



NEW LAWS AND EXECUTIVE DECISIONS UPDATE -JANUARY 2026-

5th February 2026



**LAW
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¹ *DISCLAIMER - This document is prepared by the Chambers of Ermiza Tegal as commissioned by the Law and Society Trust as a brief summary to assist those seeking to be alerted to recent legislative and executive developments in Sri Lanka. There is no analysis and any explanation is summary of the document or decision itself. It is not exhaustive and should not be relied upon as legal advice. For specific legal concerns, please consult appropriate legal counsel. For questions, clarifications, or to provide feedback, please contact: tegal.lawchambers@gmail.com*

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I. ACTS CERTIFIED

1. COLOMBO PORT CITY ECONOMIC COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ACT, NO. 1 OF 2026

Act No.: 1 of 2026

Date Certified: 20 January 2026

Principal Law: Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act, No. 11 of 2021

Key Amendments:

- Prohibits charging of fees (other than non-refundable processing fees) unless a licence and certificate of registration are issued
- Replaces Section 35 to grant three-year transitional employment income tax exemption only for employees of persons authorised before commencement; employees of persons authorised after commencement are taxable
- Requires foreign exchange conversions within Port City to comply with the Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017
- Transfers regulation and supervision of offshore banking operations in Port City to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- Introduces prescribed criteria and periodic performance evaluation for designation and continuation as a Business of Strategic Importance (BSI) and makes consequential amendments

II. BILLS IN PARLIAMENT

1. LICENSING OF CONTAINER DEPOT OPERATORS BILL

No.: 7 of 2026

Status: Introduced (First Reading) – 20 January 2026

Purpose: To provide for the licensing, regulation, and control of container depot operators

Key Provisions:

- Establishes legal framework for issuing, renewing, suspending, and cancelling container depot operator licenses
- Sets minimum operational, safety, and technical standards required for container depot operations
- Defines licence holder obligations, including reporting, compliance, and record-keeping requirements
- Establishes penalties for operating without a licence, violating conditions, or obstructing regulatory oversight
- Covers ancillary provisions, including powers of inspection, enforcement authority, and transitional arrangements for existing operators

2. RENT (REPEAL) BILL

No.: 6 of 2026

Status: Introduced (First Reading) – 20 January 2026

Purpose: Repeal of the Rent Act, No. 7 of 1972

Key Provisions:

- Repeals the Rent Act, No. 7 of 1972, ending statutory rent control and related provisions
- Transfers tenancy and rent matters to updated statutes or regulations to govern landlord-tenant relations
- Clarifies how existing tenancy agreements and disputes will be treated after the repeal
- Removes references to "authorized rent" and rent determination mechanisms under the old Act
- Provides transitional arrangements to ensure continuity for ongoing tenancy contracts and legal proceedings

3. LICENSING OF SHIPPING AGENTS, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, NON-VESSEL OPERATING COMMON CARRIERS AND CONTAINER OPERATORS (AMENDMENT) BILL

No.: 5 of 2026

Status: Introduced (First Reading) – 20 January 2026

Purpose: Amendment to Act No. 10 of 1972

Key Provisions:

- Removes container operators from the scope of the principal Act
- Amends the long title and definitions to reflect the removal of container operators
- Preserves validity of existing licences and applications, allowing them to be treated under the new container depot operator regime
- Makes consequential amendments to sections referring to container operators to align the law with the revised scope
- Ensures continued regulation of shipping agents, freight forwarders, and non-vessel operating common carriers

4. PROTECTION OF OCCUPANTS BILL

No.: 4 of 2026

Status: Introduced (First Reading) – 20 January 2026

Purpose: Prevention of unlawful eviction

Key Provisions:

- Defines "occupant" and protects individuals in lawful occupation from eviction without a court order
- Prohibits landlords from cutting utilities or removing essential services to force occupants to vacate
- Provides occupants the right to apply to court for restoration of utilities or protection of possession
- Establishes procedural rules for eviction disputes, including timelines, hearings, and expedited relief mechanisms
- Imposes penalties for contempt or obstruction of court orders related to occupant protection

5. PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS (REPEAL) BILL

No.: 1 of 2026

Status: Introduced (First Reading) – 7 January 2026

Purpose: Repeal of Parliamentary Pensions Law, No. 1 of 1977

Key Provisions:

- Repeals the Parliamentary Pensions Law, No. 1 of 1977
- Terminates all pension entitlements for Members of Parliament under that law
- Removes statutory provisions granting pensions to MPs
- Specifies treatment of existing pension rights for current and former MPs
- Includes transitional arrangements to ensure legal consistency with other statutes

6. UNV FOUNDATION (INCORPORATION) BILL

No.: 3 of 2026

Status: Gazetted – 9 January 2026

Purpose: Incorporation of UnV Foundation

Key Provisions:

- Incorporates the UnV Foundation as a legal entity with perpetual succession
- Specifies the objectives, powers, and functions of the Foundation
- Establishes governance and management structure, including board composition and duties
- Defines membership rights and obligations of participants in the Foundation
- Provides incidental provisions regarding administration, funding, compliance, and reporting

III. SELECTED CABINET DECISIONS

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, LAND & IRRIGATION

- **Provision of Mahaweli Authority farms to local farmers** (26 January 2026)
Approved leasing 17 Mahaweli Authority farms to local farmers, keeping land ownership with the Authority, to improve productivity, national seed paddy supply, and community livelihoods. Encourages young agricultural entrepreneurs and sustainable farming.
- **Amendment of circulars under Crown Land and Land Development Ordinances** (26 January 2026)
Cabinet approved forming an expert committee to update land allocation procedures, grant issuance, tax calculations, and fees for government lands to streamline investor engagement. Simplifies investment procedures and reduces bureaucratic delays.
- **Resumption of Kivul Oya Reservoir Development Project** (19 January 2026)
Approved resumption of Kivul Oya Project (temporarily halted in 2023) with revised budget Rs. 23,456 million, to be completed by 2031, addressing water scarcity and promoting regional development in Mullaitivu & Vavuniya. Utilizes local funds; project originally approved in 2011.
- **Increase of minimum purchasing price of Samba and Kiri Samba** (12 January 2026)
Approved increasing the minimum purchase price of Samba from Rs. 125 → Rs. 130 and Kiri Samba from Rs. 132 → Rs. 140, while maintaining Nadu at Rs. 120, to encourage cultivation of these paddy varieties. Prices based on recommendations from Price Committee & Food Policy and Security Committee.
- **Providing concession for pepper, coffee, and cardamom plantations affected by calamity** (5 January 2026)
Approved allowance up to Rs. 425,000/ha for replanting, and free seedlings from Dept. of Export Agriculture for long-term export crop recovery. Supports recovery of export agricultural sector.

FINANCE, PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Issuance of new circulars on development projects & human resource utilization** (26 January 2026)
Repealed Management Services Circular 01/2019 and issued updated circulars to ensure efficient implementation of government development projects and optimal use of human/physical resources. Focus on timely project delivery and capital expenditure benefits.
- **Submission of Revenue Protection & Special Commodity Levy orders to Parliament** (26 January 2026)
Forwarded orders/regulations under Revenue Protection Act No.19/1962 and Special Commodity Levy Act No.48/2007 to Parliament, including revised levy on hybrid Mandarin and continuation of levy on potatoes and Bombay onions. Ensures legal approval for taxation measures and relief for donations after Ditwah cyclone.
- **Draft Bill for Sri Lanka Insurance Institute** (19 January 2026)
Approved instructing the Legal Draftsman to prepare draft bill to incorporate Sri Lanka Insurance Institute, granting powers to operate effectively and financially sustainably. Aligns Institute with Insurance Regulatory Commission requirements; essential for licensing insurance agents.
- **Submission of report on surface inflation decline to Parliament** (19 January 2026)

Approved submission of report on quarterly surface inflation for Q2 & Q3 2025 (-1.1% & 0.8%) to Parliament under Central Bank Act Section 26(5), following two consecutive quarters below target. Maintains transparency and public accessibility of inflation reporting.

- **Submission of draft bills on financial transactions, AML, and terrorist financing Amendments** (12 January 2026)
Approved submission of draft amendments to Financial Transactions Reporting Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, and Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act to Parliament after Gazette publication. Attorney General clearance obtained; follows prior Cabinet approval (26 May 2025).
- **Utilizing government-owned bungalows/houses for productive purposes under PPP** (5 January 2026)
Approved calling expressions of interest to lease 24 bungalows and houses for 30 years for diplomatic missions, international organizations, boutique hotels, and other productive projects. Following recommendations of Officers' Committee appointed in December 2024.
- **Introduction of new act for National Lotteries Board** (5 January 2026)
Approved directing Legal Draftsmen to finalize draft bill including new amendments for updating National Lotteries Board Act (est. 1963). Reforms current lottery framework to meet modern market needs.
- **Implementation of UPU postal guidelines for shipments to USA** (19 January 2026)
Approved following Universal Postal Union guidelines to facilitate duty payment for postal items sent to the USA, mitigating the impact of removal of the US\$800 minimum exemption on Sri Lankan businesses. Supports e-commerce exporters and ensures compliance with international postal regulations.

HEALTH

- **Feasibility study for reestablishment of Matara General Hospital** (26 January 2026)
Cancelled previous Medical Equipment Division Development Loan Project and approved obtaining funds from Korean Ex-Im Bank to conduct a feasibility study for rebuilding Matara General Hospital. Focus on aligning hospital redevelopment with current national health requirements.
- **Implementation of project for management of hypertension & diabetes in primary care** (12 January 2026)
Approved expansion of ongoing project to Galle, Colombo, and Gampaha districts using remaining Stage 1 funds and additional grant of US\$ 242,125 from 'Resolve to Save Lives' institution. Builds on successful pilot in Kalutara, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Matale districts.
- **Settling unsettled payments for medical supplies (2008–2023)** (12 January 2026)
Approved payment of Rs. 23.87 billion for period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2023 in installments; amount for 2008–2017 under calculation. Addresses outstanding dues from State Pharmaceutical Corporation.
- **Using diagnostic equipment in public hospitals under PPP with performance-based Payment** (5 January 2026)
Approved acquiring services and equipment (CT, MRI, DSA, cardiac cath units, automated analyzers) under PPP to reduce waiting times and improve access. Ensures equal access to high-level diagnostics while overcoming financial/procurement constraints.
- **Expanding dialysis services under PPP in government hospitals** (5 January 2026)
Approved PPP mechanism for dialysis expansion in identified hospitals; private partner finances machines, consumables, operation, maintenance; government provides infrastructure and supervision. Builds on successful Kandy National Hospital model; addresses growing clinical demand.

TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Disposal of Diyawanna Oya land (Waters Edge Hotel, Battaramulla) for recreational Projects** (26 January 2026)
Approved calling investment proposals to lease 13.57 acres on both sides of Diyawanna Oya for 'Frolic Island Recreational Hub' using competitive procurement. Part of flood prevention and urban development initiatives.
- **Disposal of Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03 land for mixed development** (26 January 2026)
Approved inviting proposals for a 0.42-hectare plot on a 99-year lease to implement the tallest mixed-use development in Colombo following competitive procurement. Ensures compliance with urban development plans and procurement rules.
- **Disposal of land at Donne Subway, Nuwara Eliya for theme park** (26 January 2026)
Approved inviting proposals to lease 10.97 acres adjoining Gregory Lake for a 50-year period to establish a tourist-attracting recreational project. Follows international competitive procurement methodology.
- **Renovation of Aawarankaal – Thondannaaru (B-033) highway** (26 January 2026)
Approved awarding contract to M/s Nem Construction (Pvt.) Ltd. for highway renovation to improve socio-economic access, ease traffic, and connect key facilities. Project followed national competitive bidding and higher-level procurement committee recommendations.
- **Motor Traffic (temporary extension of driving licenses) Regulations No. 04 of 2025** (26 January 2026)
Forwarded temporary extension regulations to Parliament to address license renewal delays due to climatic and technical issues in Nov 2025. Prevents default impact on road safety; extends validity of licenses by 1 month.
- **Implementation of Stage III of Baseline Road Project** (19 January 2026)
Approved recommencement of 0.86 km six-lane road from Kirulapona Junction to Dutugamunu Mawatha to reduce congestion, improve urban mobility, and increase economic productivity. 90% of required land already acquired; follows National Road Master Plan.
- **Selection of consulting institutions for post-Cyclone Ditwa reconstruction** (12 January 2026)
Approved registration of qualified consulting institutions for 2 years and competitive bidding to implement road, railway, and service infrastructure reconstruction post-Cyclone Ditwa. Addresses shortage of professional staff for planning, supervision, and estimates.
- **Disposal of unusable steel in government departments** (12 January 2026)
Approved disposal of unusable steel valued at Rs. 114.51 million to M/s. S R Steel (Pvt.) Ltd based on NCB and High-Level Standing Procurement Committee recommendations. Includes prior approval for multiple steel items.
- **Awarding contract for underground way below Mahaiyawa railway line (A-009)** (5 January 2026)
Approved awarding contract to M/s NEM Construction (Pvt) Ltd for Rs. 699.58 million (without tax) following NCB and High-Level Standing Procurement Committee recommendation. Construction for Kandy-Jaffna road infrastructure improvement.
- **Procurement of vehicle number plates for Department of Motor Traffic** (5 January 2026)
Approved contract to M/s South Asian Technologies for 5-year supply of plates based on NCB and Procurement Appeal Board recommendations. Ensures continuity in vehicle registration infrastructure.
- **Amendment of Motor Vehicles (Driving License Levy) Regulations No. 3 of 2022** (5 January 2026)
Approved submitting revised regulations on temporary driving license fees (Bandaranaike Airport service) to Parliament. Updates fees to Rs. 2,000; ensures service sustainability.

EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- Appointment of Director General, Department of Industrial Education & Training (26 January 2026) Approved appointment of Mrs. Dilki Wathsala Marambage as Director General on full-time basis. Replaces vacant post; officer from Sri Lanka Administrative Service.
- Program to provide allowance for school stationery in 2026 (12 January 2026) Approved continuation of Rs. 6,000 per child allowance for school stationery for eligible Aswesuma families, small schools, Pirivena students, and Child Development Centre students. Builds on 2025 initiative. (5 January 2026)
- **Entering into MOUs between Sri Lankan and foreign universities (5 January 2026)** Approved 5-year MOUs between Bhiksu University (SL) and Mahamakut Buddhist University (Thailand); Bhiksu University and Nalanda Institute (Jakarta); University of Colombo and SGH Warsaw School of Economics (Poland) to promote academic/research cooperation, exchanges, and joint seminars. Focus on enhancing educational standards, international exposure, and research collaboration.

WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

- Introduction and amendment of laws on women & children (26 January 2026) Approved introduction of: Cyber-crimes against children law, Child Rights Act, new Domestic Violence Act, Foster Parenting Protection law, and amendments to several existing child-related ordinances. Aligns domestic legislation with UN conventions and modern legal standards.

ENVIRONMENT

- Restoration of Calido Coastal Belt & Kalu Ganga delta (26 January 2026) Approved project to restore sand dunes, stabilize river delta, and address coastal erosion, lagoon pollution, and environmental concerns. Implementation via Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation; protects tourism and infrastructure.

PORTS & CIVIL AVIATION

- **Signing Implementation Agreement for Sri Lanka Ports & Logistics Development Project** (26 January 2026) Approved signing of agreement with IBRD for a US\$3 million grant and establishing a Project Management Unit to monitor and manage operational, technical, financial, and procurement aspects. Supports infrastructure modernization and logistics planning.
- **Operating currency exchange counters at Bandaranaike International Airport** (12 January 2026) Approved awarding contracts for 5 currency exchange counters in arrivals terminal for 3 years to Commercial Bank, BOC, Thomas Cook Lanka, Sampath Bank, and Peoples Bank based on procurement recommendations. Supports airport redevelopment and passenger service.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- **Implementation procedure for 2026 'Prajashakthi' poverty eradication movement** (26 January 2026)

Approved Rs. 25 billion allocation for district- and national-level projects in six sectors to reduce multidimensional poverty by 5 units by 2030. Includes training, research, and community-level project implementation.

- **Building resilient maize-based food system for Thripasha program** (5 January 2026)
Approved project to enhance Thripasha program quality and maize supply chain with WFP support; US\$10 million grant from KOICA; benefits ~7,500 farmers in Anuradhapura, Moneragala, Badulla; 2025-2029 implementation. Includes signing discussion notes and Terms of Reference.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

- **Procurement of Automated Spectrum Management System (ASMS)** (26 January 2026)
Approved purchase of a modern automated system for national frequency management, replacing the two-decade-old SPECTRAplus system. Enhances efficiency, regulatory compliance, and integration with digital services.

INDUSTRIES & ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- **Value-addition project for Rock Phosphate** (26 January 2026)
Approved inviting project proposals from selected investors for a public-private partnership to add value to phosphate excavated by Lanka Phosphate Company. Builds on earlier Cabinet decision from Aug 2025; 14 investor aspirations received.
- **Developing selected locations of Pelawatte Sugar Factory as tourist attractions** (12 January 2026)
Approved inviting proposals under Public-Private Partnership to develop selected locations in the Pelawatte Sugar Factory as tourist attractions. Follows prescribed procurement guidelines to identify suitable investors.

FISHERIES, AQUATIC & OCEAN RESOURCES

- **Entering into MoU for Indian Ocean Coastal Alliance** (19 January 2026)
Approved signing an MoU with 11 Indian Ocean countries to establish the alliance for sustainable management of tuna fisheries, improving fish populations, and supporting livelihoods of coastal communities. Strengthens regional cooperation and food security.
- **Implementation of National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy** (12 January 2026)
Approved implementation of updated National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy to ensure equitable benefits, sustainable management, and integration with other relevant policies. Redrafted in line with 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' policy.

PLANTATIONS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Budget 2026 relief for estate workers** (19 January 2026)
Approved methodology to pay incentive allowances (daily wage Rs. 1,550 + attendance Rs. 200) for six months from 1 Jan 2026, using plantation companies and direct bank credits. Rs. 5,000 million allocated in Budget 2026; aims to uplift living standards of estate workers.

- **Providing underutilized lands/properties to suitable investors** (12 January 2026)
Approved leasing underutilized lands from Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Janatha State Development Board, Elkaduwa Plantation Co., Tea Shakthi Fund (Mawarala Watte 40.48 ha) and Kondachchi Estate (1,541 ha) to investors following procurement procedure. Stage-two properties not included in prior stage-one disposal.

ENERGY

- **Implementation of Basic Transfer Plan of Sri Lanka Power Industry** (12 January 2026)
Approved transfer of assets, liabilities, functions, and roles from Ceylon Electricity Board to successor companies in accordance with Basic Transfer Plan under Electricity (Amendment) Act No. 36 of 2024. Supports restructuring of power generation, transmission, and distribution.

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION & WATER SUPPLY

- **Preparing engineering estimates for government buildings** (12 January 2026)
Approved use of common building fee schedule prepared by Building Department as legal basis for engineering estimates of government buildings. Ensures uniformity and validity across all central government institutions.
- **Hosting International Water Association 2026 Water Security Conference**
Approved hosting conference and exhibition at NWSC Centre of Excellence, Ratmalana from 23-25 March 2026 to promote water security and sustainable development. Coincides with World Water Day; international participation.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PROVINCIAL COUNCILS & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- **Revision of pension provisions for public officers** (19 January 2026)
Approved amending appointment letters for officers recruited after 1 January 2016 to confirm pension entitlement under existing scheme and contributions to Widows/Widowers & Orphans Pension Scheme. Ensures clarity and implementation of pension rights for post-2016 recruits.
- **Appointment of District Secretary / Government Agent – Galle** (19 January 2026)
Approved appointment of Mr. K. U. Chandralal as District Secretary of Galle effective 26 January 2026 following retirement of current officer. Officer from Sri Lanka Administrative Service; fills key administrative position.
- **Implementation of Committee recommendations on public service recruitment** (12 January 2026)
Approved recruitment of 26,095 employees across 20 ministries, provincial councils, and services including 23,344 teachers, following recommendations of officercommittee headed by Secretary to PM. Ensures vacancies filled systematically per review committee.
- **Increasing festival advance for government officers** (12 January 2026)
Approved increasing festival advance from Rs. 10,000 → Rs. 15,000 for festivals and pilgrimages, with circular instructions issued. Enhances benefits for government employees; repayable over 8 installments.

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

- **Introducing digital card system for fuel supply to government vehicles** (12 January 2026)
Approved pilot digital fuel card system for pool vehicles at Presidential Secretariat, to be expanded to other institutions if successful. Enhances transparency, efficiency, and online banking integration.

PUBLIC SECURITY & DEFENCE

- **National Strategic Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Human Trafficking 2026-2030** (5 January 2026)
Approved new national strategic action plan with four approaches: protection, litigation (complaints), partnership, building on previous 2021-2025 plan. Complies with UNTOC and Palermo Protocol obligations.

PROCUREMENT AND FACILITIES FOR POLICE, ARMED FORCES

- **Procurement of food items for three armed forces for 2026** (5 January 2026)
Approved award to minimum substantially responsive bidders for raw/dried rations and other food items for Army, Navy, and Air Force, following NCB and procurement appeal board recommendations. Covers 1,219 Army, 454 Navy, 242 Air Force procurement packages from 34 bidders.
- **Purchase of 350 housing units for Sri Lanka Police** (5 January 2026)
Approved purchase from 'Harbour View Residencies' (452 units, Colombo 13) and construction of parking facilities for police officers. Improves officer accommodation and operational efficiency in Colombo suburbs.

YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

- Establishment of Management Boards for sports complexes (5 January 2026)
Approved establishing 5-member management boards for Department of Sports Development complexes to improve usage, maintenance, and administration for 2025-2027. Part of 'Creating a Sports Culture' project; includes school and public playgrounds.

IV. EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTES (Selected)

NATIONAL SECURITY & PUBLIC ORDER

Gazette 2473/14 (28 January 2026) – Public Security Ordinance

- President proclaimed a nationwide public emergency, enabling the government to secure public order and maintain essential services.

Gazette 2473/13 (28 January 2026) – Essential Public Services Act

- Declares post-Cyclone Ditwah recovery operations as essential services, covering electricity, fuel, hospitals, transport, water, food, local authorities, irrigation, telecom, and agriculture.

Gazette 2473/16 (28 January 2026) – Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions and Powers) Regulations No. 1 of 2026

- Establishes emergency powers, including appointment of authorities, requisitioning of premises, vehicles, and services, declaration of essential services, prevention of obstruction or misinformation, delegation of powers, protection of officers, penalties, and revokes 2025 emergency regulations.

Gazette 2473/8 (26 January 2026) – Presidential Order

- Calls out all members of the Armed Forces from 27 January 2026, for maintenance of public order in specified districts and adjacent waters.

Gazette 2470/56 (9 January 2026) – Public Security Ordinance

- Notifies Parliament's approval of the Presidential Proclamation bringing Part II of the Ordinance into operation throughout Sri Lanka from 28 December 2025.

REGISTRATION & IDENTITY

Gazette 2472/47 (22 January 2026) – Registration of Persons Act

- Extends the expiry date of operation for certain provisions/orders of the Registration of Persons Act to 31 December 2026 until infrastructure and technical procedures are ready.

Gazette 2472/22 (21 January 2026) – Registration of Persons Act

- Reiterates extension of expiry date of certain provisions/orders of the Registration of Persons Act to 31 December 2026 until necessary procedures are prepared.

ELECTIONS

Gazette 2472/21 (21 January 2026) – Parliamentary Elections Act

- Sets out directives for recognition of political parties for parliamentary elections, including submission of party constitution, office-bearer lists, audited accounts, policy statements, and evidence of continuous political activity. Provides guidelines for internal governance, gender representation, financial transparency, and democratic decision-making within parties.

Gazette 2471/24 (13 January 2026) – Parliamentary Elections Act

- Approves the symbols of recognized political parties for parliamentary election purposes.

Gazette 2470/48 (8 January 2026) – Parliamentary Elections Act

- Publishes the list of recognized political parties for parliamentary election purposes.

LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

Gazette 2473/25 (30 January 2026) – Shop and Office Employees Act

- Amends the 1954 regulations on female shop/office employees, specifying night shift duties, welfare responsibilities, accommodation, and transport arrangements.

Gazette 2472/69 (24 January 2026) – Wages Boards Ordinance

- Specifies the special allowance for daily-paid workers in the cocoa, cardamom, and pepper growing and manufacturing trade for November 2025, based on the Cost of Living Index for October 2025 (212.2). Amount: Rs. 1,852.39 per worker per normal working day.

TRANSPORT & MOTOR TRAFFIC

Gazette 2471/68 (17 January 2026) – National Transport Commission Act

- Establishes procedures for transfer, approval, operation, and renewal of passenger service permits, including financial and operational requirements for transferors and transferees.

Gazette 2470/14 (5 January 2026) – Motor Traffic Act

- Amend fees in the Fourth Schedule: allocation of special vehicle numbers (up to 100,000) for all vehicles except motorcycles/tricycles; fee set at Rs. 1,000,000.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Gazette 2471/33 (13 January 2026) – Animal Diseases Act

- Declares all districts as susceptible to African Swine Fever (ASF), specifies pigs as the susceptible species, prohibits movement, sale, slaughter, and processing of pigs/pork without permits, and authorizes officers to enforce these measures for three months.

SPORTS & ANTI-DOPING

Gazette 2471/51 (16 January 2026) – Convention Against Doping in Sports Act

- Publishes the 2026 Prohibited List for doping in sports, effective from 1 January 2026, aligned with the World Anti-Doping Code.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Gazette 2472/51 (23 January 2026) – Pilgrimages Ordinance

- Notifies the annual Lenten season at Hiniduma Calvary Shrine (St. Ann's Church) in Hiniduma South and Malhathawa Grama Niladhari divisions, Thawalama DS Division, Southern Province. The pilgrimage period is set from 18 February 2026 to 5 April 2026.

APPOINTMENTS

Gazette 2472/45 (22 January 2026) – Presidential Appointment

- Appoints Dr. Anil Jayasinghe as Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media for one year from 15 January 2026.

Gazette 2470/23 (7 January 2026) – Provincial Councils Act

- Appoints Mr. Chandima C. Muhandiramge as Chief Secretary of Southern Province with effect from 19 December 2025.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Gazette 2470/4 (5 January 2026) – Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act

- Apply provisions of the Act for cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with Maldives, including terrorism and tracing/forfeiting terrorism financing.

COUNTER-TERRORISM & SANCTIONS

Gazette 2470/19 (6 January 2026) – United Nations Regulations

- Amended list of designated terrorist entities and individuals: LTTE, TGTE, NTJ, TCC, WTM, and associated individuals for sanctions, monitoring, and funding restrictions.

Gazette 2470/20 (6 January 2026) – United Nations Act

- Freeze all funds, financial assets, and economic resources of persons, groups, and entities designated under regulation 4 (UN sanctions). Revokes previous orders without prejudice.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Gazette 2470/18 (5 January 2026) – Anti-Corruption Act

- Rules for officers/employees appointed temporarily to the Commission under sections 26(4), (5), (8), and (9); effective 1 January 2026; ensures application of Establishments Code, Financial Regulations, and relevant government rules where not inconsistent with the Act.

SOCIETIES REGISTRATION

Gazette 2470/30 (7 January 2026) – Societies Ordinance

Multiple societies registered including:

- SURYODA SANWIDHANA EKAMUTHUWA: strengthen society, support social entrepreneurship, unite voluntary organizations, protect democracy, organize the masses
- SOCIETY OF ENGINEERING SERVICES OFFICERS' LIMITED: protect NVQ-5/6 engineers' rights, improve professional standards, assist with employment, provide legal support, propose curriculum development
- METSHU NATURAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION: improve coconut farmers' livelihoods, ensure fair prices, reduce coconut shortages