

My No: JSC/SEC/CIR/2021

**To: All High Court Judges and Judicial Officers**

**Inviting learned members of the Judiciary to express their opinion on Civil Law Reforms**

Having considered a letter and the attachments received from Mr. M.M.P.K. Mayadunne, Secretary, Ministry of Justice dated 01.04.2021 on the subject referred to above (Copies attached hereto), Judicial Service Commission directed me to inform you that you are at your liberty to forward proposals, suggestions and views as requested.

Under the Command of the Judicial Service Commission,

H. Sanjeewa Somaratne

Secretary

Judicial Service Commission

H. Sanjeewa Somaratne

Secretary

Judicial Service Commission

Colombo 12

09<sup>th</sup> April 2021,

Judicial Service Commission Secretariat,

Colombo 12.

CC: Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Colombo 12.

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நீதி அமைச்சு

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Secretary

Judicial Service Commission

### Inviting learned members of the Judiciary to express their opinion on Civil Law Reforms

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the letter of Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee, appointed by the Hon. Minister of Justice forwarded to this ministry inviting learned members of the Judiciary to express their opinion on Civil Law Reforms.

Accordingly, it would be very much appreciated if you could kindly bring this matter to the consideration of the commission to consider the same and submit the requested opinions on or before **30<sup>th</sup> of April 2021** to support the said Committee's endeavor.

Your cooperation to make this initiative a success is highly appreciated.

  
M.M.P.K. Mayadunne

Secretary

Ministry of Justice

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திகதி } 01.04.2021  
Date }

The Secretary  
The Judicial Services Commission of Sri Lanka

Honourable Sir,

**Inviting learned members of the Judiciary to express their opinion on civil law reforms**

Hon. Minister of Justice, M.U.M. Ali Sabry PC on approval of Cabinet of Ministers has set up a Special Unit of the Ministry of Justice with the view to achieve the objectives of improving the efficiency and efficacy of the legal administration of Sri Lanka which will ultimately strengthen the rule of law.

Accordingly, a separate sub-committee has been setup to propose and carry out reforms to the Civil Law in the country. One of the main objectives of this committee is to identify law reforms required in the short term, medium term and long term and to identify other relevant developments required to carry out the administration of Justice in Civil Courts in Sri Lanka efficiently. Also it is the ultimate objective of this committee to suggest innovative ideas and ways to address the law delays related to civil litigation.

Accordingly on the recommendations of the Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee the Ministry of Justice has already appointed several Advisory Committees to review the following Statutes/Laws,

- i. Civil Procedure Code
- ii. Rent Law
- iii. Debt Conciliation Board Act
- iv. Condominium Law
- v. Title Registration Act
- vi. Notaries Ordinance
- vii. Registration of Documents Ordinance
- viii. Wills Ordinance
- ix. Power of Attorneys Ordinance
- x. Revocation of Gifts on gross ingratitude Act
- xi. Marriage Registration Ordinance
- xii. Domestic Violence Act
- xiii. Maintenance Ordinance
- xiv. Privacy Laws
- xv. Provincial High Court Special Provisions Act
- xvi. Land Development Ordinance

xvii. Evidence ordinance (Section 68 and Section 90)

This sub-committee is of the view that the learned members of the Judiciary should be a key contributor in this endeavor. Therefore we would like to cordially invite the members of the Judiciary to come up with proposals, suggestions and views on the relevant areas that need urgent attention and reforms relating to Civil Law in Sri Lanka. Therefore we would be much obliged, if you could publish and distribute the notice attached hereto among the members of the Judiciary, Judicial Service Association and High Court Judges Association .

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,

**The Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee,**  
The Ministry of Justice  
Superior Court Complex  
Colombo 12

## **CALLING LEARNED MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY TO SEND SUGGESTIONS ON CIVIL LAW REFORMS**

The Hon. Minister of Justice has appointed a sub-committee for the Civil Law Reforms. The main tasks of this sub-committee is to;

- a. Identify the procedural and substantive laws which need to be reformed by way of amendment, repeal or the introduction of new laws.
- b. To identify the other relevant developments required, other than law reforms per se, to effectively carry out the administration of Civil Law in Sri Lanka.
- c. To identify the institutions other than courts which needs to be reformed.
- d. Suggest innovative ideas and ways to address the laws delays, related to civil litigation in Sri Lanka.
- e. On the recommendations of the Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee the Ministry of Justice has already appointed several Advisory Committees to review the following Statutes/Laws,
  - i. Civil Procedure Code
  - ii. Rent Law
  - iii. Debt Conciliation Board Act
  - iv. Condominium Law
  - v. Title Registration Act
  - vi. Notaries Ordinance
  - vii. Registration of Documents Ordinance
  - viii. Wills Ordinance
  - ix. Power of Attorneys Ordinance
  - x. Revocation of Gifts on gross ingratitude Act
  - xi. Marriage Registration Ordinance
  - xii. Domestic Violence Act
  - xiii. Maintenance Ordinance
  - xiv. Privacy Laws
  - xv. Provincial High Court Special Provisions Act
  - xvi. Land Development Ordinance
  - xvii. Evidence ordinance (Section 68 and Section 90)

This committee thus kindly invites views and suggestions from the Members of the Judiciary on the above matters namely;

- a. The procedural and substantive laws which need to be reformed by way of amendment, repeal or the introduction of new laws.
- b. The other relevant developments required, other than law reforms per se, to effectively carry out the administration of Civil Law in Sri Lanka.
- c. New courts/court houses need to be established.
- d. Any other innovative ideas and ways to address the laws delays, related to civil litigation in Sri Lanka.

The Subcommittee kindly request you to submit your views on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to;

**The Civil Law Reforms Sub-Committee,**  
The Ministry of Justice, Superior Court Complex, Colombo 12  
And/or via e-mail to [civillawreforms@gmail.com](mailto:civillawreforms@gmail.com)