# THE GAZETTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Part II of November 14, 2025

# SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 20.11.2025)



# POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT)

A

# BILL

to amend the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218)

Ordered to be published by the Minister of Justice and National Integration

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### STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

- Clause 2: This clause inserts new section 54<sub>AA</sub> in the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter referred to as the "principal enactment") and the legal effect of this section is to make new provisions prohibiting the manufacture, possession or trafficking of dangerous drugs on high seas, by any person, whether he is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not.
- Clause 3: This clause amends section  $54_B$  of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 4: This clause amends section 78 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 5: This clause amends section 83 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 6: This clause amends section 84 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 7: This clause amends section 85 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 8: This clause amends section 86 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.
- Clause 9: This clause amends section 87 of the principal enactment and is consequential to the insertion of new section made by clause 2.

# Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment)

## L.D. - O 39/2024

# AN ACT TO AMEND THE POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218)

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

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Poisons, Opium and Short title Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. of 2025.
- 5 2. The following new section is hereby inserted Insertion of immediately after section 54A of the Poisons, Opium and new section Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter Chapter 218 referred to as the "principal enactment") and shall have effect as section 54AA of that Ordinance:-

10 "Prohibition against manufacturing, possession or trafficking of dangerous drugs on high seas.

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**54AA.** (1) Any person who, whether he is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not .-

54AA in

- (a) on the high seas, while on board a ship registered in Sri Lanka or in a State other than Sri Lanka or a stateless ship; and
- except as permitted by, (b) otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter or a licence of the Director,

manufactures, possesses or trafficks any 2.0 dangerous drug set out in Part III of the Third Schedule, in excess of the amount set out in Column II of Part III of the said Schedule, shall PL 15504 - 460 (11/2025)

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be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction by the High Court, be liable to the penalty set out in the corresponding entry in Column III of Part III of the said Schedule.

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(2) Any stateless ship engaged in the commission of an offence referred to in subsection (1) shall be subject to forfeiture and the provisions of section 79 shall mutatis mutandis apply in relation to such ship.

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(3) For the purposes of this section-

"high seas" shall have the meaning assigned to it under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

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"manufacture" shall have the same meaning as in subsection (3) of section 54A;

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"stateless ship" means any vessel that is not registered under the laws of any State or does not possess a flag;

"traffick" shall have the same meaning as in subsection (3) of section 54A.".

3. Section 54B of the principal enactment is herby amended Amendment 25 by the substitution for the words and figures "section 54A,", of section 64A,", of the words and figures "sections 54A and 54AA,".

of section 54B principal enactment

4. Section 78 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended in subsection (5) of that section by the substitution of section 78 for the words and figures "other than a person guilty of an offence under section 54A,", of the words and figures "other enactment 5 than a person guilty of an offence under sections 54A and 54AA,".

of the principal

5. Section 83 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended as follows:-

of section 83 of the principal

- in subsection (1) of that section by the enactment 10 substitution for the words and figures "sections 54A and 54B", of the words and figures "sections 54A, 54AA and 54B";
  - (2) in subsection (2) of that section by the substitution for the words and "subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B", of the words and figures "subsection (1) of sections 54A, subsection (1) of section 54AA and section 54B"; and

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- in the marginal note to that section by the (3) 20 substitution for the words and figures "sections 54A and 54B", of the words "sections 54A, 54AA and 54B".
- 6. Section 84 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended by the substitution for the words and figures of section 84 25 "subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B", of the words principal and figures "subsection (1) of section 54A, subsection (1) of enactment section 54AA and section 54B".

7. Section 85 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended by the substitution for the words and figures of section 85 30 "subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B", of the words of the and figures "subsection (1) of section 54A, subsection (1) of enactment section 54AA and section 54B".

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8. Section 86 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended as follows:-

of section 86 of the principal enactment

- in subsection (1) of that section by the (1) substitution for the words and figures "section 54 or paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A", of the words and figures "section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A or subsection (1) of section 54AA"; and
- 10 in subsection (3) of that section by the (2) substitution for the words and figures "section 54 or subsection (1) of section 54A,", of the words and figures "section 54, subsection (1) of section 54A or subsection (1) of section 54AA,".
- 15 9. Section 87 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended by the substitution for the words and figures of section 87 "section 52, section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of principal subsection (1) of section 54A and section 54B", of the words enactment and figures "section 52, section 54, paragraphs (b), (c) and 20 (d) of subsection (1) of section 54A, subsection (1) of section

54AA and section 54B".

10. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala Sinhala text and Tamil texts of this Act the Sinhala text shall prevail.

to prevail in case of inconsistency

