

L.D-O

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BROADCASTING REGULATORY COMMISSION TO REGULATE THE BROADCASTING SERVICERS; AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

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

Short Title and date of operation

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the broadcasting regulatory commission Act, No. of 2023.

(2) The Provisions of this Act other than this section shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may appoint, by Order published in the *Gazette*. (hereinafter referred to as “the appointed date”).

(3) The provisions of this section shall come into operation on the date on which this Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.

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PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BROADCASTING REGULATORY COMMISSION

Establishment of the broadcasting regulatory commission

2. (1) There shall be established a Commission, which shall be called as the “broadcasting regulatory commission” (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) The Commission shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1), be a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in that name.

Constitution of
the Commission

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 6 of this Act, the Commission shall consist of –

(a) **The following *ex-officio* members, namely –**

(i) **The secretary to the Ministry of the Minister; and**

(ii) **Director-General of telecommunication appointed under the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act No. 25 of 199; and**

(b) **three** other members of whom shall possess a degree in law, science, business management, technology, communication, engineering, public administration or mass media from a recognized University, appointed by the President with the approval of the Constitutional Council (hereinafter referred to as the “appointed members”

Chairperson of
the Commission

4. (1) The **President** shall appoint one of the members of the Commission to be the Chairperson of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Chairperson”).

(2) The term of the office of the Chairperson shall be five years.

(3) The Chairperson may resign from office of Chairperson by letter in that behalf addressed to the **President** and the resignation shall take effect from the date on which it is accepted, in writing by the **president**.

(4) The Chairperson shall cease to be the Chairperson of the Commission if such person is removed from the office of member of the Commission under section 9.

objectives of
the
commission

5. The objectives of the Commission shall be to-

(a) ensure that broadcasting services shall provide people true and accurate information as guaranteed by the Constitution;

(b) ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression including publication in respect of broadcasting services as guaranteed by Article 14(a) of the Constitution;

(c) issue annual licenses for broadcasting services in a transparent and impartial manner;

- (d) regulate electronic broadcasting services or such entities;
- (e) take steps to prevent the abuse of power conferred to a licensee of a broadcasting service;
- (f) ensure the quality of education, knowledge and media literacy in broadcasting programmes.
- (g) Ensure to provide broadcasting services while respecting the pluralism of the society;
- (h) issue guidelines in respect of broadcasting to enhance the spiritual development and mental health of the people while safeguarding the social and cultural values and entertainment of the people;
- (i) formulate policies for audio visual media in a manner to help foster literature, art and culture in order to bring them to a higher standard;
- (j) ensure to protect the rights of the persons with special needs, women and minors in the course of broadcasting programmes;
- (k) ensure to carry on the broadcasting services without any detriment to national security, national economy and public order;
- (l) formulate codes of conduct to be followed by the broadcasting entities or persons in consultation with licensed broadcasters;

Powers, duties
and functions of
the Commission

6. The powers, duties and functions of the Commission shall be to -

- (a) issue and renew license for broadcasting service providers;
- (b) determine the pre conditions to be fulfilled by an applicant to obtain a license for broadcasting;

- (c) determine the procedure to be followed by an applicant in order to obtain a license for broadcasting;
- (d) receive complains and conduct investigations in respect of violation of conditions specified in the license;
- (e) determine the number of licenses that could be obtain by a person or a broadcasting entity for the purpose of providing a broadcasting service;**
- (f) determine the types of licenses that can be issued for a broadcasting service provider;
- (g) monitor and regulate the electronic broadcasting servicers;
- (h) suspend or cancel of any license issued for a broadcasting service with reasons;
- (i) determine the fees to be charged on issuing a license and on renewal of a such license;
- (j) make rules in order to accomplish the objectives of this Act;
- (k) formulate codes of practice applicable to the respective types of licenses;
- (l) request any person or an entity to furnish the Commission any information which are required by the Commission in order to carry on its functions;
- ;
- (m) to purchase any movable or immovable property which may be required for the Commission, hold, take or give on lease or hire, mortgage, pledge or sell or otherwise dispose of any movable or immovable property belonging to the Commission as may be deemed expedient with a view to promote the objects of the Commission;
- (n) subject to any applicable written law, to accept and receive gifts, grants, loans, donations and bequests both movable and immovable from sources in or outside Sri Lanka for the use of the Commission;

Provided that, the Commission shall obtain prior approval of the Ministry of Finance in respect of all foreign grants, donations or bequests made to the Commission

(k) to advise the Minister regarding plans, programs and activities in order to regulate the broadcasting entities or persons.

(l) to do all such other acts or things which in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or expedient for carrying out of the objects and function of the Commission.

Disqualifications
for being a
member of the
Commission

7. Any person shall be disqualified from being appointed, or continuing as a member of the Commission if such person—

(a) is not or ceases to be a citizen of Sri Lanka;

(b) is or has been a within five years prior to his or her nomination for appointment, a member of Parliament or a Provincial Council or any Local Authority;

(c) holds office in any recognized political party;

(d) is a person who holds office in judiciary;

(e) has been convicted of a criminal offence imposed by any court in Sri Lanka or any other country;

(f) has any financial or other interest as is likely to affect the discharge of the functions of such person as a member of the Commission;

(g) is or has been an undischarged bankrupt; or

(h) is found or declared to be found unsound mind under any law in force in Sri Lanka or in any other country;

(i) is a connected person, has any financial or other interest amounting to conflict of interest directly or indirectly, in any company or an

institution which a license has been issued under this Act or under the telecommunication Act No. 25 of 1991.

Term of office of the members of the Commission.

8. (1) Every member of the Commission shall, unless such member vacates office earlier by resignation, death or removal, hold office for a period of five years from the date of the appointment and shall not be re-appointed.

Term of office, Resignation and Removal of the members of the Commission.

9. (1). Any member of the Commission may at any time, resign from his office by letter in that effect, addressed to the minister and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which the resignation is accepted in writing by the **President**.

(2). The President after informing the Constitutional Council may, remove a member of the Commission from office if such member is –

- (a) physically or mentally ill health;
- (b) guilty of misbehavior;
- (c) unable to discharge the functions of the Commission; or
- (d) disqualified under section 6.

(3). Where a member of the Commission vacates office by death, resignation, or other cause, the **president** shall, **with the approval** of the Constitutional Council, appoint, having regard to the provisions of section 3 and 7, another suitable person in his or her place, and the person so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the member whom he or she succeed.

Quorum and meetings of the Commission

10. (1) The quorum for any meeting of the Commission shall be three members including the Chairperson.

(2) The Chairperson shall summon all the meetings of the Commission. Any member by writing a notice, request the chairperson to call a meeting of the Commission and the Chairperson shall not otherwise than for good reason refuse to do so.

(3) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Commission. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting of the Commission another member authorized by the chairperson shall preside of such meeting

(4) A meeting of the Commission may be held either –

(a) by the number of members who constitute a quorum being assembled at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or

(b) by means of audio-visual communication after giving prior notice to all members and by which a quorum can simultaneously see and hear each participating member for the duration of the meeting.

(4) All matters for decision at any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by the vote of the majority of members present and voting at such meeting. The decision supported by the votes of a majority of the members of the Commission on any matter, shall be deemed to be the decision of the Commission on that matter.

(5) All decisions of the Commission, shall be in writing and the seal of the Commission affixed thereto in accordance with paragraph (c) of section 12 of this Act.

(6) In case there is an equality of votes on any matter to be decided by the Commission, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Acts or proceedings of the Commission deemed not to be invalid by reason of any vacancy

11. Any act or proceeding of the Commission shall not be, or deemed to be, invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.

Seal of the Commission

12. (1) The seal of the Commission –

(a) shall be in the custody of such person as the Commission may decide from time to time;

(b) shall be determined by the Commission and may be altered in such manner as may be determined by the Commission;

(c) shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the Commission and in the presence of two members of the Commission who shall sign the instrument or document in token of their presence.

(2) The Council shall maintain a register of the instruments and documents to which the seal of the Commission has been affixed.

PART II

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

Director-General
of the
Commission

13. (1) The Minister shall on the recommendation of the Commission, withing two months from the appointment of its members, appoint a person possessing a degree in science, business management, law, engineering, accountancy, administration or mass media from a recognized University, with **at least fifteen years' experience in the field of Management** to be the Director-General of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as the ("Director-General")) who shall be the Director-General of the Commission.

(2) The Director-General shall, subject to the general or special direction and control of the Commission be charged with the affairs and transactions of the Commission, the exercise, perform and discharge of its powers, functions and duties, and the administration and control of the officers and employees of the Commission.

(3) The Director-General may, with the written approval of the Commission, whenever he or she considers it necessary to do so, delegate to any staff officer of the Commission any power, duty or function conferred or imposed on, or assigned to the Director-General by this Act and such officer shall exercise, perform and discharge such power, function or duty subject to the general or special directions of the Director-General.

(4) The Director-General shall be responsible and answerable to the Commission in the exercise, performance and discharge of his powers, duties and functions assigned to him under subsection (2).

(5) Whenever the Director-General is by reason of illness or absence from Sri Lanka or for any other cause, unable to perform the duties of his office, the Commission may, appoint other person to act in his place, during such absence.

(6) The Director-General shall be entitled to be present and speak in any meeting of the Commission, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meeting.

(7) The Minister may on the recommendation of the Commission, for reasons assigned remove the Director-General appointed under subsection (1) from office.

Powers, duties and functions of the Director-General

14. The Director-General shall –

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- (a) be charged with the administration of the affairs of the Commission including the administration and control of the staff;
- (b) be responsible for the execution of all decisions of the Commission;
- (c) carry out all functions as may be assigned to him by the Commission;
- (d) may dismiss and exercise disciplinary control of service of the staff **with the approval of the Commission;** and
- (e) determine the terms and conditions of service of the staff.

Staff of the Commission and remuneration

15. (1) The Commission shall employ such number of officers and employees as is required for the efficient exercise and discharge of the powers and functions assigned to the Commission, including technical and skilled personnel, administrative and managerial personnel and such other persons as it may require.

(2) The Director-General and staff of the Commission shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates, and shall be subject to such conditions of service, as may be determined by the Commission

Appointment of officers in the public service to the staff of the commission

16. (1) At the request of the Commission, any officer in the public service may, with the consent of that officer and of the Public Service Commission be temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission for such period as may be determined by the Commission, or with like consent, be permanently appointed to such staff.

(2) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission the provisions of subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

(3) Where any officer in the public service is permanently appointed to the staff of the Commission the provisions of subsection (3) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

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PART III

REGISTRATION AND ISSUE OF LICENCES

registration of electronic broadcasting services

17. (1) Every person or an entity provides a broadcasting service shall register with the commission within a period of three months from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) The procedure to be followed in registration of a broadcasting service shall be as prescribed by regulations.

No person or an entity to operate a electronic broadcasting service without a license

18. (1) No person or an entity shall operate a broadcasting service in Sri Lanka except under the authority of a license issued by the Commission.

(2) Every person or any broadcasting entity which provides a broadcasting service shall obtain an annual license under this Act within three months from the date of operation of this Act.

Provided however, every license issued under the Rupavahini Corporation Act No. 6 of 1982 and the Broadcasting Corporation Act, No. 37 of 1966 in order to provide a broadcasting service shall remain valid for a period of six months from the date of commencement of this Act.

Provided further, that every license holder who possesses a license issued under the Rupavahini Corporation Act No. 6 of 1982 and the Broadcasting Corporation Act, No. 37 of 1966 shall apply to the Commission three months before the date of expiration of such license in order to obtain an annual license under this Act.

(3) The procedure to be followed in respect of issuing and renewal of a license under this Act and the conditions to be applied in that regard shall be as prescribed by regulations.

PART IV

COMMEETTEE TO INVESTIGATE ON COMPLAINTS

Committee to conduct investigations

19. (1) The Commission shall appoint an investigation committee (hereinafter referred to as the “committee”) consisting of three persons to investigate and make recommendations or directions to the Commission in respect of any matter specified in subsection (3).

(2) The committee shall be headed by the Director-General of the Commission and two other persons with experience in the field of Law or Mass media.

(3) The committee may conduct an investigation, upon its own initiative or upon request by any interested person on –

- (a) contravention of any provision of this Act or any by law made under the provisions of this Act;**
- (b) violation of any condition specified in a license issued under this Act;**
- (c) violation of any ethic specified in a code of ethic issued under this Act;**
- (d) any act which has created or has a possibility to create a monopolistic and unfair competition among the broadcasting license holders; or**
- (e) any matter in which a license holder of any broadcasting service is involve that may leads to a threat to the national security, national Economy or may create any conflict among races and religions.**

(4) The procedure to be followed and the requirements to be applicable in such investigation shall be as prescribed by regulations.

(5) For the purpose of an investigation under this section, the Committee –

- (a) may by notice in writing require any person or an entity to produce to the committee any specified document, specified written or oral information which the committee considers relates to any matter relevant to the investigation; and**
- (b) shall have the power to enter, inspect and search the premises where the broadcasting service is being carried out or any other premises relating to a complaint, during the working hours of the day with an entry warrant issued by a Magistrate and to take copies of or seize and detain any relevant records or documents of such broadcasting entity which may relevant for the complaint.**

(6) Prior to make any recommendation or an interim direction to the Commission, the committee shall–

(a) give written notice to any person likely to be affected by the proposed decision; and

(b) give such person an opportunity to make representation.

(7) where the committee has not completed the investigation and where there are reasons to show that there is a violation of any provision or any by-law made under the provisions of this Act or there is any threat to the national security or Economy or possibility to have a conflict among races or religions the committee may give an interim direction as it considers appropriate, considering it as a matter of urgency, in order to –

(a) protect the national security;

(b) prevent serious irreparable damage to a particular person or category of persons; or

(c) protect the public interest.

(8) Upon perusal of the recommendations or interim direction issued by the Committee the Commission may issue recommendations or directions to a broadcasting service provider or cancel, suspend or impose a fine upon cancellation or suspension a license issued under section 18 of this Act, if the Commission is satisfied that the holder of the license-

(a) has violated any of the provisions of this Act or any by law made thereunder;

(b) has not complied with any direction issued to such license holder under this Act;

(c) has furnished in any application or in any written information submitted by such licensed holder to the Commission or the Committee, any particulars to his knowledge are false or incorrect;

(d) has failed to comply with any of the conditions specified in the license issued under this Act; or

(e) has broadcasted anything that may create a threat to the national security or Economy or possibility to have a conflict among races or religions

Appeals

20. Any person or an entity that engages in broadcasting service aggrieved by a decision of the Commission to cancel a license, refusal to grant a license, renew a license or to impose a penalty, may appeal against such decision to the Court of Appeal within thirty days from the date on which such decision is communicated to such person or an entity in writing.

PART III

FUND OF THE COMMISSION

Fund of the
Commission

21. (1) The Commission shall have its own Fund.

(2) There shall be paid into the Fund of the Commission –

(a) all such sums of money as may be voted by Parliament from time to time for the use of the Commission;

(b) all such sums of money that may be received by the Commission in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions of the Institution under this Act; and

(c) all such sums of money received by the Commission by way of gifts, grants or donations and bequests from any source within or outside Sri Lanka subject to the provisions of the proviso to section 5(k);

(d) all such sums of money as are required or authorized to be paid into the Fund by any provision of this Act or any other law.

(3) There shall be paid out of the fund –

(a) all such sums as are required to defray any expenditure incurred by the Commission in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions under this Act or under any other law; and

(b) all such sums of money as are required to be paid out of the fund or under this Act.

Financial year
and audit of
accounts

22. (1) The Financial year of the Commission shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Commission shall cause proper books of accounts to be kept of the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and all other transactions of the Commission.

(3) For the purpose of presenting a true and fair view of financial performance and financial condition of the Commission, the Commission shall prepare the accounts in accordance with the Sri Lankan Accounting Standards adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka under the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Act, No. 15 of 1995.

(4) The provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution relating to the audit of the accounts of public corporations shall apply to and in respect of the audit of the accounts of the Authority.

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PART IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Evidence of
documents

23. A copy of any rule, order, award, direction or other document made by or in the custody of the Commission and certified by the Chairperson to be a true copy thereof shall, in any court, be evidence of the rule, order, award, direction or other document without proof of the signature of the Chairperson.

Commission to
invite experts to
meetings

24. (1) The Commission may invite experts on a relevant subject matter to any meeting of the Commission for the purpose of obtaining their views on such subject matter for the effective discharge of the functions of the Commission.

(2) The Commission shall have the absolute discretion of accepting or rejecting the views of the experts.

(3) The experts shall have no voting rights.

Remuneration for attending meetings of the Commission

25. The members of the Commission and the experts shall be paid the remuneration, out of the fund, such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance

Power of Minister to give general or special directions

26. (1) The Minister may issue from time to time to the Commission, general or special directions in writing.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Commission to comply and to ensure compliance by any operator with any general or special direction issued by the Minister under subsection (1).

Annual Reports

27. (1) The Commission shall within six months of the end of each financial year submit to the Minister an annual report on the activities carried out by the Commission. The following documents shall be attached to such report: -

- (a) the audited accounts of the Commission for the year along with the Auditor-General's report; and
- (b) a report of proposed activities for the year immediately following the year to which such report and accounts relate.

(2) The Minister shall within three months from the date of receipt of the annual report, table such report along with the documents specified in subsection (1) in Parliament for its consideration.

Declaration of Secrecy

28. The Members of the Commission and officers and employees of the Commission shall, before entering upon his duties, sign a declaration pledging himself to observe strict secrecy respecting all matters connected with the working of the Commission and shall by such declaration pledge himself not to disclose any matter which may come to his knowledge in the discharge of his functions, except –

(a) when required to do so by a court of law; or

(b) in order to comply with any of the provisions of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016.

Delegation of powers of the Commission

29. The Commission may, delegate in writing the exercise or discharge of any power, duty or function vested in or assigned to the Commission to the Director General or to any officer or employee of the Commission with the consent of such officer. The Commission may notwithstanding any such delegation exercise, perform or discharge any such power, duty or function, so delegated.

Members and the staff of the Commission deemed to be public servants

30. All members and the staff of the Commission shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning and for the purpose of the penal Code.

Commission deemed to be a scheduled institution within the meaning of the Bribery Act

31. The Commission shall be deemed to be a scheduled institution within the meaning of the Bribery Act (Chapter 52) and the provisions of that Act, shall be construed accordingly.

Protection from suit or prosecution and Reimbursement of expenses

32. (1) No suit or prosecution shall lie against –

(a) the Commission for any act which in good faith is done or omitted to be done, by the Commission under this Act; or

(b) any member, Secretary, Director-General, staff member of the Commission for any act which in good faith is done or omitted to be done, in the exercise performance or discharge of any power, duty or function imposed or conferred under this Act.

(2) Any expense incurred by the Commission in any suit or prosecution brought by or against the Commission before any court, shall be paid out of the fund of the Commission, and any costs paid to, or recovered by the Commission in any such suit or prosecution shall be credited to the fund of the Commission.

(2) Any expense incurred by any person in any suit or prosecution brought against him before any court in respect of any act which is done or is purported to be done by him under this Act or on the direction of the

Commission shall if the court holds that such act is done in good faith, be paid out of the fund of the Commission, unless such expense is recovered by him in such suit or prosecution.

offences and penalties

33. (1) Any person who –

- (a) fails to comply with any direction or recommendation issued to, or requirement impose on such person by the Commission under section 19 of this Act;**
- (b) resist or obstruct any person authorized in writing by the Commission in the exercise by such power conferred on him by this Act;**
- (c) omits or refuses to furnish any information, return or written explanation when required by the Commission;**
- (d) furnishes any information or written explanation to the Commission containing information which to his or her knowledge is false or incorrect,**

shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall on conviction after a summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding or to imprisonment of either description for a term not less thanand not exceeding or to both fine and such imprisonment.

(2) Where an offence under subsection (1) is committed by a body of persons, then –

- (a) if that body of persons is a body corporate, every person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a Director, General Manager, Secretary or other officer of that body; or
- (b) if the body of persons is a firm, every partner who at the time of commission of the offence of the firm,

shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence unless he proves that such offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

Regulations

34. (1) The Minister may make regulations with the concurrence of the Commission in respect of any matter which is required by this Act to be prescribed by regulations or subject to the provisions of this Act, any matter pertaining to the exercise, performance and discharge of the functions of the Commission.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred on subsection (1) the Minister may make regulations in respect of the following –

(a) determine the respective types of licenses to be issued by the Commission for broadcasting service providers;

(b) fees to be charged for issuing and renewal of a license under this Act;

(c) the requirements to be furnished by an applicant to apply for a license;

(d) the terms and conditions and the technical requirements to be fulfilled by a licensee; or

(e) conditions to be accomplished when transferring a license; and

(f) the financial capacity of a person in order to apply for a license under this Act

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified in the regulation.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval. Any such regulation that is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as

from the date of disapproval, but without prejudice to anything duly done thereunder.

(4) Notification of the date on which a regulation is deemed to be rescinded shall be published in the *Gazette*.

Rules

35. (1) It shall be lawful for the Commission from time to time, to make rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or any other written law, for all or any of the following matters: -

(a) any matter for which rules are authorized or required to be made under this Act;

(b) the procedure to be followed for the summoning and holding of meetings of the Commission, or notices and agenda of such meetings and the conduct of business thereat; and

(c) the appointment, promotion, remuneration, and disciplinary control of officers and employees of the staff of the Commission;

(2) Any rule made by the Commission may be amended, altered, added to or rescinded at a like meeting and in like manner, as a rule made under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The rules made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* within three months upon making of such rules and shall come into effect on the date thereof.

(4) Every rule made by the Commission within three months after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval. Any rule which is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(5) Notification of the date on which any such rule is deemed to be rescinded under subsection (4) shall be published in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation

36. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –

“broadcasting” includes

“broadcasting service provider” (both public and private)

“license” means

“licensee” means

“Minister” means the Minister appointed under Article 43 or Article 44 of the Constitution to whom the subject of Media is assigned

Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

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

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