

# PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

1st Session 1956-57



## Post Office (Amendment) Act, No. 24 of 1957

*Date of Assent : April 13, 1957*

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**AN ACT TO AMEND THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.**

Chapter 146.  
Vol. III  
page 717.

[Date of Assent: April 13, 1957]

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 Post Office (Amendment) Act, No. 24 of 1957. Short title.

2. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 57, and shall have effect as section 57A, of the Post Office Ordinance (hereafter in this Act referred to as "the principal enactment") :—

'Official  
inscription  
on mail  
bags.'

57A. (1) Any prescribed officer of the post office may in the prescribed manner inscribe or cause to be inscribed on any mail bag the words "Post Office, Ceylon" or the equivalent of those words in the Sinhala language. Such words are, or such equivalent is, hereafter in this Ordinance referred to as the "official inscription".

(2) The Postmaster-General may make rules prescribing—

(a) the officers of the post office who may make or cause to be made the official inscription on mail bags, and

(b) the manner of making such inscription.

Every rule made under this subsection shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall take effect upon such publication.

(3) In this section, "prescribed" means prescribed by rule made under sub-section (2).

Insertion of  
new section  
57A in  
Chapter 146.

**4 Post Office (Amendment) Act, No. 24 of 1957**

**Insertion  
of new  
sections 82A,  
82B and 82C  
in the  
principal  
enactment.**

**3. The following new sections are hereby inserted immediately after section 82, and shall have effect as sections 82A, 82B and 82c, of the principal enactment:—**

**"Punishment  
for making  
without  
lawful  
authority  
the official  
inscription  
on any  
mail bag."**

**Punishment  
for alter-  
ation,  
defacement  
or obliteration  
of,  
or causing  
to disappear,  
the official  
inscription  
on any  
mail bag.**

**Punishment  
for receiving,  
possessing,  
keeping,  
selling or  
delivering,  
without  
lawful  
excuse,  
any mail  
bag bearing  
official  
inscription.**

**82A. Whoever without lawful authority (the proof of which authority shall be on the accused) makes the official inscription on any mail bag shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months, or with a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or with both such imprisonment and fine.**

**82B. Whoever, with intent to conceal that any mail bag is the property of the post office, alters, defaces, obliterates or causes to disappear the official inscription on that mail bag shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months or with a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or with both such imprisonment and fine.**

**82C. (1) Whoever without lawful excuse (the proof of which excuse shall be on the accused) receives, possesses, keeps, sells or delivers any mail bag bearing the official inscription shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months, or with a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or with both such imprisonment and fine.**

**(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), a mail bag shall be deemed to be in the possession or keeping of any person if he knowingly has it in the actual possession or keeping of any other person or in any building or place whether occupied by him or not, and whether it is so had for his own use or benefit or for the use or benefit of another."**

**Amendment  
of section  
88 of the  
principal  
enactment.**

**4. Section 88 of the principal enactment is hereby amended, in sub-section (2) of that section, by the substitution, for the figures "82" of the following:—**

**"82, 82A, 82B, 82C"**