



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

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**SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
(AMENDMENT)**

**A**

**BILL**

**to amend the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation  
Act, No. 15 of 1968**

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*Presented by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of  
Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs and Minister of  
Urban Development & Housing on 08th of April, 2021*

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*Ordered by Parliament to be printed*

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**[Bill No. 46]**

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#### STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

*Clause 2:* This clause amends section 2A of the Sri Lanka Land Development Act, No.15 of 1968 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”), and the legal effect of the section as amended is to prescribe a fine and a term of imprisonment by a Magistrate in a summary trial where an offence under this section is committed and to set out the procedure to take action in case of any violation of the provisions of this section.

*Clause 3 :* This clause amends section 2B of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to prescribe a fine and a term of imprisonment by a Magistrate in a summary trial where an offence under this section is committed and to set out the procedure to take action in case of any violation of the provisions of this section.

*Clause 4 :* This clause amends section 4A of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to prescribe a fine and a term of imprisonment by a Magistrate in a summary trial where an offence under this section is committed and to set out the procedure to take action in case of any violation of the provisions of this section.

*Clause 5 :* This clause amends section 6 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to replace two *ex-officio* members of the Corporation.

*Clause 6 :* This clause amends section 9 of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to enhance the powers of the Corporation.

*Clause 7 :* This clause amends section 20A of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to set out the procedure for application to obtain a restraining order.

*Clause 8 :* This clause introduces two sections in order to provide for the procedure to be followed by a police officer and for the offences committed by a body of persons or a partnership.

*Clause 9 :* This clause amends section 22A of the principal enactment and the legal effect of that section as amended is to provide for the summary trial before a Magistrate where no penalty is provided.

*Clause 10 :* This clause amends section 28 of the principal enactment in order to provide for new definitions.

*Clause 11 :* This clause provides for the continuation of the actions etc., under the principal enactment to continue even after the amendment.

*Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation  
(Amendment)*

L.D.-O 11/2012

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. of 2021. Short title

5 **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

10 (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.”;

15 (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.”;

20 (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: -

25 “the chief executive officer may –

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

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                  *(Amendment)*

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

- 5                    (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-
- 10                    (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
- 15                    (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
- 20                    (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
- (aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;
- 25                    (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
- 30

5 (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: –

10 “(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  
15 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 –

20 (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 –

25 (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-

30 (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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                  *(Amendment)*

- (ab) to excavate or unearth and to  
                  remove the soil and materials  
                  used in the filling or the  
                  construction; and
- 5                   (ac) to take into custody any  
                  implement, instrument,  
                  machinery, vehicle or document  
                  used for such filling or  
                  construction; and
- 10                  (iii) for the recovery of the total cost  
                  incurred by the Corporation-
- (aa) in the demolition of any building  
                  or construction;
- 15                  (ab) in the excavation or the  
                  unearthing and the removal of the  
                  soil and materials used in the  
                  filling or the construction; and
- 20                  (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  
25                  activity is being carried on or wholly or partly  
                  carried out, is situated.”.

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

- 30                  (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

Amendment  
of section 2B  
of the  
principal  
enactment

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.”;

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

10 “(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 –

- 15 (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);

- 20 (ii) granting the Chief Executive Officer, the authority-

25 (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

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

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(Amendment)

- (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
- (aa) in the demolition of any building or construction;
- 5 (ab) in the excavation or the unearthing and the removal of the soil and materials used in the filling or the construction; and
- 10 (ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction into custody; or
- 15 (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. 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: -

20

Amendment  
of section 4A  
of the  
principal  
enactment

“(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.

25

(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 –

30

- (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 –

- 5
- (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-
    - 10 (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
    - 15 (ac) to take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction; and
    - 20
  - (iii) for the recovery of the total cost incurred by the Corporation-
    - 25 (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
    - 30 (ac) in the taking of any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or the construction into custody; or

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                  *(Amendment)*

                  (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  
5                    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  
10                    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  
15                    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  
20                    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  
25                    construction which may have been  
                  erected whether wholly or partly  
                  on such extent of land;

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

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- 5 (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-
- 10 (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
- 15 (ac) in the taking of any implement,  
instrument, machinery, vehicle  
or document used for such  
filling or construction into  
custody; or
- 20 (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.”.
- 25 **5.** Section 6 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment  
of section 6  
of the  
principal  
enactment  
amended by the repeal of subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of  
paragraph (a) of subsection (1), and the substitution therefor,  
of the following: -
- 30 “(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”.

10            *Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation*  
                  *(Amendment)*

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: -

Amendment  
of section 9  
of the  
principal  
enactment

5            “(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  
10            other written law to achieve the objects of the  
                  Corporation by utilizing the skilled labour, expert  
                  knowledge and the experience of the Corporation;”.

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

Replacement  
of  
section 20A  
of the  
principal  
enactment

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

20            (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  
25            (5) of section 2B or subsection (4) or (5) of  
                  section 4A, 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 (7) or is set  
30            aside under the provisions of subsection (7).

(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

5 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 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,  
10 as to why such person, his agents and servants  
should not be restrained, as prayed for in the  
application.

15 (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.

20 (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  
25 against him shall not be made, then the court  
shall issue a restraining order as prayed for in  
the application.

30 (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.

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

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            *(Amendment)*

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

5                    (a) the relevant area of the land is not a land that comes under sections 2, 2B or 4A of this Act; or

10                   (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.

15                   (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.

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

                    (a) the Chief Executive Officer -

25                      (i) to demolish any building or construction which may have been erected whether wholly or partly on such extent of land;

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

5 (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-

10 (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;

15 (iii) in the removal of the soil and  
materials used for such filling  
or construction; and

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

25 (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  
30 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.





5 (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-

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

15 (b) that such implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document have been used without his knowledge,

for the commission of the offence.

20 (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;

25 (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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              *(Amendment)*

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

5                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  
10                made, be entitled to an order of that Court directing the Fiscal to-

(aa) demolish any building or construction;

15                (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

20                (ad) take into custody any implement, instrument, machinery, vehicle or document used for such filling or construction.

25                (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.

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

5 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  
10 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.

15 (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  
20 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,  
25 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-

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

(ii) that such implement, instrument,  
35 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.”.

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

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

“Procedure  
to be  
followed by  
10 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  
15 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.

20 (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.

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

30 (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-

5 (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,

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

15 (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.

20 (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  
25 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  
30 a third party, no order of forfeiture shall be made if the owner proves to the satisfaction of the Court that-

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

20 *Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation*  
(Amendment)

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

for the commission of the offence.

5 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 -

10 (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:

15 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  
20 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.”.

25 **9.** 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,”. Amendment of section 22A of the principal enactment

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(Amendment)

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

Amendment  
of section 28  
of the  
principal  
enactment

5 (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

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

15 ““Minister” means the Minister to whom the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation is assigned under Article 43 or 44 of the Constitution.”.

**11.** 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

**12.** 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

