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# The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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## PART IV (A) - PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

### Provincial Councils Notifications

#### NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

##### Rural Development Statute No. 03 of 2011

THE aforesaid passed by the North Central Provincial Council of Sri Lanka Democratic Socialist Republic & the assent by the Hon. Governor on 23rd December, 2011 is hereby, there, published by me for information.

A. M. W. A. Amunugama,  
Secretary,

North Central Province Provincial Council.

North Central Province Provincial Council,  
Anuradhapura,  
03rd January, 2012.

Statute for providing for the establishment, registration, maintenance and the cancellation of rural development societies women's development societies (hereinafter referred to as Rural Development Societies) Rural Development Regional Association, Rural Development District Associations, Rural Development Provincial Associations, hereinafter referred to as Associations for transforming the village into a prosperous centre of life by moldings a society organized and educated for realizing their development on self-efforts and also make arrangements for the establishment of a fund and maintenance of same and also for the incidental matters relevant to it.

It is enacted as such the by North Central Provincial Council of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. In accordance with this Statute the subject minister shall have the power for enacting the rules and Regulations.

1. This statute will be referred to as the Rural Development Statute No. 3 of 2011 of the North Central Province Provincial Council and will become operative with effect from a date as decided by the Subject minister following the receipt of the Governors Certificate.

Short title and  
operative date.

#### PART I

##### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND ITS FUNCTIONS

2. There shall be established hereby a Department called North Central Provincial Rural Development Department for the execution of the Rural Development subject assigned in terms of the section 10 of the list one i.e. the Provincial Council list of the List nine of the 13 the amendment to the constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka., whereas the objectives of the said department shall be as follows.

The established  
of the central  
Provincial Rural  
Development  
Department. Its  
objectives and  
functions.

- (1) Conversion of the North Central Province Provincial Rural Development Department in to a state body which causes to have a ethical and economical Development of the people in the province having established a exemplary management while enhancing a suitable coordination with the other Departments with the utilization of governmental and non-governmental resources fruitfully and efficiently.
- (2) Guiding and assisting the people for Organization of Rural Development Societies and association, establishment expansion and strengthening of same.
- (3) The maintenance of rural entrepreneurship at its best level in the overall Provincial Development process.
- (4) Acting as a mediator in granting the financial and non financial aid being received from the Governmental, Non Governmental, Agencies and individuals, the Rural Development Societies and associations.
- (5) The enhancement of the knowledge and the talent of the rural community for rural Development.
- (6) Arbitration of disputes emerging in Societies and associations.
- (7) Taking final decisions concerning the disputes emerging in societies and associations.
- (8) Establishment of development vocational training centres Organization of them and the maintenance.
- (9) Recruitment to Women's development centers training coordinating examinations and awarding certificates.
- (10) The execution of all other work that may result in the achievement of the objectives of the North Central Province Provincial Rural Development Department.

3.

Objectives and functions.

- (1) Organizations, establishment, registration, maintenance and also the cancellation of Rural Development Societies and associations.
- (2) Establishment and the maintenance of women's rural development centres.
- (3) Organization of training program implementation and men maintenance of them for the purpose of Community services projects.
- (4) The commissioning of the Rural Development Fund and the maintenance of same.

4.

Appointment of the North Central Provincial Rural Development Director and a staff to assist him and the powers assigned to the offers.

(1)

- (a) There shall be a post called the North Central Province Provincial Director of Rural Development. This appointment shall be made by appropriately by the Governor in terms of the Section 32 of the Provincial Council Act No. 42 of 1987.
- (b) The Head of the North Central Province Provincial Department shall be the Provincial Director of the Rural Development.

- (c) The Secretary of the Ministry in charge of the Subject of Rural Development Shall Determine the powers of the Provincial Director of Rural Development.
- (d) The Provincial Director of the Rural Development shall act for achievement of the objectives of this Statute under the supervision of the Secretary of the subject Ministry.
- (2)
- (a) A Staff may be appointed for assisting the Provincial Director of Rural Development in the execution and the implementation of powers functions and duties, under this Statute.
- (b) The Divisional Secretary of each and every Divisional Secretariat division in the province shall be the Provincial Deputy Director of Rural Development.
- (3)
- (a) A certain number of assistant Directors may be appointed to the Rural Development Department. Two such Posts Shall be departmental appointments.
- (b) The Director shall possess the powers assigned to him by regulations already made or to be made under the Statute or deemed to have been instituted under any other law.
- (4) A section of powers conferred to the Director by the orders of the subject minister published in the *gazette* or by the Statute or by the regulations deemed to have been instituted under the Statute may be delegated to the Deputy / Assistant Directors.
- (5) All employees appointed to the Department of Rural Development for the implementation of the subject of rural development decentralized under the terms of No. 10 of the list No One (In the Provincial Council list), of the schedule 9 of the 13th amendment, to the constitution shall get absorbed into the North Central Provincial Rural Development department under this Statute.
- (6) All officers being appointed in terms of section 4 of this Statute shall be treated as public officers as interpreted in the penal code.
- (7) No Judicial action shall be taken with regard to any act done or not done in good faith by any public officer performing under this Statute.

## PART II

ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETIES, REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS, DISTRICT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND PROVINCIAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS AND ITS' AREAS OF AUTHORITY

- (5)
- (1) A landscape defined as a village or a tract clearly identified geographically economically and socially and socially is a Grama Niladhari Division is the jurisdiction of a Society.
- (2) The landscape defined in accordance to the combination of village, tract or a few of them belonging to a, Society established with the approval of Provincial Director on the recommendation of Divisional Secretary or Divisional Secretaries by the members relevant to a project for the purpose of achieving the objectives to such special project is a area of authority of a society.

Jurisdiction of Rural development Societies.

The Jurisdiction of a Regional Rural development Society.	(6) The administrative division of a Divisional Secretary is the jurisdiction of a Regional Rural development Society.
The Jurisdiction of a district rural development association.	(7) The administrative division of the District Secretary is the Jurisdiction of a district Rural development Society.
The Jurisdiction of a Provincial Rural development Association.	(8) The administrative division of the Chief Secretary of the North Central Province Provincial Council is the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Rural development Society.
Establishment of Rural Development Societies.	(9) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A women's rural development Society and a rural development Society could be setup for a village/tract.</li> <li>(2) One Rural development Society may be established for a village, a tract, or a combination of a few of them. By the members affiliated to project for the achievement of the objectives of such special project on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary or Secretaries with the approval of the Provincial Director.</li> </ol>
Registration of Rural Development Societies.	(10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The divisional secretary shall register rural Development Society on the consent of the Provincial Rural Development Commissioner in writing.</li> <li>(2) All such Rural Development Societies and associates registered prior to the date of empowerment of this Statute shall come under this Statute.</li> </ol>
Cancellation of Registration.	(11) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The divisional secretary shall cancel the registration of a Rural Development Society or a Association on the written consent of the provincial Rural Development Director.</li> <li>(2) The appeal against the cancellation of Rural Development Societies shall be submitted to the Secretary to the Provincial Rural development subject's ministry within 90 days since the cancellation.</li> </ol>
The functions of the Rural Development Societies.	(12) The following procedures shall be adopted for the purpose of achieving the objectives and the aims of a Rural Development Society. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Identification of both physical and human resources available in the village studying mobilizing and recording them and applying them for development process.</li> <li>(2) Intervention offering assistance and help in solving the problems emerging with regard in the production, marketing living standard and social status of the rural community and develop their self-strength.</li> <li>(3) Providing knowledge required for the sustainable development.</li> <li>(4) Creation of a favourable environment for the promotion of living standard of the community.</li> <li>(5) Raising funds required for the achievement of objects and aims of the society and enhancing the level of the capital.</li> </ol>

- (6) Following a systematic accounts procedure concerning the income and the expenditure and the maintenance of the relevant books and registers.
- (7) Preparation and the publication of the membership register and publish the validated membership register once six months.
- (8) The maintains of relationship with governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- (13) A regional Rural Development association may be established in a Divisional Secretariat division with the participation of the chairman, secretary the finance manager (Treasurer) of the active Rural Development Societies. The establish-  
ment of Regional  
rural Develop-  
ment associa-  
tion.
- (14) The registration  
of regional Rural  
Development  
association.
  - (1) The Provincial Rural Development Director shall register the Regional association based on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary.
  - (2) The Associations already registered and existing at present shall come under this Statute with effect from the operative date of the Statute.
- (15) The cancellation  
of the Regional  
Rural Develop-  
ment Associa-  
tions.
  - (1) The Rural Development director may cancel a registered Development association acting on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary.
  - (2) The Appeal against the cancellation of the Regional Rural Development societies shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Ministry in charge of the North Central Provincial Rural Development subject within 90 days since such cancellation.
- (16) The Regional associations shall implement the following matters for causing development of the Rural Development societies. The functions of  
the Regional  
Associations.
  - (1) Making arrangements for maintaining the rural Development societies actively and Instructing, guiding, organizing the training sector for running up the Rural Development Societies.
  - (2) Raising funds of the Rural Development Societies/ Women's Rural Development Societies, and take necessary action for it's progress.
  - (3) Implementation of a integrated plan in the Divisional Secretary's Division.
  - (4) The distribution of Physical and financial resources being received from the Governmental and Non-governmental agencies resulting from the relationship with them in conformity of the requirements on reasonable basis.
  - (5) Causing inter Rural Development Societies relationship building up them and keeping them up.
  - (6) Coordination between District and Provincial Associations.
  - (7) Assisting for the maintenance of Women's Development welfare Centers.
- (17) The Establish-  
ment of District  
Associations.
  - (1) District Rural Development Association could be setup on the basis of one such Association for one District.

- (2) The District Associations already in operation shall come under this Statute since the date of enforcement of this Statute.
- The Registration of District Associations.
- (18) The District Associations shall be registered by the Provincial Rural Development Director.
- The cancellation of Registration of Associations.
- (19)
- (1) The Provincial Rural Development Director after an inquiry conducted by him on the recommendation of Officers-in-charge of the subject cancel the registration of District Rural Development Association.
- (2) The Appeals against cancellation of a Rural Development Association shall be submitted to the Secretary to the Provincial Ministry in - charge of the North Central Province Rural Development subject within 90 days since the date of Cancellation of Registration.
- The Functions of the District Associations.
- (20)(1) The objective of the District Rural Development Association shall be act as follows for the achievement of its aims.
- (a) Instructing for the operation of the registered Rural Development Association guiding, organizing the appropriate course of action, and causing them to perform actively.
- (b) Building up the funds of the regional associations and take relevant steps in connection with such acts.
- (c) Planning and implementation of a integrated district plan.
- (d) Take action distribute the loan facilities and grants being received as a result of the relations with the governmental and Non-governmental agencies, among the active regional societies without discriminations and intervening the process.
- (e) Causing inter-relations among regional societies building up and keeping up such trends.
- (f) Joining the Provincial Rural Development Association and to provision of both financial and physical resources required by the Regional Associations.
- (g) Intervention in solving the disputes taking place among District Associations.
- Establishment of Provincial Societies.
- (21) One Provincial Association for the North Central Province may be setup having amalgamated the two District Associations
- Registration of the Provincial Association.
- (22) The Provincial Director shall register Provincial Rural Development Association on the recommendation of the Subject Officers.
- Cancellation of Provincial Association.
- (23)
- (1) the registration of the Provincial Rural Development Association could be cancelled by the Provincial Director following an inquiry held by him on the recommendation of the subject-officers.
- (2) The Appeal against the cancellation of the Provincial Development Association shall be submitted to the secretary of the ministry in-charge of the subject of Rural Development within 90 days since the date of cancellation.
- (24)
- (1) Any Society or Association which is not agreeable the ministry Secretary's decision with regard to the cancellation of Rural Development Societies or Associations whatever may appeal again the subject Minister.

(2) The decision of the subject Minister over the issue shall be final.

(25)

(1) The objective of a Provincial Association shall be to act as follows for the achieving the goals.

The Functions of Rural Development Provincial Associations.

- (a) Guiding the two registered two district Associations of the province in its operation, organizing training programs and active maintenance.
- (b) Raising funds of the District Associations and maintenance.
- (c) Implementation of an integrated provincial plan.
- (d) Take action to distribute the loan facilities and grant being received evenly as a result of the relations with governmental and non governmental agencies among the active district. Societies without discrimination and intervening in the process.
- (e) Causing inter relations among the District Associations, building up and keeping up the trend.
- (f) Joining with the District Rural Development Associations and the provision of both and financial physical resources required by the regional associations.
- (g) Invention in solving the disputes arising among the District Associations.

### PART III RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

(26)

(1) Commissioning and the maintenance of "North Central Province Provincial Rural Development Fund" hereinafter called the 'Fund' for incurring the expenditure and providing aid in the task of achieving the objects and goals of this Statute where necessary and in the implementation of Rural Development programs.

The Accounts of the North Central Province Provincial Rural Development Fund.

(2) The particular Fund Account shall be conforming with the provisions of Part 3 of the Provincial Councils Act No. 42 of 1987.

(3) The following moneys could be credited to the particular Fund Account.

- (a) Moneys being granted by the government to the accounts intermittently.
- (b) Moneys being granted by the North Central Province Provincial Council from time to time as aid.
- (c) Financial donations by the governmental, non-governmental organizations by a person or a group of persons.
- (d) Physical resources being extended by governmental or non-governmental organizations or by a person or a group of persons.
- (e) foreign financial aid being granted through the Government or the Provincial Council;
- (f) Moneys being received by holding concerts, lotteries, or through other standard systems.
- (g) The donations being made for the Rural Development Fund;
- (h) monies standing as the balance following the settlement of liabilities of Rural Development Societies/District Associations/Regional Association /Provincial Associations which are either defunct or becoming defunct in the province.

- (i) moneys standing as the balance following the liquidation of the liabilities of Rural Development Societies / District Association/ Regional Association/ Provincial Associations which are either defunct or becoming defunct in the province.
- (j) Other moneys being credited with the approval of the rural development subject Minister.
- (k) in case that foreign or local institute or person coming forward to implement development programmes the moneys agreed upon through this Fund for the purpose at the discretion of the Rural Development subject Minister.

Administration  
of the Fund.

- (27) The Fund shall be governed by the regulation which might have been instituted by the North Central Provincial Council Minister of Rural Development.

#### PART IV

##### PROVISIONS RELATING TO BY-LAWS

By-laws of Rural  
Development  
Societies/  
Associations.

- (28)
- (1) The institution By-Laws relating to Rural Development Societies/ Regional Associations/District Associations/Provincial Association shall be in conformity with the regulations being made by the Provincial Subject Minister of Rural Development.
  - (2) The registered Rural Development Societies/Regional Associations/District Associations/ Provincial Association shall have their By-Laws passed.
  - (3) The Provincial Director of Rural Development has the option to give a decision on any conflict/problems arising with regarded to the interpretation of By-Law already passed. His conclusion shall be lawful, final and decisive.

Members are  
bound by By-  
Laws of Rural  
Development  
Societies/  
Associations.

- (29) Whereas the each and every member undertakes to agree with a bylaw passed they are bound to adhere to the provisions of the constitution that extent.

The Amend-  
ments of the By-  
Laws of Rural  
Development  
Societies/  
Associations.

- (30)
- (1) The Amendments to the By-Laws of Rural Development Societies or Regional Associations shall be effected on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary after the approval of the Divisional Director of Rural Development.
  - (2) The Amended regulations shall become effective following the approval of the Provincial Director.
  - (3) The Amendments to the By-Laws of the District Associations shall be manipulated by the Provincial Director.
  - (4) The Amendments to the Provincial Associations shall be effected by the Subject Minister's Secretary on the recommendations of the Provincial Director.

#### PART V

##### ACCOUNTS AND AUDITING

Financial year.

- (31) The financial year of the Rural Development Societies / Regional Associations/ District Associations/Provincial Association shall be the calendar year and shall subject to the provisions of the regulations being enforced under the North Central Province Provincial Statute.



(32)

(1) The transactions of the registered Rural Development Society/Regional Association/District Association/Provincial Association shall be maintained under a systematic accounts procedure and book keeping recording and maintenance shall be caused in terms of provisions of the regulations enforced under this Statute.

Accounting procedure of a registered Rural Development Society / Association.

(2) The accounts ledgers being maintained by the registered Rural Development Societies/Regional Associations / District Associations/ Provincial Association become a legal document after certified by the Provincial Director or officer authorized by him.

(33) The auditing aspects of the registered Rural Development Societies/Regional Associations/ District Associations/Provincial Association shall be in conformity of the provisions of the regulations of formed under this Statute.

Auditing.

#### PART VI

##### DISPUTES

(34)

(1) The Disputes among Rural Development Societies, between Rural Development Societies and Associations, Rural Development Societies and Board of controllers of Associations, Rural Development Societies and executive committees, of the Rural Development Associations, Disputes between members and the Executive Committees between Board of controllers and members, Disputes among members between Rural Development Societies/Associations, and members, Disputes among outside parties shall be referred to the Provincial Director.

The Disputes arising at the registered Rural Development Society/ Association.

(2) When referred to The Director as per above section one:

(a) He himself could decide to solve the dispute ; or

(b) May Appoint an Arbitrator or a Board of Arbitrator take suitable action.

(3) If no appeal has been made against judgment given by the Director or against a judgment given by of the Director in consequent to a judgment taken up or given by the Arbitrator or the panel of Arbitrators such judgment shall be the final decision, and questionable at a civil court of law.

#### PART VII

##### INSPECTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES

(35)

(1) No Civil or Criminal action be filed over the findings revealed by a report submitted by the director or any officer authorized by him to inquire, investigate in respect of the books and ledgers after an irregularity has been reported on the request of registered Societies or Associations or of the majority of the executive committee or by more than 1/3 of the membership present at a general meeting.

Inquiries, Inspections or Investigations.

(2) The holding of inquiries, inspections and investigations as per the above subsection one shall be in conformity with provisions being imposed under the Statute.

(36)

(1) Any officer or any Rural Development Society/Regional Association/ District Association/ Provincial Association or any member of its Board of controllers who or which evading rejecting, or neglecting to provide any information or to execute any act required for the purposes of the Statute as directed by the Secretary of the Subject Ministry/North Central Provincial Director of Rural Development or any other officer authorized for the transaction thereof shall be guilty of an offence under this Statute.

Penalties for non compliance with the Statute.

Execution of a decision or a judgment.

- (2) If either party is entitled for any sum of money or to be paid resulting from a decision given by the Director with regard to any matter or Dispute referred to in sections 33 and 34 in this statute or with regard to the appeal by the directors, Secretary of the ministry or the subject minister parties concerned shall either take action to recover such money or to settle such as the case may be and the parties who fail to comply with the order are called a defaulter.
- (3) The Director shall follow action to recover such money indicating the interest and other payments if any having submitted a certificate indicating the details of the such sum of money and the defaulter
- (4) In case that the defaulter has evaded such order made by the Divisional Secretary a certificate indicating the names of the defaulters the payment being defaulted along with its interest, the address of the defaulter and the details of the movable and immovable properties and assets of the defaulter may be submitted to the District Court located in the area where such property exciting by the Director or a person authorized by the Director.
- (5) Also a descriptive report containing the information about the business places owned by the defaulter if any, carrying details such as moneys and interest due from him, the address and residing places of the defaulter etc may be referred to a Magistrate in a judicial division in which the business is located.
- (6) The District Court upon the certificate as per above Section (3) may issue a writ of execution authorising the fiscal to sell any movable or immovable property or part of it. Belonging it the defaulters to enable to settle the outstanding dues to be recovered from the defaulters. Such seizure of the property and the encashment of same shall comply to the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code from section 226 to 297.
- (7) A Magistrate upon the certificate submitted in terms of above Section (5) may summon the particular defaulter to showcause why further action shall not be taken against for him for defaulting the settlement of dues. Whereas the defaulter fails to show satisfactory cause in concetion with the issue such money will be treated as a fine imposed on him for an offence punishable only by imposing a fine. In the circumstances the Magistrate may make such order in terms of the subsection one of the Section 312 of the Criminal Procedure Code minus paragraphs (a) and (b) also the defaulting in the payment of fine imposed on the defaulter. In terms of Section 291 of the Criminal Procedure Code 15 of 1979 constituting a sentence of imprisonment.
- (8) The Provincial Director shall cause the notice in terms of the relevant section to handover to the defaulter either by registered post or by hand or by a telegram. The criteria under the particular section does not become invalid on the grounds of Non-receipt of such notice.
- (9) The particular Section shall be given any empowerment to a Magistrate or a District Judge neither not authorized to scrutinize, to examine or to decide upon the accuracy of any declaration vouched by the Provincial Director,
- (10) The Judiciary is expected to remit the moneys raised by levying or by sale of property to the provincial Director, The Director is empowered to reach appropriate decisions with regard to such remittances.

#### PART VIII REGULATIONS

Regulations.

(37)

- (1) The all regulations required thereon for the empowerment and the implementation of the policies and provisions of this statute shall be imposed by the subject Minister.

- (2) The Regulations shall cause to activate the following requirement without any prejudice to the generality of the powers being vested in terms of the above Section one.
- (a) Prescription of the conditions and procedures to be adopted in the regulations of the societies,
  - (b) Prescription of the conditions relevant to the appointment of the Board of Administration.
  - (c) Provision for accountability of the Board of Administration,
  - (d) The Provision for the Structuring of Fund,
  - (e) Provision for the constitutions of societies,
  - (f) Provision for the cancellation of registrations,
  - (g) Provision for the investment of funds,
  - (h) Provision for the keeping of accounts,
  - (i) Provision for the auditing,
  - (j) provision for the Rural Development fund,
  - (k) Provision for the settlement of disputes,
  - (l) Provision for the acquisition of Properties,
  - (m) Provision for the appeals.
- (3) All regulations being imposed by the subject Minister shall be published in the *Gazette* and such regulations shall become operative with effect from the such date of publication or from a date later specified in the gazette notification.
- (4) Each and Every regulation after the publication in the *gazette* as soon as it is convenient shall be forwarded to the Provincial Council for sanction. Any such regulation not approved shall be considered as rescinded with effect from the date of disapproval but without causing any prejudice to any thing committed earlier, Also the date considered as the date of disapproval of the regulation instituted by the minister shall appear in the *gazette*.
- (5) The Minister may either cancel or amend any regulation legislated under the section one appearing above. Every notice of such cancellation or the amendment shall have been published in the gazette as early as possible required to be submitted to the Provincial Council for sanction. Any rescission or an amendment not being sanctioned by the Provincial Council and if the Provincial Council does not approve same such rescission or the amendment will remain effective of to that date without causing any prejudice anything done earlier.

PART IX  
INTERPRETATIONS

- (38) Unless another meaning is sought with regard to the words in this statute.

"member"" means each member in the case of a Rural Development Society in case of Regional Associations the Rural Development Societies in case of District Associations the Regional Associations and in the case of a provincial Association the District Associations,

Interpretations.

"Rural Development Society" means Women's Rural Development Societies and Rural Development Societies ;

"Regional Associations" means the registered Rural Development Regional Associations on the basis of one such Association for Divisional Secretary's Division.

"District Associations" means the registered Rural Development Societies one each for Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts.

"The Provincial Association" means the registered North Central Provincial Rural Development Society.

"The Minister" means the Minister in- charge of the Rural Development subject at the provincial council North Central Province.

"The Secretary" means the Secretary of the Ministry in- charge of the Rural Development subject in the North Central Provincial council.

"The Director" means the Provincial Director of the North Central Province Provincial Rural Development Department.

"The District Officer" means the District officers in the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts in the Rural Development Department of the North Central Province Provincial Council.

"The Officer" means Rural Development Officers and Female Dressmaking Instructors and other categories.

"Board of Administrators" means the Executive Committee of Rural Development Societies and Associations.

"Board of Trustees" means the Secretary Treasurer (Finance Manager) and the President of the registered Rural Development Societies and Associations.

"The Constitution" means the approved constitutions of Rural Development Societies and Associations established under the regulations instituted under this Statute.

"The Fund" means the Rural Development Fund Commissioned in terms of the regulations under this Statute.

"The Regulations" means the regulations instituted under the provisions of this Statute.

In case of any discrepancy the Sinhala text is valid.

Prevail.

(39) In the event of any discrepancy with regard to the words of this Statute the Sinhala text shall