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SRI LANKA**

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SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 13.03.2026)



**NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE
BOARD (AMENDMENT)**

**A
BILL**

**to amend the National Water Supply and Drainage Board
Law, No. 2 of 1974**

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STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

Clause 2 : This clause amends section 16 of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law, No. 2 of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) by repealing and substituting paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of that section, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provision to take over and carry on any water supply or sewerage undertaking of an industrial estate, industrial park or community based organization transferred to the Board under section 64.

Clause 3 : This clause amends section 17 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to enhance the powers of the Board for the attainment of its objects of the Board.

Clause 4 : This clause amends section 20 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to provide for an opportunity of being heard when a dispute arises from the exercise of the powers of the Board under section 19.

Clause 5 : This clause amends section 22 of the principal enactment, by making provision for the Board to construct treatment plants and pipelines.

Clause 6 : This clause amends section 31 of the principal enactment, by specifying the grounds on which, the General Manager of the Board may disconnect the water supply or remove any apparatus.

Clause 7 : This clause amends section 36 of the principal enactment by providing the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager of the Board to be accompanied by a police officer when executing the duties under subsection (1).

Clause 8 : This clause amends section 37 of the principal enactment, by recognizing the certificate of the General Manager of the Board as *prima facie* evidence of the amounts due.

Clause 9 : This clause amends Part III of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the Part as amended is to include industrial estates, industrial parks and community based organizations as a general amendment.

Clause 10 : This clause inserts new section 57A of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to make provisions for the water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate, industrial park or a community based organization.

Clause 11 : This clause inserts new section 83A to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to make provisions for contracts of insurance for employees of the Board.

Clause 12 : This clause amends Part IV of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the Part as amended is to include industrial estates, industrial parks and community based organizations as a general amendment.

Clause 13 : This clause amends section 84G of the principal enactment by making the reverse flow of the water supply through a meter an offence.

Clause 14 : This clause inserts new Section 85A to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to provide for the fixing of charges for sewerage services.

Clause 15 : This clause amends section 87 of the principal enactment, by specifying the modes of dispatching a demand relating to water supply or sewerage charge sent by the Board.

Clause 16 : This clause amends section 88 of the principal enactment, by specifying the modes of dispatching a notice.

Clause 17 : This clause amends section 90 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to provide additional matters for which the Minister may make regulations.

Clause 18 : This clause inserts new section 97B to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to provide the substantive and procedural law relating to expedited recovery of the value of the water wasted, misused or unduly consumed.

Clause 19 : This clause amends section 100 by inserting new definitions.

*National Water Supply and Drainage Board
(Amendment)*

L.D. – O. 13/2022

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND
DRAINAGE BOARD LAW, NO. 2 OF 1974

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

1. This Act may be cited as the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Act, No. of 2026. Short title

5 2. Section 16 of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law, No. 2 of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section by the repeal of paragraph (d) of that subsection, and the substitution therefor, of the following
10 new paragraph: - Amendment of section 16 of Law, No. 2 of 1974

15 “(d) to take over and carry on any water supply or sewerage undertaking of any local authority, industrial estate, industrial park or community based organization transferred to the Board by a voluntary transfer order or a compulsory transfer order under section 64;”.

20 3. Section 17 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:- Amendment of section 17 of the principal enactment

(1) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (a) thereof, of the following new paragraph: -

25 “(aa) to enter into agreements with any person to obtain water from surface and ground water resources;”;

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 (Amendment)

- (2) in paragraph (c) thereof, by the substitution for the words “to acquire, hold”, of the words “to acquire, purchase, hold”;
- (3) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (j) thereof, of the following new paragraphs: -

5

 “(ja) to engage in activities related to surface and ground water resource development for the provision, development and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services in collaboration with any Government department or person or any body approved by the Minister;

10

 (jb) with the approval of the Minister, to establish and maintain any subsidiary organization or a strategic business unit under the provisions of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 which may in the opinion of the Board, directly or indirectly promote the interests or be conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Board;

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20

 (jc) with the written directions of the Minister either directly or through any subsidiary organization or strategic business unit established under paragraph (jb) of this section or in association with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or any other institution having similar objects to that of the Board within or outside Sri Lanka-

25

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- 5 (i) to provide consultancy and advisory services, training and knowledge sharing, research and development, in relation to water supply and the management of wastewater;
- 10 (ii) to provide training facilities, programmes relating to water supply and the management of wastewater;
- 15 (iii) to conduct diploma courses relating to water supply and the management of wastewater and to award diplomas where appropriate; and
- (iv) to conduct seminars, workshops and conferences;
- 20 (jd) to enter into and to perform, all such agreements with any Government department or any other institution approved by the Minister for the provision of technical assistance to promote sustainability and improved service delivery of community based water supply;
- 25
- 30 (je) to provide laboratory services to any Government or private sector entity or to any person and to charge fees for such services in accordance with such charges as may be fixed, from time to time by the Board, with the approval of the Minister in consultation with

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5 damages in respect of any injury caused to the property of the Board or the fouling of any water belonging to the waterworks shall be *prima facie* evidence of the amounts that are due.

10 (3) Upon filing of such certificate by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager, as the case may be in the Magistrate’s Court in any prosecution under subsection (1), the Magistrate shall afford such person an opportunity to show cause as to why further proceedings for the recovery of the amount shown as due shall not be taken against such person and where such person has not shown sufficient cause, the amount shown as due or any lesser amount shall be recovered as a fine imposed by Court and the amount so recovered shall be paid to the general reserve fund of the Board.”

20 **9.** Part III of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “local authority” or “authority”, wherever those words or word appear in that Part of the words “local authority, industrial estate or industrial park or a community based organization”. General Amendment to Part III of the principal enactment

25 **10.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 57 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 57A of that enactment: - Insertion of new section 57A in the principal enactment

30 “Water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate etc. **57A.**The provisions of Part III of this Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to and in relation to the transfer to the Board of any water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate, industrial park or a community based organization:

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Provided that-

- 5 (a) in the event of a water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate or industrial park, the words “the Minister in charge of the subject of Local Government”, wherever those words appear in that Part shall be read and construed as a reference to “the Minister assigned the subject of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka established under the Board of Investment Law, No. 4 of 1978 under Article 10 44 or 45 of the Constitution or the Minister assigned the subject of 15 industries under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution” as the case may be; and
- 20 (b) in the event of a water supply or sewerage undertakings of a community based organization, the words “Minister in charge of the subject of local government”, wherever those words appear in that 25 Part shall be read and constructed as a reference to “the Minister assigned the subject of community based water supply under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution.”.

- 30 **11.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 83 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 83A of that enactment: -
- Insertion of
new section
83A in the
principal
enactment

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(Amendment)

“Contracts of
insurance

- 5 **83A.** (1) The Board may from time to time enter into contracts of insurance insuring employees of the Board for the purpose of granting an insurance cover to any employee who is permanently disabled, or partially disabled or temporarily incapacitated, or in the event of the death of any employee to the legal heirs, in any case where such disablement, incapacitation or death, as the case may be is
- 10 due to an injury –
- (a) sustained by such employee while on duty; or
- (b) sustained by such employee while travelling-
- 15 (i) from his place of residence to his place of work to report for duty; or
- (ii) from his place of work to his place of residence after duty;
- 20 or
- (c) sustained by such employee, while not on duty in the performance of some act which is within the scope of his ordinary duties; or
- 25 (d) sustained by such employee in consequence of any act or performance in the execution of his duties; or
- 30 (e) sustained by such employee as a result of any act of reprisal

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 occasioned by, or arising out of,
 any action taken by him in the
 execution of his duties.

5 (2) The amount to be paid by the Board
 as insurance premium and the manner of the
 insurance, qualifications required to be entitled
 to an insurance and all other matters connected
 therewith shall be determined by the Board by
 rules made in that behalf.

10 (3) Any insurance cover granted in
 accordance with the rules made under the
 preceding provisions of this section in respect
 of the disablement, incapacitation or death
15 of an employee shall be in addition to any
 gratuity, compensation, allowance or other
 benefit granted in respect of such disablement,
 incapacitation or death under any other written
 law applicable thereto.”.

20 **12.** Part VI of the principal enactment is hereby amended
 by the substitution for the words “local authority”, wherever
 those words appear in that Part of the words “local authority,
 industrial estate or industrial park or a community based
 organization”.

General
Amendment
to Part VI of
the principal
enactment

25 **13.** Section 84G of the principal enactment is hereby
 amended by the substitution for the words “damages or in
 any other way”, of the words “damages, reverse the flow or
 in any other way”.

Amendment of
section 84G of
the principal
enactment

30 **14.** The following new section is hereby inserted
 immediately after section 85 of the principal enactment and
 shall have effect as section 85A of that enactment: -

Insertion of new
section 85A in
the principal
enactment

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“Fixing
charges for
sewerage
services

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85A. (1) The sewerage service charges payable to the Board by any person whose property is connected to the sewerage system shall be based on the total discharges into the sewerage system irrespective of the source of the water.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Law, the Board may introduce a load based or a scheme specific sewerage charge.”.

10 **15.** Section 87 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of
section 87 of
the principal
enactment

(1) by the repeal of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of that section and the substitution therefor of the following: -

15

“(b) A demand relating to the water supply or sewerage charge sent by the Board to a person may be dispatched by registered or ordinary post, delivered by hand or by any electronic means.”; and

20

(2) in subsection (8) of that section, by the substitution for all the words from “so specified is payable, to the end of that subsection, of the words “so specified is payable.”.

25 **16.** Section 88 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section, by the substitution for the words “the Board in re-connecting such service, is paid.”, of the words “the Board in re-connecting such service, is paid. The notice required under the provisions of this subsection may be dispatched by registered or ordinary post, delivered by hand or by any electronic means.”.

Amendment
of section
88 of the
principal
enactment

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12 *National Water Supply and Drainage Board*
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17. Section 90 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section, as follows: -

Amendment
of section
90 of the
principal
enactment

- 5 (1) in paragraph (j) thereof, by the deletion of the word “and”, appearing at the end of that paragraph;
- (2) in paragraph (k) thereof, by the substitution for the word “system.” of the word “system;” and
- (3) by the addition immediately after paragraph (k) thereof, of the following new paragraphs: -
- 10 “(l) the provision of water service or sewerage service connection on an urgent basis, subject to the availability and the charges in respect of the same;
- 15 (m) to declare hydrological reservations or reservations for the protection of intakes of surface and ground water resources and to provide for their protection;
- 20 (n) specification of standards or criteria for the discharge of wastewater into public sewers and treatment plants;
- (o) prohibiting the discharge of waste water that fails to comply with such standards and criteria into such sewers and treatment plants and for the recovery of costs and damages incurred by the Board due to such discharge of wastewater.
- 25
- 30 (p) construction of onsite sewerage systems including “Decentralized

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Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) and septage treatment plants;

- 5 (q) standards and specifications for the construction of sewerage systems including the size, nature, strength, materials, the apparatus and receptacles to be used for such purpose;
- 10 (r) licensing of persons engaged in the provision of technical services in the form of advisory, consultancy and construction services pertaining to water supply and sewerage services; and
- 15 (s) maintenance of the quality of the water supplied for the public, domestic or industrial purposes by the Board.”.

20 **18.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 97A of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 97B of that enactment: -

Insertion of new section 97B in the principal enactment

- 25 “Right of the Board to recover the value of any water wasted, misused or unduly consumed
- 97B.** (1) Any fine imposed by a Magistrate Court under section 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 84F and 84G shall be without prejudice to the right of the Board to recover the value of any water wasted, misused or unduly consumed.
- 30 (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a certificate signed by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager stating the value of any water wasted, misused

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Industrial Development Act, No. 36 of 1969 or an industrial estate established under the provisions of the Industrial Promotion Act, No. 46 of 1990;

- 5 “industrial park” means an industrial park established under the provisions of the Industrial Promotion Act, No. 46 of 1990;”;
- 10 (2) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “Local Government Service Commission” of the following new definition:-
- “ “person” includes a natural or a legal person;” ; and
- 15 (3) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “sewerage works” of the following new definition: -
- 20 “ “Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission” means the Commission established under the provisions of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act, No. 20 of 1990;”.

20. 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

