

# PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

1st Session 1956



## Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956

*Date of Assent : July 7, 1956*

*Printed on the Orders of Government*

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*Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956.*

L. D.—O. 14/56.

AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE THE SINHALA LANGUAGE AS THE  
ONE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF CEYLON AND TO ENABLE  
CERTAIN TRANSITORY PROVISIONS TO BE MADE.

[Date of Assent: July 7, 1956]

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 Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956.

Short title.

2. The Sinhala language shall be the one official language of Ceylon:

Sinhala  
language  
to be  
the one  
official  
language

Provided that where the Minister considers it impracticable to commence the use of only the Sinhala language for any official purpose immediately on the coming into force of this Act, the language or languages hitherto used for that purpose may be continued to be so used until the necessary change is effected as early as possible before the expiry of the thirty-first day of December, 1960, and, if such change cannot be effected by administrative order, regulations may be made under this Act to effect such change.

3. (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of all matters for which regulations are authorised by this Act to be made and generally for the purpose of giving effect to the principles and provisions of this Act.

Regulations.

(2) No regulation made under sub-section (1) shall have effect until it is approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives and notification of such approval is published in the *Gazette*.