a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **29.** (1) Any expenses incurred by the Commission in any | Expenses in |
| suit or |
| suit or prosecution brought by or against the Commission |
| prosecution |
| before any Court, shall be paid out of the Fund of the | to be paid |
| out of the |
| Commission and any costs paid to, or recovered by the |
| Fund |

Commission in any such suit or prosecution shall be credited 10 to the Fund of the Commission.

(2) Any expenses incurred by any member of the Commission, the Director or any officer or other employee of the Commission in any suit or prosecution brought against such person before any Court or Tribunal in respect of any 15 act which is done or is purported to be done by such person under the provisions of this Act or on the direction of the Commission shall, if the court holds that such act was done in good faith, be paid out of the Fund of the Commission, unless such expense is recovered by such person in such suit

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| 20 | or prosecution. | Regulations |
| **30.** (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of |

all matters which are required by this Act to be prescribed or in respect of which regulations are required or authorized to be made under this Act.

25 (2) Every regulation made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

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(3) Every regulation made under subsection (1) shall, within three months from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*, be placed before Parliament for approval. Every regulation which is not so approved shall be deemed to be 5 rescinded as from the date of disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Notification of the date on which any regulation is deemed to be so rescinded shall be published in the *Gazette.*

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| 10 | **31.** (1) The Commission may, subject to the provisions of | Rules |
| this Act, make rules in respect of any matter for which rules |

are authorised to be made under this Act or all or any of the following matters: -

(*a*) for the regulation of the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meetings of the 15 Commission and the transaction of business at such meetings; and

(*b*) any other matter connected with the management   
of the affairs of the Commission.

(2) Every rule made by the Commission shall be

20 published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of its publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

**32.** In this Act unless the context otherwise requires – Interpretation

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the 25 subject matter of this Act isassigned under Articles 44 and 45 of the Constitution;

“occupier” means a person in occupation of any   
premises or having the charge,

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management or control thereof, whether   
on his own account or as an agent of any   
other, but does not include a lodger;

“premises” means any land together with any 5 building or part of a building standing thereon; and

“written” shall include electronically generated   
 documents.

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| 10 | **33.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala | Sinhala text |
| and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. | to prevail in |
| case of |

inconsistency

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