



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS OF SRI LANKA

A BILL

to provide for the establishment of the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka with a view to introducing and maintaining the professional standards for Media Professionals and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*Presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media
on 22nd of July, 2026*

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Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka

L.D.-O. 25/2025

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS
OF SRI LANKA WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING AND
MAINTAINING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR
MEDIA PROFESSIONALS 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. (1) This Act may be cited as the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka Act, No. of 2026. Short title
and date of
operation

5 (2) The provisions of this Act, other than this section,
shall come into operation on such date as the Minister
may appoint by Order published in the *Gazette* (in this Act
referred to as the “appointed date”).

(3) The provisions of this section shall come into operation
10 on the date on which the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.

PART I

**Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Media
Professionals of Sri Lanka**

15 2. (1) There shall be established an institute called and
known as the “Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of
Sri Lanka” (in this Act referred to as the “Institute”). Establishment
of the Chartered
Institute
of Media
Professionals of
Sri Lanka

(2) The Institute 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
20 that name.

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3. The objects of the Institute shall be —

Objects of the
Institute

- (a) to function as a professional organization for media professionals in the field of media;
- 5 (b) to enroll media professionals who have obtained the required qualifications to become members of the Institute;
- (c) to educate and train the members and the students of the Institute on the subject of media;
- 10 (d) to enhance the standards of skills and practical training activities of the members and students of the Institute and media professionals;
- (e) to maintain professional discipline among the members and the students of the Institute according to a code of conduct;
- 15 (f) to conduct research in the field of media in order to develop and facilitate new global communication and media trends;
- (g) to hold seminars, workshops and conferences and publish journals and magazines relating to the field of media;
- 20 (h) to exchange educational, training and scholarship programmes relating to media in collaboration with institutes in the field of media in Sri Lanka or abroad in order to build up a better professional media culture in Sri Lanka;
- 25 (i) to accredit the media professionals in media professionalism at the evaluation of their efficiency; and

- (j) to do all such acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Institute.

5 4. Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other written law, the Institute shall have the power – Powers, duties and functions of the Institute

- (a) to advise the Minister on any plan, programme or activity aimed at enhancing media education and media professionalism in Sri Lanka;
- 10 (b) to determine the courses of study conducted by the Institute;
- (c) to regulate and supervise the registration and enrolment of students, exercise disciplinary control over such students and any other matter incidental thereto;
- 15 (d) to determine and approve the scheme of practical training courses and to conduct such courses;
- (e) to conduct qualifying examinations for membership of the Institute;
- 20 (f) to maintain libraries for the use of the members of the Institute, media professionals, students of the Institute and those who are interested in media;
- (g) to grant scholarships, awards and prizes for those who excel in the study programmes conducted by the Institute;
- 25 (h) to appoint, employ, dismiss or terminate the services of officers and employees of the Institute, to remunerate them as may be determined by the Institute and to exercise disciplinary control over the officers and employees of the Institute;
- 30 (i) to train members, officers and employees of the Institute to achieve the objects of the Institute;
- (j) to organize meetings, lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences with a view to promoting the objects of the Institute;

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- 5 (k) to purchase any movable or immovable property which may be required for the Institute, hold, take or give on lease or hire, mortgage, pledge or sell or otherwise dispose of any movable or immovable property belonging to the Institute as may be determined by the Council established under section 5, at a general meeting of such Council;
- 10 (l) to open and maintain current, savings, or other deposit accounts in any State bank and to close such accounts as necessary;
- (m) deposit in any bank account or accounts of the Institute, the funds of the Institute which are not required immediately for the purposes of the Institute;
- 15 (n) to accept and receive gifts, grants, loans, donations and bequests both movable and immovable from sources in or outside Sri Lanka for the use of the Institute:
- 20 Provided that, the Institute shall obtain prior approval of the Department of External Resources of the Ministry of Finance in respect of all foreign gifts, grants, donations or bequests made to the Institute;
- 25 (o) to take necessary steps to introduce, develop, maintain and monitor professional standards in the field of media;
- (p) to establish and maintain a resource center related to media in Sri Lanka;
- 30 (q) to assist the members, officers, employees or other persons interested in media to carry out research on the advancement of the media profession in Sri Lanka;

- (r) to borrow or raise money with or without security;
- (s) to liaise and co-ordinate with other local and foreign institutions having similar objects to that of the Institute;
- 5 (t) to maintain and publish a register of members of the Institute;
- (u) to determine and establish committees, boards or sub-committees as the Institute may deem necessary to carry out the objects of the Institute or to exercise
- 10 the powers, duties and functions of the Institute;
- (v) to establish and maintain welfare and recreational facilities for its employees;
- (w) to prepare a code of conduct in order to maintain professional discipline among the members; and
- 15 (x) to do all such other acts or things which in the opinion of the Institute are necessary or expedient for carrying out the objects and functions of the Institute.

PART II

The Management and Administration of the 20 Affairs of the Institute

5. (1) The administration and management of the affairs of the Institute shall be vested in a Governing Council of the Institute (in this Act referred to as the “Council”) which shall consist of-

The Council
of the
Institute and
the Interim
Council

- 25 (a) eight members elected from among the members of the Institute who have qualifications, knowledge and experience in the field of media: and

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- (b) seven members appointed from among the members of the Institute who have qualifications, knowledge and experience in the field of media.

5 (2) The Chairperson and the other office bearers of the Institute shall be elected from among the members of the Council in accordance with the rules made under section 26.

10 (3) The Council shall for the purpose of administering the affairs of the Institute, exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions conferred on, assigned to or imposed on the Institute by this Act.

15 (4)(a) The Minister shall, until the members of the Council are elected and appointed in accordance with the rules made under section 26, appoint an interim council (hereinafter referred to as the “Interim Council”) which shall consist of-

- (i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister; and

20 (ii) six other persons who have distinguished themselves with proven knowledge, eminence and at least twenty years’ experience in the field of media, nominated by the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister.

(b) The Interim Council shall have the power to make rules –

25 (i) in respect of the number of members to be selected and the criteria to select such members to the Institute; and

30 (ii) to elect and appoint members and the office bearers to the Council in terms of the provisions of subsections (1) and (2).

(c) The Interim Council, within a period of one year from the date of operation of this Act, elect and appoint the members to the Council in terms of subsection (1).

6. (1) Every member of the Council shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a term of two years from the date of his election or appointment and shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment.

Term of
office of the
members of
the Council

(2) Any member of the Council shall not be eligible to be appointed or elected as the Chairperson of the Council for more than one term of office.

(3) In the event of a vacancy occurring due to the death, resignation, removal from office or any other cause of a member, the Council shall, having regard to the qualifications for membership, determined in accordance with the rules made under section 26, elect or appoint a person to fill such vacancy.

(4) A person elected or appointed under subsection (3) shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of office of such member.

(5) Any member of the Council may at any time resign from his office by letter to that effect, addressed to the Chairperson, and such resignation shall take effect upon it being accepted by the Chairperson.

(6) Where any member of the Council, without obtaining prior leave from the Chairperson absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Council, such member shall be deemed to have vacated office, with effect from the date of the third meeting and another person may be appointed to fill such vacancy in accordance with the rules of the Council made under section 26.

7. (1) The Chairperson shall summon all the meetings of the Council.

Meetings of
the Council

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Council shall be five members including the Chairperson.

(3) Meetings of the Council may be held either –

- (a) by the number of members who constitute the quorum being assembled at the place, date and time appointed for such meeting; or
- 5 (b) by means of audio-visual communication by which all members participating and constituting the quorum can simultaneously see and hear each participating member for the duration of such a meeting.

10 (4) All questions for decision at any meeting of the Council shall be decided by the vote of the majority of members present and voting at such meeting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall, in addition to his vote, have a casting vote.

15 (5) (a) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Council.

(b) In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting of the Council, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at such meeting.

20 (c) Where both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent from any meeting, the members present shall elect a member to preside at the meeting.

(6) The meetings of the Institute shall be conducted in conformity with the rules made by the Council from time to time under section 26.

8. Any act or proceeding of the Council shall not be, or deemed to be, invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.

Acts or
proceedings
of the Council
deemed not to
be invalid by
reason of any
vacancy

9. (1) The seal of the Institute –

Seal of the
Institute

- (a) shall be in the custody of such person as the Council may decide from time to time;
- 5 (b) may be altered in such manner as may be determined by the Council; and
- 10 (c) shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the Council and in the presence of two members of the Council who shall sign the instrument or document in token of their presence.

(2) The Council shall maintain a register of the instruments and documents to which the seal of the Institute has been affixed.

- 15 **10. (1) The Council may, with a view of obtaining expert views on any matter dealt with by members at any meeting of the Council, invite any expert possessing expertise in any such matter, to such meeting.**

Council to
invite experts
to meetings

- 20 (2) The experts invited to any meeting of the Council under subsection (1) shall have no voting rights, and the Council shall have the absolute discretion of accepting or rejecting the views of such experts.

- 25 **11. The members of the Council and the experts may be paid such remuneration out of the Fund of the Institute established under section 16 for the attendance of meetings of the Council, as may be determined by the Council, from time to time.**

Remuneration
for attending
meetings of
the Council

- 12. (1) The Council may for the purpose of carrying out the functions of this Act, appoint -**

Appointment
of
Committees

- 30 (a) an Academic Committee which may give effect to any matter specified under the provisions of this

Act relating to the education of the members and the students of the Institute;

5 (b) a Finance and Administration Committee which may give effect to any matter specified under the provisions of this Act relating to the administration and finance of the Institute; and

10 (c) a Disciplinary Committee which may hold inquires in terms of section 23 in respect to any disciplinary matter relating to a member of the Institute.

(2) The constitution of such committees, the powers and functions of the members of such committees and any other matter relating thereto shall be determined by rules made by the Council under section 26.

15 (3) The Director-General shall serve as the secretary to any committee appointed under subsection (1).

20 **13.** (1) The Council shall appoint a Director-General (in this Act referred to as the “Director-General”) who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer of the Institute. Director-General of the Institute

25 (2) The Director-General may, with the written approval of the Council, whenever he considers it necessary to do so, delegate to any officer or employee of the Institute, any power, duty or function conferred or imposed on, or assigned to him by this Act and such officer or employee shall exercise, perform or discharge such power, duty or function subject to the general or special directions of the Director-General.

30 (3) The Director-General shall be responsible and answerable to the Council in the exercise, performance and discharge of his powers, duties and functions assigned to him under section 14.

(4) Whenever the Director-General is by reason of illness or absence from Sri Lanka or for any other cause, unable to perform the duties of his office, the Council may, appoint another officer of the Institute to act in his place, during such absence.

14. The Director-General shall subject to the provisions of this Act and any other written law, –

Powers,
duties and
functions of
the Director-
General

- (a) be responsible for the execution of all decisions of the Council;
- (b) subject to the general and special directions and control of the Council, be charged with the administration of the affairs of the Institute including the administration and control of the staff;
- (c) carry out all functions as may be assigned to him by the Council; and
- (d) function as the secretary to the Council and the committees established under section 12.

15. (1) The Institute shall employ such number of officers and employees as is required for the efficient exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Institute, including technical and skilled personnel, administrative and managerial personnel and such other persons as it may consider appropriate.

Staff of the
Institute and
remuneration

(2) The Director-General and the staff of the Institute shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates, as may be determined by the Council.

PART III

Fund of the Institute

16. (1) The Institute shall have its own Fund.

Fund of the
Institute

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(2) There shall be paid into the Fund of the Institute –

5 (a) all such sums of money that may be received by the Institute in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions of the Institute under this Act; and

10 (b) all such sums of money received by the Institute by way of gifts, grants, donations and bequests from any source within or outside Sri Lanka subject to the provisions of the proviso to paragraph (n) of section 4.

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

15 **17.** (1) The financial year of the Institute shall be the calendar year. Financial year and audit of accounts

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

20 (3) The accounts of the Institute shall be audited annually by the Auditor-General or by a qualified auditor appointed by the Auditor-General in terms of Article 154 of the Constitution and be certified by the Auditor-General or such qualified auditor appointed by him.

25 (4) For the purposes of this section “qualified auditor” shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression in Article 154 of the Constitution.

PART IV

General Provisions

18. (1) The Institute shall within six months of the end of each financial year submit to the Minister an annual report on the activities carried out by the Institute. The following documents shall be attached to such report: - Annual Report
- 5
- (a) the audited statement of accounts of the Institute for the financial year certified by a qualified auditor;
 - 10 (b) a report on all contracts and agreements entered into by the Institute; and
 - (c) a report of proposed activities for the year immediately following the year to which such report and accounts relate.
- 15 (2) A separate statement of accounts relating to the foreign and local moneys received by the Institute during the financial year shall be attached to the report referred to in subsection (1).
- (3) The Minister shall, within three months from the date of receipt of the annual report, cause such report, along with the documents specified in subsections (1) and (2), to be published at least in three daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka in Sinhala, Tamil and English and be tabled in Parliament for its consideration.
- 20
- 25 **19.** The members of the Council and officers and employees of the Institute shall, before entering upon their duties, sign a declaration pledging themselves to observe strict secrecy respecting all matters connected with the working of the Declaration of secrecy

Institute and shall by such declaration pledge themselves not to disclose any matter which may come to their knowledge in the discharge of their functions, except –

(a) when required to do so by a court of law; or

5 (b) in order to comply with any of the provisions of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016.

20. The Council may, delegate in writing the exercise, performance or discharge of any power, duty or function vested in or assigned to the Council to the Director-General or
10 to any officer or employee of the Institute with the consent of such officer or employee. The Council may notwithstanding any such delegation exercise, perform or discharge any such power, duty or function, so delegated.

Delegation of powers of the Institute

21. The Institute shall be deemed to be a scheduled
15 institution within the meaning of the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023 and the provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly.

Institute deemed to be a scheduled institution within the meaning of the Anti-Corruption Act

22. (1) Any expense incurred by the Institute in any suit or prosecution brought by or against the Institute before any
20 court, shall be paid out of the Fund of the Institute, and any costs paid to, or recovered by the Institute in any such suit or prosecution shall be credited to the Fund of the Institute.

Reimbursement of expenses

(2) Any expense incurred by any person in any suit or prosecution brought against him before any court in respect
25 of any act which is done or is purported to be done by such person under this Act or on the direction of the Institute shall if the court holds that such act is done in good faith, be paid out of the Fund of the Institute, unless such expense is recovered by such person in such suit or prosecution.

23. (1) The Disciplinary Committee appointed under section 12 of this Act shall hold an inquiry whenever the Council refers any matter to the Disciplinary Committee in respect of a professional misconduct of a member of the Institute.

Inquiries
by the
Disciplinary
Committee

(2) For the purpose of this section, “professional misconduct” means an act or omission which shall be determined by rules of the Council made under section 26.

(3) The Disciplinary Committee shall, after holding an inquiry under subsection (1), submit a report to the Council based on the facts revealed at the inquiry, specifying whether such member has been found guilty of professional misconduct or not.

24. The Council may disenroll any member of the Institute if the report of the Disciplinary Committee under subsection (3) of section 23 establishes that such member has been guilty of professional misconduct:

Disenrollment
for
professional
misconduct

Provided however, the Council may in lieu of disenrolling a member under subsection (1), warn, reprimand or suspend him from membership for such period not exceeding one year:

Provided further, the Council may in its discretion re-enroll such person if the Council is of the opinion that such person is fit to become a member of the Institute and act as a media professional.

25. (1) The Minister may make regulations with the concurrence of the Council obtained at a meeting of the Council in terms of section 7 in respect of any matter which is required by this Act to be prescribed or in respect of which regulations are required or authorized to be made by this Act.

Regulations

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified in the regulation.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval. Any such regulation that is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of disapproval, without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Notification of the date on which a regulation is deemed to be rescinded shall be published in the *Gazette*.

26. (1) It shall be lawful for the Council, from time to time, at any general meeting of the Institute and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, to make rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or any other written law, for all or any of the following matters: -

- (a) the election or appointment of the members of the Council and the powers, duties and functions of such members;
- (b) the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meetings of the Council, notices and agenda of such meetings and the conduct of business thereat;
- (c) the enrolment and disenrollment of members, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the Institute, classification of membership, membership fees and any matter relating thereto;
- (d) admission of students to the Institute;
- (e) the fees to be charged for courses of study and examinations;
- (f) any matter relating to courses of study, courses of practical training and examinations of the Institute;

- (g) forms and manner of applications to be submitted to the Council under this Act;
 - (h) the administration and management of the property of the Institute; and
- 5 (i) all or any matter for which rules are authorized or required by this Act to be made.

(2) Any rule made by the Council may be amended, altered, added to or rescinded at a like meeting and in like manner, as a rule made under subsection (1) of this section.

- 10 (3) The rules made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* within three months upon making of such rules and shall come into effect on the date thereof.

- (4) Every rule made by the Council shall within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before
- 15 Parliament for approval. Any rule which is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

- (5) Notification of the date on which any such rule is
- 20 deemed to be rescinded under subsection (4) shall be published in the *Gazette*.

27. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation

- “media professionals” includes writers, content developers, content editors, anchors, presenters,
- 25 broadcasters, journalists, editors, publishers, media owners, media managers, media educators, media researchers, media technicians and camerapersons in the field of media;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the subject of media is assigned in terms of the provisions of Article 44 or Article 45 of the Constitution; and

5 “written law” shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression in the Constitution.

28. 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

