

# PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON

5th Session 1952



## Arts Council of Ceylon Act, No. 18 of 1952

*Date of Assent : March 24, 1952*

*Printed on the Orders of Government  
and published as a Supplement to Ceylon Government  
Gazette Part II of March 28, 1952*

Printed at the CEYLON GOVT. PRESS, COLOMBO. To be  
purchased at the GOVT. PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO  
Annual Subscription (including Bills) Rs. 25, payable in  
advance to the SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS  
BUREAU, POST OFFICE BOX 500, Secretariat, Colombo 1

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND  
REGULATION OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

[Date of Assent: March 24, 1952.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Ceylon in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Arts Council of Ceylon Act, No. 18 of 1952.

Short title.

*Establishment and Powers of the Council and  
Capital.*

2. (1) An institution to be called the Arts Council of Ceylon (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") is hereby established.

Establishment and general objects of the Council

(2) The general objects for which the Council is constituted are hereby declared to be—

- (a) to develop a greater knowledge, understanding and practice of the fine arts;
- (b) to increase the accessibility of works of art to the public in Ceylon;
- (c) to improve the standards of execution in the fine arts;
- (d) to preserve, promote and encourage the development of such arts and crafts as are indigenous to Ceylon; and
- (e) to advise, and co-operate with, Government departments, local authorities and other bodies on any matter concerned directly or indirectly with the aforesaid objects.

3. The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its name.

Council to be a body corporate.

4. As soon as convenient after the date on which this Act comes into operation, the Government shall make an initial contribution of two hundred and fifty thousand rupees for the purpose of defraying the preliminary expenses of the Council under this Act and of providing the working capital of the Council.

Contribution to the Council by Government

5. The Council shall have power to acquire in any manner whatsoever any property movable or immovable, and to hold and enjoy the property so acquired.

Power to acquire and hold property

**10.** (1) A meeting of the Council shall be held once at least in every three months.

Meetings of  
the Council.

(2) The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, of the Council, shall preside at every meeting of the Council, and may, with the consent of the majority of the members present at any such meeting, whether or not there is a quorum, adjourn such meeting from time to time and from place to place.

(3) The President of the Council may of his own motion cause a meeting of the Council to be summoned at any time, and shall do so upon a request in writing made in that behalf by the Executive Committee or of any five or more members of the Council.

(4) Any question arising at any meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of the members present, and in the case of an equality of votes, the President or in his absence, the Vice-President of the Council shall have a second or casting vote.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Council unless there be present in person at least seven members of the Council.

(6) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the Council may make rules relating to the procedure to be followed at its meetings and to the conduct of its functions and activities.

*Executive Committee of the Council.*

**11.** (1) The Council shall appoint from amongst its members an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President and not more than three other members.

The Executive  
Committee of  
the Council.

(2) A member of the Executive Committee shall vacate his office as such—

(a) if his membership is terminated by order of the Council; or

(b) if for any other reason he ceases to be a member thereof.

(3) The Executive Committee shall exercise all the powers of the Council except such as the Council may specifically reserve to itself.

(4) A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once in every month and any such meeting may with the consent of the members present, whether there is a quorum or not, be adjourned from time to time and from place to place.

(5) The Executive Committee shall be presided over by the President, or in his absence the Vice-President of the Council, or if neither the President nor the Vice-President is present, by some other member chosen to preside by the other members present at the meeting.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this section no business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Executive Committee unless there be present in person at least three members.

(7) Where the President at any meeting of the Executive Committee is of the opinion that any matter before such Committee—

- (a) is of exceptional novelty or importance or is likely to lead to considerable expense, or
- (b) gives rise, or is likely to give rise, to a serious difference of opinion among the members of such Committee, or
- (c) gives rise, or is likely to give rise, to criticism or opposition on the part of a responsible section of public opinion,

he shall refer such matter to the Council with a view to obtaining further instructions thereon.

(8) Subject to the provisions of this section, rules may be made by the Council relating to the procedure to be followed at meetings of the Executive Committee.

#### *Appointment of Panels.*

Appointment  
of panels.

12. (1) The five members of the Council appointed under paragraph (a) of section 7 may appoint panels, each consisting of such persons as the Council may think fit, for the purpose of advising and assisting the Council on the general advancement of each of the following activities:—

- (a) Dancing—Oriental and Western
- (b) Kandyan Dancing
- (c) Painting and Sculpture
- (d) Oriental Music
- (e) Western Music
- (f) Sinhalese Drama
- (g) Tamil Drama
- (h) Western Drama
- (i) Handicrafts
- (j) Any such other activity in respect of which a panel is considered necessary.

(2) A member of the Council appointed under paragraph (a) of section 7 shall be eligible for appointment to any panel constituted under this section.

(3) The members of the Council appointed under paragraph (a) of section 7 shall appoint a member of each panel constituted under this section as Chairman of that panel.

(4) The Council shall have the power to revoke the appointment of any panel appointed under the preceding sub-sections or of any member thereof.

*Staff of the Council.*

13. (1) The Council may, subject to the approval of the Minister and the Minister of Education, appoint a General Secretary who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

Appointment  
of officers  
and  
servants.

(2) The Council may appoint such other officers and such servants as the Council considers necessary for carrying out its objects.

(3) The remuneration and conditions of service of the officers and servants of the Council shall be such as may be determined by the Council with the approval of the Minister.

*Finance, Accounts, Minutes.*

14. The sum paid to the Council under section 4 and all the money received by the Council by way of income, grant, gift or otherwise shall be credited to the funds of the Council, and there shall be paid out of such funds all expenses incurred by the Council in carrying out its objects and all expenses incurred by the Council under the authority of this Act.

Funds of the  
Council.

15. (1) The Council shall cause its accounts for each financial year to be kept in such form and manner as may be approved by the Minister.

Accounts of  
the Council.

(2) The Council shall cause its accounts to be audited each year in such manner as may be approved by the Minister.

(3) The financial year of the Council shall be the year commencing January 1.

16. The Council and its Executive Committee shall cause minutes to be made in books provided for the purpose of the following matters, namely—

Minutes of the  
Council, &c.

(a) of all appointments of officers or servants made by the Council or the Executive Committee,

- (b) of the names of members and other persons present at every meeting of the Council or the Executive Committee, and
- (c) of the proceedings and resolutions of every meeting of the Council or the Executive Committee.

Books to be kept at the head office.

**17.** The books of accounts and minutes of the Council and its Executive Committee shall be kept at the head office of the Council or at such other place as the Council may determine.

Annual report.

**18.** (1) As soon as may be after the end of each financial year the Council shall prepare a report giving a true and faithful account of its activities, and of its income and expenditure, during that year.

(2) The President of the Council shall transmit to the Minister a copy of the report prepared under sub-section (1) in respect of each financial year, not later than the thirty-first day of March in the next succeeding year.

#### *General Provisions.*

Acts of the Council, Executive Committee, or panels valid notwithstanding subsequent discovery of vacancy disqualification, &c.

**19.** All acts done at any meeting of the Council or its Executive Committee or any panel appointed by the Council shall, notwithstanding that it shall afterwards be discovered that there was any vacancy in its membership thereof or that there was some defect in the appointment of any member thereof or that any such member was disqualified or that there was a failure to give notice of such meeting to any member thereof, be as valid as if there had been no such vacancy or as if such member had been duly appointed or duly qualified or as if there had been no such failure to give notice.

Seal of the Council.

**20.** (1) Any instrument which is by law required to be made under seal, shall be made under the seal of the Council.

(2) The seal of the Council shall not be affixed to any instrument whatsoever referred to in sub-section (1) except in the presence of one member of the Council and the General Secretary or such other person as may be authorised by the Council for the purpose, each of whom shall sign his name to the instrument in token of his presence and such signing shall be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.

Instruments not requiring seal of Council.

**21.** All instruments which are not required to be under seal shall be signed by such person or persons as may be authorised by rules made by the Council in that behalf.

**22.** (1) Subject to such special directions as may be given in that behalf by the Minister, the Council may pay to any of its members or to any member of the Executive Committee or any panel constituted under section 12 any expenses actually incurred by such member for the purposes of the performance of his duties as a member.

Remuneration,  
&c. of  
members.

(2) Save as provided in sub-section (1), no member of the Council or the Executive Committee or any panel constituted under section 12 shall be entitled to any remuneration or allowance for work done by him as a member.

**23.** No rule made by the Council under the provisions of this Act shall be of any force or effect unless it has been approved by the Minister and published in the *Gazette*.

Rules of the  
Council.