



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

ANTI-CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT)

A BILL

to amend the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023

*Presented by the Prime Minister and Minister of Education,
Higher Education and Vocational Education on 19th of August, 2026*

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STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

Clause 2 : This clause amends section 26 of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to appoint officers and servants of the provincial public service or the police force to the Commission, temporarily or permanently.

Clause 3 : This clause amends section 67 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to enable the Director-General to withdraw charges filed in Magistrate’s Courts.

Clause 4 : This clause amends section 70 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to enable the Commission to authorize the Director-General not to charge or prosecute an accomplice charged under the provisions of Part III of the principal enactment on condition of making a full or true disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within his knowledge relating to the offence.

Clause 5 : This clause amends section 79 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to enable every person to whom Part II applies to make prescribed declarations of their assets and liabilities.

Clause 6 : This clause amends section 80 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is –

- (1) to rectify an error in the Sinhala version of the principal enactment;
- (2) to include staff officers of statutory bodies;
- (3) to include the applicable provision of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka;
- (4) to apply the provisions of this section to Executives of trade unions with more than one thousand registered members;
- (5) consequential to the amendment made to the public official;
- (6) to insert chairmen, directors and staff officers to make the provision precise;
- (7) to include proprietors, chairmen and directors of media companies; and
- (8) to rectify an error in the Sinhala version of the principal enactment.

Clause 7 : This clause amends section 81 of the principal enactment by repealing paragraph (e) thereof and the legal effect of the section as amended is to remove persons who are total strangers to the declarant in order to safeguard the privacy of such person.

Clause 8 : This clause amends section 82 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to rectify a practical difficulty.

Clause 9 : This clause amends section 84 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to investigate matters on conflicts of interest.

Clause 10 : This clause amends section 85 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to include Registrar of Companies to the provisions of the section.

Clause 11 : This clause amends section 88 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make clarity to the provisions of the section and to protect the privacy of the declarants of assets and liabilities.

Clause 12 : This clause repeals and replaces section 89 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make clarity.

Clause 13 : This clause amends section 90 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to apply the provisions of this section to annual declarations or to post retirement declarations.

Clause 14 : This clause amends section 91 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make the provisions of this section applicable to all the provisions of the principal enactment.

Clause 15 : This clause amends section 92 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to rectify an error in the Sinhala version of the principal enactment.

Clause 16 : This clause amends section 111 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provisions to obtain to the Government the value of any property which was acquired or converted as a proceed of corruption and also to make unlawful any grant, appointment, benefit or advantage obtained by any person as a result of corruption from the date of the conviction.

Clause 17 : This clause repeals and replaces subsection (1) of the section 149 and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make a distinction regarding applicable bail provision with respect to a person who is suspected of causing a loss not less than five hundred thousand rupees to the Government.

Clause 18 : This clause amends the definitions of the public official and the scheduled institution in section 162 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the amendments made to the provisions applicable to public officials and scheduled institutions.

Clause 19 : This clause amends section 163 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of the section as amended is to save the rights of some officers and officials recruited to the Commission during the period commencing from September 15, 2023 and the commencement of this Act.

Anti-Corruption (Amendment)

L.D. - O 7/2026

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ANTI-CORRUPTION
ACT, NO. 9 OF 2023

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Anti-Corruption Short title
(Amendment) Act, No. of 2026.

5 2. Section 26 of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 Amendment
(hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is of section 26
hereby amended as follows:- of Act, No. 9
of 2023

10 (1) in subsection (5) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “any officer in the public service may,
with the consent of such officer and the Public
Service Commission”, of the words “any officer
15 in the public service, provincial public service
or police force may, with the consent of such
officer and the Public Service Commission,
Provincial Public Service Commission or the
National Police Commission, as the case may
be”;

20 (2) in subsection (6) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “any officer in the Public Service”,
of the words “any officer in the public service,
provincial public service or police force”; and

(3) in subsection (7) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “any officer in the Public Service”,

of the words “any officer in the public service,
provincial public service or police force”.

3. Section 67 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment
of
section 67 of
the principal
enactment

- 5 (1) in subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution
for the words “the High Court against a person
who has been indicted for”, of the words “the
High Court or the Magistrate’s Court against a
10 person who has been indicted or charged for”
and by the substitution for the words “with the
permission of the High Court, withdraw the
indictment against such accused.”, of the words
“with the permission of the High Court or the
15 Magistrate’s Court, withdraw the indictment or
the charge sheet against such accused.”;
- (2) in subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “the indictment”, of the words “the
indictment or the charge sheet”;
- 20 (3) in subsection (3) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “an indictment”, of the words “an
indictment or a charge sheet” and in paragraph
(i) thereof, by the substitution for the words
“before the High Court”, of the words “before
the High Court or the Magistrate’s Court”;
- 25 (4) in subsection (4) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “a fresh indictment”, of the words
“a fresh indictment or a fresh charge sheet”
and by the substitution for the words “the
30 original indictment”, of the words “the original
indictment or the original charge sheet”;

5 (5) in subsection (5) thereof, by the substitution for the words “a fresh indictment”, of the words “a fresh indictment or a fresh charge sheet” and by the substitution for the words “original indictment”, of the words “original indictment or the original charge sheet”; and

(6) by the repeal of the marginal note thereof and the substitution therefor of the following marginal note:-

10 “Withdrawal of an indictment or a charge sheet”.

4. Section 70 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) thereof,-

15 (1) by the repeal of the words “with bribery”; and

(2) by the substitution for the words “any Magistrate named therein”, of the words “the Director-General”.

20 5. Section 79 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “Subject to section 2”, of the words “Subject to section 2” and in paragraph (a) thereof, by the substitution for the words “all public officials to make periodic declarations of their assets and liabilities”, of the words “every person to whom this Part applies to make
25 prescribed declarations of their assets and liabilities”.

6. Section 80 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) thereof as follows:-

- (1) in paragraph (i) by the substitution for the word “scheduled”, of the word “scheduled”;
- 5 (2) in paragraph (j), by the substitution for the words “staff officers in Ministries and Government Departments;”, of the words “staff officers of Ministries, Government Departments and statutory bodies;”;
- 10 (3) in paragraph (n), by the substitution for the words and figures “established under Article 41A(1)(c) of the Constitution”, of the words and figures “specified in the Schedule to Article 41B of the Constitution”;
- 15 (4) in paragraph (v), by the substitution for the words “Executives of trade unions”, of the words “Executives of trade unions with more than one thousand registered members”;
- (5) in paragraph (x), by the substitution for the words “twenty five”, of the word “fifty”;
- 20 (6) in paragraph (y), by the substitution for the words “staff in managerial or supervisory roles”, of the words “chairmen, directors and staff officers”;
- (7) by the repeal of paragraph (cc) and the substitution therefor of the following: –
 - 25 “(cc) proprietors, chairmen and directors of media companies registered at the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Mass Media and licensed under section 22 of the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act, No. 25 of 1991;”, and
 - 30

- 5 (8) in paragraph (dd), by the substitution for the words and figures “established in terms of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973;” of the words and figures “registered under Part III of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973;”.

7. Section 81 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment
of
section 81 of
the principal
enactment

- 10 (1) in paragraph (c) thereof, by the substitution for the words “their age;”, of the words “their age; and”;
- (2) in paragraph (d) thereof, by the substitution for the words “their age; and”, of the words “their age.”; and
- (3) by the repeal of paragraph (e) thereof.

15 8. Section 82 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (3) thereof, as follows:-

Amendment
of
section 82 of
the principal
enactment

- 20 (1) by the substitution for the words “first declaration”, of the words “first declaration and the post-retirement declaration” and for all the words from “such year and include” to the words “his assets and liabilities under this Part.”, of the words “such year.”; and
- 25 (2) in the proviso to such subsection by the substitution for the words “first declaration”, of the words and figures “declarations specified in paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1)”.

(d) by the addition immediately after paragraph (e), of the following new paragraph: –

5 “(f) any other information that the Central Authority may consider to violate an individual’s privacy as may be prescribed.”; and

10 (2) by the insertion, immediately after subsection (1) of that section, of the following new subsection: –

15 “(1A)(a) A person who has obtained a redacted version of a declaration of assets and liabilities of any other person shall not use such declaration for any other purpose than submitting such declaration to any officer or any institution under section 86.

20 (b) A person who uses a redacted version of a declaration of assets and liabilities of any other person in violation of such other person’s privacy, commits an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial by a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand rupees or to a term of imprisonment not
25 exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.”; and

(3) by the repeal of subsection (2) thereof and the substitution therefor of the following:-

“(2) The Central Authority shall, within a period of three months from the commencement of the functions of the Centeal Authority, appoint an information officer and a designated officer under section 23 of the Right to Information Act, No.12 of 2016 for the purposes of the said Act.”.

12. Section 89 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section is substituted therefore:-

“Submission of declarations of assets and liabilities by candidates of elections”

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89. Every candidate of elections referred to in paragraph (w) of subsection (1) of section 80 shall, submit a copy of the declaration of assets and liabilities to the Commissioner of Elections together with such candidate’s nomination papers.”.

13. Section 90 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

(1) in subsection (1) thereof by the substitution for

20 (1) in subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “declarations of assets and liabilities
are to be made”, of the words “the annual
declaration or the post retirement declaration is
to be made”;

25 (2) in subsection (3) thereof, by the substitution for
the words “such declarations.”, of the words
“such declaration. The fine shall be a surcharge
on the remuneration or the retirement benefit, as
the case may be.”;

(3) in subsection (4) thereof, by the substitution for the words “submit his”, of the words “submit a copy of his”; and

5 (4) in subsection (9) thereof, by the substitution for the words and figures “subsection (6) or (7)”, of the words and figures “subsection (5), (6) or (7)”.

10 **14.** Section 91 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words and figure “under Part 1 of this Act.”, of the words “under this Act.”. Amendment of section 91 of the principal enactment

15. Section 92 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “expenditure and interests”, of the words “expenditure and interests”. Amendment of section 92 of the principal enactment

15 **16.** Section 111 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:- Amendment of section 111 of the principal enactment

(1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) thereof; and

20 (2) by the addition immediately after the renumbered subsection (1) thereof, of the following subsections which shall be numbered as subsections (2) and (3) of that section:-

25 “(2) Where a person is convicted under subsection (1), in addition to imposing a fine under such subsection, the court shall impose a penalty of not less than three times the value of any property which was acquired or converted as a

proceed of such corruption or where any loss has been caused to the Government by reason of such corruption, the amount the court may determine as the loss:

5 Provided that, any penalty imposed under this subsection shall be recovered as a fine imposed by the court.

10 (3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other provision of this Act, where a public official is convicted for the offence of corruption under subsection (1), any grant, appointment, benefit or advantage of an intangible nature (anything other than property) which had
15 been acquired by a public official or any other person as a result of corruption and which continues to be enjoyed by such public official or such other person on the date of the conviction shall cease to be
20 lawful from the date of conviction without prejudice to any official acts performed prior to such date.”.

17. Section 149 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subsection (1) thereof and the
25 substitution thereof of the following:-
Amendment of section 149 of the principal enactment

“(1) All offences under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable as per the provisions of the Bail Act, No. 30 of 1997:

30 Provided that, where a person is suspected or accused of soliciting, accepting or offering

5 a bribe of not less than one hundred thousand
rupees or where by committing the offence of
corruption, has caused to the Government a loss
of not less than five hundred thousand rupees
or has gained a benefit, favour or an advantage
of not less than five hundred thousand rupees
to himself or to any other person, the value
of which has been confirmed by the Director-
General by issuing a certificate, such suspect
10 or accused shall not be granted bail except in
exceptional circumstances by a High Court.”.

18. Section 162 of the principal enactment is hereby
amended as follows:-

Amendment
of
section 162 of
the principal
enactment

- 15 (1) by the substitution, in the definition of “public
official” for the words “over twenty five
per centum”, of the words “not less than fifty
per centum”;
- (2) by the substitution, in the definition of
“scheduled institution” for the words “twenty
five percent”, of the words “fifty *per centum*”;
20 and
- (3) by the substitution, in the definition of “staff
officer” for the words “any employee of a
public corporation”, of the words and figures
“any company registered under the Companies
25 Act, No. 07 of 2007 in which not less than fifty
per centum of the shares are held by the
Government or a Public Corporation”.

19. Section 163 of the principal enactment is hereby
amended as follows:-

Amendment of
section 163 of
the principal
enactment

- (1) in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (h) of subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for the word “twenty”, of the word “ten”; and
- (2) by the insertion immediately after subsection (2) thereof, of the following new subsection:-

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“(2A) Every officer and official who were recruited to the Commission during the period commencing from September 15, 2023 and the commencement of this Act, for such posts approved by Cabinet of Ministers for the Commission established under the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act, No. 19 of 1994 on the basis of service requirements and remained vacant prior to September 15, 2023, shall be deemed to be the officers and officials of the Commission on terms not less favourable than the terms and conditions of employment to which they were entitled at the time when they were recruited to the Commission and shall communicate to the Commission, within three months from the commencement of this Act whether they opt to remain in the service of the Commission:

Provided that -

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- (i) the provisions of paragraph (h) (i) of subsection (2) of this section shall be applicable for the purpose of calculating the pension and

other benefits of any such officer or official who may continue to be in the service of the Commission; and

- 5 (ii) the provisions of paragraph (h)(ii) of subsection (2) of this section shall apply to any such officer or official who opts to discontinue such officer's or official's service of the Commission after the date of
10 commencement of this Act.”.

20. 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

