

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

Part II of March 22, 2019

SUPPLEMENT

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STATE LAND (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)

A

BILL

to grant absolute title to state lands held by citizens who are holders of grants or instruments of disposition; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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and Parliamentary Reforms*

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State Land (Special Provisions)

L.D.—O. 49/2015

AN ACT TO GRANT ABSOLUTE TITLE TO STATE LANDS HELD BY
CITIZENS WHO ARE HOLDERS OF GRANTS OR INSTRUMENTS OF
DISPOSITION; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED
THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

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

5 **1.** This Act may be cited as the State Land (Special Provisions) Act, No. of 2019 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister shall appoint by Order published in the *Gazette* (hereinafter referred to as “the appointed date”).

Short title and date of operation.

2. This Act shall be in operation for a period of seven years.

Duration of the Act.

10

PART I

APPLICATION OF THE ACT

3. (1) The provisions of this Act shall apply to persons who are holders of—

Criteria for eligibility under the Act.

15 (a) a grant under the provisions of the Land Development Ordinance;

 (b) an instrument of disposition under the provisions of the Land Grants (Special Provisions) Act; or

20 (c) an instrument of disposition of land under the Crown Lands Ordinance granted for agricultural purposes, under a land settlement programme or a colonization scheme,

for more than ten years immediately prior to the appointed date of this Act and shall hereinafter be referred to as the “Applicant”:

5 Provided however, an Applicant under paragraphs (a) and (b) may be entitled to apply and be eligible to get an Absolute Land Grant up to five acres in extent under the provisions of this Act. Any balance extent of the said land, if any, shall be held by the Applicant under the relevant land grant or instrument of disposition, with its metes and bounds assigned
10 separately, as provided under the proviso to section 28.

(2) For the purposes of this section “Applicant” shall include any nominee, grantee or successor referred to under the applicable laws specified in subsection (1), and the period of ten years shall be computed from the date of the grant or
15 instrument of disposition.

4. The provisions of this Act shall not apply in respect of State lands,—

Areas for which the Act shall not apply.

- 20 (a) the elevation of which is over one thousand five hundred and twenty four meters above mean sea level;
- (b) declared as development areas under any written law, for the time being in force;
- (c) which comes within a reservation or a protected area declared under any written law;
- 25 (d) vested in any local authority by law;
- (e) declared by the Minister assigned the subject of local authorities by Order published in the *Gazette* and shall include an Urban or Rural Regeneration Project, an Urban or Rural Development Project,
30 an Infrastructure Project or a Housing Project;
- (f) in any Divisional Secretary’s Division which comes under any resettlement programme.

5. A person shall be disqualified from making an application for an Absolute Land Grant-

Disqualification to be an Applicant.

- (a) on claiming a prescriptive title to such State land under the Prescription Ordinance (Chapter 68);
- 5 (b) on the failure to fulfill the conditions subject to which the grant or instrument of disposition has been issued;
- (c) in violation of the conditions referred to under any written law;
- 10 (d) on a grant obtained by fraudulent means; or
- (e) where a dispute pertaining to the State land is pending before any court, institution, tribunal or authority established under the Constitution or written law.

15

PART II

LAND GRANTS COMMITTEE AND THE SUB COMMITTEE

6. (1) The administration of this Act shall be charged with the Land Grants Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") consisting of the following members:-

Land grants Committee to be charged with the administration of the Act.

- 20 (a) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Land or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 25 (b) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Women Affairs or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;

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- (c) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Agriculture or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 5 (d) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Local Authority or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 10 (e) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Agrarian Services or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 15 (f) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Forest or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 20 (g) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Wildlife or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 25 (h) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Plantations or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 30 (i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of National Policy or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- (j) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;

- (k) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Home Affairs or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 5 (l) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Sustainable Development or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 10 (m) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Development Strategies or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 15 (n) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Environment or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- 20 (o) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Mahaweli Development or a representative of the Secretary not below the rank of a Senior Assistant Secretary;
- (p) the Land Commissioner appointed under the Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 464) or a person acting for the Land Commissioner;
- 25 (q) the Survey General of Sri Lanka or his representative;
- (r) the Registrar General of Lands appointed under the Registration of Documents Ordinance (Chapter 117);
- 30 (s) a nominee of the President, having experience not less than ten years in land matters and being a public officer; and

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(t) a nominee of the Prime Minister, having experience not less than ten years in land matters and being a public officer.

(2) The Committee shall carry out all matters assigned
5 under the Act, and when necessary—

(a) make recommendations to the Minister;

(b) call for any documentation or explanation from any person, officer of a Government Institution or an expert;

10 (c) appoint such number of Sub-Committees;

(d) provide special or general directions for the administration of the Act;

(e) cause the required forms, applications and other documentations to be included to the data base.

15 (3) The Land Commissioner shall be the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Chairman”).

7. (1) The quorum of the Committee shall be nine persons. Quorum, remuneration, etc. of the Committee.

20 (2) The Committee shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, and no act, proceeding or decision of the Committee shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the vacancy or any defect in the appointment of any member.

25 (3) The Committee may regulate the procedure in regard to the meetings of the Committee and the transaction of business at such meetings.

30 (4) (a) All decision shall be taken at a meeting of the Committee and shall be determined by the majority of the votes of the members present and voting;

(b) In the event of an equality of votes on any question considered at a meeting, the Chairman of that meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his original vote.

5 (5) The members of the Committee may be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Minister for discharging the functions of this Act, in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

10 **8.** (1) The Committee shall establish and maintain a data base in such form and manner as may be prescribed by regulations. Committee to establish a database.

(2) A database shall be located at each Divisional Secretary's Division (hereinafter referred to as the "regional database") for the purposes of data entry. The information shall be entered to the database on the basis of the National Identity Card numerical of the respective Applicant.

(3) All regional databases shall be connected to the database located with the Chairman. The data shall be preserved for a period of ten years.

20 **9.** (1) The Committee may appoint a Sub-Committee from among the members of the Committee to verify matters contained in the application pertaining to the Act, where the Committee considers it expedient for the purpose. Appointment and functions of the Sub-Committee.

25 (2) The Chairman of the Committee shall continue to be the Chairman of the Sub - Committee.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Chairman may call for information from—

30 (i) the Divisional Secretariat of the Divisional Secretary's Division of the area within which the State land is situated;

- (ii) a representative of the Chief Secretary of the relevant Provincial Council within which the State land is situated;
- 5 (iii) the Provincial Land Commissioner of the relevant Provincial Council within which the State land is situated; or
- (iv) any Officer from a Government Institution.

10. (1) The Sub-Committee shall within one month, forward a report to the Committee. Sub-Committee to forward a report.

10 (2) The Sub-Committee shall–

- (a) verify documentations submitted;
- (b) examine if the State Land comes within an area referred to under section 4; and
- 15 (c) give an opportunity for all parties to make representations in writing, if necessary.

PART III

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

20 **11.** (1) The Committee shall under the hand of the Chairman publish a notice in the *Gazette* and in at least one newspaper in Sinhala, Tamil and English requesting Applicants to submit applications for Absolute Land Grants. Notice to apply for an Absolute Land Grant.

25 (2) The Committee shall cause wide publicity of the notice through print, audio and electronic media and with the assistance of the Divisional Secretary to cause wide publicity of such notice, as may be necessary, within the area.

(3) The notice shall include the following particulars–

- (a) the criteria for eligibility to submit an application under section 3;

- (b) that the State land to which the Act relates shall not apply to State land referred to in section 4;
- 5 (c) the disqualifications to be an Applicant under section 5;
- (d) the availability of the application;
- (e) the time period to submit the application;
- (f) the following particulars to be submitted by the Applicant:—
 - 10 (i) three certified copies of the grant or instrument of disposition together with the original, where the survey plan is not available an additional certified copy shall be submitted;
 - 15 (ii) a certified copy of the registration of the grant or instrument of disposition in respect of the Applicant, from the relevant Land Registry, obtained within six months prior to submitting the application and an additional copy;
 - 20 (iii) a drawing depicting the closest route to the land from the town and where such survey plan is not available an additional copy of the said route drawing;
 - 25 (iv) two certified copies of Birth Certificates;
 - (v) two certified copies of any other relevant documents, including Death and Marriage Certificates;
 - 30

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- 5 (vi) original and four certified copies of the Surveyor General's plan in respect of the extent of the land as referred to in the Grant or Instrument of disposition, if available, or on payment of a fee, obtain the necessary resurveyed plans;
- 10 (vii) five sets of files labelled with the Applicants name, with contact details and Divisional Secretary's Division in which the land is situated.

12. (1) An Applicant may, subject to sections 4 and 5, make an application in duplicate requesting for an Absolute Land Grant in respect of such extent as specified in section 3. Application for Absolute Land Grant.

15 (2) An Applicant shall forward the applications together with documents specified in the notice to the relevant Divisional Secretary.

20 **13.** (1) The Divisional Secretary shall maintain a check list of all documents required under section 11. On receiving the applications and the documents the Divisional Secretary shall— Divisional Secretary to prepare a report relating to applications.

- (a) call for any other necessary documents;
- 25 (b) ensure that the particulars are entered into the regional database, with or without the Surveyor General's plans;
- (c) handover a copy of the grant or instrument of disposition to the applicant with the endorsement under his hand as specified in the Schedule, certifying the receipt of the original;

30 (d) where –

- (i) no survey plan has been submitted; or

- (ii) the land pertains to the proviso to subsection (1) of section 3,

5 on payment of the prescribed fees, forward the relevant documents to the Surveyor General to draw a survey plan under this Act. The information shall be entered into the database.

(2) The Divisional Secretary shall prepare a report as may be prescribed by regulations. The Divisional Secretary shall submit the report to the Committee together with all relevant
10 documents, within a period of two months of receiving all documentations.

14. (1) The Divisional Secretary shall –

- (a) make an inventory of lands specified under section 5 within his area for which the Act shall not apply;
- 15 (b) maintain registers as directed by the Committee;
- (c) ensure that all documents, reports and data entries are made accurately and maintained in a systematic manner;
- 20 (d) submit reports to the Committee within the specified time period;
- (e) update the regional database;
- (f) make a field visit, as may be necessary, for the purposes of the Act;
- 25 (g) to preserve all applications and other documents handed by the applicant in safe custody and carry out any other matters as may be necessary to successfully implement the provisions of the Act.

Certain activities to be entrusted to the Divisional Secretary.

15 **15.** (1) The Surveyor General may obtain the services of a registered licensed surveyor to draw survey plans for the purposes of section 13(1)(d). The said registered licensed surveyor shall survey and prepare the plans which shall be made in quadruplicate within three months of receipt of the request of the Surveyor General. The Surveyor General shall retain an additional copy.

Surveyor
General to
assist in
preparing
survey plans.

10 (2) The survey plans shall be submitted to the Surveyor General for certification. The Surveyor General shall forward the said survey plans to the Divisional Secretary.

15 **16.** (1) Any document accepted by the Divisional Secretary shall be required to be retained within the Divisional Secretary's Secretariat for as long as it supports a current entry in the register and for ten years thereafter.

Retention and
destruction of
documents.

15 (2) On the expiry of ten years after the entry in the register pertaining to the title the Divisional Secretary may destroy the documents in the manner and form as may be prescribed by regulations. An entry to that effect shall be made in the register.

20 **17.** (1) The Committee shall examine each application and all relevant documents received from the Divisional Secretary's Division. The Committee being satisfied shall make its observations in writing.

Committee to
make
observations on
the
Applications.

25 (2) Where necessary the Committee may forward the matter to a Sub-Committee appointed under section 10, to report thereon. The Committee shall consider the report and on being satisfied make its observations in writing.

30 (3) The Committee shall prepare a list of the Applications that fulfill the particulars under section 11 (3) (f) in respect of each Divisional Secretary's Division, which shall be amended from time to time.

(4) Where the Committee is not satisfied the Applicant shall be informed, with reasons in writing.

PART IV

OBJECTIONS

5 **18.** (1) The Committee shall publish a notice in the Objections.
manner as may be prescribed by regulation including the
list of Applicants prepared in terms of section 17(3), under
the hand of the Chairman. The notice shall also appear in
one newspaper in Sinhala, Tamil and English to inform the
10 public and to give an opportunity to forward objections, if
any. Objections shall be considered by the panel appointed
under section 19.

(2) The notice for objections shall include the following:—

- (a) the manner and the place to submit objections;
- 15 (b) the time period to submit objections; and
- (c) any other matters as the Committee may
consider necessary.

20 **19.** (1) The Minister shall appoint such number of panels Appointment of
Panels.
as may be necessary, nominated by the Committee, for each
Divisional Secretary's Division.

(2) The Panel shall consider the objections and forward a report to the Committee.

25 (3) (a) Every Panel shall consist of three persons,
comprising a person from the legal profession
having experience in land matters and two retired
public officer above the rank of a Class III officer
of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service

nominated by the Divisional Secretary. Each member of the Panel shall not exceed the age of seventy years.

5 (b) Where possible the Panel shall consist of at least one female member.

(4) A person from the legal profession shall be the Chairman of the Panel and the Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Panel. Where the Chairman is absent, the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting
10 from among themselves.

(5) All matters for decision by the Panel shall be dealt with at a meeting of the Panel and shall be determined by the majority of the members present. All decisions of the Panel shall be supported by reasons, and shall be in
15 writing.

(6) The Minister shall issue guidelines for the conduct of business for the Panel, which shall be prescribed by regulations.

(7) The members of the Panel may be paid such
20 remuneration as may be determined by the Minister in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

(8) A member of any Panel, may at any time, vacate his post by letter addressed to the Minister under his hand or be
25 removed by the Minister, for reasons assigned. The Minister may, having regard to the provisions of subsection (3), appoint another person to the Panel.

20 30 **20.** The member of the Panel shall, when inquiring into the matter hear all parties, call for documents, consider any information and submit its observations to the Committee, within three months of receiving the objections. Observations of the Panel.

21. The Committee shall consider the observations of the Panel when making its decision on the objections and inform the person who made the objections of its decision. Subject to an appeal, to the Board of Review, against the Committee decision, the Committee decision shall be final. Where an appeal has been made to the Board of Review, the Committee shall act in accordance with the decision of the Board of Review.
- Committee to consider observations of the Panel.

PART V

10 BOARD OF REVIEW

22. (1) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Committee under section 17 (4), may within thirty days from the date of the decision being communicated to him appeal against such decision to the Board of Review, with a copy to the Committee. The Board of Review may vary, reverse or confirm the decision of the Committee.
- Appeal.

(2) Where an appeal lies to the Board of Review, the Committee shall await the decision of the Board of Review and act in accordance with such decision.

- 20 23. (1) The Board of Review shall be appointed by the Minister and consist of the following members—
- Appointment of the Board of Review.

- (a) a retired judge of the Court of Appeal;
- (b) a retired Registrar General of Lands or Additional Registrar or Deputy Registrar; and
- 25 (c) a retired public officer who has served as an Additional Secretary in land matters or other person having over ten years experience in land matters.

(2) The retired judge of the Court of Appeal shall be the Chairman of the Panel and the Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Panel. Where the Chairman is absent, the members present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting
5 from among themselves.

(3) The Minister may issue guidelines for the conduct of business for the Board of Review, which shall be prescribed by regulations.

(4) The members of the Board of Review may be paid
10 such remuneration as may be determined by the Minister in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

(5) A member of the Board of Review, may at any time, vacate his post by letter addressed to the Minister under his
15 hand or be removed by the Minister, for reasons assigned.

(6) In the event of the vacation of any member of the Board of Review by death, resignation or removal from any member of the Board of Review, the Minister may, having regard to the provisions of subsection (1), appoint any other
20 person to the Board of Review.

(7) All matters for decision by the Board of Review shall be dealt with at a meeting of the Board of Review and shall be determined by the majority of the members present.

(8) All decisions of the Board of Review shall be supported
25 by reasons and shall be in writing.

24. The Board of Review shall examine all documents and inquire into its facts. The said Board of Review shall convey its decision within two months from the date of receiving the appeal to the Committee and the appellant. The
30 said decision shall be final and conclusive.

Decision of the Board of Review to be conveyed to the Committee &c..

PART VI

PROCEDURE FOR THE ISSUE OF ABSOLUTE TITLE

- 5 **25.** The Committee shall forward its observations to the Minister on all applications for Absolute Land Grants and the relevant documents, including—
- (a) the observations of the panel; and
- (b) the decision of the Board of Review.
- 10 **26.** (1) The Minister shall, on receipt of the observations and the relevant documents and being satisfied with the correctness thereof, forward such observations and documents to the President as soon as practicable.
- (2) The President shall, having considered the observations and the relevant documents submitted to him, decide on the issuance of the Absolute Land Grants. The Public seal of the Republic shall be affected to the said Grants.
- 15 **27.** (1) No valuable consideration shall be charged for the Absolute Land Grant issued by the President.
- (2) The Committee shall forward the Absolute Land Grants issued by the President for registration to the relevant Land Registry.
- (3) The Committee shall forward the registered Absolute Land Grants, to the relevant Divisional Secretaries for handing over to the respective grantees. A certified copy shall be forwarded to the Commissioner-General of Agrarian Development.
- 20 **28.** Upon the registration of the Absolute Land Grant by the relevant Land Registrar, the grant or the instrument of disposition shall be deemed to have been automatically cancelled:
- 30
- Committee to forward observations to the Minister.
- President to make decision on the Absolute Land Grants.
- Registration of Absolute Land Grants.
- Cancellation of grant and instrument of disposition.

Provided however, where a land exceeds five acres in extent as provided in the proviso under section 3 (1), a fresh land grant or instrument of disposition shall be issued for the balance extent of land under the relevant laws.

- 5 **29.** (1) The grantee of an Absolute Land Grant shall have the right of transfer of the land to the heirs or with the consent of all heirs in writing to sell such land to any person:

Transfer of land to a purchaser by the grantee.

- 10 Provided that, the grantee of an Absolute Land Grant used for paddy cultivation registered in terms of section 53 of the Agrarian Development Act, No. 46 of 2000 shall not be entitled to divide such land:

Provided, further that, any land which is used for paddy cultivation may be sold only to a purchaser who shall be—

- 15 (i) a holder of a Farmer Identity Card issued by the Commissioner-General of Agrarian Development appointed under section 38 of the Agrarian Development Act, No. 46 of 2000 and a certified copy of the registration of membership of the Applicant which shall be within the last two years;
- 20 and
- (ii) required to submit proof of being a registered voter in the Grama Niladhari Division where the State land is situated or of any adjoining Grama Niladhari Division,

- 25 and such purchaser may purchase the said land upon the consent in writing of all heirs.

(2) For the purpose of executing an alienation under this section –

- (a) the notary executing the Deed of Transfer shall-
- 30 (i) duly comply with the provisions of the Notaries Ordinance (Chapter 107); and

- (ii) after verification make mention of the matters referred to in subsection (1).
- (b) the Registrar of Lands or Registrar of Titles Registration shall take cognizance of paragraph (a) when the Dead of Transfer is submitted for registration; and
- (c) a copy of the Absolute Land Grant forwarded by the Committee to the Commissioner-General of Agrarian Development shall be retained for examination of subsequent transfers.

30. For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared, the Absolute Land Grant— Avoidance of doubt.

- (a) issued by the President under this Act shall be conclusive proof of absolute title to that land; and
- (b) shall be admissible and valid before any court, institution or authority for any transaction, business, transfer of title, as security for a bond or for any other purpose.

PART VII

GENERAL

31. Where a member of the Committee, Panel or Board of Review or any other officer while administering the provisions of the Act, is directly or indirectly having an interest in any matter pertaining to an Applicant of an Absolute Land Grant, he shall disclose the nature of the interest to the Chairman who would make arrangements for another person to be appointed for such purpose in accordance with the Act or inform the Minister who would appoint another for such purpose. Disclosure of interests.

32. (1) The Divisional Secretary of every Divisional Secretary's Division shall furnish to the Committee quarterly reports as the Committee may direct. The report may include the progress made within the time frames specified in the Act, the number of applications evaluated and the panels appointed.

Reports to be submitted.

(2) The Committee shall submit biannual progress reports containing a chart of matters undertaken within each Divisional Secretary's Division to the Minister. The report shall forecast the time frames within which the matters under the Act shall be carried out during the ensuing biannual period. Such report shall be laid before Parliament by the Minister annually.

33. (1) The Minister may make regulations to give effect to the principles and provisions of this Act or in respect of matters required by this Act to be prescribed by regulations or in respect of which regulations are authorized to be made.

Regulations.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations on the following-

- (a) the format of the application form for an Absolute Land Grant under section 26;
- (b) concerning further preservation of documents when required beyond the period specified in the Act;
- (c) the files to be prepared by the Divisional Secretary to transmit documentation.

(3) 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 regulations.

(4) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval.

5 (5) Every regulation 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.

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

10 **34.** The endorsement on the duplicate copy of the grant or instrument of disposition by the Divisional Secretary shall be valid for all purposes. Transitional Provisions.

35. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires – Interpretation.

15 “colonization scheme” includes any scheme implemented by Land Commissioner’s Department to settle families on State land;

“Crown Lands Ordinance” means the Crown Lands Ordinance (Chapter 454);

20 “Divisional Secretary” under the Transfer of Powers (Divisional Secretaries) Act, No. 58 of 1992 means Divisional Secretary of the Divisional Secretary’s Division within which the land is located;

“information” includes oral or documentary evidence;

25 “Land Commissioner” means the Land Commissioner appointed under the Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 464);

“Land Development Ordinance” means the Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 464);

“Land Grants (Special Provisions) Act” means the Land Grants (Special Provisions) Act, No. 43 of 1979;

5 “land settlement programme” includes any settlement programme implemented by the Government;

10 “local authority” means the Urban Council, Municipal Council or the Pradeshiya Sabha under the Urban Council Ordinance (Chapter 255), Municipal Council Ordinance (Chapter 252) or the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the subject of this Act is assigned under article 43 of the Constitution;

“person” means a citizen;

15 “prescribe” means prescribe by regulations made under this Act;

“protected area” includes any land reserved and protected by the provisions of—

20 (i) the National Environment Act, No. 47 of 1980;

(ii) the Forest Ordinance (Chapter 696);

(iii) the National Heritage Wilderness Area Act, No. 3 of 1988;

25 (iv) the Fauna and Flora Protection Act (Chapter 496);

(v) the Coast Conservation Ordinance, No. 57 of 1981;

(vi) the Antiquities Ordinance (Chapter 188);

“reservation area” includes any land reserved and protected by the provisions of—

- (i) the State Land (Recovery of Possession) Act, No. 7 of 1979;
- 5 (ii) the Irrigation Ordinance (Chapter 453);
- (iii) the Antiquities Ordinance (Chapter 188);
- (iv) the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka Act, No. 23 of 1979;
- 10 (v) the Urban Development Authority Act, No. 41 of 1978;
- (vi) the Agrarian Development Act, No. 46 of 2000;
- (vii) the Thoroughfare Ordinance (Chapter 193);
- 15 (viii) the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation Act, No. 15 of 1968;

“registered licensed surveyor” shall have the same meaning as in the Survey Act, No. 17 of 2002; and

20 “Registrar-General of Lands” shall include a Deputy Registrar-General or an Assistant Registrar-General.

25 **36.** 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.

SCHEDULE

[Section 13 (1)(c)]

Endorsement to be made by the Divisional Secretary

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original grant / instrument of disposition being handed to the Divisional Secretary of the Divisional Secretary's Division of _____ on _____.

Signature.
Seal.

