

PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

3rd Session 1954-55



Royal Executive Powers and Seals Act, No. 43 of 1954

Date of Assent : August 17, 1954

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Royal Executive Powers and Seals Act, No. 43 3
of 1954.

L. D.—CF. 5/54.

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION IN REGARD TO THE EXERCISE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWERS OF THE SOVEREIGN OF CEYLON, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAKING AND USE OF A ROYAL SEAL OF CEYLON, A ROYAL SIGNET OF CEYLON, AND A PUBLIC SEAL OF CEYLON.

[Date of Assent: August 17, 1954.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Ceylon in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Royal Executive Powers and Seals Act, No. 43 of 1954, and shall come into operation on such date as the Governor-General may appoint by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*.

Short title
and date of
operation.

2. The will and pleasure of the Sovereign of Ceylon (hereinafter referred to as the "Sovereign") in the exercise of the executive powers vested in the Sovereign by any law shall be expressed by an instrument under the Sovereign's Sign Manual, and every such instrument shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister.

Exercise of
the executive
powers of the
Sovereign of
Ceylon.

3. Whenever for any reason the Sovereign's signature to any instrument requiring the Sovereign's Sign Manual cannot be obtained or whenever the delay involved in obtaining the Sovereign's signature to any such instrument in the ordinary course would, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, frustrate the object thereof or unduly retard the despatch of public business, the Governor-General shall, subject to such instructions as may from time to time be given in that behalf by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, execute and sign such instrument on behalf of the Sovereign; and an instrument so executed and signed by the Governor-General and countersigned by the Prime Minister shall be of the same force and effect as an instrument signed by the Sovereign.

When Governor-
General may
sign an
instrument
requiring the
Sovereign's
signature.

4. There shall be a Royal Seal of Ceylon (hereinafter referred to as the "Royal Seal") which shall be of such design and size as may be approved by the Sovereign and which shall show on the obverse the effigy of the Sovereign in such manner and of such

Royal Seal
of Ceylon.

4. *Royal Executive Powers and Seals Act, No. 43
of 1954.*

design as may be so approved with the style and titles of the Sovereign or the abbreviations thereof as circumscription, and on the reverse such device and inscription as may be so approved.

Keeper of
the Royal
Seal.

5. The Prime Minister shall be the Keeper of the Royal Seal.

Use of the
Royal Seal.

6. The Keeper of the Royal Seal shall affix the Royal Seal—

(a) to Proclamations bearing the Sovereign's Sign Manual and the countersignature of the Prime Minister, and

(b) to such other instruments bearing the Sovereign's Sign Manual and the countersignature of the Prime Minister as the Sovereign may from time to time by Proclamation specify as instruments to which the Royal Seal shall be affixed.

Wafer seals
representing
Royal Seal.

7. (1) The Governor-General may by regulation published in the *Gazette* provide for the making of wafer seals, representing the Royal Seal, of such material as he may deem suitable and prescribe the size of the cast to be used for the purpose.

(2) The wafer seals made in accordance with the regulations framed under sub-section (1) shall be kept by the Keeper of the Royal Seal and may be used by him for sealing instruments to which the Royal Seal is required to be affixed; and the sealing of such instruments with such wafer seals shall be sufficient compliance with the requirement that the Royal Seal shall be affixed to such instruments.

Royal Signet
of Ceylon.

8. There shall be a Royal Signet of Ceylon (hereinafter referred to as the "Royal Signet") which shall show the reverse of the Royal Seal and shall be of such design and size as may be approved by the Sovereign.

Keeper of the
Royal Signet.

9. The Prime Minister shall be the Keeper of the Royal Signet.

Use of the
Royal Signet.

10. The Keeper of the Royal Signet shall affix the Royal Signet to such instruments bearing the Sovereign's Sign Manual and the countersignature of the Prime Minister as the Sovereign may from time to time by Proclamation specify as instruments to which the Royal Signet shall be affixed.

11. (1) There shall be a Public Seal of Ceylon (hereinafter referred to as the "Public Seal") which shall be of such design and size as may be determined by the Government.

Public Seal
of Ceylon.

(2) In any written law the expression "Public Seal of the Island" or the "Public Seal" shall mean the Public Seal of Ceylon.

12. The Governor-General shall be the Keeper of the Public Seal.

Keeper of the
Public Seal.

13. The Keeper of the Public Seal shall affix the Public Seal—

Use of the
Public Seal.

(a) to instruments executed and signed under section 3 by the Governor-General,

(b) to instruments which are required by any written law to be sealed with the Public Seal, and

(c) to such other instruments as he may deem fit to be sealed with the Public Seal.

14. In the case of a change in the person of the Sovereign, the Seals then existing shall be used until such time as new Seals have been made and put into use.

On demise of
Sovereign
existing Seals
to be used
temporarily.

15. Where for any reason the Prime Minister is unable to perform any function or duty imposed on him by this Act, such other Minister as the Governor-General may nominate in that behalf may perform that function or duty.

Performance
of Prime
Minister's
functions
and duties
under this
Act.