



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

**SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) ACT, No. 13 OF 2021**

[Certified on 30th of June, 2021]

Printed on the Order of Government

Published as a Supplement to Part II of the **Gazette of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** of July 02, 2021

PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA
TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 5

Price : Rs. 30.00

Postage : Rs. 15.00

This Act can be downloaded from www.documents.gov.lk



*Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
(Amendment) Act, No. 13 of 2021*

[Certified on 30th of June, 2021]

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION ACT, NO. 15 OF 1968

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 Lanka Land
Development Corporation (Amendment) Act, No. 13 of 2021.

Short title

2. Section 2A of the Sri Lanka Land Development
Corporation Act, No. 15 of 1968 (hereinafter referred to as
the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended as follows: -

Amendment of
section 2A of
Act, No.15 of
1968

- (1) in subsection (3) of that section, by the substitution for the words “shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.” of the words “commits an offence and be liable on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate to a fine not less than one hundred thousand rupees and not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.”;
- (2) in subsection (4) of that section, by the repeal of all the words and figures from “to prevent such person from carrying on the unlawful activity,” to the end of that subsection, and the substitution therefor of the words “to prevent such person from carrying on the unlawful activity.”;
- (3) in subsection (5) of that section, by the repeal of all the words and figures from “he may make an application” to the end of that subsection, and the substitution therefor of the following: -

“the chief executive officer may –

- (a) make an application to the Magistrate’s Court within whose local jurisdiction such extent

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of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on, is situated, for the issue of an order –

- (i) restraining such person, his agents and servants from acting in contravention of the provisions of subsection (1);
- (ii) granting the chief executive officer, the authority-
 - (aa) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;
 - (ab) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
- (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
 - (aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;
 - (ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction into custody; or

- (b) complain to the officer in charge of the police station of the area where such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on or wholly or partly carried out, is situated.”.
- (4) by the repeal of subsections (6), (7) and (8) of that section and the substitution therefor of the following subsections: –

“(6) Where any person to whom approval has been granted under subsection (2) has failed to comply with the terms and conditions subject to which such approval was granted, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation or the officer or servant authorised by the Chief Executive Officer shall direct such person to comply with the same within the time specified in such direction and where such person fails to do so, the Chief Executive Officer may –

- (a) make an application to the Magistrate’s Court within whose local jurisdiction such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on, is situated, for the issue of an order –
- (i) restraining such person, his agents and servants from acting in contravention of the terms and conditions imposed under the provisions of subsection (2);
 - (ii) granting the Chief Executive Officer, the authority-
 - (aa) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;

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(ab) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and

(ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and

(iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-

(aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;

(ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and

(ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction into custody; or

(b) complain to the officer in charge of the police station of the area where such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on or wholly or partly carried out, is situated.”.

Amendment of section 2B of the principal enactment

3. Section 2B of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

(1) in subsection (3) of that section, by the substitution for the words “shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.”, of the words “commits an offence and be liable on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate to a fine not less than one hundred

thousand rupees and not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.”;

- (2) by the repeal of subsections (5), (6) and (7) thereof, and the substitution therefor, of the following subsections: –

“(5) Where the Chief Executive Officer is informed and upon being satisfied that any person is acting in contravention of the provisions of subsection (3), the Chief Executive Officer may –

- (a) make an application to the Magistrate’s Court within whose local jurisdiction such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on, is situated, for the issue of an order –
- (i) restraining such person, his agents and servants from acting in contravention of the provisions of subsection (3);
 - (ii) granting the Chief Executive Officer, the authority-
 - (aa) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;
 - (ab) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and

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(iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-

(aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;

(ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and

(ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction into custody; or

(b) complain to the officer in charge of the police station of the area where such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on or wholly or partly carried out, is situated.”.

Amendment of section 4A of the principal enactment

4. Section 4A of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subsections (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) thereof and the substitution therefor of the following: -

“(3) Every person who acts in contravention of the provisions of subsection (2) commits an offence and be liable on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate to a fine not less than one hundred thousand rupees and not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) Where the Chief Executive Officer is informed and upon being satisfied that any person is acting in contravention of the provisions of subsection (2), the Chief Executive Officer may –

(a) make an application to the Magistrate’s Court within whose local jurisdiction such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity

is being carried on, is situated, for the issue of an order –

- (i) restraining such person, his agents and servants from acting in contravention of the provisions of subsection (2);
- (ii) granting the Chief Executive Officer, the authority-
 - (aa) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;
 - (ab) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
- (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
 - (aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;
 - (ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or the construction into custody; or

- (b) complain to the officer in charge of the police station of the area where such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on or wholly or partly carried out, is situated.

(5) Where any person to whom approval has been granted under subsection (2) has failed to comply with the terms and conditions subject to which such approval was granted, the Chief Executive Officer or the officer or servant authorised by the Chief Executive Officer shall direct such person to comply with the same within the time specified in such direction and where such person fails to do so, the Chief Executive Officer may –

- (a) make an application to the Magistrate's Court within whose local jurisdiction such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on, is situated, for the issue of an order –
 - (i) restraining such person, his agents and servants from acting in contravention of the terms and conditions imposed under the provisions of subsection (2);
 - (ii) granting the Chief Executive Officer, the authority-
 - (aa) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;
 - (ab) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and

- (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
- (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
 - (aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;
 - (ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and the materials used in the filling or the construction; and
 - (ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction into custody; or
- (b) complain to the officer in charge of the police station of the area where such extent of land or any part thereof in which such unlawful activity is being carried on or wholly or partly carried out, is situated.”.

5. Section 6 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1), and the substitution therefor, of the following: -

Amendment of
section 6 of the
principal
enactment

- “(ii) an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of the Minister; and
- (iii) the Director-General of the National Physical Planning appointed under section 5 of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (Chapter 269); and”.

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Amendment of
section 9 of the
principal
enactment

6. Section 9 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after paragraph (e) of subsection (1), of the following new paragraph: -

“(ea) to enter into joint ventures, partnerships or other commercial agreements with foreign or local companies or individuals directly, jointly or otherwise, within or outside Sri Lanka with the concurrence of the Minister and in accordance with other written law to achieve the objects of the Corporation by utilizing the skilled labour, expert knowledge and the experience of the Corporation;”.

Replacement of
section 20A of
the principal
enactment

7. Section 20A of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section is substituted therefor: -

“Procedure
for
application
for
restraining
order

20A. (1) Every application for an order under subsection (5) or (6) of section 2A, subsection (5) of section 2B or subsection (4) or (5) of section 4A or subsection (2) of section 20c shall be supported by an affidavit verifying the matters set out in the application.

(2) Upon receipt of the application, where the Magistrate is satisfied that an act has been committed in contravention of the provisions of subsection (5) or (6) of section 2A, subsection (5) of section 2B or subsection (4) or (5) of section 4A, or subsection (2) of section 20c may make an interim order restraining such person, his agents and servants from carrying on such unlawful activity until such interim order is made permanent under the provisions of subsection (4) or (8) or is set aside under the provisions of subsection (8).

(3) Summons shall be issued on the person against whom the interim order under subsection (2) is made or where an interim order has not been made by the Magistrate’s Court

under subsection (2) on the person against whom an application for an order under subsection (5) or (6) of section 2A, subsection (5) of section 2B or subsection (4) or (5) of section 4A or subsection (2) of section 20c has been made to appear and show cause on the date specified in such summons being a date not later than fourteen working days from the date of issue of such summons, as to why such person, his agents and servants should not be restrained, as prayed for in the application.

(4) If the person against whom such order has been made fails to appear before the Court on the date specified in subsection (3) or such person has no cause to show as to why the interim order made under subsection (2) shall not be made permanent, then the Court shall forthwith make the interim order permanent as prayed for in the application.

(5) If the person against whom an interim order has not been made and against whom the summons has been served under subsection (3) fails to appear before Court or such person has no cause to show as to why a restraining order against him shall not be made, then the court shall issue a restraining order as prayed for in the application.

(6) If such person appears in Court and states that such person has cause to show against the making of the interim order or the making of a restraining order, the Court may either proceed with the case forthwith or set the case for inquiry on a later date.

(7) At such inquiry the person on whom summons under subsection (3) has been served,

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shall not be entitled to contest any of the matters stated in the application under subsection (1) except to show cause that –

- (a) the relevant area of the land is not a land that comes under sections 2, 2B or 4A of this Act; or
- (b) such person has complied with the terms and conditions of the approval under subsection (2) of section 2A or subsection (2) of section 4A or has complied with the requirements specified in the order made under subsection (1) of section 2B.

(8) After the inquiry the Magistrate may either make the interim order permanent as prayed for in the application or set aside such interim order or make a restraining order as prayed for in the application or reject such application.

(9) Where the Magistrate has made an order under subsection (4), (5) or (8), the Magistrate may direct –

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer -
 - (i) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;
 - (ii) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and

- (iii) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
- (b) the person against whom such order was made to pay the total cost incurred-
 - (i) in the demolition of any building or construction;
 - (ii) in the excavation or unearthing of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction;
 - (iii) in the removal of the soil and materials used for such filling or construction; and
 - (iv) in the taking into custody of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction.

(10) The cost incurred by the Corporation, as specified in the statement of cost certified by a Chartered Civil Engineer and submitted with an affidavit to the Magistrate's Court by the Chief Executive Officer shall be final and conclusive and be recovered from the person against whom the order was made in the same manner as a fine imposed by such Court and shall be credited to the Fund of the Corporation.

(11) (a) Where an order under subsection (9) is made and the Magistrate has directed the Chief Executive Officer to take any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document into custody, the Magistrate may subject to the provisions of subsection (12) make order that such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document shall be forfeited to the State. Any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document so forfeited to the State shall vest in the State free from all encumbrances. Such vesting shall take effect-

- (i) where no appeal has been preferred to the Court of Appeal or a High Court established by Article 154P of the Constitution against the order of forfeiture, upon the expiry of the period within which an appeal may be preferred to the Court of Appeal or such High Court; or
- (ii) where an appeal has been preferred to the Court of Appeal or to the High Court established under Article 154P of the Constitution against the order of forfeiture, upon the determination of the appeal affirming or upholding the order of forfeiture.

(b) The Chief Executive Officer shall take possession of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document vested in the State under this section and may sell or otherwise dispose of the same as he may think fit. The proceeds of such sale shall be credited to the Fund of the Corporation.

(12) Where an order under subsection (9) is made and the Magistrate has directed the Chief Executive Officer to take any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document into custody and the owner of such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document is a third party, no order of forfeiture shall be made, if the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Court that-

- (a) he has taken all precautions to prevent the use of such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document; or
- (b) that such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document have been used without his knowledge,

for the commission of the offence.

(13) (a) Where the Chief Executive Officer or the officer or the servant authorised by the Chief Executive Officer is unable or suspects that he will be unable to proceed with-

- (i) the demolition of any building or construction;
- (ii) the excavation or unearthing of the soil and materials, used in the filling or the construction;
- (iii) the removal of the soil and all materials used for such filling or construction; and

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- (iv) the taking into custody of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction,

due to any obstruction or resistance which has been, or is likely to be made, the Chief Executive Officer shall on making an application in that behalf to the Magistrate's Court where an order under subsection (9) is made, be entitled to an order of that Court directing the Fiscal to-

- (aa) demolish any building or construction;
- (ab) excavate or unearth the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction;
- (ac) remove the soil and materials used for such filling or construction; and
- (ad) take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction.

(b) Every application supported by an affidavit shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein.

(c) The Fiscal to whom an order is issued under paragraph (a) shall forthwith execute such order and report in writing to the Court, the manner in which such order was executed.

(d) Where the Fiscal has demolished any building or construction, excavated or

unearthed the soil and materials used and removed the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction and taken into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction, the person against whom the order under subsection (9) is made, shall pay the total cost incurred in such demolition, excavation, unearthing, removal, or taking into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction and the same be recovered in the same manner as a fine imposed by such Court.

(e) Where an order under paragraph (a) is made, all the implements, instruments, machinery, vehicles or documents taken into custody by the Fiscal shall subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) be forfeited to the State.

(f) Where an order is made under paragraph (a) for the taking into custody of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document and the owner of such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document is a third party, no order of forfeiture shall be made, if the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Court that-

- (i) he has taken all precautions to prevent the use of such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document; or
- (ii) that such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document have been used without his knowledge,

for the commission of the offence.

(14) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the forms of the applications and the affidavit.”.

Amendment of section 20c of the principal enactment

8. Section 20c of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words, “application being made by the Corporation” of the words “application being made by the Chief Executive Officer”.

Insertion of new sections 20D and 20E in the principal enactment

9. The following new sections are hereby inserted immediately after section 20c of the principal enactment and shall have effect as sections 20D and 20E of that enactment: -

“Procedure to be followed by a police officer

20D. (1) (a) Upon a complaint under paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 2A, paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 2A, paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 2B, paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 4A, or paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 4A being made, the officer-in-charge of such police station shall take into custody all persons involved in the commission of such offence as having committed a cognizable offence together with any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document.

(b) A cognizable offence within the meaning of this Act shall be an offence for which a police officer may arrest a person in the first instance without a warrant.

(c) All offences under this Act shall be non-bailable and the provisions of the Bail Act, No. 30 of 1997 shall apply.

(2) All such persons and any implements, instruments, machinery, vehicles or documents as are taken into custody under subsection (1) shall forthwith be produced before the Magistrate’s Court.

(3) Where a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2A, subsection (3) of section 2B or subsection (3) of section 4A, the Court may order such person-

- (a) to demolish any building or construction; and
- (b) to excavate or unearth and to remove the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction,

in respect to which such offence was committed within such period as may be specified by Court.

(4) Upon conviction of a person of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2A, subsection (3) of section 2B or subsection (3) of section 4A, the person so convicted shall for every day in respect of which the offence is so continued after conviction pay a fine of one thousand rupees for each such day.

(5) (a) When a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2A, subsection (3) of section 2B or subsection (3) of section 4A, all the implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used by such person in committing such offence, shall subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) be forfeited to the State.

(b) Where the owner of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document is a third party, no order of forfeiture shall be made if the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Court that-

- (i) he has taken all precautions to prevent the use of such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document; or

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- (ii) such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document have been used without his knowledge,

for the commission of the offence.

Offences committed by a body of persons or a partnership 20E. Where an offence under this Act or any regulation made thereunder is committed by a body of persons, then if that body of persons -

- (a) is a body corporate, every director, officer, servant or agent of such body corporate; or
- (b) is a partnership, every partner, officer, servant or agent of such partnership,

shall be guilty of that offence:

Provided however, that a director, an officer, a servant or an agent of a body corporate or a partner, an officer, a servant or an agent of a partnership, as the case may be, shall not be deemed to be guilty of such offence, if he proves to the satisfaction of the Court that such offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence as was necessary to prevent the commission of such offence.”.

Amendment of section 22A of the principal enactment

10. Section 22A of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “is prescribed shall”, of the words “is prescribed shall, on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate.”.

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11. Section 28 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows: -

Amendment of section 28 of the principal enactment

- (1) by the insertion immediately before the definition of the term “Corporation”, of the following new definition: -

““Chief Executive Officer” means the General Manager of the Corporation appointed under subsection (1) of section 14 of the Act;” and

- (2) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the term “Corporation”, of the following new definition: -

““Minister” means the Minister to whom the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation is assigned under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution.”.

12. All actions, prosecutions and proceedings pending or incomplete on the date of commencement of this Act may be carried on and completed after the date of commencement of this Act as if the provisions of the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation Act were not amended.

Transitional Provision

13. 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

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