

PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

FINANCE

A

BILL

to enable persons to voluntarily disclose undisclosed taxable supplies, income and assets required to be disclosed under certain laws; to provide for the imposition of a tax on the taxable supplies, income and assets so disclosed; to indemnify the persons who voluntarily disclose any such taxable supply, income or asset against liability from investigation, prosecution and penalties under specified laws; to grant certain concessions to persons who had already disclosed taxable supplies, income and assets under specified laws; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto

Presented by the Minister of Finance on 20th of July, 2021

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L. D.- O 21/2021

AN ACT TO ENABLE PERSONS TO VOLUNTARILY DISCLOSE UNDISCLOSED TAXABLE SUPPLIES, INCOME AND ASSETS REQUIRED TO BE DISCLOSED UNDER CERTAIN LAWS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX ON THE TAXABLE SUPPLIES, INCOME AND ASSETS SO DISCLOSED; TO INDEMNIFY THE PERSONS WHO VOLUNTARILY DISCLOSE ANY SUCH TAXABLE SUPPLY, INCOME OR ASSET AGAINST LIABILITY FROM INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND PENALTIES UNDER SPECIFIED LAWS; TO GRANT CERTAIN CONCESSIONS TO PERSONS WHO HAD ALREADY DISCLOSED TAXABLE SUPPLIES, INCOME AND ASSETS UNDER SPECIFIED LAWS; AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH AND 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 Act, No. of Short title 2021.

5 **PARTI**

IMPOSING THE TAX ON VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

- 2. (1) The provisions of this Part shall, subject to the Persons to provisions of subsection (2), apply to any person who has not disclosed any amount of taxable supply, income or asset 10 which was required to be disclosed under the provisions of any law specified in Schedule I hereto (hereinafter in this Part referred to as "undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset"), in a Value Added Tax Return for any taxable period ended on or prior to March 31, 2020 or in a return of income 15 for any year of assessment ended on or prior to March 31, 2020.
 - (2) The provisions of this Part shall not apply to-

Part applies

- (a) any person in relation to whom investigations or legal proceedings under the provisions of any law specified in Schedule II is pending, in relation to any undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset;
- 5 (b) any person who has been convicted of an offence under the provisions of any law specified in Schedule II in relation to any undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset; or
- (c) any amount of undisclosed taxable supply, income 10 or asset held by any person, in respect of which an assessment under the provisions of any respective law specified in Schedule I or Schedule IV has been made:

Provided however, the provisions of paragraph (c) shall 15 not apply to any amount of undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset which has not been taken into account in making an assessment referred to in that paragraph.

- (3) Every person referred to in subsection (1), not being a person referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection 20 (2), shall hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "person to whom this Part applies".
- 3. (1) A person to whom this Part applies, shall invest or Undisclosed deposit an amount equivalent to the undisclosed taxable taxable taxable supply, income or asset, subject to the provisions of 25 subsections (2) and (3).

income or assets to be invested or deposited

- (2) If a person to whom this Part applies, intends to invest an amount equivalent to the undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset, he shall -
- (a) where he is able to immediately invest such amount, 30 purchase-
 - (i) shares issued by a resident company;

- (ii) treasury bills or treasury bonds issued by the Central Bank on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka;
- (iii) any quoted debt securities issued by a resident company in Sri Lanka; or

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(iv) any movable or immovable property in Sri Lanka,

on or after the date of commencement of this Act but prior to December 31, 2021; or

- 10 (b) where he is unable to immediately invest such amount available in cash whether in Sri Lankan rupees or in foreign currency, he shall deposit such amount in a bank account, on or after the date of commencement of this Act but prior to December 31, 2021.
 - (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the provisions of subsection (2) shall not apply to a person to whom this Part applies who, prior to the date of commencement of this Act $\,-\,$
- 20 (a) has utilized an amount equivalent to the undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset, to purchase-
 - (i) shares issued by a resident company;
 - (ii) treasury bills or treasury bonds issued by the Central Bank on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka;
 - (iii) any quoted debt securities issued by a resident company in Sri Lanka; or
 - (iv) any movable or immovable property; or

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- (b) has deposited an amount equivalent to the undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset in a bank account.
- 4. (1) A person to whom this Part applies shall be liable Tax on 5 to pay a tax to be called the "Tax on Voluntary Disclosure" Voluntary prior to making the declaration under section 5 subject to Disclosure the provisions of subsection (2).

- (2) Where a person to whom this Part applies intends to disclose -
- 10 (a) any undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset other than immovable or movable property in the declaration made under subsection (1) of section 5, he is liable to pay the Tax on Voluntary Disclosure at the rate of one per centum of such amount or 15 income, or on the cost of such asset invested or deposited under section 3; or
 - (b) any immovable or movable property in the declaration made under subsection (1) of section 5, he is liable to pay Tax on Voluntary Disclosure at the rate of one per centum on the market value of such property on the date of the declaration.
- (3) Any amount of the Tax on Voluntary Disclosure paid by a person to whom this Part applies shall not be deemed to be a tax credit or an expenditure within the meaning of the 25 Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 and shall not be refundable.
- (1) Any person to whom this Part applies who has Disclosure of invested or deposited any undisclosed taxable supply, undisclosed income or asset as specified in section 3 and has paid the 30 Tax on Voluntary Disclosure as specified in section 4, shall income or on or prior to December 31, 2021, submit to the asset

Commissioner-General a declaration (hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "declarant") in relation to any undisclosed taxable supply, income or asset, substantially in the relevant Form specified in Part I or Part II of Schedule V hereto subject to the guidelines issued by the Commissioner-General under subsection (2).

- (2) The Commissioner-General may issue guidelines specifying –
- (a) attachments, if any, required to be filed with the declaration in order to prove that the declarant has complied with the provisions of sections 3 and 4; and
 - (b) the manner of filing the declaration.
- (3) The Commissioner-General shall upon being satisfied of the declaration made under subsection (1), acknowledge such declaration in writing within thirty days of receipt of such declaration and such acknowledgement shall be deemed to be the proof of acceptance by the Commissioner-General of a declaration made under subsection (1).
- 20 (4) (a) The Commissioner-General may reject a declaration made under subsection (1), if such declaration is not in compliance with the provisions of this Part.
 - (b) Such rejection shall forthwith be notified in writing to the declarant.
- 25 (5) Any declarant who intentionally provides false or incorrect information in the declaration made under subsection (1) shall not be entitled to the immunity granted under section 6, notwithstanding the acknowledgement of such declaration by the Commissioner-General under 30 subsection (3).

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6. (1) A declarant whose declaration has been Immunity acknowledged by the Commissioner-General under granted to subsection (3) of section 5 and, who has paid the Tax on Voluntary Disclosure as specified in section 4, shall be 5 entitled to enjoy the full immunity from liability to pay any tax, penalty or interest or from any investigation or prosecution -

- (a) under the provisions of the respective law specified in Schedule I hereto in relation to any period ending 10 on or prior to March 31, 2020 and in relation to the taxable supply, income or asset disclosed in the declaration made under subsection (1) of section 5;
 - (b) under the provisions of the Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002 in relation to any period ending on or prior to March 31, 2020 and in relation to the amount of taxable supplies disclosed in the declaration made under subsection (1) of section 5, unless such tax has been collected by such declarant.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5) of 20 section 5, the Commissioner-General shall ensure that full immunity as specified above, be granted to any declarant referred to in subsection (1).
- 7. (1) The Commissioner-General or any officer of the Secrecy Department of Inland Revenue, shall preserve and aid in 25 preserving absolute secrecy in respect of the identity of a declarant and any matter or thing contained in a declaration made under subsection (1) of section 5 of this Act.
- (2) All provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 applicable to the maintenance of official secrecy 30 including punishment for the breach of such secrecy under section 100 of such Act, shall mutatis mutandis be applicable to a declaration made under this Act.

8. Where any person to whom this Part applies fails to Consequence comply with the provisions of this Act, he shall be liable to of tailure to comply with be dealt with in terms of the provisions of the respective law the specified in Schedule I or Schedule IV hereto.

provisions of this Act

For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that Avoidance of the provisions of this Part shall apply to any person to whom this Part applies, notwithstanding anything done or any amnesty granted under the provisions of Inland Revenue (Regulation of Amnesty) Act, No. 10 of 2004.

10 **PART II**

PROVISIONS TO WRITE OFF TAX ARREARS UNDER CERTAIN LAWS

The provisions of this Part shall apply to any person Persons to who, is liable to pay any tax arrears under the provisions of any law specified in Schedule I, Schedule III or Schedule IV 15 or, is liable to pay any penalty imposed under the provisions of any such law, for any year of assessment commencing prior to April 1, 2020 or for any period commencing prior to December 31, 2020 (hereinafter in this Part referred to as the "taxpayer").

Part applies

11. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Tax arrears law or any provision of any law specified in Schedule III to be written off in respect hereto or Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002, the of certain Commissioner-General shall write off, subject to sections 14 and 15, any tax arrears under any law in Part A of

25 Schedule III hereto or under the specific provisions of the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002 specified in Part B of Schedule III hereto, in respect of any period ending on or prior to December 31, 2020, in relation to a taxpayer.

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12. The Commissioner-General shall write off, subject Tax arrears to sections 14 and 15, any tax arrears payable under the to be written provisions of any law specified in Schedule I other than of certain Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002, as at December 31, individuals 5 2020, by any individual whose assessable income, calculated in terms of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, for the year of assessment ending on March 31, 2020, does not exceed rupees three million:

off in respect

Provided however, the provisions of this section shall 10 not apply to any such individual, under the following circumstances: -

- (a) where the assessable income of the relevant individual exceeds rupees three million without deducting any loss including an unrelieved loss, in terms of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
- (b) where the assessable income of the relevant individual exceeds rupees three million in aggregate with the gains and profits exempted from income 20 tax in terms of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
 - (c) where the annual gross turnover for the year of assessment ending on March 31, 2020, of a business or partnership of which the relevant individual is a partner, is not less than rupees five hundred million; or
 - (d) where the assessable income of the relevant individual includes an income earned from conducting a business of betting and gaming or any business of liquor excluding such income which is merely incidental to another business.

13. (1) The Commissioner-General shall write off any Penalty on penalty or interest, calculated in terms of the provisions of tax in default to be written any law specified in Schedule I or Schedule IV hereto, in off relation to a taxpayer, in respect of which the payment due 5 date was December 31, 2020 or a date prior to that date, if the taxpayer settles the full amount of the tax outstanding, under the provisions of said laws, on or prior to March 31, 2022.

- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be read and construed 10 as imposing a liability on the taxpayer to pay any tax, interest or penalty thereon, in respect of any tax arrears written off in terms of the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017 or the provisions of section 11 or 12 of this Act.
- 14. Where there is any dispute in relation to any tax Tax arrears 15 arrears referred to in section 11 or 12, pending decision in dispute not before the Tax Appeals Commission or any court of law, off prior to February 22, 2021, under the provisions of any respective law specified in Schedule I or Schedule III hereto, on an assessment made in relation to a taxpayer, shall not be 20 written off under the provisions of section 11 or 12, as the case may be.

15. Any tax refund pending payment on the date of Tax refunds commencement of this Act duly claimed by a taxpayer, under to be set off the provisions of any law specified in Schedule I, Schedule tax arrears 25 III or Schedule IV hereto, for any period ending prior to December 31, 2020 shall be set off against any tax arrears written off under the provisions of section 11 or 12:

written off

Provided however, the provisions of this section shall have no application to any penalty imposed by law in a 30 period subsequent to the period in which the refund is due.

- 16. (1) The Commissioner-General shall communicate Commissionerin writing, to every taxpayer, the amount of refund to be set General to off against the tax arrears in terms of section 15.
 - inform amounts set off arrears
- (2) If such person is dissatisfied with the amounts of the against tax 5 refund to be set off against the tax arrears so written off, he shall within a period of fourteen days from the date of the communication of the Commissioner-General, make a written request to the Commissioner-General to not to set off the refunds against the tax arrears as specified by the 10 Commissioner-General and shall settle the full amount of the tax arrears on or prior to March 31, 2022.
- (3) (a) The Commissioner-General may, upon a request made by the taxpayer under subsection (2), grant approval to such taxpayer to settle the tax arrears referred to in 15 subsection (1) on or prior to March 31, 2022, in accordance with a suitable payment plan submitted along with the request under subsection (2).
- (b) The Commissioner-General shall write off any interest or penalty on such tax arrears, if the taxpayer acts in 20 compliance with the payment plan approved under paragraph (a) on or prior to the dates approved by the Commissioner-General in such payment plan.
- (4) Where the taxpayer does not make a request under subsection (2) or does not settle the tax arrears according to 25 the payment plan accepted by the Commissioner-General, the Commissioner-General shall proceed to set off the refunds against the tax arrears as specified in his communication under subsection (1).
- 17. Any assessment under the provisions of Nation Assessments 30 Building Tax Act, No. 9 of 2009 or Economic Service Charge $\stackrel{shall\ not\ be}{\cdot}$ Act, No. 13 of 2006 shall not be issued in relation to a certain laws taxpayer, under the provisions of the respective law, on or after January 1, 2021.

The Commissioner-General shall maintain proper Proper records with regard to the tax arrears and penalties written off under the provisions of sections 11, 12 and 13.

records shall maintained

In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala text 5 Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

to prevail in case of inconsistency

20. In this Act unless the context otherwise requiresInterpretation

"asset" means money or any immovable or movable property, including bank balances, financial instruments, shares, derivatives, treasury bills, fixed deposits, time deposits, bonds or other forms of deposits, money given by way of security or loans, cash, gem or gold in hand, any other monetary right but excluding any intangible asset unless such intangible asset has been purchased by the taxpayer from any other person;

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- "bank account" means any bank account opened and maintained by a declarant in a bank licensed under the Banking Act, No. 30 of 1988;
- 20 "Commissioner-General" shall have the same meaning as in the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
 - "Central Bank" means the Central Bank of Sri Lanka established under the Monetary Law Act (Chapter 422);
- "immovable property" includes any building in 25 Sri Lanka or abroad whether constructed or under construction;

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- "income" means any gain, profit or receipt derived from any source whether in Sri Lanka or abroad;
- "loss" shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under section 19 of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
- "money" includes local currency and foreign currency whether retained in Sri Lanka or abroad;
- "movable property" includes all forms of movable property in Sri Lanka or abroad including gold but does not include money;
 - "person" shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
- "return" means a return of income that a person is
 required to file with the Department of Inland
 Revenue in terms of the respective law specified in
 Schedule I, including any certificate, declaration
 or any other attachment required to be furnished
 with the return;
- 20 "resident company" means a company within the meaning of subsection (4) of section 69 of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
 - "tax" in Part II shall include any tax, surcharge, levy, duty, charge or contribution payable or levied under the respective law specified in Schedule I, III or IV;

"taxable supply" shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under section 83 of the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002;

- "tax arrears" means a tax that remain unpaid after the
 payment due date in compliance with the respective
 law and includes a tax in default or other penalty
 imposed under any such law and withholding tax
 or tax deducted on employment income by an
 employer, that remain unpaid in accordance with
 the records of the Commissioner-General:
 - "Tax Appeals Commission" means Tax Appeals Commission established under the Tax Appeals Commission Act, No. 23 of 2011;
- "unrelieved loss" shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under section 19 of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017;
 - "year of assessment" shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under section 20 of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017.

SCHEDULE I

(sections 2,6,8,10,12,13,14 and 15)

- 1. Inland Revenue Act, No. 28 of 1979
- 2. Inland Revenue Act, No. 38 of 2000
- 3. Inland Revenue Act, No. 10 of 2006
- 4. Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017
- 5. Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002

SCHEDULE II

(section 2)

- 1. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, No. 5 of 2006
- Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act, No. 25 of 2005
- 3. Bribery Act (Chapter 26)
- Conventions Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 1 of 2008

SCHEDULE III

(sections 10,11,14 and 15)

Part A

- Wealth Tax and Gifts Tax imposed under Inland Revenue Act, No. 28 of 1979
- 2. Turnover Tax Act, No. 69 of 1981
- 3. Surcharge on Wealth Tax Act, No. 25 of 1982
- 4. Surcharge on Wealth Tax Act, No. 8 of 1989
- 5. Surcharge on Income Tax Act, No. 26 of 1982
- 6. Surcharge on Income Tax Act, No. 12 of 1984
- 7. Surcharge on Income Tax Act, No. 7 of 1989
- 8. National Security Levy Act, No. 52 of 1991
- 9. Save the Nation Contribution Act, No. 5 of 1996
- 10. Goods and Services Tax Act, No. 34 of 1996
- 11. Surcharge on Income Tax Act, No. 6 of 2001
- 12. Debits Tax Act, No. 16 of 2002
- Social Responsibility Levy imposed under Finance Act, No. 5 of 2005
- 14. Economic Service Charge Act, No. 13 of 2006

- 15. Nation Building Tax Act, No. 9 of 2009
- Economic Service Charge imposed under Finance Act, No. 11 of 2004

Part B

- 1. Optional Value Added Tax imposed under section $25 \, \text{H}$ of the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002
- VAT Advance Payment deducted under section 26A of the Value Added Tax Act, No.14 of 2002

SCHEDULE IV

(sections 2,8,10,13 and 15)

- 1. Betting & Gaming Levy Act, No. 40 of 1988
- 2. Finance Act, No. 11 of 2002
- 3. Stamp Duty Act, No. 43 of 1982
- 4. Stamp Duty (Special Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 2006

SCHEDULE V

(section 5)

Part I

Tax on Voluntary Disclosure

Finance Act, No. of 2021

DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5

To be furnished by an Individual

National Identity Card No:
Passport No:
1. I, Rev./ Mr./ Mrs./ Miss/(full
name) holder of NIC No./ Passport No
declaration with respect to the taxable supply, income or asset in terms of Part I of the Finance Act, No of 2021.

2. I do hereby declare following taxable supply, income or asset which were held by me as at March 31, 2020 in Sri Lanka or any other country .

Serial	Type of taxable	Place of the taxable	Quantity/	Amount /
No.	supply, income	supply, income or	Account	Market
	or asset	asset held / Entity/	No.	Value
		Bank invested		
	Total Amount /	Market Value		

3. Money declared as above are-

(i) inve	sted on -
(a)	(quantity) shares/ debt securities of (name of the
	company), amounting to Rs on
(b)	treasury bills / treasury bonds issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Rs on
(c)	immovable property such as land, building, motor vehicle, gold etc. please specify) in Sri Lanka Rs
(ii) depo	sited in my account bearing
	at the
	branch of
	on (date).
4. I have	paid the tax on aggregate amount/ market value referred
to in paragraph	2, at the rate of 1% in terms of section 4 amounting
to Rs	
under the refe	rence Noto the
account of Co	mmissioner-General of Inland Revenue.

- 5. In relation to the amount of taxable supply, income or asset declared-
 - (a) I have no investigations or pending cases or, I have not been convicted of an offence, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, No. 5 of 2006, Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act, No. 25 of 2005, Bribery Act (Chapter 26), or Conventions Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 1 of 2008; or
 - (b) No assessment has been made under any law referred to in Schedule I or Schedule IV of the Finance Act, No. of 2021.

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that the above particulars given by me herein are, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:	
	Signature of the declarant

Note: Where the space in this form is inadequate, a separate sheet of paper may be used and signed by the declarant.

(The declaration shall be submitted, on or prior to December 31, 2021, to the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue)

Part II (section 5)

Tax on Voluntary Disclosure

Finance Act, No. of 2021

DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5

To be furnished by an entity (*company, partnerships, fund, society, NGOs etc.)

Taxpayer Identification No:
Type of the Entity:
Entity Registration No:

name)	hold	er of	fliss/ NIC No		of
of entity) he ar	is the a	uthorized	l person to make a d le supply, income	eclaration w	designation) (name of the with respect to of the above
Part I 2. asset v	of the Find I do head which we	inance A nereby d re held a	ect, No of 2021. ectare following tax is at March 31, 2020	kable suppl in Sri Lanka	y, income or a or any other
ountr of ent					(name
Serial No.	Type of supply, or asset		Place of the taxable supply, income or asset held / Entity/ Bank invested	Quantity/ Account No.	Amount / Market Value
			Market Value		
	Money i) inve		l as above are -		
	(a)	amou	(quantity) sl nting to Rs(date).	(name of t	the company),
	(<i>b</i>)	Bank	ry bills / treasury bo of Sri Lanka Rs (date).		
	(c)	or imi	movable property sucle, gold etc. pleaseon	h as land, but specify) i	uilding, motor in Sri Lanka
(i	No.	8	n my		branch of
			(date).		

o in paragrant the rate of	aph 2 on behalf of the*, 1% in terms of section 4 amounting to Rs
5. In a declared-	relation to the amount of taxable supply, income or asset
cci ir (N p; o F	the
S	No assessment has been made under any law referred to in chedule I or Schedule IV of the Finance Act, No of 021.
by me on bentity) in th	the above particulars given behalf of
Date:	
	Signature of the Chairman/Managing Director/ Partner/President
	ere the space in this form is inadequate, a separate sheet of er may be used and signed by the declarant.

(The declaration shall be submitted, on or prior to December 31,

2021, to the Commissioner-General of Inland Revenue)

