

**FINANCE BUSINESS ACT NO.**

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**FINANCE BUSINESS ACT NO. ....**

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**FINANCE BUSINESS ACT NO. ....**

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF FINANCE COMPANIES  
AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR  
INCIDENTAL THERETO**

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Finance Business Act, No. .... Short title.

**PART I**

**LICENSING OF FINANCE COMPANIES**

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this Act, no person other than a company licensed under this Act shall carry on finance business. Carrying on finance business without authority and accepting deposits without authority to be an offence.
- (2) No person other than a person licensed to carry on finance business under this Act or a person exempted from the application of the provisions of this Act shall accept deposits.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsections (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

3. The provisions of this Act shall not apply in respect of any bank licensed under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988, and an institution exempted in terms of section 76A thereof save an except a finance company licensed under this Act, a co-operative society registered under a statute of a Provincial Council, and an institution exempted from the application of this Act by any written law for the time being in force. Non-application of provision of Act to certain institutions.

4. (1) An application for a licence shall be made in writing to the Board in the prescribed form, and shall contain a declaration by the applicant that the particulars stated in the application are, to the knowledge and belief of the applicant, true and accurate. Licensing of finance companies.

(2) A person shall not be eligible to be licensed under this Act unless such person is a company registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, not being a company limited by guarantee, a private company and an offshore company within the meaning of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

(3) Where an application is made to the Board for a licence under this Act, the Board may require the Director to make his recommendation in respect of the application and the Director may call for information as he may consider necessary and call for and examine or cause to be examined books, records and documents of whatever description, of the company applying for a licence and its holding company, any subsidiary company, any associate company or any subsidiary or associate company of its holding company or any other company that in the view of the Director, has a

substantial financial interest or a significant management interest in the company applying for a licence and shall make his recommendation to the Board.

(4) On consideration of an application made to the Board by a company for a licence under this Act, the recommendations of the Director under subsection (3) and such further investigations as the Board may consider necessary,

(a) if the Board is satisfied that-

- (i) the applicant has a core capital of not less than two hundred million rupees or such other higher amount as may be determined by the Board in terms of subsection (1) of section 15;
- (ii) the applicant has the ability to comply with the directions and rules applicable to finance companies; and
- (iii) on the information made available to the Board, the licensing of the applicant would not be detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors,

the Board may license the applicant as a finance company subject to such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit;

(b) if the Board is satisfied that the licensing of the applicant would not be detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors and that the applicant has the potential to fulfill the requirements at subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (a), the Board may approve the application in principle subject to such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit; or

(c) if the Board is satisfied that the licensing of the applicant would be detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors, the Board may reject the application and issue directions as it deems necessary.

(5) The Board may, at any time prior to issuing a licence to a company, cause such investigations as it may deem necessary to satisfy itself as to the suitability of the company and may require the applicant to satisfy the Board on any matter relevant to the suitability of the company and in particular-

- (a) the validity and acceptability of the documents and particulars submitted by the applicant;
- (b) the financial status and history of the company;
- (c) the academic and professional qualifications, experience, financial standing and suitability as may be determined by the Board of the Directors, Chief Executive Officer and such other officers of the company performing executive functions or the persons proposed to be appointed to such positions;
- (d) the adequacy of the capital of the company or based on the information furnished by the applicant the ability of the

company to raise adequate capital;

(e) the ability of the company to cover all obligations and liabilities incurred in the conduct of business and to comply with the provisions of this Act; and

(f) the applicant's compliance with the provisions of this Act or any directions given under this Act in relation to the application for a licence under this Act.

(6) The approval in principle under subsection (4) shall be valid for a period as may be determined by the Board. The Board may extend the period of validity in exceptional circumstances. Provided however, the period of validity of the approval in principle shall not exceed eighteen months from the date of approval in principle.

(7) A company in respect of which approval in principle has been granted shall not commence finance business before being issued with a licence under this Act. Any prospectus or notice issued or any advertisement or other publication made by such company shall not state the fact that it has been granted approval in principle under subsection (4) unless such disclosure is required under any written law.

(8) The Board may, withdraw approval in principle if any information contained in the application for a licence or any information submitted in connection therewith by the applicant is found to be false, incomplete or incorrect.

(9) The Board having considered the fulfillment of requirements imposed under the approval in principle by the applicant and information received after granting approval in principle and having satisfied that the licensing of the applicant would not be detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors may issue a licence to the applicant subject to such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit.

Provided however, that the approval in principle shall not bind the Board to license the applicant.

(10) Upon the issue of a licence to an applicant, the Board shall cause to be published in the *Gazette* and in at least one Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka, a notice informing the public of the issue of such licence to such finance company authorizing it to carry on finance business.

(11) Any person who submits information in an application for a licence or in any other document submitted in connection therewith or in the course of any inquiry or investigation conducted to ascertain the suitability of the company to be issued with a licence under this Act, which is false, incomplete or incorrect, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

5. (1) The Board shall keep and maintain in the prescribed form a register Register of

of finance companies licensed under this Act.

finance companies and publication of names of finance companies.

(2) The Board may from time to time cause to be published the names of finance companies licensed under this Act, in a manner and form as the Board deems fit and it may also include the supervisory rating of those companies.

**6.** (1) Every finance company shall exhibit its licence at all times in the principal office or place of business of such finance company and a copy of such licence at each of its branches.

Exhibiting the licence of finance company and licence fee.

(2) Every finance company licensed under this Act, shall pay an annual licence fee to the Board as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

**7.** (1) Where any finance company licensed under this Act has ceased to carry on finance business, a notice of such cessation shall be given to the Board forthwith upon such cessation by such company.

Duty of finance company to notify Board of cessation of finance business.

(2) On receipt of a notice of cessation under subsection (1), the Board may issue to such finance company directions for winding up or for divesting the finance business of the finance company or for the settlement in such manner as may be specified by the Board of the deposit liabilities of the finance company and such other directions incidental thereto.

(3) Where the Board has reasonable grounds to believe that any finance company licensed under this Act is not carrying on finance business, the Board may send to such company a notice by registered post requiring such company to furnish proof, within two weeks from the date of such notice, that it has not ceased to carry on finance business. After the expiration of two weeks from the date of such notice or in the event of the company furnishing proof after considering such proof, the Board may withdraw such notice, or may issue to such finance company directions for winding up or for divesting the finance business of the finance company or for the settlement in such manner as may be specified of the deposit liabilities of the finance company and such other directions incidental thereto.

(4) Where a finance company fails to comply with directions issued under subsections (2) or (3) within the period specified by the Board, which period may be extended by the Board in exceptional circumstances having considered the steps taken by the finance company to comply with such directions, the Board may require the Director to file action for winding up of the finance company and the provisions of section 30 shall apply thereto.

**8.** (1) A finance company shall have as part of its name, the word "finance", "financing", or "financial" or any of its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language. Any finance company which does not have in its name, the word "finance" "financing" or, "financial" or any of its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language in its name, shall forthwith take such steps as are necessary to change its name to include the word "finance", "financing" or, "financial" or any of its transliterations or

Use of the word "finance".

their equivalent in any other language in its name within six months from the date of commencement of operation of this Act.

(2) No person other than a finance company and an institution specified in subsection (6) shall, except with the prior written approval of the Board, use the word “finance”, "financing" or, "financial” alone or in combination with another word or any of its derivatives or its transliterations or their equivalent in any other language, as part of the name or the description or the business name of such person.

(3) Subject to subsections (1) and (6), any person who uses the word “finance”, "financing" or, "financial" or any of its derivatives or its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language as part of the name or the description or the business name of such person, unless it has obtained the written approval of the Board, shall change such name or such description or such business name by deleting the word “finance”, "financing" or, "financial" or any of its derivatives or its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language, from such name or such description or such business name within six months from the date of commencement of operation of this Act.

4) The Director may require the Registrar General of Companies, the Registrar of Voluntary Social Service Organizations, Registrars of Business Names of Sri Lanka and any other relevant authority to furnish information of the bodies corporate or unincorporate using the word “finance”, "financing" or, "financial" or any of its derivatives or its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language, in the name or the description or the business name of such bodies which are established or registered under such authority and such authority shall furnish the information as required by the Director.

(5) The Board may, in the public interest, where any person uses the word “finance”, “financing” or, “financial” or any of its derivatives or its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language as part of the name or the description or the business name of such person in contravention of the provisions of this section and notwithstanding that any action has been or is to be taken under the provisions of any other section of this Act in respect of such contravention, publicize by any means whatsoever:

- (a) in the case of an incorporate body of persons, the name, description and address of such incorporated body and the names and addresses of the directors of such incorporated body; and
- (b) in the case of an unincorporate body of persons, the name, description and address of such body and if the Board thinks fit the names and addresses of the members of such body; and
- (c) in the case of an individual the name and address of such individual and his description or business name or both his description and business name.

- (6) Nothing in this section shall apply to -
- (a) a company which is required by the Board to have as part of its name the word “finance”, “financing”, or “financial” or its transliterations, or their equivalent in any other language in its name;
  - (b) an association of finance companies formed for the protection of their interests;
  - (c) a Trade Union registered under the Trade Union Ordinance (Chapter 138), which is an association or combination of workers who are employees of a finance company;
  - (d) an institution in respect of which such usage is established or recognized by law or international agreement;and
  - (e) a body corporate which exclusively provides educational or consultancy services.

(7) The Board may introduce a logo or a sign to be used by every finance company.

**9.** (1) A company shall not be registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 with a name that contains as part of it, the abbreviated name or acronym of any finance company, without the prior written approval of the Director.

Restriction on use of abbreviated name or acronym of a finance company.

(2) No person other than the respective finance company shall use the name, abbreviated name or acronym of a finance company, in any of its advertisements promoting its business without the prior written approval of the Director.

## **PART II**

### **DIRECTIONS, RULES AND REQUIREMENTS ON FINANCE COMPANIES**

**10.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the Board may give directions to finance companies or to any group or category of finance companies regarding the manner in which any aspect of the business and corporate affairs of such finance companies are to be conducted and, in particular -

Directions of the Board.

- (a) the terms and conditions under which deposits may be accepted by such companies, the maximum rates of interest payable on such deposits, and the maximum period for which deposits may be accepted and the maximum amount that may be deposited with a company in the name of one person in one or more accounts;
- (b) the terms and conditions under which any loan, credit facility or any type of financial accommodation may be granted by such companies, the maximum rates of interest that may be charged on such loans, credit facilities or other types of financial accommodation, and the maximum periods for which any such loan, credit facility or other type of financial accommodation may

be granted;

- (c) the maximum rates which may be paid to, or charged by, such companies by way of commissions, discounts, fees or other receipts or payments whatsoever;
- (d) the terms and conditions under which investments may be made by such companies;
- (e) the maximum permissible maturities for loans, credit facilities or other types of financial accommodation and investments made by such companies, and the nature and amount of the security that may be required or permitted for various types of lending, credit and investment operations;
- (f) the form and manner in which books of accounts or other records or documents are to be maintained by such companies;
- (g) the exclusion from the income of such companies in whole or in part, unpaid interest in respect of loans granted, if such loans have become overdue;
- (h) the minimum ratio which the liquid assets of such companies should bear to the total deposit liabilities of such companies;
- (i) the maintenance of cash balances by finance companies with the Central Bank if so required by the Board, and the minimum ratio of such cash balances should bear to the deposit liabilities of finance companies;
- (j) conditions which should be applicable to withdrawal by depositors of deposits before maturity;
- (k) prohibiting such companies from increasing the amount of their loans, credit facilities, other types of financial accommodation or investments;
- (l) fixing the limits to the rate at which the amount of any loans, investments or financial accommodation made or granted by such companies may be increased within specified periods;
- (m) requiring such companies to decrease the amount of their loans, investments or financial accommodation to specified limits within a specified period;
- (n) the maximum percentage of the share capital in a finance company which may be held-
  - (i) by a company, an incorporated body, or an individual; and
  - (ii) in the aggregate by-
    - (a) a company and one or more of the following:-
      - (aa) its subsidiary companies;
      - (bb) its holding company;
      - (cc) a subsidiary company of its holding company; or
      - (dd) a company in which such company or its

subsidiary company, or its holding company, or a subsidiary company of its holding company has a substantial interest; or

(b) an individual and one or more of the following:-

- (aa) his relative;
- (bb) a company in which he has a substantial interest or in which his relative has a substantial interest;
- (cc) a subsidiary company of such company;
- (dd) the holding company of such company;
- (ee) a subsidiary company of such company's holding company;
- (ff) a company in which such company, or its subsidiary company, or its holding company, or a subsidiary of its holding company has a substantial interest; or
- (gg) an incorporated body, other than a company, in which such individual or his relative has a substantial interest; or

(c) companies in each of which an individual or a company as the case may be, has either directly, indirectly or beneficially a substantial interest or significant management interest.

In order to comply with a direction issued to it under paragraph (n) of subsection (1) of this section, a finance company may direct a person holding shares in such company to reduce the number of shares held by such person in such company whether such shares were acquired by such person before or after the date of commencement of this Act, within such period as may be specified in such direction; and it shall be the duty of such person to comply with such direction;

(o) the margins to be maintained by such companies in respect of secured accommodations;

(p) the terms and conditions relating to-

- (i) leasing agreements between the company and a lessee;
- (ii) hire purchase agreements including the minimum initial payment a prospective hirer should make on any hire purchase agreement and specific different initial payments for different classes of transactions; such minimum initial payment may be expressed as a percentage of the value of the goods hired under such agreement;

(q) restriction on the types of activities that may be carried on by

finance companies;

- (r) payment to directors or employees of such companies by way of salary, allowance, perquisites, reimbursement of expenses, terminal benefits, gratuity and other superannuation payments;
- (s) the amount of core capital to be maintained by a finance company;
- (t) the academic and professional qualifications and experience required of directors and the chief executive officer of a finance company;
- (u) composition and the constitution of the quorum of the board of directors of such companies;
- (v) requirement for obtaining prior approval of the Board for appointing, electing or nominating directors of such companies;
- (w) requirement for obtaining prior approval of the Director for appointing the chief executive officer of a finance company;
- (x) terms, conditions and procedures to be followed by such companies in acquisition of real estate, and pricing thereof;
- (y) formation of subsidiary and associate companies such companies;
- (z) submission of a bank guarantee for such value and on such terms as may be determined by the Board to ensure the payment of any fine that may be imposed by the Board under this Act.

(2) The Board may give directions where necessary to any finance company in particular on such matters as are specified in subsection (1).

(3) The Board may in its discretion pay interest on any cash balance maintained by a finance company in the Central Bank, in pursuance of a direction issued to it under paragraph (i) of subsection (1), at such rate as may be determined by the Board.

(4) In order to ensure the soundness of the financial system, the Board may issue directions to holding companies, subsidiaries and associate companies of finance companies or any group or category of finance companies or any one finance company regarding the manner in which any aspect of the business of such companies are to be conducted.

**11.** The Board may issue guidelines to the Director to monitor the compliance with the directions issued under subsections (1) and (2) of section 10 and authorize the Director to direct finance companies to comply with such directions forthwith or within such period as may be specified by the Director.

Monitoring the compliance with directions.

**12.** (1) If any finance company fails to comply with any direction issued under subsections (1) or (2) of section 10, the Director shall report such fact to the Board unless otherwise provided for in any guidelines issued under section 11 and the provisions in section 22 of this Act shall apply in such event.

Action on failure to comply with directions.

(2) If any finance company fails to comply with any direction issued by the Director in terms of the guidelines issued by the Board under section 11, the Director shall report such fact to the Board and the provisions in section 22 of this Act shall apply in such event.

**13.** The Director may with a view to ascertaining the manner in which business and corporate affairs of a finance company are being conducted or for some other specified purpose, direct such finance company to submit documents and information in the manner, form and at intervals or at a time that shall be specified in such direction.

Directions to submit documents and information.

**14.** (1) The Board may make rules on any matter in respect of which rules are authorized to be made under this Act, or which is stated or required to be prescribed.

Rules.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by subsection (1), the Board may make rules in respect of all or any of the following matters:-

- (a) licensing of finance companies and the annual licence fees payable to the Board by finance companies;
- (b) the forms to be used under this Act;
- (c) the regulation or the prohibition of the issue by any finance company of any prospectus or advertisement relating to any aspect of finance business, and the conditions subject to which, any such prospectus or advertisement may be issued.

**15.** (1) The Board may, from time to time determine the minimum amount of core capital that a company shall have for licensing under this Act, provided however, such amount determined by the Board shall not be less than two hundred million rupees.

Core capital and Reserve Fund to be maintained.

(2) A finance company shall at all times maintain its core capital at a level not less than the amount it had at the time of licensing as a finance company:

Provided however, that in the event the Board has issued a direction stipulating a higher amount of core capital or maintenance of core capital in relation to assets or liabilities of a finance company in terms of section 10 of this Act, a finance company shall maintain its core capital in conformity with such direction.

(3) A finance company shall at all times maintain a Reserve Fund. Every finance company shall after the payment of tax in respect of each year, but before any dividend is declared, transfer to the Reserve Fund such

part of its net profit as the Board may direct.

(4) A finance company shall not reduce or impair its capital or such amount as is lying in its Reserve Fund without the prior written approval of the Board.

(5)

**16.** A finance company shall at all times carry on its business in such manner so as to safeguard the interests of its depositors and shall take all such measures as are reasonably necessary to repay deposits and pay interest thereon to depositors on the due dates.

Carrying on of business by finance companies.

**17.** (1) Where any finance company fails to repay a deposit and pay interest thereon to a depositor, on demand or if a date of maturity is agreed upon at the time of deposit on or after such date of maturity, every director, manager or secretary of such company shall be guilty of an offence under this Act:

Failure to repay deposit to be an offence.

Provided however that, no such director, manager or secretary shall be guilty of an offence if he proves that such offence was committed without his knowledge, or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of that offence.

(2) Any depositor whose deposit and interest has not been paid on demand or at maturity in terms of subsection (1), may institute proceedings in the Magistrate's Court in terms of section 136 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.

**18.** (1) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed or elected, as the case may be, as director, chief executive or secretary of a finance company or from holding such post if such person-

Disqualifications for holding certain posts in finance companies.

- (a) is an undischarged insolvent or has been declared a bankrupt in Sri Lanka or abroad;
- (b) has been convicted in any court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude;
- (c) has been convicted by any court of law for any offence under this Act or the Companies Act No.07 of 2007;
- (d) is a person against whom action has been taken by the Board under section 49 of this Act;
- (e) has been subject to investigation or inquiry in respect of a fraud, deceit, dishonesty or other similar criminal activity, by any regulatory or supervisory authority, professional association, Commission of Inquiry, tribunal or other body established by law, in Sri Lanka or abroad, until the conclusion of such investigation or inquiry at which such person is exonerated;
- (f) has been removed or suspended by a regulatory or supervisory authority from serving as a director, chief executive or other

officer in any bank, finance company or corporate body in Sri Lanka or abroad;

- (g) has been declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be of unsound mind;
- (h) has been a director, chief executive or held any other position of authority in any bank, finance company or financial institution whose licence or registration has been suspended or cancelled;
- (i) has been determined by the Board as having carried on finance business in contravention of subsection (1) of section 2 of this Act or having accepted deposits in contravention of subsection (2) of section 2 of this Act; or
- (j) has been a director, chief executive or held any other position of authority in any body corporate or unincorporate body which the Board has determined as having carried on finance business in contravention of subsection (1) of section 2 of this Act or having accepted deposits in contravention of subsection (2) of section 2 of this Act.

(2) Any person who acts as a director, chief executive or secretary of a finance company while being under any disqualification set out in subsection (1), shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

**19.** (1) The Director may require any director, manager, employee of a finance company to make a declaration of his assets and liabilities to the Director as at a date and in a form as may be specified by the Director.

Declaration of assets and liabilities.

(2) The Director, in requiring any director, manager, employee of a finance company to declare his assets and liabilities, may also require a declaration of the assets and liabilities of such person's parents, children, or any one or more of them.

(3) In requiring a declaration under subsections (1) or (2), the Director may also require the details of liabilities and acquisition and disposal of assets for a particular period.

(4) For the purpose of this section "assets and liabilities" means assets and liabilities in and outside Sri Lanka, and includes immovable and movable property owned by the declarant or his relative in whole or in part and any property in which the declarant or his relative has a beneficial interest.

**20.** (1) Where an owner of a deposit or a safe deposit box as the case may be or a holder of a valid power of attorney of the owner in respect of such deposit or safe deposit box :

Transfer of dormant deposits to a special account in the Central Bank.

- (a) has not transacted with the finance company either by making a deposit or withdrawal;
- (b) has not had any correspondence with the finance

company;

(c) has not indicated an interest in the contents of the safe deposit box as evidenced by a memorandum concerning them; or

(d) has not withdrawn the contents of the safe deposit box after the expiry of the rental period,

for a period not less than ten years, such deposit or article shall be considered to be dormant.

Provided, that nothing in this subsection shall apply to a deposit or a safe deposit box owned by a person who has not attained the legal age of majority and the period of ten years in respect of such deposit or a safe deposit box shall commence upon such person attaining the legal age of majority. After the owner of any deposit or safe deposit box attaining the legal age of majority, at any time prior to the expiration of the period of ten years, a finance company holding such deposit or safe deposit box shall dispatch, by registered post a notice to the owner to his last known address containing particulars concerning the deposit or the safe deposit box as the case may be. .

(2) Any finance company holding any dormant property referred to in subsection (1), shall make a report to the Board stating the nature of the deposit and the contents of safe deposit box in such manner and frequency as may be required by the Board.

(3) The Board may direct a finance company to take such action as it deems necessary in respect of dormant property reported by such finance company. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law, all monies included in the report shall, if the Board directs, be transferred by the finance company to a special account in the Central Bank and may be utilized by the Board for such purposes as may be determined by the Board after consultation with the Minister..

(4) Any dormant property included in the report of a finance company and which does not fall under subsection (3) shall be referred by the Board to the Minister for such action, as he shall prescribe.

(5) Within thirty days from the submission of the report required by subsection (2), the relevant finance company shall publish a notice in at least one Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka stating the name of the owner and particulars concerning the property and shall dispatch, by registered post a notice to the owner to his last known address containing particulars concerning the property, provided that the Board may exempt the finance company from the mailing of such notice upon the finance company showing reasonable cause therefor.

(6) Any person who furnishes proof to the satisfaction of the Board, that any monies lying to his credit in his name with any finance company or in the name of a person from whom he derives title have been transferred to

a special account in the Central Bank under subsection (3) shall, subject to such terms, conditions or restrictions as may be imposed in respect of such monies, by or under any written law, be entitled to repayment of such monies by the Central Bank together with the interest payable on such monies up to the date of repayment at such rate as the Board may, from time to time, determine or without such interest, if the Board so decides.

### **PART III**

#### **EXAMINATIONS AND SUPERVISORY ACTIONS ON FINANCE COMPANIES**

**21.** (1) The Director by himself, or by any officer of the Central Bank or any other person, authorized on that behalf by the Director, may examine any finance company to ascertain the true condition of the affairs of such finance company and as to whether such finance company engages in business in a manner detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors or contrary to the provisions of this Act or in breach of any direction, rule, order or requirement made or imposed thereunder and for the purpose, may do one or more of the following-

Examination of  
finance  
companies.

- (a) require any finance company, or a director, secretary, manager, employee, auditor, agent or contractor of any finance company to furnish him within such period and in such manner or form as he may specify, information as he considers necessary;
- (b) require any finance company or a director, secretary, manager, employee, auditor, agent or contractor of any finance company to produce for inspection books, records, files, registers, and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, of such finance company and to provide authenticated copies in any form as required of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents;
- (c) enter the premises or storage area of any finance company, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law, examine books, records, files, registers, and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, of such finance company and may obtain copies, authenticated or otherwise, in any form of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents:

For the purposes of this paragraph any person who is not an officer of the Central Bank when entering the premises of such finance company shall be accompanied by the Director or an officer of the Central Bank authorized by the Director;

Provided however, if the Director receives reasonable information that the books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, of a finance company are kept at any place other than the places specified above, the Director or any person authorized by the Director shall have the power to enter and examine such place and examine such books, records, files, registers and such

other documents and if necessary obtain copies, authenticated or otherwise, thereof in any form as required;

Provided further, if the Director believes that there will be resistance or obstruction for such entering or search or there will be concealment of information, he may obtain a warrant from a Magistrate to enter upon and search such place specified in such warrant and may take into his custody any books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, and electronic devices containing relevant information;

- (d) require the holding company, any subsidiary or associate company of any finance company, or any subsidiary or associate company of the holding company of any finance company, or any other company that in his view has a substantial financial interest or significant management interest in any finance company to furnish information as he may consider necessary and to produce for inspection books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, of such company at such time, date and place and in a manner or form as the Director may specify and to provide in any form as required, authenticated copies of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents;
- (e) require any finance company or a director, manager, employee, agent, contractor or secretary of any finance company to submit the accounts of such finance company, furnish such information and produce such books, records, files, registers, and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, for audit by an auditor authorized by the Director;
- (f) administer oath or affirmation in accordance with the Oaths Ordinance Chapter (.....) and field questions and record or cause the recording of statements of any director, shareholder, secretary, manager, employee, agent, auditor or contractor of any finance company and of any other person who may be acquainted with or is aware of or is in possession of, information regarding the business or corporate affairs of such finance company;
- (g) call for information by notice in writing from any person who may be acquainted with or is aware of or is in possession of or appears to have information regarding the business or corporate affairs of any finance company and if required summon such person for an interview.

(2) The report on such examination shall be furnished to the Board by the Director after the examination is completed.

(3) The Board may recover the costs of such examination from the finance company.

(4) It shall be the duty of every person to comply with any requirement imposed on him under this section and any person who-

- (a) fails to provide any information, book, record, file, register or such other document, material or object required under this section;
- (b) fails to attend in person when summoned for an interview;
- (c) fails to produce for inspection any book, record, file, register or such other document, material or object;
- (d) provides false, incomplete or incorrect information, book, record, file, register or such other document, material or object; or
- (e) obstructs the Director or any other person authorized by the Director under subsection (1) in the performance of any function under subsection (1),

shall be guilty of an offence.

**22.** (1) Where the Board, on a report made by the Director, is of the opinion that a finance company-

- (i) is following unsound or improper financial practices, detrimental to the interest of its depositors and other creditors;
- (ii) is likely to be carrying on its business in a manner detrimental to the interest of its depositors and other creditors; or
- (iii) has contravened or failed to comply with any provisions of this Act, or any direction, rule, order or requirement made or imposed thereunder,

Procedure where Director is of opinion that finance company is following unsound practices.

the Board may do one or more of the following-

- (a) impose after giving an opportunity of being heard to the finance company a penalty not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees payable within such period as may be specified by the Board;
- (b) direct such finance company to cease following any such practice or desist from any such contravention;
- (c) direct such finance company to comply with the provisions of this Act or direction, rule, order or requirement made or imposed thereunder which such finance company has failed to comply with, forthwith or within such period as may be specified by the Board;
- (d) direct such finance company to take necessary action to correct the conditions resulting from such practice or contravention;
- (e) publish the name of the finance company as a finance company regarding which the Board has serious supervisory concerns;
- (f) appoint a person to manage the affairs of such finance company with regard to the proper conduct of the business of such finance company;

- (g) restrain any director, manager or controller of the finance company from carrying out any function in or in relation to the finance company;
- (h) remove any director, manager or employee of the finance company;
- (i) re-organize the finance company, by arranging for the increase of its capital or reconstituting its board of directors or taking both such measures;
- (j) secure the reduction of the number of shares held in the finance company by any person;
- (k) provide for such arrangements as are necessary for the amalgamation of the finance company with another finance company or any other institution, with the consent of such other finance company or institution;
- (l) notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, review any contract entered into by a depositor with the finance company and vary the terms of such contract, including the terms relating to repayment, interest rates and charges where it considers that such contract has been entered into without due regard to the interests of depositors or creditors of the finance company or due regard to prudent commercial practice;
- (m) notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, review any agreement or contract entered into by the finance company, with any person and if upon such review, it appears to the Board that the agreement or contract has been entered into without due regard to the interest of the depositors and other creditors or without due regard to prudent commercial practice, vary the terms of such agreement or contract.

(2) Any finance company dissatisfied with a direction given under paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1), may, before the expiry of thirty days from the date of the issue of such direction, appeal in writing to the Board and the Board shall render its decision within thirty days of receipt of such appeal.

**23.** (1) The Board may appoint an officer of the Central Bank as its representative in any finance company licensed under this Act, for the purpose of monitoring the affairs of such company.

Appointment of officer of Central Bank by the Board as its representative in finance company.

(2) It shall be lawful for a representative appointed under subsection (1) to exercise all the powers conferred on the Director by section 21: and –

- (a) to participate in the meetings of the board of directors of such company and to require such board of directors to defer reaching a decision on any matter which, in his view, would be detrimental to the interests of the depositors and other creditors of that company or to the national economy, for a period not exceeding forty eight hours and it shall be the duty of such

board of directors to comply with such requirement. The board of directors may, thereafter, take a decision on such matter only with the written concurrence of the Governor of the Central Bank;

- (b) to convene meetings of the board of directors of such company when he considers it necessary;
- (c) to obtain services of professionals or experts to assist him in the monitoring and the supervision of the affairs of such company.

(3) It shall be the duty of every director, manager, secretary, employee or auditor of any finance company to comply with any requirement imposed upon him under this section and to afford to the representative, or to any auditor authorized by him, or to any person whose services are obtained under paragraph (c) of subsection (2) access to all books and records of that finance company including its cash balances, assets and liabilities whenever requested to do so by the representative.

(4) The costs of employing such representative and his supporting staff shall be recovered from the finance company.

(5) The terms and conditions of employment of the representative and his staff shall be determined by the Board.

(6) The representative shall exercise his powers under this section under the direction and supervision of the Director.

#### **PART IV**

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDIT OF FINANCE COMPANIES**

**24.** Every finance company shall prepare at the expiration of each financial year- Accounts of  
finance company.

- (a) a balance sheet as at the end of such financial year; and
- (b) a profit and loss account in respect of such financial year.

**25.** (1) The balance sheet of a finance company shall set out the state of affairs of such company as at the end of the financial year to which such balance sheet relates. Balance sheet of  
finance company.

(2) There shall be shown in the balance sheet or in any statement annexed thereto-

- (a) capitalized expenses not represented by tangible assets under separate headings, so far as they are not written off;
- (b) the market value of investments;
- (c) the method adopted to value fixed assets if there had been any

valuation of such assets during the financial year;

- (d) the aggregate amounts of advances after the provision for bad and doubtful debts;
- (e) any increase or decrease in the provision for depreciation, renewals, or diminution in the value of fixed assets;
- (f) the sources and application of funds;
- (g) reserves, provisions and liabilities distinguishable from each other;
- (h) change of equity;
  
- (i) except in the case of the first balance sheet of the finance company, the corresponding amounts at the end of the immediately preceding financial year for all items shown in the balance sheet.

**26.** There shall be shown in the profit and loss account of a finance company or in any statement annexed thereto-

Profit and loss account of finance company.

- (a) the amount charged to revenue by way of provision for depreciation, renewals, or diminution in value of fixed assets;
- (b) the amount charged to revenue for Sri Lanka income tax and other Sri Lanka taxation on profits and distinguishable from such accounts, the amounts, set aside, or proposed to be set aside, for liabilities in respect of tax due in the current year of taxation or a succeeding year;
- (c) the aggregate amount of dividends paid or proposed to be paid;
- (d) the amount of remuneration of auditors;
- (e) the amount charged to revenue representing the aggregate amount of the emoluments of directors;
- (f) the amount set aside or proposed to be set aside to, or withdrawn from reserves;
- (g) under separate headings, the profit or loss or the income and expenses arising from transactions such as are not usually carried on by the finance company and are carried on owing to circumstances of an exceptional or non-recurrent nature or by a change in the basis of accounting;
- (h) except in the case of the first profit and loss account of the finance company, the corresponding amount for the immediately preceding financial year for all items shown in the profit and loss account.

**27.** (1) Every finance company shall transmit to the Director within three months after the closure of each financial year -

Publication of balance sheet and profit and loss account of finance company.

- (a) the audited profit and loss account of the company for that financial year;

- (b) the audited balance sheet of the company as at the end of the financial year;
- (c) the auditor's report in respect of the financial statements referred to in (a) and (b) above; and
- (d) the report by the directors relating to the state of the affairs of the company attached to the balance sheet.

(2) Every finance company shall publish at least once in a Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka within three months after the closure of each financial year, the documents specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1).

(3) Every finance company shall exhibit documents specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1) in a conspicuous place of each of its places of business until those documents for the succeeding financial year are prepared and exhibited.

(4) The Board may specify the form of the balance sheet and profit and loss account referred to in this section and where such form is specified, the balance sheet and profit and loss account of every finance company shall be prepared in such form.

(5) Every finance company shall publish its key financial data and key performance indicators in respect of the period of six months immediately following from the end of its each financial year, in such form and within such period as may be specified by the Director.

**28.** (1) The auditor of a finance company shall inspect the accounts, the finances, the management of the finances and the property of that finance company. The auditor shall as far as possible, and where necessary, examine-

Auditing of accounts.

- (a) whether the conduct of the affairs of the finance company has been in accordance with the law and rules and directions issued by the Board;
- (b) whether records relating to the acceptance of deposits and maintaining of accounts are satisfactory;
- (c) whether the accounting systems, procedures, books, records and other documents have been properly and adequately designed from the point of view of financial control purposes and from the point of view of the presentation of information to enable continuous evaluation of the activities of the finance company and whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;
- (d) whether the accounts audited have been so designed as to present a true and fair view of the affairs of the finance company in respect of the period under consideration due regard being had to principles of accountancy, financing and valuation.

(2) The Board may having regard to the need to ensure that competent and qualified auditors are engaged in auditing the accounts of finance companies issue guidelines in that respect to the Director who shall select from time to time in accordance with such guidelines, such number of qualified auditors to audit the accounts of finance companies and transmit a list of the qualified auditors so selected to all finance companies.

(3) The Board may issue directions regarding the rotation of auditors of finance companies.

(4) It shall be the duty of each finance company to select its auditors for purpose of auditing its accounts from and out of the list transmitted under subsection (2) and to comply with directions issued in terms of subsection (3).

## **PART V**

### **REGULATORY & RESOLUTION ACTION ON FINANCE COMPANIES**

**29.** (1) Where the Director is satisfied after examination by himself or by any officer of the Central Bank or any other person, authorized on that behalf by the Director, or upon information received from the company, that it is insolvent or is likely to become unable to meet the demands of its depositors or that its continuance in business is likely to involve loss to its depositors or creditors, the Director shall make a report accordingly to the Governor of the Central Bank for submission to the Board; and if the Board, upon review of the facts and circumstances, is of opinion that action should be taken as hereinafter provided, the Board may make an order directing the company forthwith to suspend business and directing the Director to take charge of all books, records and assets of the company, and to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the continuation of business by the company. Suspension.

(2) Any director, manager, secretary or employee of the finance company or any other person having in his possession or custody any books, records or assets of the company, who fails to hand over the same to the Director or to an officer of the Central Bank or to any other person, authorized on that behalf by the Director, or any person who obstructs or resists the Director or an officer of the Central Bank or any other person, authorized on that behalf by the Director from taking charge of any books, records or assets of the company or from taking such other measures as the Director may consider necessary to prevent the continuation of business by the company, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in any other law, no action or proceeding may be instituted in any court for the purpose of securing the review or revocation of any order made in good faith under subsection (1) or in respect of any loss or damage incurred, or likely or alleged to be incurred by reason of such order.

(4) The Board may take such steps as it may consider necessary for enabling the continuation of recovery of debts of the finance company and for such purpose shall have the power to open bank accounts in the name of the finance company to enable the debtors to make payments to the finance company.

(5) Any order made by the Board in respect of any finance company shall cease to have effect upon the expiration of a period of six months from the date on which it is made and it shall be the duty of the Board as soon as practicable-

- (a) make order permitting the company to resume business, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as the Board may consider necessary in the public interest, or in the interest of the depositors and other creditors of the company; or
- (b) cause the Director to make application as hereinafter provided to a competent court for the winding up of the finance company and notify such company accordingly. Where a finance company is so notified, the company shall not resume business unless an order to do so is made by a court.

Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by paragraph (a) and notwithstanding any other law or the memorandum and articles of association of the company, the Board may, as a condition of permitting the company to resume business, remove any director, manager or employee of such company where it is of the view that the continuance of such director, manager or employee in the company is detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors and appoint any person as a director, manager or an employee of such company.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law or the memorandum and articles of association of a finance company, the Board, may do one or more of the following, where an Order has been made by the Board under paragraph (a) of subsection (5), on a report made by the Director-

- (a) make such arrangements as it considers necessary for the amalgamation of the finance company with another finance company or any other institution, with the consent of such other finance company or institution;
- (b) re-organise the finance company by increasing its capital and arranging for new shareholders;
- (c) re-construct the finance company in any manner as it considers to be in the interest of depositors and other creditors;
- (d) appoint a person to manage the affairs of such finance company with regard to the proper conduct of the business of such finance company;
- (e) restrain any director, manager or controller of the finance

company from carrying out any function in or in relation to the finance company;

- (f) remove any director, manager or employee of the finance company;
- (g) reconstitute the board of directors of the finance company;
- (h) review any contract entered into by a depositor with the finance company and vary the terms of such contract, including the terms relating to repayment, interest rates and charges where it considers that such contract has been entered into without due regard to the interests of depositors or creditors or due regard to prudent commercial practice;
- (i) review any agreement or contract entered into by the finance company, with any person and if upon such review, it appears to the Board that the agreement or contract has been entered into without due regard to the interest of the depositors and other creditors or without due regard to prudent commercial practice, vary the terms of such agreement or contract;
- (j) direct any shareholder of the finance company to divest or transfer the ownership of the shares owned by him, to a person nominated by the Board, on payment by such person of compensation determined as follows:-
  - (i) where such shares are quoted, at the market value thereof; or
  - (ii) where such shares are not quoted at a price to be determined by a valuer nominated by the Board.

(7) A shareholder who fails to comply with a direction given to him under paragraph (j) of subsection (6) shall be guilty of an offence.

**30.** (1) Where an order has been made by the Board under paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 29, the Director shall make an application as hereinafter provided to a competent court for the winding up of the finance company.

Winding up.

(2) The court may, on an application made by the Director, order the winding up of the finance company and accordingly the provisions of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, relating to the winding up of companies subject to the supervision of court shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the winding up of such company.

(3) If the court is of opinion, after such inquiry as it may consider necessary, and after considering the submissions of the Director, that the finance company is not insolvent, it may make order permitting the finance company to resume business, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as the court may consider necessary in the public interest or in the interest of the depositors and other creditors of the company.

Provided, that this subsection shall not apply to a finance company which has made an application to the Supreme court in relation to an order made or purported to have been made by the Board in terms of subsection (5) of section 29 of this Act.

(4) The Director or any person authorized on that behalf by the Board shall be appointed to be the liquidator for the purposes of such winding up.

(5) Any costs, charges and expenses incurred in the winding up of a finance company may be paid out of the funds of the Central Bank where the Board considers it in the public interest to do so, in the event such costs, charges and expenses cannot be met out of the funds of such finance company.

(6) Every order made by a competent court under this section shall be subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court and the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter ....) relating to appeals in civil actions shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, in the case of any appeal.

(7) Every application to a competent court under this section shall be deemed to be a proceeding of the value of five thousand rupees.

(8) In this section 'competent court' in relation to any finance company means a High Court established under Article 154P of the Constitution for a Province, empowered with civil jurisdiction by Order published in the *Gazette* under section 2 of the High Court of the Provinces (Special Provisions) Act, No. 10 of 1996, within the Province for which such High Court is established, or where no such High Court vested with such civil jurisdiction is established for any Province, the High Court established for the Western Province.

**31.** (1) In the event of winding up of any finance company, the claims set out hereunder shall have priority as against the general assets of such finance company in the order indicated below -

Priority of claims  
in winding up.

- (a) Necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by the liquidator in winding up shall be paid first;
- (b) After paying the claims referred to in paragraph (a), the following shall be paid:
  - (i) all Provident Fund dues, Employee Trust Fund dues and gratuity payments due to an employee not exceeding the minimum provided for by the written laws governing the said payments;
  - (ii) taxes, rates, loans and deposits owed to the Government, provincial councils and local authorities by the finance company;
  - (iii) wages and salaries of officers and employees of the finance company for the three months period immediately

preceding the commencement of winding up proceedings:

Provided however, the sum to which priority is to be given shall not, in case of any one employee, exceed twelve thousand rupees or such greater amount as is determined by court at the commencement of liquidation;

(iv) fees and assessments due and loans owed to the Central Bank.

(c) After paying the claims referred to in paragraph (b), the following shall be paid:

(i) funds deposited with such finance company with interest accrued thereon, up to a sum determined by the Board: and :

(ii) other deposit liabilities with interest if any, accrued thereon.

(2) The claims listed in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) shall rank equally among themselves and shall be paid in full, unless the assets are insufficient to meet them, in which case they abate in equal proportions.

(3) With regard to all other claims not stipulated in subsection (1), the Part XII of the Companies Act No. 07, of 2007 shall apply.

**32.** (1) If the Board after review of the facts and circumstances upon the receipt of a report by the Director under section 29 is of opinion that a finance company may be made solvent and viable by action as hereinafter provided, it may take over the administration and management of such finance company for such period as may be stipulated by the Board and shall publish a notice in the Gazette of such take over. The Board may extend the original period of take over and shall publish a notice of such extension in the Gazette. The Board shall inform the Registrar General of Companies of such take over and any extension thereto who shall make a minute thereof in the books relating to the company.

Board may take over administration and management of a finance company.

(2) Where the Board takes over the administration and management of a finance company, the Board may do one or more of the following -

(a) exercise, perform and discharge with respect to such finance company all the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed on, or assigned to, the board of directors of such company by or under any written law or by the articles of association of such company or to any other person by the articles of association of such company;

(b) enter into any agreement with any person for the management of the finance company subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Board and such person having

regard to the interests of the depositors and other creditors of the company and in the public interest;

- (c) make such arrangements as it considers necessary for the amalgamation of the finance company with another finance company or any other institution with the consent of such other finance company or institution;
- (d) re-organise the finance company by increasing its capital and arranging for new shareholders;
- (e) reconstruct the finance company in any such manner as it considers to be in the interest of depositors;
- (f) restrain any director, manager or controller of the finance company from carrying out any function in or in relation to the finance company;
- (g) remove any director, manager or employee of the finance company;
- (h) reconstitute the board of directors of the finance company;
- (i) direct any shareholder of the finance company to divest or transfer the ownership of any shares owned by him to a person nominated by the Board on payment by such person of compensation determined as follows-
  - (i) where such shares are quoted, at the market value thereof; or
  - (ii) where such shares are not so quoted, at a price to be determined by a valuer nominated by the Board.
- (j) notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, review any contract entered into by a depositor with the finance company and vary the terms of such contract, including the terms relating to repayment, interest rates and charges where it considers that such contract has been entered into without due regard to the interests of depositors or creditors or due regard to prudent commercial practice;
- (k) notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, review any agreement or contract entered into by the finance company, with any person and if upon such review, it appears to the Board that the agreement or contract has been entered into without due regard to the interest of the depositors and other creditors or without due regard to prudent commercial practice, vary the terms of such agreement or contract.

(3) During the period for which the administration and management of finance company is taken over by the Board, every director, manager and secretary of such finance company shall, unless expressly authorized to continue by the Board, cease to exercise, perform and discharge any powers, duties and functions with respect to such company.

(4) Where the administration and management of a finance company is taken over by the Board, the Board may where it considers it in the public interest to do so-

- (a) arrange for or grant such financial accommodation as it may consider necessary to the finance company by way of loans or other accommodation, other than by way of grants; and
- (b) meet all costs, charges and expenses incurred in the administration and management of the company.

Provided however, that the Board may at any time after the take over of the administration and management of a finance company suspend the business of the company, if it is of opinion, that it is in the interest of the public or of the depositors to do so, or direct the Director to apply to a competent court to wind up the company, if on a report made by the Director or any person authorized by the Board, it appears to the Board that the company cannot be made viable and solvent within a reasonable period of time. In the event of the Board directing the Director to wind up the finance company, the provisions of section 30 relating to winding up shall apply.

**33.** Where the Board has taken over the administration and management of a finance company, the Board shall not be liable or subject to any action or proceedings in any court in respect of any loss or damage suffered or incurred or alleged to have been suffered or incurred by any person by reason of any act or thing done or omitted to be done in good faith by the Board or in the exercise of any power, duty or function conferred or imposed on, or assigned to, the Board by or under subsection (2) of section 32.

Protection from suit.

**34.** (1) Where the Board has taken over the administration and management of a finance company the Board may, vest the administration and management of such finance company in any person with the consent of such person and publish a notice in the Gazette in that regard. The person on whom the administration and management of such finance company is vested shall exercise, perform and discharge with respect to such finance company all the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed on, or assigned to the board of directors of such company by or under any written law or by the articles of association of the company or to any other person by the articles of association of such company.

Vesting of administration and management of finance company in person.

(2) Where the Board has vested the administration and management of a finance company in any person the Board may direct any shareholder of such finance company to divest or transfer the ownership of any shares owned by him to a person nominated by the Board on payment by such person of compensation calculated as follows-

- (a) where such shares are quoted, at the market value thereof; or
- (b) where such shares are not quoted, at the price to be determined by a valuer nominated by the Board.

(3) Where the Board has vested the administration and management of

a finance company in any person by order made under subsection (1), such person may *mutatis mutandis* exercise the powers conferred on the Board by paragraphs (j) and (k) of subsection (2) of section 32, with the prior written approval of the Board.

**35.** (1) Where the Board is satisfied that any finance company has-

Cancellation of  
licence of finance  
company.

- (a) failed to commence business within nine months of the issue of the licence;
- (b) failed to pay up any debts incurred by it, on such debts becoming due;
- (c) had petition or action for relief filed against such finance company, and has had appointed in respect of such finance company under any bankruptcy law or any other law which provides for relief for debtors or which relates to debtors, a liquidator, custodian or receiver;
- (d) ceased to carry on finance business;
- (e) continuously been violating or contravening the provisions of this Act or any direction or rule issued thereunder;
- (f) failed to pay the annual licence fee; or
- (g) carried on, or is carrying on, its business in a manner likely to be detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors,

the Board may, give notice to the finance company that it would cancel the licence issued to such finance company.

(2) A finance company may tender objections in writing to the Board against the notice of cancellation under subsection (1), within thirty days of the date of such notice, giving reasons why the licence issued to it under section 4 should not be so cancelled.

(3) Within the expiration of sixty days from the date of notification of the cancellation and after considering the objections tendered to the Board under subsection (2), the Board may withdraw such notice or cancel the licence issued to the finance company, and shall notify the finance company accordingly.

(4) A cancellation of a licence under subsection (3), shall take effect:-

- (a) where no application is made to the Supreme Court against the cancellation, after the period for preferring such application has expired; or
- (b) where an application is made to the Supreme Court, after the cancellation is upheld by the Supreme Court,

and notification of such cancellation shall be published in the Gazette and in at least one Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka, informing the public that such company is no longer authorized to

carry on finance business.

(5) Where the licence of a finance company is so cancelled the Board shall remove the name of the finance company from the register maintained under subsection (1) of section 5 and may issue such directions as it considers necessary, including directions for winding up or require the Director to apply for winding up of the company in which event the provisions of section 30 except subsection (3) thereof shall apply.

(6) Where the finance company fails to comply with any directions issued under subsection (5) within the time specified by the Board, the Board may require the Director to file action for the winding up of the finance company, and the provisions of section 30 except subsection (3) thereof shall apply to such winding up.

## **PART VI**

### **INSURANCE OF DEPOSITS**

**36.** (1) The Board may notwithstanding anything in the Regulation of Insurance Industry Act No. 43 of 2000 or any other written law, establish, maintain, manage and control a scheme for the insurance of deposits held by finance companies and require such companies to insure under such scheme the deposits held by them.

Scheme of insurance of Deposits.

(2) (a) The Board may authorize a body corporate to carry out all or any of the functions referred to in subsection (1), subject to such terms and conditions, and in such event, the provisions of the Regulation of Insurance Industry Act No. 43 of 2000 shall not apply to such body corporate for such purpose. A body corporate authorised by the Board in terms of this paragraph shall be referred to as “authorised body corporate”.

(b) The Board may acquire and hold shares in the authorised body corporate.

**37.** (1) Where a scheme for the insurance of deposits has been established, every finance company shall apply in the prescribed form to the Board or to the authorised body corporate to insure under such scheme, the deposits held by such finance company. A finance company, deposits of which have been insured under such scheme is referred to as an “insured finance company” in this Part of this Act.

Application for insurance of deposits.

(2) The Board or the authorised body corporate, at its discretion, may accept or reject any application made under subsection (1).

(3) Every applicant finance company shall pay an initial fee, which shall be determined, from time to time by the Board or the authorised body corporate with the concurrence of the Board.

(4) An insured finance company shall pay a premium to the Board or

to the authorised body corporate on its deposits as may be determined from time to time by the Board or the authorised body corporate with the concurrence of the Board having regard to the risks involved.

(5) The premium of insurance shall be payable for such periods, at such times and in such manner as may be determined by the Board or the authorised body corporate.

(6) If an insured finance company makes any default in the payment of any premium, it shall, for the period of such default, be liable to pay to the Board or to the authorised body corporate interest on the amount of such premium at such rate as may be determined by the Board or the authorised body corporate with the concurrence of the Board, having regard to the losses likely to be incurred by the Board or the authorised body corporate by such default.

**38.** (1) The authorised body corporate may, at its discretion, cause to examine the books and accounts of any insured finance company and the provisions of subsections (1) and (4) of section 21 of this Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to such examination.

Examination by authorized body corporate.

(2) A copy of the examination report shall be submitted by the authorised body corporate to the Director forthwith after an examination.

**39.** (1) Rules may be made by the Board and the authorised body corporate with the concurrence of the Board in respect of establishment and operation of a scheme of insurance of deposits and in particular –

Rules relating to deposit insurance.

- (a) the time at which and the manner in which the insurance premium shall be paid by an insured finance company;
- (b) the interest which may be charged from an insured finance company, where it makes default in the payment of premia;
- (c) any matter that is stated or is required to be prescribed or determined under this Part of this Act;
- (d) record keeping requirements for an insured finance company;
- (e) reporting requirements for an insured finance company;
- (f) any other matter affecting, connected with or incidental to the exercise, discharge or performance of the powers, functions and duties of the Board or the authorised body corporate under this Part of this Act.

(2) Any rule made in terms of subsection (1) by the authorised body corporate with the concurrence of the Board shall amount to a rule made by the Board.

## PART VII

### ACTION AGAINST PERSONS CARRYING ON OF FINANCE BUSINESS OR ACCEPTING DEPOSITS WITHOUT AUTHORITY

**40.** (1) For the purpose of ascertaining whether any person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits, the Director or any officer of the Central Bank authorized on that behalf by the Director may conduct an investigation and for the purpose may do one or more of the following – Investigation.

- (a) require such person or a director, partner, member, secretary, manager, employee, agent, contractor or auditor of such person to furnish him within such period and in such manner or form as he may specify, such information as he may consider necessary;
- (b) require such person or a director, partner, member, manager, secretary, employee, agent, contractor or auditor of such person to produce for inspection books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, relating to the business and corporate affairs of such person at such place as specified and to provide authenticated copies in any form as required, of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents;
- (c) at any time enter or authorize any other person whose services have been obtained by the Director for such purpose, to enter the premises or storage area of such person or any vehicle of such person or of any director, partner, member, secretary, manager, employee, agent, contractor or auditor of such person which is at the premises of such person and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law examine or cause to be examined such premises or storage area or vehicles and books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, relating to the business and corporate affairs of such person and if necessary obtain copies, authenticated or otherwise, in any form as required, of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents, and take account of currency, bills of exchange, corporate and government securities found in such premises or storage area or vehicle or which may be kept in safe custody in such premises or storage area:

Provided however, if the Director receives reasonable information that the books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, relating to the business and corporate affairs of such person are kept at any place other than the premises or storage area of such person or any vehicle of such person or of any director, partner, member, secretary, manager, employee, agent, contractor or auditor of such person which is at the premises of such person, the Director or any person authorized

by the Director shall have the power to enter and examine such place or vehicle and examine the books, records, files registers and such other documents, and if necessary obtain copies, authenticated or otherwise, thereof in any form as required and take account of currency, bills of exchange, corporate and government securities found at such place.

- (d) administer or cause to administer through any other person whose services are obtained for such purpose by the Director, oath or affirmation in accordance with the Oaths Ordinance (Chapter.....) and field questions and record or cause the recording of statements of any director, partner, member, secretary, manager, employee, agent, auditor and contractor of such person and any other person who may be acquainted with or aware of or in possession of information regarding the business or corporate affairs of such person;
- (e) require the holding company, any subsidiary or associate company of such person, or any subsidiary or associate company of the holding company of such person, or any other company that in his view has a substantial financial interest or significant management interest in such person to furnish information as he may consider necessary and to produce for inspection the books, records, files, registers and such other documents, maintained in print, electronic or any other form, relating to its business and corporate affairs at such time, date, place and in a manner or form as he may specify and to provide in any form as required, authenticated copies of such books, records, files, registers and such other documents;
- (f) call for information by notice in writing from any person who may be acquainted with or is aware of or is in the possession of or appears to have information regarding the business and corporate affairs of such person and if required summon such person for an interview;
- (g) take any other action which he may deem necessary for the purpose.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding provisions to the contrary in any other written law the Director may require the Inspector General of Police or any Divisional Secretary to carry on an investigation for the purposes of subsection (1) and report the findings of the investigation to the Director in such manner and within such time as he may specify.

(b) The Inspector General of Police or any Divisional Secretary required by the Director and if any person is authorized by the Inspector General of Police or the Divisional Secretary as the case may be, such person, shall have the power to do *mutatis mutandis* any act specified in paragraphs (a) to (g) of subsection (1).

(3) The Director shall, upon ascertaining to his satisfaction the fact that a person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is

accepting deposits report such fact to the Board.

(4) The Board after considering the report of the Director under subsection (3) and if it deems necessary, after giving the person in respect of whom the report is submitted an opportunity of being heard, shall determine whether such person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits and shall if determined that such person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits notify such determination, in writing, to such person accordingly.

(5) Where in any prosecution instituted under this Act, any question arises as to whether any person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board regarding the determination that such person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits shall be admissible in evidence and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

(6) If the Board determines in terms of subsection (4) that a person carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits, the Board may issue to such person directions as it considers necessary including the directions to divest the business of such person to a person specified by the Board or to repay the deposit liabilities or to make an application within a specified period of time to a competent court for winding up and it shall be the duty of such person to comply with such directions.

(7) In the event of issuing directions under subsection (6) to divest the business of such person, the Board may notwithstanding provisions to the contrary in any other written law -

(a) review any contract entered into by a depositor with such person and may vary the terms of such contract, including the terms relating to repayment, interest rates and charges where it considers that such contract has been entered into without due regard to prudent commercial practice;

(b) review any agreement or contract entered into by such person with any other person and upon such review, if it appears to the Board that the agreement or contract has been entered into without due regard to the interest of the depositors and other creditors or without due regard to prudent commercial practice, vary the terms of such agreement or contract.

(8) Where such person fails to comply with the directions issued under subsection (6), the Board may take such steps as it considers necessary including the winding up of such person or to take action to declare such person as insolvent by a court of law.

In the event of winding up of a company, the provisions of section 30 other than the provisions of subsection (3) thereof shall *mutatis mutandis* apply.

In the event of winding up of a body of persons other than a company, the provisions of section 30 other than the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) thereof shall *mutatis mutandis* apply and the value of the assets and liabilities of such body of persons shall be ascertained in such manner and upon such basis as the liquidator thinks fit. The competent court may at any time after making a winding up order authorize the liquidator to realize all assets and may require any person to pay, deliver, convey, surrender or transfer forthwith or within a specified time to the liquidator any money, property or books and other documents in his hands to which such body of persons is entitled. A scheme for the purpose of winding up of such body of persons shall be prepared by the liquidator and submitted for confirmation to the competent court and the winding up of such body of persons shall be carried out according to the scheme.

(9) The Board may take such steps as it considers necessary to recover the money and property of a body of persons if determined in terms of subsection (4) that such body of persons carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits and the provisions of section 49 of this Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis* .

(10) The Board may publish a notice in at least one Sinhala, Tamil and English daily newspapers circulating in Sri Lanka, that the person referred to in the determination carried on or is carrying on finance business or accepted or is accepting deposits without authority. Where such person is a body of persons, such notice may include, if that body of persons is:-

- (i) a body corporate, names and addresses of directors of such body corporate;
- (ii) a firm, names and addresses of partners of that firm; and
- (iii) an unincorporate body other than a firm, the names and addresses of members of such body and officers of that body.

(11) It shall be the duty of every person to comply with any requirement imposed on him under this section and any person who-

- (a) fails to provide any information, book, record, file, register or such other document, material or object required under this section;
- (b) fails to attend in person when summoned for an interview;
- (c) fails to produce for inspection any book, record, file, register or such other document, material or object;
- (d) provides false incomplete or incorrect information, book, record, file, register, such other document, material or object; or
- (e) obstructs the Director or any other person authorized by the Director under subsection (1) or the Inspector General of Police or any Divisional Secretary required to carry on an investigation by the Director, or any other person authorized

by the Inspector General of Police or the Divisional Secretary, as the case may be, for such purpose on their behalf, in the performance of any function under subsection (1) of this section,

shall be guilty of an offence.

**41.** Where any person fails to provide information, book, record, file, register or such other document or material or object or provides false, incorrect or incomplete information, book, record, file, register or such other document or material or object when required in terms of subsection (1) of section 40 or section 44, the Director or any person authorized by the Director may make an application to the appropriate Magistrate for the issuance of an order -

Court order to compel a person to provide information and books.

- (a) authorizing any person named in the application to inspect the books, records, files, registers and such other documents maintained in print, electronic or any other form, material or object of the person who has failed to comply with the requirement made in terms of subsection (1) of section 40 or section 44, ; or
- (b) requiring the person who has failed to comply with the requirement made in terms of subsection (1) of section 40 or section 44, or a director, partner, member, secretary, manager, employee, agent, contractor or auditor of such person as may be named in the order, to produce the books, records, files, registers and such other documents maintained in print, electronic or any other form, material or object of such person, to a person and at a place specified in the order.

**42.** (1) The Director may at any time where a person is being investigated in terms of subsection (1) of section 40, issue an order (hereinafter referred to as a "Freezing Order") for any one or more of the following:-

Issue of Freezing Order.

- (a) prohibiting such person from disposing assets of such person or any part thereof;
- (b) prohibiting such person from entering into any transaction or class of transactions as may be determined by the Director;
- (c) prohibiting such person from soliciting or mobilizing deposits;
- (d) prohibiting any transaction in relation to any account, property or investment as may be determined by the Director.

(2) The Director may at any time where a body of persons is investigated in terms of subsection (1) of section 40, issue, if such body of persons is-

- (i) a body corporate, on any director, or manager of that body corporate;
- (ii) a firm, on any partner of that firm;
- (iii) an unincorporate body other than a firm, on any member of

such body, or any officer of that body responsible for its management and control,

a Freezing Order for any one or more of the following :-

- (a) prohibiting such person from disposing assets of such person or any part thereof;
- (b) prohibiting such person from entering into any transaction or class of transactions as may be determined by the Director;
- (c) prohibiting such person from soliciting or mobilizing deposits;
- (d) prohibiting any transaction in relation to any account, property or investment as may be determined by the Director.

(3) Subject to the provisions of section 43, a Freezing Order issued under subsections (1) and (2) shall not be in force for a period exceeding seven days of the issuing thereof.

**43.** (1) The Director after issuing a Freezing Order under the provisions of section 42 shall within the period during which the Freezing Order is in force, make an application to the High Court seeking confirmation of such Freezing Order and also if the circumstances so necessitates, request an extension thereto.

Confirmation of Freezing Order and impounding of passports.

(2) Where the High Court is satisfied that there are sufficient reasons for issuance of such Freezing Order, the court may confirm the Freezing Order and if it is satisfied there are sufficient reasons for extension thereof may grant extensions for such periods as it considers appropriate.

(3) (a) The Director may at any time where a person is investigated in terms of subsection (1) of section 40, inform the Inspector General of Police to take necessary action to impound the passport of such person.

(b) The Director may at any time where a body of persons is investigated in terms of subsection (1) of section 40, may inform the Inspector General of Police to take necessary action to impound the passport -

- (i) if that body of persons is a body corporate, of any director, or manager of the body corporate; and
- (ii) if that body of persons is a firm, of any partner of that firm; and
- (iii) if that body of persons is an unincorporate body other than a firm, of any member of such body, or any officer of that body responsible for its management and control.

**44.** (1) The Director may call for information by notice in writing in such manner and as at such date as he may specify of the assets and liabilities of a person regarding whom an investigation has commenced in terms of

Information of assets and liabilities of a person under investigation.

subsection (1) of section 40 from such person or from any other person who may be acquainted with or aware of or appears to have information regarding the assets and liabilities of such person.

(2) Where such person is an individual, information of the assets and liabilities of his spouse, children and parents may also be called.

(3) Where such person is a body of persons, information of the assets and liabilities of the following and their spouses, children and parents may also be called:

- (a) Directors, managers and employees of a body corporate;
- (b) Partners of a firm;
- (c) Members of an unincorporate body other than a firm.

(4) Where the Director is in possession of information that assets of such person has been transferred, gifted, assigned or disposed of in any manner to any other person the Director may call for information of the assets and liabilities of such other person.

(5) In requiring information under subsections (1), ( 2), (3) or (4), the Director may also require the details of liabilities and acquisition and disposal of assets for a particular period.

(6) For the purpose of this section “assets and liabilities” means assets and liabilities in and outside Sri Lanka, and includes immovable and movable property owned by a person or his relative in whole or in part and any property in which such person or his relative has a beneficial interest.

**45.** The Director may require any officer in charge of a police station or the relevant Divisional Secretary to furnish him with information regarding any person residing or having his place of business within the limits of the relevant police division or the Divisional Secretary’s Division as the case may be, in order to facilitate an investigation in terms of section 40 of this Act, and such officer in charge of a police station or such Divisional Secretary shall make every endeavour to furnish the information required by the Director.

Police and Divisional Secretaries to provide information.

**46.** (1) No person, other than a person authorised under this Act to carry on finance business or a person exempted in terms of section 3 of this Act, shall advertise by any means, in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, soliciting deposits.

Prohibition of advertising soliciting deposits without authority.

(2) Where the Director is of the opinion that an advertisement made by a person contravenes the provisions of subsection (1), the Director may send a notice to such person requiring him to refrain from publishing advertisements soliciting deposits.

(3) The notice referred to in subsection (2) shall be deemed to have been served on the person referred to in the notice if such notice was sent by

registered post-

- (a) to the address given in the advertisement;
- (b) if such person is an individual to such person's place of business or residential address;
- (c) if such person is a body corporate, to such person's place of business or registered address; or
- (d) if such person is an unincorporate body, to such person's place of business or to the addresses of partners or members of such body.

(4) If any person fails to comply with the requirement made by the Director in terms of subsection (2), the Director may make an application in writing to the Magistrate's Court within whose jurisdiction such person's place of business is situated or to whose jurisdiction registered address, residential address or the address given in the advertisement belongs:

- (a) setting forth the following matters:-
  - (i) that he is the Director for the purposes of this Act;
  - (ii) that in his opinion, the advertisement referred to in the notice issued in terms of subsection (2), is for the purpose of soliciting deposits;
  - (iii) that a notice was issued in terms of subsection (2) to the person named in the application, who in his opinion, is the advertiser of the advertisement referred to in subparagraph (ii);
  - (iv) that in his opinion, the advertiser is not authorized to accept deposits;
  - (v) that the advertiser failed to comply with the requirements contained in the notice issued in terms of subsection (2);  
and
- (b) praying for an order directing the advertiser who is named in the application to stop advertising, in any manner, soliciting deposits.

(5) Every application made under subsection (4) shall be supported by an affidavit confirming the matters set forth in such application and shall be accompanied by a copy of the advertisement and a copy of the notice issued on the advertiser.

(6) Upon receipt of the application made under subsection (4), the court shall forthwith issue summons on the advertiser named in the application to appear and show cause on the date specified in such summons (being a date not later than two weeks from the date of issue of such summons) as to why an order should not be issued, prohibiting him from advertising, in any manner, soliciting deposits.

(7) If the person on whom the summons were issued under subsection (6) fails to appear in court on the date specified therein or informs the court that he has no cause to show, the court shall forthwith issue an order directing such person to stop forthwith advertising, in any manner, soliciting deposits.

(8) If a person on whom summons have been served under subsection (6) appears on the date specified therein and states that he has cause to show as to why an order should not be issued prohibiting him from advertising, in any manner, soliciting deposits, the court may proceed to hear and determine the matter.

(9) (a) At such inquiry the advertiser on whom summons under subsection (6) have been served shall not be entitled to contest any of the matters stated in the application under subsection (4) except that he has not made the advertisement referred to in the application or he had made such advertisement in accordance with any written law under which he is permitted to do so and such permission is in force and not revoked or otherwise rendered invalid.

(b) It shall not be competent to the Magistrate's Court to call for any evidence from the Director in support of the application under subsection (4).

(10) If after inquiry the Magistrate is not satisfied that the person showing cause is entitled to advertise soliciting deposits, the Magistrate shall make order directing such person, to stop forthwith advertising, in any manner, soliciting deposits.

(11) Every application made under subsection (4) shall be disposed of within a period of two calendar months from the date of such application and where a court has made, in pursuance of any such application, an order under subsection (7) or subsection (10), directing a person to stop forthwith advertising in any manner, soliciting deposits, the court shall make all such orders as are necessary to ensure that such order is effected.

**47.** Any print or electronic media shall, before publishing an advertisement which solicits deposits, verify from the advertiser whether he is authorised to accept deposits.

Media institutions to verify before publishing advertisements soliciting deposits.

**48.** (1) The Director may send a notice to any media institution requiring such institution to refrain from publishing advertisements soliciting deposits by a person specified in such notice.

Publication of advertisements soliciting deposits without authority is an offence.

(2) Any person that contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

## PART VIII

### OFFENCES, PENALTIES AND COMPOUNDING OF OFFENCES

**49.** (1) If the Board, on consideration of a report of the Director, is of the opinion that any past or present director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or a contractor of a finance company has by an act or omission caused a-

Steps to be taken regarding wrongful gain.

- (a) wrongful gain for himself or for any other person of any money or property belonging to such finance company; or
- (b) wrongful loss to the finance company,

the Board may notwithstanding that any action has also been taken under this Act or any other law, require such director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent, contractor or such other person to repay, restore to or compensate the finance company, the money or property so wrongfully gained or caused to wrongfully lose, with interest on such money or property at such rate as the Board may think fit and within such period of time as may be specified by the Board.

(2) Where any person referred to in subsection (1) fails to repay, restore to or compensate the finance company, the money or property referred to in that subsection, the Board may-

- (a) direct such person to disclose to any officer authorized by it within a specified time, the value, nature and whereabouts of any monies, properties or other assets -
  - (i) owned by such person; or
  - (ii) in which such person has a beneficial interest; or
  - (iii) acquired or purchased or held or possessed, by a relative of such person or any other person, in trust for such person, including the properties and other assets disposed in any manner whatsoever, as at a specified date or within a specified period.
- (b) require such person to furnish an affidavit enumerating all movable or immovable property owned or possessed by such person at any time, or at such time as may be specified by the Board stating the date on which each of the properties enumerated was acquired and whether the acquisition was by way of purchase, gift, bequest, inheritance or otherwise;
- (c) require any other person to furnish an affidavit -
  - (i) enumerating all movable or immovable property owned or possessed at any time, or at such time as may be specified by the Board by such person, where the Board has reasonable grounds to believe that such information can assist an investigation into the affairs of a finance company;

- (ii) containing particulars of such other matters which in the opinion of the Board are relevant to such investigations;
- (d) require the chief executive officer of any bank in Sri Lanka or any finance company as the case may be to produce within such time as may be specified in the notice, any book, document or cheque of the bank or any book, document or certificate of the finance company containing entries relating to the account of such person or to furnish as so specified, certified copies of such entries;

For the purpose of this paragraph, “document” shall include details of the contents of any safe deposit box.

- (e) notwithstanding the provisions to the contrary in any written law, require the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue to furnish, as specified in the notice, all information available to him relating to affairs of such person and to produce or furnish as specified in the notice, any document or certified copy of any document relating to such person, which is in the possession or under the control of the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue;
- (f) invite the public by any means whatsoever to furnish to a person authorized by it, any information required in terms of paragraph (a);
- (g) serve a notice on the chief executive officer of any bank or finance company to freeze the accounts of such person, whether held individually or jointly, upto an amount specified by the Board.

Every notice issued under this paragraph shall be in force for a period specified in such notice which period shall however not exceed ninety days and during the period a notice issued under this paragraph is in force any transfer of funds in contravention to the notice shall be void and of no effect;

- (h) serve a notice on any person referred to in subsection (1), or on a relative or other person holding property or assets in trust for the first mentioned person, or on any other person holding property or assets purchased or acquired by the improper utilization or misapplication of monies attributable to the funds of the finance company, prohibiting the transfer by such person, relative of such person, or other person, of possession, ownership or any interest in any properties or other assets specified in that notice, and also requiring such person to submit to the Director,-

- (i) in the case of immovable property the photostat copies of deeds relating to the title of such property;
- (ii) in the case of a motor vehicle, a copy of the certificate of Registration issued by the Commissioner of Motor Traffic, in respect of that motor vehicle;
- (iii) in the case of movable property other than motor vehicles photostat copies of documents in proof of ownership.

Every notice issued under this paragraph shall be in force for a period specified in such notice which period shall however, not exceed ninety days and during the period a notice issued under this paragraph is in force any transfer of ownership, possession or other interest in any property or assets specified in such notice shall be void and of no effect;

- (i) serve a copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (h) on any relevant authority including in the case of immovable property, the Registrar of Lands, in the case of motor vehicles, the Commissioner of Motor Traffic, in the case of shares, stocks and debentures of any company, the Registrar General of Companies and the Secretary of the relevant finance company and where applicable Director General of any stock exchange licensed under the Securities and Exchange Commission Act of Sri Lanka, No. 36 of 1987 and in the case of Government securities primary dealers appointed in terms of Registered Stock and Securities Ordinance, (Chapter ...) and Local Treasury Bills Ordinance, (Chapter ...);
- (j) require any authority on whom a copy of a notice referred to in paragraph (i) is served, to register such notice in the appropriate books or records in the custody of such authority and during the period, that a notice is in force, the Registrar of Lands, Commissioner of Motor Traffic and Registrar General of Companies and any other relevant authority on whom a copy of such notice has been served under paragraph (i) shall not register any deed or instrument of transfer or other document of title relating to the property or assets specified in that notice;
- (k) require any person or authority referred to in paragraphs (d) and (i) to furnish such information as he may have in his possession or custody relating to the assets of any person or relative of a person, referred to in paragraph (a);
- (l) (i) Before the expiration of the period specified in notices served under paragraphs (g) & (h), the Director may make an application by way of summary procedure to

the District Court having jurisdiction in the district within which any property specified in such notices is situated, for an order authorizing the seizure and sale of such property, and for a writ of execution for seizure and sale of such property;

- (ii) The District Court upon application made to it under sub-paragraph (i) and being satisfied that such past or present director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or contractor of a finance company referred to in subsection (1) has by an act or omission caused a wrongful gain for himself or for any other person of any money or property belonging to the company or wrongful loss to the company shall direct the chief executive officer of any bank or finance company to deposit the amount specified by the Board in the notices issued under paragraph (g) in the District Court, out of the funds in the accounts of such person, whether held individually or jointly, and the District Court shall direct a writ of execution to issue to the Fiscal authorizing and requiring him to seize the deposits so made.
- (iii) The District Court upon application made to it under sub-paragraph (i) and being satisfied that such past or present director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or contractor of a finance company referred to in subsection (1) has by an act or omission caused a wrongful gain for himself or for any other person of any money or property belonging to the company or wrongful loss to the company shall direct a writ of execution to issue to the Fiscal authorizing and requiring him to seize and sell-
  - (a) any property or assets owned by such director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or contractor of the finance company or any other person or persons so gained wrongfully; or
  - (b) any property or assets held in trust by a relative or any other person for such director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or contractor of the finance company; or
  - (c) any property or assets acquired or purchased with monies attributable to the assets of the finance company.
- (iv) The provisions of sections 217 to 297 of the Civil Procedure Code shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the seizure and sale of any property under a writ of execution issued under sub paragraphs (ii) and (iii).

- (v) Any sum realized by the seizure and sale of any property under this paragraph shall be applied by the court-
  - (a) firstly, in payment of the costs and charges incurred in seizing, keeping and selling such property;
  - (b) secondly, in satisfaction of the amount determined by court to be attributable to the finance company, referred to in sub paragraph (ii), and the balance shall be paid to the owner of the property seized.
- (vi) Where any money is seized in terms of subparagraph (ii) it shall be applied by the court in satisfaction of the amount determined by court to be attributable to the finance company, referred to in sub paragraph (ii), and the balance shall be repaid to the person to whom such money is due.

(3) Any past or present director, chief executive, manager, employee, agent or contractor of a finance company who has by an act or omission caused a-

- (a) wrongful gain for himself or for any other person, of any money or property belonging to the company; or
- (b) wrongful loss to the company;

shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

**50.** (1) Any person, who being a director, secretary, chief executive, manager, officer, employee or auditor of a finance company-

- (a) fails to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance by that finance company with the requirements of this Act;
- (b) fails to comply with any direction issued or rule made by the Board under the provisions of this Act;
- (c) fails to comply with any direction issued or requirement made by the Director under the provisions of this Act;
- (d) fails to take all reasonable steps to secure the correctness of any statement submitted by such finance company under the provisions of this Act;
- (e) makes a false entry in any book, record, file, register or such other document or statement relating to the business affairs, transactions, conditions, assets or liabilities or accounts of such finance company or causes such entry to be made;
- (f) omits to make an entry in any book, record, file, register or such other document or statement relating to the business affairs, transactions, conditions, assets or liabilities or accounts of such finance company or causes such entry to be omitted;
- (g) alters, abstracts, conceals, erases or destroys any entry in any

Offences by a director, secretary, chief executive, manager, officer, employee or auditor of a finance company.

book, record, file, register or such other document, or statement relating to the business affairs, transactions, conditions, assets or liabilities or accounts of such finance company or causes any such entry to be altered, abstracted, concealed, erased or destroyed; or

- (h) maintains multiple sets of books, records, files, registers, or such other documents for the purpose of concealing the true condition of such finance company,

shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(2) In any prosecution instituted against a person under subsection (1), it shall be a defence to prove that he had reasonable grounds to believe that another person was charged with the duty of securing compliance with the requirements of this Act or with the duty of ensuring that the statements in question were accurate and that such person was competent and in a position to discharge that duty.

**51.** Where an offence under this Act is committed by a person that is -

Offences by body of persons.

- a) a body corporate, every director, manager, or secretary of that body corporate;
- b) a firm, every partner of that firm; or
- c) an unincorporate body other than a firm, every member of such body,

shall be guilty of such offence.

Provided however, that no person shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of that offence.

**52.** Where an application has been made to High Court or Magistrate Court under the provisions of this Act, such application shall be heard and decided within four months of the date on which such application was filed.

Hearing and decision on applications made under this Act.

**53.** Any person who abets, conspires or attempts to commit an offence under this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable in the same manner as punishable for the substantive offence under this Act.

Abetting to commit an offence is an offence.

**54.** (1) Any person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2 of this Act shall be liable on conviction after trial before the High Court to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding five million rupees or to both such imprisonment and fine and to settle liabilities of such person to depositors and other creditors under supervision of court.

Penalties.

Provided however, that any person who is found guilty of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2 by application of the provisions of section 51 of this Act shall settle the liabilities of the relevant body corporate or the unincorporate body as the case may be, in such manner and in such extent as the court may direct.

Provided further, that the court may direct the debtors of such person or of the relevant body corporate or the unincorporate body as the case may be, to repay their debts in such manner and within such time as the court may direct.

(2) Any person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (11) of section 4, subsection (1) of section 17, subsection (4) of section 21, subsection (2) of section 29, subsection (7) of section 29, subsection (11) of section 40, subsection (3) of section 49 or subsection (1) of section 50 of this Act shall be liable on conviction after trial before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding three million rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Any person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (2) of section 18 and subsection (2) of section 48 of this Act shall be liable on conviction after trial before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding one million rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of this Act or any rule, direction, order or requirement made or imposed thereunder other than those the contravention of or failure to comply with constitute an offence as specified in subsections (1), (2) and (3) shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be liable on conviction after trial before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one million rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(5) All fines received under this Act shall be credited to the Fund for Enhancing Public Awareness on Financial Matters which shall be established and maintained by the Central Bank and the money lying to the credit of such fund may be utilized for the purposes and in a manner as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

(6) The amount lying to the credit to the Depositors' Relief Fund as at the date of coming into operation of this Act shall be transferred to the Fund for Enhancing Public Awareness on Financial Matters established under subsection (5) of this section.

**55.** (1) The Director may, having regard to the circumstances in which an offence under this Act was committed, subject to such terms and conditions as he may deem necessary for compounding and with the approval of the Board, compound such offence for a fee not exceeding one million rupees.

Compounding of offences.

Provided however, that compounding of an offence under subsection (3) of section 2 shall be for a fee not exceeding five million rupees.

For the purpose of this Part of this Act, fees payable for compounding of an offence shall be referred to as the “Compounding Fee”.

(2) Compounding Fees received in terms of subsection (1) shall be credited to the Fund for Enhancing Public Awareness on Financial Matters..

(3) The compounding of any offence under this section shall be notified in writing under the signature of the Director to the court having jurisdiction over the offence if the jurisdiction of such court has been invoked at the time such compounding took place.

(4) Compounding of an offence shall take effect immediately after the satisfaction of terms and conditions, if any, and payment of the compounding fee. Where an offence has been compounded in terms of this section, it shall have the effect of an acquittal of the accused.

**56.** (1) A director, manager or secretary of a body corporate or a partner or a member of an unincorporate body ordered to pay a fine or Compounding Fee shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, if he applies any funds of such body corporate or unincorporate body, as the case may be, for the payment of such fine or Compounding Fee or part thereof.

Application of funds for payment of fine.

(2) Any person who commits an offence under subsection (1) of this section shall be liable on conviction after trial before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding one million rupees or to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment and to restore to such body corporate or unincorporate body an amount equivalent to the amount of funds he utilized from such body corporate or unincorporate body to pay the fine or Compounding Fee.

**57.** (1) No person aggrieved by an order made or purported to have been made under section 4 or section 10 or subsection (2) of section 22 or paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 29 or subsection (6) of section 29 or subsection (6) of section 30 or section 32 or section 34 or section 35 or section 40 or section 49 or who apprehends that he would be affected by any act or any step taken, or proposed to be taken under or purporting to be taken under, any such section shall be entitled to a permanent or interim injunction, an enjoining order, a stay order or any other order having the effect of staying, restraining, or impeding the Board from giving effect to such order.

Provision for appeals from certain orders.

(2) (a) The jurisdiction conferred on the Court of Appeal by Article 140 of the Constitution shall in relation to any order or purported order under sections referred to in subsection (1), be exercised by the Supreme Court and not by the Court of Appeal.

(b) Every application invoking the jurisdiction referred to in paragraph (a) shall be made within one month of the date of commission of the act in respect of which or in relation to which, such application is made and the Supreme Court shall hear and finally dispose of such application within two months of the filing of such application.

(3) Nothing contained in subsection (1) shall affect the powers which the Supreme Court may otherwise lawfully exercise in respect of any application made under Article 126 of the Constitution or in the exercise of the jurisdiction referred to in subsection (2).

(4) The Supreme Court shall before making any order whether interim or final against the Board, in the exercise of the jurisdiction conferred on it by this section, afford the Board an opportunity of being heard.

## **PART IX GENERAL**

**58.** (1) Subject to and in accordance with such rules, if any, as may be made by the Board in that behalf, the Board may in writing authorise any officer of the Central Bank to represent the Board for any of the purposes of this Act, so however, that the Board shall remain and continue to remain to be responsible for any act or thing done or omitted to be done by such officer in representing the Board under such authorisation..

Authority to represent and delegation of powers.

(2) The Board may in writing delegate to any officer of the Central Bank any of its powers under this Act, so however, that the Board shall remain and continue to be responsible for any act or thing done or omitted to be done by such officer in the exercise of such powers delegated to him.

**59.** (1) Every director, manager, officer, employee and agent of any finance company and of any body corporate authorized in terms of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 36 shall observe strict secrecy in respect of all transactions of the finance company, its customers and the state of accounts of any person and all matters relating thereto and shall not reveal any such matter except -

Maintenance of secrecy.

(b) (a) when required to do so by a court of law or by the person to whom such matter relates; in the performance of the duties of such director, manager, officer, employee and agent; or

(c) in order to comply with any of the provisions of this Act or any other written law.

(2) Every director, manager, officer, employee and agent of any finance company and of any body corporate authorized in terms of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 36 shall sign a declaration pledging himself to observe strict secrecy in accordance with subsection (1).

(3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) shall not prohibit a finance company from providing in good faith to another finance company on request an opinion or reference relating to a customer in accordance with customary practices in the finance industry.

**60.** Officers of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka shall be deemed to be public officers, within the meaning of section 136 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979 for the purpose of instituting proceedings in respect of offences under this Act.

Officers of Central Bank deemed to be public officers.

**61.** No suit or prosecution shall lie against any member of the Board or any officer or servant of the Central Bank for any act done or purported to be done or omitted to be done, in good faith, by him under this Act.

Protection from suit.

**62.** No prosecution shall be instituted in any court against the Board or a member thereof or the Director or any officer or servant of the Central Bank or any other person who is authorized under the provisions of this Act to carry out any duty or function, by reason of any act done or purported to be done, or omitted to be done under this Act or any direction, order or requirement made or imposed thereunder unless the prior written sanction of the Attorney-General has been obtained for such prosecution.

Pre-condition for prosecution.

**63.** (1) Where the Director is satisfied, after examination by himself, or by any officer of the Central Bank or any other person, authorized on that behalf by the Director of the affairs of any finance company, or upon information received from the finance company that it would be in the interest of depositors to provide temporary financial accommodation to such finance company, the Director shall report accordingly to the Board and the Board may grant a loan or advance to a commercial bank from the Medium and Long Term Credit Fund established under section 88E of the Monetary Law Act (Chapter 422), for the purpose of lending to such finance company on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.

Providing temporary financial assistance & guarantees by the Board.

(2) The provisions of section 88A to 88E of the Monetary Law Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to any loan or advance granted to a commercial bank under the provisions of subsection (1).

(3) The Board may guarantee loans, advances or other accommodation granted to a finance company by credit institutions operating in Sri Lanka.

(4) In this section “credit institution” means-

- (a) any bank licensed under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988;
- (b) any finance company licensed under this Act;
- (c) any agency or institution acting on behalf of the government (whether established by any written law or otherwise) which grants loans and advances or makes investments or accepts deposits from the public;
- (d) any other person declared by the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance, by order published in the *Gazette*, to be a

banking institution for the purposes of Monetary Law Act (Chapter 422); and

(e) any such society registered under the Co-operative Societies Law, No 5 of 1972.

**64.** The Minister may give to the Board general or special directions in writing for the purpose of giving effect to the principles and provisions of this Act and the Board shall give effect to such directions. Directions of the Minister.

**65.** The Finance Companies Act, No 78 of 1988 is hereby repealed. Repeal.

**66.** (1) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Finance Companies Act, No 78 of 1988, every notice, order, rule, guideline or direction issued, requirement imposed, determination or delegation made under the repealed Act and in force on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act shall in so far as such notice, order, rule, guideline, direction, requirement, determination or delegation is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to be a notice, order, rule, guideline, direction, requirement, determination or delegation issued, imposed or made, as the case may be, under the provisions of this Act. Savings.

(2) Companies registered under the Finance Companies Act, No. 78 of 1988 which are carrying on finance business on the date of commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be finance companies licensed under this Act.

(3) All actions, proceedings or matters instituted in terms of Finance Companies Act, No. 78 of 1988 and pending in a Magistrate Court or District Court on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall stand removed to the court as defined in this Act and such court shall have jurisdiction to take cognizance of, hear and determine, or continue and complete, the same.

Provided that any such action, proceeding or matter, in which the adducing of evidence has commenced in the Magistrate Court or District Court on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall be heard and determined by the said Magistrate Court or District Court.

**67.** In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Act and the provisions of any other written law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail. This Act to prevail over other laws.

**68.** (1) For the purposes of this Act, “deposit” means a sum of money paid on terms under which it will be repaid, with or without interest or a premium, and either on demand or at a time or in circumstances agreed to by or on behalf of the person making the payment and the person receiving it, subject to subsections (2) and (3). Deposit.

(2) In any of the following instances a sum of money paid on terms

specified in subsection (1) shall not be a deposit for the purposes of this Act:-

- (a) a sum of money paid by way of a loan or investment in a debt instrument including a hybrid debt instrument by -
  - (i) the Central Bank;
  - (ii) a bank licensed under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988, a finance company within the meaning of this Act and a person exempted from the licensing requirement of the said Acts;
  - (iii) a person specifically authorized to lend money under any written law;
  - (iv) the Government, a Provincial Council or a local authority;
  - (v) any other source where repayment is guaranteed by the Government of Sri Lanka;
  - (vi) a foreign government;
  - (vii) the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank, or any other multilateral lending institution; and
  - (viii) any other institution that may be specified by the Board in this regard.
- (b) a sum of money paid by way of a loan or subscription to shares by one company to another at a time when the first mentioned company is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of another company or the first mentioned company is the holding company of the other or the same individual is the majority shareholder controller of both of them;
- (c) a sum of money which is paid by a person who, at the time when it is paid, is a relative of the person receiving it or is a director of the person receiving it or is a relative of a director of the person receiving it;

Provided however, that a sum of money received, other than by way of borrowings or subscription to shares, by a finance company within the meaning of this Act shall amount to a deposit;

For the purpose of this paragraph, "a relative" in relation to any individual means his spouse, his children, or his parent;

- (d) a sum of money paid to a person authorised to carry on

insurance business under the Regulation of Insurance Industry Act, No. 43 of 2000 for the purpose of carrying on authorized insurance business;

- (e) subject to subsection (3), a sum of money paid as subscription to shares;
- (f) a sum of money subscribed to bonds or debentures secured by the mortgage of any asset of a company provided that the total value of such bonds or debentures shall not exceed the market value of such asset of the company;
- (g) a sum of money subscribed to hybrid debt or subordinated debt, provided that the underlying debt instrument is a security listed on a stock exchange licensed under the Securities and Exchange Commission Act of Sri Lanka, No. 36 of 1987;
- (h) subject to subsection (3), a sum of money paid by way of security for the performance of a contract or by way of security in respect of loss which may result from the non-performance of a contract;
- (i) subject to subsection (3), a sum of money subscribed to hybrid debt or subordinated debt, the minimum maturity period of which is not less than sixty months;
- (j) subject to subsection (3), a sum of money paid to a person only on particular occasions on terms specified in subsection (1); and
- (k) a sum of money paid in a transaction, the nature of which may be as specified by the Board by notification in the *Gazette*.

(3) The Board may determine whether a sum of money transacted as specified in paragraphs (e), (h), (i) and (j) of subsection (2), is a deposit for the purposes of this Act, having regard to the frequency of those occasions and to the characteristics thereof.

**69.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

Interpretation.

“associate company” when used in relation to a particular company means a company in which such particular company holds not less than twenty per centum and not more than fifty per centum of the paid up ordinary share capital;

“Board” means the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

established under the Monetary Law Act, (Chapter 422);

“capital” means the paid up capital of a company;

“capital funds” in relation to a finance company means paid up capital and permanent free reserves and includes, if so determined by the Board, the face value of unsecured debentures and other loan bonds, which in the event of the winding up of a finance company or the return or reduction of capital shall rank after and be subordinated to deposits and other borrowings of the finance company;

“Central Bank” means the Central Bank of Sri Lanka established under the Monetary Law Act, (Chapter 422);

“commercial bank” means a licensed commercial bank within the meaning of the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988;

“core capital” means the aggregate of the following:-

- (a) issued and fully paid up ordinary shares or common stock and in the case of partly paid shares or stock the paid up amount:

Provided however, any shares issued against reserves, surpluses, retained profits which are not eligible to be included in core capital in terms of directions issued by the Board from time to time shall not be included in core capital;

Provided further, in calculating core capital in regard to a company applying for a licence under this Act issued ordinary shares shall be considered as paid up only if they are issued for cash;

- (b) issued and fully paid up non-cumulative, non redeemable preference shares where the payment of dividends could be reduced or waived off permanently in the event of profit being inadequate to support such payment in part or full:

Provided however, in deciding core capital in regard to a company applying for a licence under this Act, issued non-cumulative, non redeemable preference shares shall be considered as paid up only if they are issued for cash;

- (c) the excess of issue price over the par value of the ordinary shares, common stock or non-cumulative, non-redeemable preference shares, if applicable;

- (d) amount lying to the credit of a reserve fund maintained in terms of subsection (3) of section 15 of this Act;

- (e) disclosed reserves in the form of general or other free reserves

created or increased by appropriation of retained earnings, share premia or other realized surpluses as shown in the last audited statement of accounts;

(f) accumulative profit or losses as shown in the last audited statement of accounts:

Provided however, retained profits arising from the revaluation of investment properties, shall not be included;

(g) subject to any direction that may be issued by the Board any profit earned or loss incurred since the closing date of the last audited accounts including any surplus or loss after tax, arising from the sale of fixed and long term investments;

(h) any other capital element that meets the requirements stipulated by the Board from time to time;

“dependent child” shall mean a child who is under the age of 18 years; or a child under the age of 25 years who is unmarried and unemployed; or a child, irrespective of age, who suffers from a physical or mental disability that renders him incapable of earning his livelihood;

“Director” means the head of the department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to which the subject of finance companies has been assigned;

“finance business” means the business of acceptance of deposits, and

(a) the lending of money; or

(b) the investment of money in any manner whatsoever; or

(c) the lending of money and the investment of money in any manner whatsoever;

“finance company” means a company as defined in the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, issued with a licence under this Act;

“hire purchase agreement” shall have the same meaning assigned to the term in the Consumer Credit Act, No. 29 of 1982;

“hirer” shall have the same meaning assigned to the term in the Consumer Credit Act, No. 29 of 1982;

“holding company” shall have the same meaning assigned to the term in the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007;

“legal age of majority” shall have the meaning assigned to it under the Age of Majority Ordinance (Chapter ...);

“liquid assets” means-

- (a) cash in hand;
- (b) balances in a current or deposit account in a commercial bank, free from any bankers’ lien or charge;
- (c) Sri Lanka Government Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds, maturing within one year, free from any charge or lien;
- (d) Sri Lanka Government Securities maturing within one year and free from any charge or lien;
- (e) Central Bank of Sri Lanka securities maturing within one year and free from any charge or lien;
- (f) cash balance, if any, maintained with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka; and
- (g) such other assets as may be determined by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

“loan” includes any advance or the deferment of payment on any sale or the deferment of payment in a transaction relating to a hire purchase agreement or a leasing agreement;

“prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

“Provincial Council” means a Provincial Council established for a Province by virtue of Article 154A of the Constitution;

“relative” in relation to an individual means spouse or dependent child of such individual;

“subsidiary company” shall have the same meaning assigned to the term in the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007;

“substantial interest” –

(a) in relation to a company, the holding of a beneficial interest by another company or an individual or his relative, whether singly or taken together, in the shares thereof, the paid up value of which exceeds ten per centum of the paid up capital of the company or the existence of a guarantee or indemnity for a sum not less than ten per cent of the paid up capital given by an individual or his relative or by another company on behalf of such company;

(b) in relation to a firm, the beneficial interest held therein by an individual or his relative, whether singly or taken together, which represents more than ten per centum of the total capital subscribed by all partners of the firm or the existence of a guarantee or indemnity for a sum not less than ten per centum of that capital given by an individual or the spouse, parent or child of the individual on behalf of such firm.

**70.** 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.