

CHAPTER VI

PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY AND FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Principles of
State Policy.

52. The following principles shall guide the State in making laws and in the governance of Sri Lanka –

(1) The State shall recognize the pluralistic character of Sri Lankan society and strengthen national unity by ensuring that the composition of the institutions of State reflects such character and shall promote co-operation and mutual trust, confidence and understanding among all sections of the People of Sri Lanka.

(2) The State shall assist the development of the cultures and languages of the People.

(3) The State shall safeguard and strengthen the democratic structure of government and the democratic rights of the People.

(4) The State shall establish a just, equitable and moral social order, the objectives of which include -

- (a) the full realization of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all persons;
- (b) securing and protecting effectively a social order in which social, economic and political justice shall inform all institutions of national life;
- (c) the elimination of economic and social privilege, disparity and exploitation;
- (d) the equitable distribution of the material resources of the community and the social product;
- (e) the realization of an adequate standard of living for all citizens and their families including adequate food, clothing, housing and medical care;
- (f) ensuring social security and welfare;
- (g) raising the moral, cultural and educational standards of the People and facilitating the full development of the human personality;
- (h) the creation of the necessary environment to enable adherents of all religions to make a living reality of their religious principles.

(5) The State shall develop the whole country by means of appropriate public and private economic activity.

(6) The State shall protect and preserve and improve the environment and safeguard the reefs, shores, forests, lakes, watercourses and wildlife of Sri Lanka.

(7) The State shall protect and preserve every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest declared by or under any law to be of national importance.

(8) The State shall promote international peace, security and co-operation, and the establishment of a just and equitable international economic and social order, and shall respect, and foster respect for, international law and treaty obligations in dealings with and among nations.

(9) The State shall strengthen, respect and foster respect for, international instruments relating to human rights and humanitarian law to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

(10) The State shall secure the operation of a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal and unrestrained access to all who seek redress of the law and provide, within its available resources, free legal aid to ensure that no person is deprived of such access due to lack of resources or disability.

53. It shall be the duty of every citizen to –

Fundamental
duties.

- (1) uphold and protect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;
- (2) uphold and defend the Constitution and its ideals and institutions;
- (3) foster national unity and promote harmony amongst all the People of Sri Lanka;
- (4) respect the rights and freedoms of others ;
- (5) value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture ;
- (6) protect and improve the environment, conserve its riches, and value all forms of life;
- (7) safeguard and preserve artistic or historical objects and places of national importance ;
- (8) safeguard and protect public property and combat its waste or misuse ;
- (9) refrain from directly or indirectly participating in bribery or corruption ;

(10) uphold the rule of law and renounce all forms of violence ;

(11) work conscientiously in that citizen's chosen occupation.

Principles of
State Policy and
Fundamental
Duties not
justifiable.

54. (1) The provisions of this Chapter do not confer or impose legal rights or obligations, and are not enforceable in any court or tribunal.

(2) Any question of inconsistency with such provisions shall not be raised in any court or tribunal.