

PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

3rd Session 1954-55



Administrative Districts Act, No. 22 of 1955

Date of Assent : April 14, 1955

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L. D.—O. 49/53.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS AS THE AREAS OF AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENTS, TO EFFECT AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTING OF CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS IN OTHER WRITTEN LAW, AND TO PROVIDE FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID.

[Date of Assent: April 14, 1955]

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 Administrative Districts Act, No. 22 of 1955.

Short title.

2. (1) The Administrative Districts specified in the First Schedule to this Act are hereby established,

Establishment of Administrative Districts.

(2) The limits of each Administrative District specified in column I of the First Schedule to this Act shall, subject to any alterations made therein under section 3, be those specified in the corresponding entry in column II of that Schedule.

3. An Administrative District may be abolished, a new Administrative District may be established, the limits of an Administrative District may be altered, and the First Schedule to this Act may be amended or replaced with a new Schedule, by a resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Abolition, creation and alteration of the limits, of Administrative Districts, and amendment of the First Schedule.

4. Each Administrative District shall be assigned to a Government Agent as his area of authority instead of a Province.

Assignment of each Administrative District to a Government Agent.

5. Any number of Additional Government Agents, Assistant Government Agents, and Additional Assistant Government Agents may be appointed for an Administrative District.

Appointment of Additional, Assistant, and Additional Assistant Government Agents.

6. This Act shall not be deemed to prevent the continuance of the Provinces of Ceylon, as now constituted or as may hereafter be constituted, for any purpose other than that for which Administrative Districts are established by this Act.

Provinces not to be affected by this Act.

Construction
of written
law.

7. (1) In any written law, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "Administrative District" shall mean an Administrative District established by or under this Act.

(2) Every reference in any other written law to a revenue district shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district.

(3) Where any other written law enables or requires the Government Agent of a Province to exercise or perform any power, duty or function, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as enabling or requiring the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to exercise or perform that power, duty or function within the limits of that Administrative District.

(4) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to make any by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring power on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to make for that Administrative District any such by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice.

(5) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to issue any licence, permit, certificate of registration, or other document, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring power on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to issue for that Administrative District any such licence, permit, certificate of registration or other document.

(6) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to determine any fees or charges, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province the power to determine for that Administrative District any such fees or charges.

(7) Where any other written law requires any such notice, information, declaration, return or other document as relates to any matter in any part of a Province to be delivered, sent or given to the Government Agent

of that Province, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as requiring that notice, information, declaration, return or other document to be delivered, sent or given to the Government Agent of the Administrative District within which that part of that Province lies.

(8) Every reference to the Government Agent, Western Province, in the Victoria Home for the Incurables Incorporation Ordinance, No. 7 of 1903, shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as a reference to the Government Agent of the Administrative District of Colombo.

8. (1) The written laws specified in column I of the Second Schedule to this Act are hereby amended in the manner specified in column II of that Schedule.

Amendment of
other
written
law, etc.

(2) The Minister may by Order published in the *Gazette* make such amendments in any other written law, or make such provision in regard to any matter, as may be necessary in consequence of the provisions of this Act. Every Order made by the Minister under this sub-section and published in the *Gazette* shall have the force of law.

9. (1) This Act shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice made by the Government Agent of a Province under any other written law before the commencement of this Act.

Savings.

(2) This Act shall not be deemed to affect the continuance in force of any licence, permit, certificate of registration or other document issued, and the validity of any instrument executed, by the Government Agent of a Province before the commencement of this Act.

(3) Where the Government Agent of a Province has, before the commencement of this Act, determined any fees or charges by virtue of the power conferred on him by any other written law, such determination shall not be affected by this Act.

(4) Where any act or thing is commenced by the Government Agent of a Province under any other written law in any part of that Province and is not completed before the commencement of this Act, that act or thing may be carried on and completed by the Government Agent of the Administrative District within which that part of that Province lies.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Column I	Column II
Administrative Districts	Limits of the Administrative Districts
<p>1. Administrative District of Colombo, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Hapitigam Korale, Alutkuru Korale North (A), Alutkuru Korale North (B), Alutkuru Korale South, Siyane Korale West (Adikari Pattuwa), Siyane Korale West (Meda Pattuwa), Siyane Korale East, Hewagam Korale, Salpiti Korale and Colombo Divisional Revenue Officer's (Colombo Mudaliyar's) Division</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Pitigal Korale South in Puttalam District, Katugampola Hatpattuwa and Dambadeni Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District <i>Eastern</i> : Dambadeni Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District, Beligal Korale, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama, Atulugam and Panawal Korales in Kegalla District and Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District <i>Southern</i> : Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District and Rayigam Korale and Panadura Totamune in Kalutara District <i>Western</i> : Sea</p>
<p>2. Administrative District of Kalutara, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officer's Divisions :— Rayigam Korale, Kalutara Totamune, Panadure Totamune, Pasdun Korale West and Pasdun Korale East</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Salpiti Korale and Hewagam Korale in Colombo District <i>Eastern</i> : Kuruwiti Korale and Kukul Korale in Ratnapura District <i>Southern</i> : Hinidum Pattuwa and Bentota Walallawiti Korale in Galle District <i>Western</i> : Sea</p>
<p>3. Administrative District of Kandy, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Udunuwara and Yatinuwara Division, Tompane, Harispattuwa, Pata Dumbara, Uda Dumbara, Kandy and Pata Hewaheta Division, Uda Palata and Uda Bulatgama</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District, Matala South and Matala East in Matala District <i>Eastern</i> : Bintenna Division and Wiyaluwa Division in Badulla District, Walapane, Uda Hewaheta and Kotmale in Nuwara Eliya District <i>Southern</i> : Kadawata and Meda Korale, Nawadun Korale and Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District <i>Western</i> : Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District, Atulugam and Panawal Korales, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama, Paranakuru Korale and Galboda and Kinigoda Korales in Kegalla District and Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District</p>
<p>4. Administrative District of Matala, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Matala South, Matala East and Matala North</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Kalagam Palata and Hurulu Palata in Anuradhapura District and Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District <i>Eastern</i> : Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District, Bintenna Pattu in Batticaloa District and Bintenna Division in Badulla District <i>Southern</i> : Uda Dumbara, Pata Dumbara and Harispattuwa in Kandy District <i>Western</i> : Weudawili Hatpattuwa and Hiriya Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District</p>
<p>5. Administrative District of Nuwara Eliya, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Kotmale, Uda Hewaheta and Walapane</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Pata Dumbara and Uda Dumbara in Kandy District <i>Eastern</i> : Wiyaluwa Division and Udukinda Division in Badulla District <i>Southern</i> : Wellawaya Division in Badulla District, Kadawata and Meda Korales in Ratnapura District and Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District <i>Western</i> : Uda Bulatgama, Uda Palata Kandy and Pata Hewaheta Division and Pata Dumbara in Kandy District</p>

Column I

Column II

Administrative Districts

Limits of the Administrative Districts

6. Administrative District of Galle, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Bentota Walallawiti Korale, Wellaboda Pattuwa, Four Gravets, Talpe Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa and Hinidum Pattuwa
7. Administrative District of Matara, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Morawak Korale, Kandaboda Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa, Weligam Korale and Wellaboda Pattuwa and Four Gravets
8. Administrative District of Hambantota, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Giruwa Pattu West, Giruwa Pattu East and Magam Pattuwa
9. Administrative District of Jaffna, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Delft Division, Islands Division, Jaffna Division, Valikamam West Division, Valikamam North Division, Valikamam East Division, Tenmaradchi Division, Vadamaradchchi Division, Pachchilaippali-Karachchi and Punakari-Tunukkai
10. Administrative District of Mannar, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Mantai Division, Mannar Island Division and Musali Division
11. Administrative District of Vavuniya, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Vavuniya South (Tamil), Vavuniya South (Sinhalese), Vavuniya North and Maritime Pattus
12. Administrative District of Batticaloa, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Panama Pattu, Akkarai Pattu, Karavaku and Nintavur Pattus, Sammanturai Fattu, Eravil Porativu and Manmunai Pattu South, Bintenna Pattu, Manmunai Pattu North, Eravur and Koralai Pattus and Wewgam Pattu

Northern : Kalutara Totamunc, Pasdun Korale West and Pasdun Korale East in Kalutara District and Kukul Korale in Ratnapura District
Eastern : Morawak Korale and Weligam Korale in Matara District
Southern : Sea
Western : Sea

Northern : Hinidum Pattuwa in Galle District Kukul Korale and Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District
Eastern : Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District and Giruwa Pattu West in Hambantota District
Southern : Sea
Western : Talpe Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa and Hinidum Pattuwa in Galle District

Northern : Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District, Wellawaya Division and Buttala Division in Badulla District and Panama Pattu in Batticaloa District
Eastern : Sea
Southern : Sea
Western : Wellaboda Pattuwa and Four Gravets, Gangaboda Pattuwa, Kandaboda Pattuwa and Morawak Korale in Matara District

Northern : Sea
Eastern : Sea
Southern : Maritime Pattus and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District and Mantai Division in Mannar District
Western : Sea

Northern : Punakari-Tunukkai in Jaffna District and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District
Eastern : Vavuniya North and Vavuniya South (Tamil) in Vavuniya District
Southern : Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District and Kalpitiya Division in Puttalam District
Western : Sea

Northern : Pachchilaippali-Karachchi in Jaffna District
Eastern : Sea
Southern : Kaddukkulam Pattu in Trincomalee District, Hurulu Palata, Nuwaragam Palata East and Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District
Western : Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District, Musali Division and Mantai Division in Mannar District, Punakari-Tunukkai and Pachchilaippali-Karachchi in Jaffna District

Northern : Koddigar Pattu in Trincomalee District
Eastern : Sea
Southern : Magam Pattuwa in Hambantota District
Western : Buttala Division, Wellassa Division and Bintenna Division in Badulla District, Matale East in Matale District, and Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District

Column I

Column II

Administrative Districts

Limits of the Administrative Districts

13. Administrative District of Trincomalee, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Koddiyar Pattu, Tampalakamam Pattu, Kaddukkulam Pattu and Trincomalee Town and Gravets Divisions
- Northern : Maritime Pattus in Vauniya District
Eastern : Sea
Southern : Eravur and Koralai Pattus in Batticaloa District and Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District
Western : Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District, Hurulu Palata in Anuradhapura District and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District
14. Administrative District of Kurunegala, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Wanni Hatpattuwa, Hiriya Hatpattu-Weudawili Hatpattuwa, Dambadeni Hatpattuwa, Dowamedi Hatpattuwa and Katugampola Hatpattuwa
- Northern : Nuwaragam Palata West and Kalagam Palata in Anuradhapura District
Eastern : Kalagam Palata in Anuradhapura District, Matale North and Matale South in Matale District and Harispattuwa in Kandy District
Southern : Tumpane in Kandy District, Galboda and Kinigoda Korales and Beligal Korale in Kegalla District, Hapitigam Korale and Alutkuru Korale North (A) in Colombo District
Western : Pitigal Korale South, Pitigal Korale North and Demala Hatpattuwa in Puttalam District
15. Administrative District of Puttalam consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Puttalam Pattu and Gravets, Kalpitiya Division, Demala Hatpattuwa, Pitigal Korale South and Pitigal Korale North
- Northern : Musali Division in Mannar District
Eastern : Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District, Wanni Hatpattu and Katugampola Hatpattu in Kurunegala District
Southern : Alutkuru Korale North (A) in Colombo District
Western : Sea
16. Administrative District of Anuradhapura, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Nuwaragam Palata West, Nuwaragam Palata East, Hurulu Palata and Kalagam Palata
- Northern : Musali Division in Mannar District, Vavuniya South (Tamil), Vavuniya South (Sinhalese), and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District, and Kaddukkulam Pattu in Trincomalee District
Eastern : Kaddukkulam Pattu and Tampalakamam Pattu in Trincomalee District and Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District
Southern : Matale North in Matale District, Hiriya Hatpattuwa and Wanni Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District and Demala Hatpattuwa in Puttalam District
Western : Kalpitiya Division in Puttalam District and Musali Division in Mannar District
17. Administrative District of Polonnaruwa, consisting of the Divisional Revenue Officers' Division of Tamankaduwa
- Northern : Hurulu Palata in Anuradhapura District, Tampalakamam Pattu and Koddiyar Pattu in Trincomalee District
Eastern : Eravur and Koralai Pattus and Bintenna Pattu in Batticaloa District
Southern : Bintenna Pattu in Batticaloa District and Matale East in Matale District
Western : Matale East and Matale North in Matale District and Hurulu Palata in Anuradhapura District
18. Administrative District of Badulla, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :—
Bintenna Division, Wiyaluwa Division, Udakinda Division, Yatikinda Division, Wellasa Division, Buttala Division and Wellawaya Division
- Northern : Bintenna Pattu in Batticaloa District
Eastern : Wewgam Pattu and Panama Pattu in Batticaloa District
Southern : Magam Pattuwa in Hambantota District
Western : Kolonna Korale, Atakalan Korale, Kadawata and Meda Korales in Ratnapura District, Walapane in Nuwara Eliya District, Uda Dumbura in Kandy District and Matale East in Matale District

Column I	Column II
<i>Administrative Districts</i>	<i>Limits of the Administrative Districts</i>
<p>19. Administrative District of Ratnapura, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Kuruwiti Korale, Nawadun Korale, Kukul Korale, Kolonna Korale, Atakalan Korale and Kadawata and Meda Korales</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Atulugam and Panawal Korale in Kegalla District, Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District, and Walapane in Nuwara Eliya District <i>Eastern</i> : Wellawaya Division in Badulla District, and Magam Pattuwa in Hambantota District <i>Southern</i> : Giruwa Pattu East and Giruwa Pattu West in Hambantota District Morawak Korale in Matara District and Hinidum Pattuwa in Galle District <i>Western</i> : Pasdun Korale East and Rayigam Korale in Kalutara District and Hewagam Korale in Colombo District</p>
<p>20. Administrative District of Kegalla, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions :— Galboda and Kinigoda Korales, Paranakuru Korale, Beligal Korale, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama and Atulugam and Panawal Korales</p>	<p><i>Northern</i> : Dambadeni Hatpattuwa and Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District <i>Eastern</i> : Tumpane, Udunuwara and Yatinuwara Division, Uda Palata and Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District <i>Southern</i> : Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District <i>Western</i> : Hewagam Korale, Siyane Korale East and Hapitigama Korale in Colombo District</p>

SECOND SCHEDULE

Column I	Column II
<i>Written Laws</i>	<i>Amendments</i>
<p>1. The Marriage Registration Ordinance (Chapter 95)</p>	<p>(a) In section 3 (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946), sub-sections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor :— “(1) For each district there shall be a District Registrar of Marriages. (2) The Government Agent of a district shall be the District Registrar for that district. (3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district. (4) Every Assistant Registrar-General shall be an Additional District Registrar for the district of Colombo. (5) There may be appointed any person as a District Registrar or as an Additional District Registrar in addition to, or in place of, any officer who is a District Registrar or an Additional District Registrar by virtue of the preceding provisions of this section.”</p> <p>(b) In section 4— (i) in sub-section (1) (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946), for the words “revenue districts”, substitute the word “districts”; and (ii) add, immediately after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section :— “(3) Every reference to any revenue district in any notification made under sub-section (1) of this section before the commencement of the Administrative Districts Act shall, after the commencement of that Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district.”</p>

Column I

Column II

Written Laws

Amendments

- (c) In section 59 (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946) substitute, for the definition of "district", the following new definition :—
 " "district" means Administrative District ; '.
2. The Guides Ordinance (Chapter 202) In section 2 (as amended by Act No. 41 of 1951), in the definition of "proper authority", substitute, for paragraph (c), the following new paragraph :—
 " (c) in relation to any place, the Government Agent or the Assistant Government Agent of the Administrative District within which such place is situated. "
3. The British Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute of Colombo Ordinance (Chapter 221) In section 3 (1) substitute, for the words " Western Province ", the words " Administrative District of Colombo ".
4. The Resthouses Act, No. 12 of 1951 In section 2 (2) substitute, for all the words from " vested " to the end of that section, the words " vested in the Government Agent of the Administrative District in which that resthouse is situated. "
5. The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, No. 13 of 1951 In section 97 substitute, for the definition of " district ", the following new definition :—
 " "district" means Administrative District ; '.
6. The Motor Traffic Act, No. 14 of 1951 (a) In section 44 (2)—
 (i) in paragraph (a) thereof substitute, for the words " Assistant Government Agent at Mannar ", the words " Government Agent of the Administrative District of Mannar " ;
 (ii) in paragraph (b) thereof substitute, for the words " Assistant Government Agent at Trincomalee ", the words " Government Agent of the Administrative District of Trincomalee " ; and
 (iii) in paragraph (c) thereof substitute, for the words " Southern Province ", the words " Administrative District of Galle ".
- (b) In section 134 (2)—
 (i) in paragraph (a) thereof substitute, for the words " Northern Province, the Assistant Government Agent at Mannar ", the words " Administrative District of Mannar " ;
 (ii) in paragraph (b) thereof substitute, for the words " Assistant Government Agent at Trincomalee ", the words " Government Agent of the Administrative District of Trincomalee " ; and
 (iii) in paragraph (c) thereof substitute, for the words " Southern Province ", the words " Administrative District of Galle ".
- (c) In section 242 substitute, for the definition of " licensing authority ", the following new definition :—
 " "licensing authority" —
 (a) in relation to the Administrative District of Colombo means the Registrar ; and
 (b) in relation to any other Administrative District, means the Government Agent or Assistant Government Agent of that Administrative District. "
7. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, No. 17 of 1951 (a) In section 4—
 (i) sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor :—
 " (1) For each district there shall be a District Registrar of Births and Deaths (hereinafter referred to as the " District Registrar ").

Column I

Written Laws

Column II

Amendments

(2) The Government Agent of a district shall be the District Registrar for that district.

(3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district. " ; and

(ii) sub-section (4) is hereby repealed.

(b) In section 5—

(i) renumber section 5 as section 5 (1) ;

(ii) substitute, for the words " revenue districts ", the word " districts " ; and

(iii) add, at the end of that section, the following sub-section :—

" (2) Every reference to any revenue district in any notification made under sub-section (1) of this section before the commencement of the Administrative Districts Act shall, after the commencement of that Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district. "

(c) In section 6 (1) substitute, for the words " revenue district ", the word " districts " .

(d) In section 70 substitute, for the definition of " district ", the following new definition :—

" " district " means Administrative District ; ' .

8. The Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act, No. 44 of 1952

(a) In section 39, sub-sections (2) and (3) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor :—

" (2) For any district referred to in sub-section (1) the Government Agent of that district shall be the District Registrar.

(3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district. "

In section 66 substitute, for the definition of " district ", the following new definition :—

" " district " means Administrative District, ' .