PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT)

A

BILL

to amend the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262)

Presented by the Prime Minister on 12th January, 2016

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An Act to amend the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262)

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Local Authorities _{Short title}. Elections (Amendment) Act, No. of 2015.

- 5 2. The following new section is hereby inserted Insertion of immediately after section 27E of the Local Authorities Previous 27F in Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262) (hereinafter referred to as (Chapter the "principal enactment") and shall have effect as section 262).
 27F of that enactment:—
- "Increasing the total number of members of each local authority as determined by the Minister by Order made under subsection (1) of section 5 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance (Chapter 252), under subsection (1) of section 5 of the Urban Councils Ordinance (Chapter 255) or under subsection (1) of section 4 of the Pradeshiya Sabhas Act, No. 15 of 1987 shall be further increased by one fourth of such total number of members :
- 20 Provided that, where the number constituting a fourth of the total of the number of members is an integer and fraction, the integer shall be deemed to be the number which shall constitute a fourth of the total number of such members.

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(2) The number so increased under subsection (1), as determined by the Minister by Order made under section 3c of this Ordinance shall form the list of women candidates to be submitted by each recognized political party or any group of persons (hereinafter referred to as the "independent group") contesting at the elections.

(3) The number so increased under
subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* by Order made by the Minister.".

3. Section 28 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment of section 28 amended as follows:—

of section 28 of the principal enactment.

(1) in subsection (2) of that section, by the substitution enactment. for the words commencing from "Any recognized political party" and ending with the words "setting out the names:-", of the following:-

"Any recognized political party or any independent group shall, for the purpose of election as members of any local authority and for the returning of women members of such local authority, submit two nomination papers containing the lists of candidates in respect of all wards of such local authority. One of the two nomination papers submitted by each recognized political party or independent group in respect of all wards of any local authority shall consist of a list of names of candidates for the purpose of election as members of such local authority, substantially in the Form set out in the First Schedule, setting out the names:-";

(2) by the renumbering of subsections (2A), (2B) and (2C) of that section, respectively as (2C), (2D) and (2E) of that section;

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(3) by the insertion of the following new subsection (2A) immediately after the proviso to subsection (2) of that section:-

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"(2A) The other nomination paper in respect of all wards of any local authority referred to in subsection (2) of this section shall consist of a list of names of such number of women candidates ranked in order of priority.";

(4) by numbering the paragraph following the proviso to subsection (2) as (2B) of that section.

4. The following new section is hereby inserted Insertion of immediately after section 65A of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 65AA of that enactment:

new section 65AA in the principal enactment.

"Declartion 65AA. In the apportionment, in accordance of women 15 with the order of priority ranking, of the number members to be returned. of women members to be returned from all the wards of such local authority area among the recognized politital parties and independent groups, the Commissioner of Elections shall 20 take into consideration the number of valid votes polled by each recognized political party and independent group in all the wards of such local authority area, and the method set out in Article 99A of the Constitution of the 25 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka shall, mutatis mutandis, apply thereto.".

5. Section 66 of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment amended in subsection (1) thereof by the substitution for paragraph (a) of that subsection, of the following:-

- section 66 of the principal enactment.
- 30 "(*a*) publish a notice specifying the names of all the candidates elected or returned, and of the women candidates referred to in subsection (2A) of section 28 returned, as members of the local authority; and".

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6. Section 66A of the principal enactment is hereby Amendment of section 66A of the principal enactment. (a) in paragraph (b), by the substitution for the words "Ordinance to fill such vacancy." of the words "Ordinance to fill such vacancy; or"; and 5 (b) by the addition of the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (b) of that subsection :---"(c) who is returned as a woman member under the provisions of section 65AA of this Ordinance, 10 nominate within thirty days of the occurrence of the vacancy, the woman candidate whose name appears next on the priority ranking of the list of women candidates of the respective 15 recognized political party or independent group, as the case may be."

7. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala Sinhala text and the Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. to prevail in case of

inconsistency.

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