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SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

Part II of November 17, 2017

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 22.11.2017)



**SRI NATHA AHASTHANA INTERNATIONAL
BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE
PERFORMANCE SOCIETY
(INCORPORATION)**

(Private Member's Bill)

A

BILL

**to incorporate the Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society**

*To be presented in Parliament by Hon. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, M. P. for
Monaragala District*

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*Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society
(Incorporation)*

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE SRI NATHA AHASTHANA INTERNATIONAL
BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTRE PERFORMANCE SOCIETY

WHEREAS a Society called and known as the “Sri Natha
Ahasthana International Buddhist Meditation Centre
Performance Society” has heretofore been formed in Sri
Lanka for the purpose of effectually carrying out its objects
5 and transacting all matters connected with the said Society
according to the rules agreed to by its members:

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS the said Society has heretofore successfully
carried out and transacted the several objects and matters for
which it was established, and has applied to be incorporated
10 and it will be expedient to grant the said application:

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Sri Natha Ahasthana
International Buddhist Meditation Centre Performance
15 Society (Incorporation) Act, No. of 2017.

Short Title.

2. (1) From and after the date of commencement of this
Act, such and so many persons as now are members of the Sri
Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist Meditation Centre
Performance Society (hereinafter referred to as the “Society”)
20 or shall hereafter be admitted as members of the Corporation
hereby constituted, shall be a body corporate with perpetual
succession, under the name and style of the “Sri Natha
Ahasthana International Buddhist Meditation Centre
Performance Society” (hereinafter referred to as the
25 “Corporation”), and by that name may sue and be sued, with
full power and authority to have and use a common seal and
to alter the same at its pleasure.

Incorporation
of the
Sri Natha
Ahasthana
International
Buddhist
Meditation
Centre
Performance
Society.

2 *Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
 Meditation Centre Performance Society
 (Incorporation)*

(2) The Corporation shall be deemed to be a Voluntary Social Services Organization within the meaning, and for the purpose of the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 and the
5 provisions of that Act shall apply to and in relation to the management of the affairs of the Corporation.

3. (1) The general objects for which the Corporation is constituted are hereby declared to be— General
objects of the
Corporation.

- 10 (a) to provide opportunities for fourfold groups to realize the *nirvana*;
- (b) to work for the stability of the Buddha Sasana;
- (c) to improve, maintain and protect the centre;
- 15 (d) to provide four requisites of robes, alms (Vegetarian), hermitage and drinks offerings for fourfold groups of Bhikku, Bhikkuni, laymen and laywomen who dwell at the centre;
- (e) to empower and assist laymen and laywomen to improve their virtue (Sheela), concentration (Samadhi) and wisdom (Pragna);
- 20 (f) to organize meditation programs for laymen and laywomen on every full moon poya day; and
- (g) to do all such other acts and things as are necessary for and incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Corporation.

25 (2) In the implementation of the objects specified in subsection (1) the Corporation shall ensure that such implementation shall be carried out without any discrimination based on race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any of such grounds.

4. The objects of the Corporation shall be carried out in such manner so as not to create any conflict between the work of the Corporation and any work being carried out simultaneously by any Ministry or Department of the Government or any Provincial Council.
5. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Corporation shall be carried out by a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") consisting of such number of office bearers as may be specified by the rules made under section 7.
- (2) (a) The Board of Directors of the Foundation that holds office on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall function as the Board of the Corporation until the first Board is appointed or elected in the manner provided for by rules made under section 7.
- (b) The first Board of the Corporation shall be appointed or elected within one year of the date of commencement of this Act.
- (3) (a) Every office bearer of the Board including the patrons and advisors except Esteemed Meditation Teacher, shall be appointed or elected for a period of three years and any such office bearer, patron or advisor shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election after lapse of the said period of three years.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy occurring due to the death, resignation, incapacity or removal from office of an office bearer, the Board shall having regard to the rules of the Corporation, elect or appoint a person to fill such vacancy.
- (c) The person elected or appointed under paragraph (b) shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

Corporation to ensure no conflict with work of Ministry or Department of the central Government or Province.

Management of the affairs of the Corporation.

4 *Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society
(Incorporation)*

6. Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other Powers of the
written law, the Corporation shall have the power to do, Corporation.
perform and execute all such acts and matters as are necessary
or desirable for the promotion of any one of them, including
5 the power—

(a) to purchase, acquire, rent, construct, renovate
and otherwise obtain lands or buildings which
may be required for the purposes of the Corporation
and to deal with or dispose of the same as may
10 be deemed expedient with a view to promoting the
objects of the Corporation;

(b) to raise funds, borrowing with or without
securities and receive grants, gifts or donations,
in cash or kind:

15 Provided that, the Board shall obtain the prior
written approval of the Department of External
Resources of the Ministry of the Minister assigned
the subject of Finance, in respect of all foreign
grants, gifts or donations made to the Corporation;

20 (c) to make, draw, accept, discount, endorse, negotiate,
buy, sell and issue bills of exchange, cheques,
promissory notes and other negotiable instruments
and to open, operate and close accounts in any
banks;

25 (d) to invest any funds not immediately required for
the purposes of the Corporation, in such manner as
the Board may determine;

30 (e) to undertake, accept, execute, perform and
administer any lawful trust or any real or personal
property with a view to promoting the objects of
the Corporation;

- 5 (f) to appoint, employ, dismiss or terminate the services of officers and servants of the Corporation and exercise disciplinary control over them and to pay them such salaries, allowances and gratuities as may be determined by the Corporation;
- 10 (g) to organize lectures, seminars and conferences with a view to promoting the objectives of the Corporation;
- 10 (h) to liaise and co-ordinate with other local and foreign institutions having similar objects to that of the Corporation;
- 15 (i) to train personnel in Sri Lanka or abroad for the purposes of the Corporation; and
- 15 (j) to do all other things as are necessary or expedient for the proper and effective carrying out the objects of the Corporation.
- 20 7. (1) It shall be lawful for the Corporation, from time to time, at any general meeting and by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting, to make rules, not inconsistent with the provision of this Act or any other written law, for all or any of the following matters:—
- 25 (a) the classification of membership, admission, withdrawal, expulsion or resignation of members and fees payable by members;
- 30 (b) the election of office bearers of the Board or vacation of or removal from office of office bearers and the powers, duties and functions of the office bearers;
- 30 (c) the terms and conditions of appointments, powers, functions and duties of the various officers, agents and servants of the Corporation;
- Rules of the Corporation.

6 *Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society
(Incorporation)*

- 5 (d) the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meetings of the sub Board, or any sub-committ thereof, notices and agenda of such meetings, the quorum and the conduct of business thereat;
- (e) the qualifications and disqualifications to be a member of the Board and the Corporation;
- (f) the administration and management of the property of the Corporation; and
- 10 (g) the management of the affairs of the Corporation and the accomplishment of its' objects and dissolution of the Corporation.

(2) The rules made by the Corporation may be amended, altered, added to or rescinded at a like meeting and in
15 like manner as a rule made under subsection (1).

(3) The members of the Corporation shall at all times be subject to the rules of the Corporation.

(4) The rules made under this section shall be published in the Government *Gazette*.

20 **8.** The Board shall maintain a register of members in which names, addresses and other essential details of the members be inscribed. Register of members.

9. (1) The Corporation shall have its own Fund. Fund of the Corporation.

25 (2) All moneys received by way of gift, bequest, donation, subscription, contribution, fees or grants for and on account of the Corporation shall be deposited in one or more Banks approved by the Board to the credit of the Corporation.

*Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society
(Incorporation)*

7

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund all sums of money as are required to defray any expenditure incurred by the Corporation in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions under this Act.

5 **10.** (1) The financial year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year. Accounts and audit.

(2) The Corporation shall cause proper accounts to be kept of its income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and all other transactions of the Corporation.

10 (3) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited by a qualified auditor appointed by Auditor-General in terms of Article 154 of the Constitution.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "qualified auditor" means—

15 (a) an individual who, being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or any other Institute established by law, possesses a certificate to practice as an Accountant, issued by the Council of such
20 Institute; or

 (b) a firm of Accountants, each of the resident partners of which, being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or of any other Institute established by law, possesses a
25 certificate to practice as an Accountant, issued by the Council of such Institute.

11. (1) The Board shall prepare a report of the activities of the Corporation for each financial year and submit such report together with the audited statement of accounts to the
30 Secretary of the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Social Services and to the Registrar of Voluntary Social Annual Report.

8 *Sri Natha Ahasthana International Buddhist
Meditation Centre Performance Society
(Incorporation)*

Services Organizations appointed under the Voluntary Social Services Organization (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 before the expiration of six months of the year succeeding the year to which such report relates.

- 5 (2) A separate account relating to the foreign and local moneys received by the Corporation during the financial year shall be attached to the report referred to in subsection (1).

- 10 **12.** All debts and liabilities of the Society existing on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall be paid by the Corporation hereby constituted, and all debts due to, and subscriptions and contributions payable to the society on that day shall be paid to the Corporation for the purposes of this Act.
- Debts due by and payable to the Society.

- 15 **13.** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Corporation shall be able and capable in law, to take and hold any property movable or immovable which may become vested in it by virtue of any purchase, grant, gift, testamentary disposition or otherwise, and all such property shall be held by the Corporation for the purposes of this Act, and subject to the rules of the Corporation made under section 7, with power to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of, the same.
- Corporation may hold property movable and immovable.

- 25 **14.** The moneys and property of the Corporation however derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Corporation and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or profit to the members of the Corporation.
- Application of money and property.

- 30 **15.** (1) The seal of the Corporation shall not be affixed to any instrument whatsoever, except in the presence of two members of the Board who shall sign their names to the instrument in token of their presence and such signing shall be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.
- Seal of the Corporation.

(2) The seal of the Corporation shall be in the custody of an office bearer of the Board as may be decided by such Board.

5 **16.** (1) If upon the dissolution of the Corporation there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, such property shall not be distributed among the members of the Corporation, but shall be given or transferred to any other institution having objects similar to those of the Corporation, and which is by
10 the rules thereof, prohibited from distributing any income or property among its members.

Property remaining on dissolution.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection (1) the appropriate institution shall be determined by the members of the Corporation immediately before the dissolution at a
15 general meeting by the majority of votes of the members present.

17. Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice or affect the rights of the Republic or of anybody politic or corporate.

Saving of the rights of the Republic and other.

20 **18.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency.

