



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA

J. R. JAYEWARDENE CENTRE  
ACT, No. 77 OF 1988

[Certified on 18th December, 1988]

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**J. R. Jayewardene Centre Act, No. 77 of 1988**

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**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARCHIVAL DEPOSITORY CALLED THE J. R. JAYEWARDENE CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH, ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY; AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.**

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

1. This Act may be cited as the J. R. Jayewardene Centre Short title. Act, No. 77 of 1988.

2. (1) There shall be established a depository to be called the "J. R. Jayewardene Centre for historical research, archives and library" (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre").

(2) The Centre shall be housed in premises bearing assessment Nos. 101/1-5, 1/1 and 1/2, Dharmapala Mawatha situated at Turret Road (now called Dharmapala Mawatha) in the Cinnamon Gardens' Ward (No. 36) within the Municipality and district of Colombo, purchased by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from the People's Republic of China, by Deed No. 5761 dated February 8, 1988, and attested by N. Sambandan, Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public, Colombo.

(3) All moneys lying with the Public Trustee, on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act, to be used for the Centre shall stand transferred, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act, to the Fund established by section 9 and may be used for the maintenance of the Centre and the enhancement of its amenities.

(4) The Centre shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1) be a body corporate, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in such name.

3. (1) The administration, management and control of the Centre shall be vested in a Board of Governors constituted as hereinafter provided.

(2) The cost of administration and management of the Centre shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund, through provision to be made annually under the Votes of the Department of National Archives.

(3) The Board of Governors of the Centre (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") shall consist of—

(a) the President of the Republic;

Establish-  
ment of  
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of the  
Centre.

**2 J. R. Jayewardene Centre Act, No. 77 of 1988**

- (b) all living past Presidents ;
- (c) the Prime Minister ;
- (d) the Speaker ;
- (e) the Leader of the Opposition ;
- (f) the Secretary to the President ;
- (g) the Public Trustee ;
- (h) the Director, National Archives ; and
- (i) two other members appointed by the President, each of whom shall, subject to the provisions of subsections (4) and (5), hold office for such periods as may be specified in the letter of appointment issued to him by the President.

(4) The President may in his absolute discretion revoke the appointment of any member appointed by him under paragraph (i) of subsection (3).

(5) Any member of the Board appointed under paragraph (i) of subsection (3) may at any time resign from the Board by a letter in that behalf addressed to the President.

(6) The Board may regulate the procedure in regard to its meetings and the transaction of business at such meetings.

(7) No act or proceeding of the Board shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the existence of a vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.

(8) The President shall be the Chairman of the Board.

**Powers of  
the Board.**

4. (1) The Board shall, in the name of the Centre, have the power to—

- (a) hold all public records and printed matter transferred to the National Archives at the expiration of the term of office of His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene, the first elected Executive President of Sri Lanka 1978-88 ; under section 9A of the National Archives Law, No. 48 of 1973 ;
- (b) accept for deposit, books, papers, files, photographs, motion picture films and discs, audiotape and videotape recordings, family heirlooms and memorabilia of the childhood and youth of the said J. R. Jayewardene, items created and collected by him out of personal interest, memorabilia relating to election campaigns, official portraits and awards, medals and gifts received by him ;

- (c) accept for deposit, material relating to the said J. R. Jayewardene, donated by political party associates, family and personal friends and others ;
- (d) take all necessary steps to protect and preserve the material referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) ;
- (e) provide a reference service on such material ;
- (f) present exhibitions of such material ;
- (g) hold scholarly meetings ;
- (h) hold oral history programmes ;
- (i) solicit and accept, donations, gifts and bequests of money or other property, for the purpose of maintaining, operating, protecting or improving the Centre ;
- (j) acquire, hold or manage property, whether movable or immovable ;
- (k) sell, mortgage, exchange or otherwise dispose of, or deal with any property, except those described in paragraphs (a) and (b) and (c), whether movable or immovable, to which the Board may become entitled ;
- (l) enter into and perform, all such contracts and agreements as may be necessary to the exercise and discharge of its powers and functions ;
- (m) perform all such acts or things as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (b) of section 9A of the National Archives Law, No. 48 of 1973, shall apply in respect of the material referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1).

5. Any moneys belonging to the Centre may be invested by the Board in such manner as the Board may determine.

Investment  
of moneys  
of Centre.

6. The Board shall have the power—

- (a) to appoint such officers and servants of the Centre as may be necessary to carry out particular projects of the Centre ; and
- (b) to determine the remuneration payable to the officers and servants so appointed.

Staff of  
the  
Centre.

**Audit.**

7. (1) The Board shall cause proper accounts to be kept of the income and expenditure of the Centre.

(2) Article 154 of the Constitution shall apply to the audit of the accounts of the Centre.

**Annual report.**

8. The Board shall, as soon as practicable after the thirty-first day of December of each year, prepare a report on the administration of the affairs of the Centre during that year together with a statement of the income and expenditure of the Centre, and of the investment of the moneys belonging to the Centre during that year. The Board shall transmit such report and statement to the Minister who shall cause them to be placed before Parliament.

**Fund of the Centre.**

9. (1) The Centre shall have its own Fund.

(2) There shall be paid into such Fund—

(a) all sums appropriated annually for the purposes of the Centre;

(b) all sums received by it, as donations;

(c) all sums received as income from investments made by it; and

(d) all sums transferred to the Fund by reason of the operation of section 2 (3).

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund, all sums required to defray any expenditure incurred by the Centre in the exercise of its powers and the discharge of its functions.

**Rules.**

10. The Board may make such rules as it may consider necessary in relation to any matter affecting or connected with, or incidental to, the exercise, discharge and performance of its powers, functions and duties.