

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

Part II of October 29, 2004

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 01. 11. 2004)



**NINETEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION**

(Private Member's Bill)

A

BILL

**to amend the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka ;
to provide for declaration of Buddhism as the official religion of the Republic ;
to provide for binding the persons practicing Buddhism to bring up their off-
spring in the same ; to provide for prohibiting conversion of Buddhist ; to
provide for establishing a council to advise the President on such matters ;
and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.**

To be presented in Parliament by Ven. Ellawala Medhanandu Thero, M. P.

PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA

TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 1

Price : Rs. 5.25

Postage : Rs. 5.00

Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA ; TO PROVIDE FOR DECLARATION OF BUDDHISM AS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE REPUBLIC ; TO PROVIDE FOR BINDING THE PERSONS PRACTICING BUDDHISM TO BRING UP THEIR OFF-SPRING IN THE SAME ; TO PROVIDE FOR PROHIBITING CONVERSION OF BUDDHIST ; TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT ON SUCH MATTERS ; AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

5 WHEREAS the Buddhist population which is the Preamble.
overwhelming majority must practise its religion in peace and harmony, and as the Buddha Sasana has faced the threat of decline and as it is the duty of the Parliament to restore the patronage and protection historically enjoyed by Buddha Sasana :

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

10 1. This Act may be cited as the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Short title.

2. Chapter II of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as the "Constitution") is hereby repealed and the following chapter is substituted therefor :— Replacement of Chapter II of the Constitution.

15 "CHAPTER II
BUDDHA SASANA"

9. Buddha Sasana that is—

20 Thathagathayan Vahanse, Nawalokoththara Dhamma, Paryapthi Dharma, Maha Sanga, Temples with its artifacts, Aranya Senasana, Meditation centres, Bodhi Vruksha, Sthupa, Statues, Relic mandapa, Dhamma text and libraries, Upaosthagara, property belonging to temples, Buddhist education and Education Centres, Devala, Sil Mathawan and Upasikarama, people who have received the blessings
25 of Theruwan Sarana Buddhist litreture, Buddhist culture and Buddhist festivals, Buddhist civilisation, Perahera and rituals, Buddhist principles and Achara Dharma, their constituent parts and those needed for its sustenance, Sasanika special words belonging to Lanka Sasana history.

9.1 The Official Religion of the Republic is Buddhism. Other forms of religions and worship may be practised in peace and harmony with Buddha Sasana.

5 9.2 All inhabitants of the Republic shall have the right to free exercise of their worship. The exercise of worship shall not contravene public order or offend morals.

10 9.3. The State shall foster, protect, patronise, Buddha Sasana and promote good understanding and harmony among the followers of other forms of worship as well as encourage the application of religious principles to create virtue and develop quality of life.

9.4. The inhabitants of the Republic professing Buddhism are bound to bring up their children in the same.

15 9.5. To covert Buddhist into other forms of worship or to spread other forms of worship among the Buddhist is prohibited.

9.6. No person may be forced to join a religious community, to conduct a religious act or to participate in religious education.

20 9.7. The compositions and powers of Council that advises the President on implementation of this chapter shall be determined by law."

3. 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.