

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

Part II of February 23, 2017

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 27.02.2017)



**ASSOCIATION OF TRADITIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE
ALL ISLAND HISTORICAL DEVALA
(INCORPORATION)**

A

BILL

**to incorporate the Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala**

*To be presented in Parliament by Hon. (Dr.) Thusitha Wijemanne,
M. P. for Kegalle District*

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

Price : Rs. 8.00

Postage : Rs. 10.00

*Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala (Incorporation)*

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ASSOCIATION OF TRADITIONAL
OFFICIALS OF THE ALL ISLAND HISTORICAL DEVALA

WHEREAS an Association called and known as the Preamble.
“Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala” has heretofore been established in Sri
Lanka for the purpose of effectually carrying out its objects
5 and transacting all matters connected with the said
Association according to the rules agreed to by the members:

AND WHEREAS the said Association has heretofore
successfully carried out and transacted the several objects
and matters for which it was established and has applied to
10 be incorporated and it will be for the public advantage to
grant the said application:

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Association of Short title.
15 Traditional Officials of the All Island Historical Devala
(Incorporation) Act, No. of 2017.

2. (1) From and after the date of commencement of this Incorporation
Act, such and so many persons as now are members of the of the
“Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island Association
20 Historical Devala” (hereinafter referred to as the “the of Traditional
Association”) or shall hereafter be admitted as members of Officials of
the corporation hereby constituted, shall a body corporate the All Island
with perpetual succession under the name and style of the Historical
“Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island Devala.
25 Historical Devala” (hereinafter referred to as the “the
Corporation”) and by that name may sue and be sued with
full power and authority to have, and use a common seal and
alter the same at its pleasure.

(2) The Corporation shall be deemed to be a Voluntary
30 Social Service Organization within the meaning and for the
purpose of the Voluntary Social Services Organizations
(Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 and the
provisions of that Act shall apply to and in relation to the
management of the affairs of the Corporation.

2 *Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala (Incorporation)*

3. The general objects for which the Corporation is constituted are hereby declared to be— General objects of the Corporation.

- 5 (a) to take steps to safeguard and continue with the ancient and unique traditions/rites and rituals/customs/practices and duties/ religious activities of the Devala belonging to each of them;
- (b) to protect the hereditary rights of the hereditary officials of the historical Devala and making necessary interventions;
- 10 (c) to extend co-operation of the Association as a mediator in legal or any other problematic situations faced by any member;
- (d) to exchange the knowledge among the members; and
- 15 (e) to work with the Government in relation to the activities of the Devala as an Association when the need arises.

4. The objects of the Corporation shall be carried out in such manner so as not to create any conflict between the work of the Corporation and any work being carried out simultaneously by any Ministry or Department of the Government or of any provincial Council. Corporation to ensure no conflict with work of Ministry or Department of the Government or Province.

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, management and administration of the affairs of the Corporation shall be carried out by a Board of Management (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) consisting of such number of office bearers as may be specified by the rules made under Section 7. Management of the affairs of the Corporation.

30 (2) (a) The Board of the Association holding office on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall function as the Board of the Corporation until the first Board is appointed or elected in the manner provided for by rules made under section 7.

Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island 3
Historical Devala (Incorporation)

(b) The first Board of the Corporation shall be appointed or elected within one year of the date of commencement of this Act.

5 (3) (a) Every office bearer of the Board including the patrons and advisers, shall be appointed or elected for a period of two years and any such office bearer, patron or adviser shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election after lapse of the said period of two years.

10 (b) In the event of a vacancy occurring due to the death, resignation, incapacity or removal from office of an office bearer, the Board shall having regard to the rules of the Corporation, elect or appoint a person to fill such vacancy.

15 (c) The person elected or appointed under paragraph (b) shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

20 **6.** Subject to the provisions of this Act any other written law, the Corporation shall have the power to do, perform and execute all such acts and matters as are necessary or desirable for the promotion or furtherance of the objects of the Corporation or any one of them, including the power—

Powers of the Corporation.

25 (a) to purchase, acquire, rent, construct, renovate and otherwise obtain lands or buildings which may be required for the purposes of the Corporation and to deal with or dispose of the same as may be deemed expedient with a view to promoting the objects of the Corporation;

(b) to borrow or raise funds with or without securities and to receive grants, gifts or donations in cash or kind:

30 Provided that, the Board shall obtain the prior written approval of the Department of External Resources of the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance, in respect of all foreign grants, gifts or donations made to the Corporation;

4 *Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala (Incorporation)*

- 5 (c) to make, draw, accept, discount, endorse, negotiate,
buy, sell and issue bills of exchange, cheques,
promissory notes and other negotiable instruments
and to open, operate, maintain, and close accounts
in any bank;
- (d) to invest any funds that are not immediately required
for the purposes of the Corporation, in such manner
as the Board may determine;
- 10 (e) to undertake, accept, execute, perform and
administer any lawful trust or any real or personal
property with a view to promoting the objects of the
Corporation;
- 15 (f) to appoint, employ, dismiss or terminate the services
of officers and servants of the Corporation and
exercise disciplinary control over them and to pay
them such salaries, allowances and gratuities as may
be determined by the Corporation;
- 20 (g) to organize lectures, seminars and conferences with
a view to promoting the objectives of the
Corporation;
- (h) to liaise and co-ordinate with other local and foreign
institutions having similar objects to that of the
Corporation; and
- 25 (i) to train personnel in Sri Lanka or abroad for the
purposes of the Corporation.

7. (1) It shall be lawful for the Corporation, from time to time, at any general meeting of the Corporation and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present Rules of the Corporation.

Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island 5
Historical Devala (Incorporation)

and voting to make such rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or any other written law, for all or any of the following matters:—

- 5 (a) the classification of membership, admission, withdrawal expulsion or resignation of members and fees payable by the members;
- (b) the election of office bearers of the Board, vacation or removal from office of office bearers and the powers, duties and functions of the office bearers;
- 10 (c) the terms and conditions of appointment, powers, functions and duties of various officers, agents and servants of the Corporation;
- (d) the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meeting of the Board or any sub-Board thereof, notices and agenda of such meeting, the quorum the conduct of business thereat;
- 15 (e) the qualifications and disqualifications to be a member of the Board and the Corporation ;
- (f) the administration and management of the property of the Corporation; and
- (g) generally the management of the affairs of the Corporation and the accomplishment of its objects and dissolution of the Corporation.
- 25 (2) Any rule made by the Corporation may be amended altered, added, or rescinded at a like meeting and in like manner as a rule made under subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) The member of the Corporation shall at all times be subject to the rules of the Corporation.

6 *Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala (Incorporation)*

(4) The rules made under this section shall be published in the Government *Gazette*.

8. The Board shall maintain a register of members in which name, address and other essential details of the members shall be inscribed. Register of members.

5

9. (1) The Corporation shall have its own Fund. Fund of the Corporation.

(2) All moneys received by way of gift, bequest, donation, subscription, contribution, fees or grants for and on account of the Corporation shall be deposited in one or more banks approved by the Board to the credit of the Corporation.

10

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund, all sums of money as are required to defray any expenditure incurred by the Corporation.

10. (1) The financial year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year. Accounts and audit.

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

(3) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited by the Auditor General or a qualified auditor appointed by Auditor General in terms of Article 154 of the Constitution.

20

(4) For the purposes of this section, “qualified auditor” means—

(a) an individual who being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, or of any other institute established by law, possesses a certificate to practice as an accountant issued by the Council of such Institute ; or

25

Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island 7
Historical Devala (Incorporation)

5 (b) a firm of accountants each of the resident partners of which, being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka or of any other institute established by law, possesses a certificate to practice as an accountant issued by such Institute.

10 **11.** (1) The Board shall prepare a report of the activities of the Corporation for each financial year and submit such report together with the audited statement of accounts to the Secretary of the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs and to the Registrar of Voluntary Social Services Organizations appointed under the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 before
15 the expiration of six months of the year succeeding the year to which such report relates.

Annual Report.

20 (2) A separate Account relating to the foreign and local moneys received by the Corporation during the financial year shall be attached to the report referred to in sub section (1).

25 **12.** All debts and liabilities of the Association existing on the day immediately preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall be paid by the Corporation hereby constituted and all debts due to and subscriptions and contributions payable to the Foundation on that day shall be paid to the Corporation for the purposes of this Act.

Debts due by and payable to the Corporation.

30 **13.** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Corporation shall be able and capable in law to take and hold any property, movable or immovable, which may become vested in it by virtue of any purchase, grant, gift, testamentary disposition or otherwise, and all such property shall be held by the Corporation for the purpose of this Act and subject to the rules of the Corporation made under section 7, with power to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of, the
35 same.

Corporation may hold property movable and immovable.

8 *Association of Traditional Officials of the All Island
Historical Devala (Incorporation)*

14. The money and property of the Corporation however derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Corporation and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend,
5 bonus or profit to the members of the Corporation.

Application of moneys and property.

15. (1) The seal of the Corporation shall not be affixed to any instrument whatsoever, except in the presence of two members of the Board who shall sign their names to the instrument in token of their presence and such signing shall
10 be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.

Seal of the Corporation.

(2) The seal of the Corporation shall be in the custody of an office bearer of the Board as may be decided by such Board.

16. (1) If upon the dissolution of the Corporation there
15 remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, such property shall not be distributed among the members of the Corporation, but shall be given or transferred to any other institution having objects similar to those Corporation, and which is by the rules thereof,
20 prohibited from distributing any income or property, among its members.

Property remaining on dissolution.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) the appropriate institution shall be determined by the members of the Corporation immediately before the dissolution at a general
25 meeting by the majority of votes of the members present.

17. Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice or affect the rights of the Republic or of any body politic or corporate.

Saving of the rights of the Republic and others.

18. In the event of any inconsistency between the
30 Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency.

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