



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

**POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
(AMENDMENT) ACT, No. 7 OF 2026**

[Certified on 06th of March, 2026]

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*Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs
(Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2026*

[Certified on 06th of March, 2026]

L.D. - O 39/2024

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS
DRUGS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 218)

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2026. Short title

2. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 54A of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) and shall have effect as section 54AA of that Ordinance:- Insertion of new section 54AA in Chapter 218

“Prohibition against manufacturing, possession or trafficking of dangerous drugs on high seas.

54AA. (1) Any person who, whether he is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not, on the high seas, while on board a ship registered in Sri Lanka or a stateless ship, manufactures any of the following dangerous drugs, namely heroin, cocaine, morphine or opium, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction by the High Court, be liable to a sentence of death or life imprisonment.

(2) Any person who, whether he is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not,-

(a) on the high seas, while on board a ship registered in Sri Lanka or a stateless ship; and

(b) except as permitted by, or otherwise than in accordance with

the provisions of this Chapter or a licence of the Director,

possesses or traffics any dangerous drug set out in Part III of the Third Schedule, in excess of the amount set out in Column II of Part III of the said Schedule, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction by the High Court, be liable to the penalty set out in the corresponding entry in Column III of Part III of the said Schedule.

(3) Any stateless ship engaged in the commission of an offence referred to in subsection (1) shall be subject to forfeiture and the provisions of section 79 shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to such ship.

(4) For the purposes of this section-

“high seas” means all waters beyond the territorial waters of Sri Lanka or of any other State, without prejudice to the legal status of the exclusive economic zone under international law;

“manufacture” shall have the same meaning as in subsection (3) of section 54A;

“stateless ship” means any vessel that is not registered under the laws of any State or does not possess a flag;

“traffick” shall have the same meaning as in subsection (3) of section 54A.”.

3. Section 54B of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words and figures “section 54A,”, of the words and figures “sections 54A and 54AA,”.

Amendment of section 54B of the principal enactment

4. Section 78 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (5) of that section by the substitution for the words and figures “other than a person guilty of an offence under section 54A,”, of the words and figures “other than a person guilty of an offence under sections 54A and 54AA,”.

Amendment of section 78 of the principal enactment

5. Section 83 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of section 83 of the principal enactment

- (1) in subsection (1) of that section by the substitution for the words and figures “sections 54A and 54B”, of the words and figures “sections 54A, 54AA and 54B”;
- (2) in subsection (2) of that section by the substitution for the words and figures “subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B”, of the words and figures “subsection (1) of sections 54A, subsections (1) and (2) of section 54AA and section 54B”; and
- (3) in the marginal note to that section by the substitution for the words and figures “sections 54A and 54B”, of the words “sections 54A, 54AA and 54B”.

Amendment of
section 84 of the
principal
enactment

6. Section 84 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words and figures “subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B”, of the words and figures “subsection (1) of section 54A, subsections (1) and (2) of section 54AA and section 54B”.

Amendment of
section 85 of the
principal
enactment

7. Section 85 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words and figures “subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B”, of the words and figures “subsection (1) of section 54A, subsections (1) and (2) of section 54AA and section 54B”.

Amendment of
section 86 of the
principal
enactment

8. Section 86 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

- (1) in subsection (1) of that section by the substitution for the words and figures “section 54 or paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A”, of the words and figures “section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A or subsection (2) of section 54AA”; and
- (2) in subsection (3) of that section by the substitution for the words and figures “section 54 or subsection (1) of section 54A,”, of the words and figures “section 54, subsection (1) of section 54A or subsection (2) of section 54AA,”.

Amendment of
section 87 of the
principal
enactment

9. Section 87 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words and figures “section 52, section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B”, of the words and figures “section 52, section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A, subsection (2) of section 54AA and section 54B”.

10. 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

English Acts of the Parliament can be purchased at the “prakashana piyasa”, Department of Government Printing, No. 118, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 8.