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# The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka EXTRAORDINARY

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## PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

### Proclamations & C., by the President

#### PROCLAMATIONS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA.

Seal

WHEREAS, the Most Venerable Maha Sangha by codifying in the first, second and third Sangha Council had preserved and protected the Noble Sri Saddhamma preached by Gothama, The Buddha, the greatest spiritual leader ever adventured to the world 2600 years ago, during his mission of 45 years with utmost compassion and loving-kindness toward all beings;

AND WHEREAS, Gothama, The Buddha visited this Island Lankadweepa thrice and preached the noble Sri Saddhamma;

AND WHEREAS, Arahant Mahinda Thero visited Sri Lanka during the reign of the Great King **Devanampiyatissa** and established the noble Buddha Sasana by creating a lineage of Great **Bhikku** congregation in this Island;

AND WHEREAS, Sri Lanka Buddhist monks' lineage have uninterruptedly and continuously preserved and protected the said Sri Saddhamma learning by their hearts and later chronicled them on Ola Leaves in Pali, the language by which The Buddha preached his teaching, at Alulen Vihara of Matale during the reign of King Walagambahu in the first century B.C.;

AND WHEREAS, Sri Lankan identity has been evolved based upon the said Sri Saddhamma, which has been so preserved, for more than two Millennia;



AND WHEREAS, the Ceylon Buddhist Council appointed by the Government of Ceylon in commemoration of the 2500 Sambuddha Jayanthi (in 1956 AD) has printed the said Tripitaka Pali Canon together with its Sinhalese version;

AND WHEREAS, the British rulers had ensured the protection and fostering of the Buddha Sasana as its primary obligation by virtue of section 5 of the Kandyan Treaty entered at the time of subjugation of the Kandyan Kingdom to British rulers on 02<sup>nd</sup> day of Madin month, 2358 Buddhist Era (2<sup>nd</sup> March 1815);

AND WHEREAS, the Buddhist Flag invented by the State of Sri Lanka in 2428 Buddhist Era (1885, AD) has been recognized as the Buddhist Flag by almost all the countries in the world;

AND WHEREAS, Article 9 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 2521 (1978 AD) has cast upon the responsibility on the State to protect and foster Buddha Sasana by giving it the foremost place;

AND WHEREAS, in response to the resolution presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations by the State of Sri Lanka in 2542 Buddhist Era (1999), United Nations has adopted and proclaimed the Vesak Full Moon Day, being the most significant day of Gothama, the Buddha, as a universal commemorative day since 2544 Buddhist Era (2001 AD);

AND WHEREAS, the Kandyan Declaration which was unanimously adopted at the Maha Maluwa (precincts) of the sacred Tooth Relic Temple of Kandy on 14th day of the month of Vesak 2560 Buddhist Era (2017 AD) in the course of the United Nations' Vesak Day Celebration and International Conference held in Sri Lanka, has recognized Sri Lanka as the Centre of the Buddhism in the World;

AND WHEREAS, the State of Sri Lanka is entrusted with an inevitable responsibility of protecting and fostering of the said noble Sri Saddhamma for the future generations;

AND WHEREAS, the immaculate Sri Saddhamma preached by the Buddha has been inserted in the Tripitaka Pali Canon inscribed on Ola Leaves at Alulen Vihara in Matale has been printed with a Sinhalese version by the Ceylon Buddhist Council appointed by the Government of Ceylon in commemoration of 2500 years of Sambuddha Jayanthi in the year 1956;

AND WHEREAS, some unrighteous persons are engaged in misinterpreting and distorting the said immaculate Sri Saddhamma with the intention of undermining and vitiating the cardinal principles and values of Sri Saddhamma, I with the best of my devout and *bona fide* intention, do declare and proclaim the Tripitaka Pali Canon together with its Sinhalese version and also the related Sinhala Atta Katha as National Heritage.

I, in terms of the power vested in me by virtue of Article 33(2) (h) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, do hereby proclaim and order that the Tripitaka Pali Canon together with its Sinhalese version and also the related Sinhala Atta Katha should not be re-printed or edited without obtaining prior approval from the Tripitaka Conservation Council to be appointed by me.

Given at Colombo, on the 07th day of February, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

By Order of His Excellency,

UDAYA R. SENEVIRATNE.

Secretary to the President.