Administrative Districts Act,
No. 22 of 1955

Date of Assent: April 14, 1955

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Administrative Districts Act, No. 22 of 1955

L. D.—O. 49/53.

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS AS THE AREAS OF AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENTS, TO EFFECT AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFECTING OF CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS IN OTHER WRITTEN LAW, AND TO PROVIDE FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID.**

[Date of Assent: April 14, 1955]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Ceylon in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Administrative Districts Act, No. 22 of 1955.

2. (1) The Administrative Districts specified in the First Schedule to this Act are hereby established.

   (2) The limits of each Administrative District specified in column 1 of the First Schedule to this Act shall, subject to any alterations made therein under section 3, be those specified in the corresponding entry in column II of that Schedule.

3. An Administrative District may be abolished, a new Administrative District may be established, the limits of an Administrative District may be altered, and the First Schedule to this Act may be amended or replaced with a new Schedule, by a resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

4. Each Administrative District shall be assigned to a Government Agent as his area of authority instead of a Province.

5. Any number of Additional Government Agents, Assistant Government Agents, and Additional Assistant Government Agents may be appointed for an Administrative District.

6. This Act shall not be deemed to prevent the continuance of the Provinces of Ceylon, as now constituted or as may hereafter be constituted, for any purpose other than that for which Administrative Districts are established by this Act.

2—J. N. R 1104—3,044 (3/55)
7. (1) In any written law, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "Administrative District," shall mean an Administrative District established by or under this Act.

(2) Every reference in any other written law to a revenue district shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district.

(3) Where any other written law enables or requires the Government Agent of a Province to exercise or perform any power, duty or function, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as enabling or requiring the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to exercise or perform that power, duty or function within the limits of that Administrative District.

(4) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to make any by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring power on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to make for that Administrative District any such by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice.

(5) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to issue any licence, permit, certificate of registration, or other document, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring power on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province to issue for that Administrative District any such licence, permit, certificate of registration or other document.

(6) Where any other written law confers on the Government Agent of a Province the power to determine any fees or charges, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as conferring on the Government Agent of each Administrative District in that Province the power to determine for that Administrative District any such fees or charges.

(7) Where any other written law requires any such notice, information, declaration, return or other document as relates to any matter in any part of a Province to be delivered, sent or given to the Government Agent
of that Province, such law shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as requiring that notice, information, declaration, return or other document to be delivered, sent or given to the Government Agent of the Administrative District within which that part of that Province lies.

(8) Every reference to the Government Agent, Western Province, in the Victoria Home for the Incurables Incorporation Ordinance, No. 7 of 1903, shall, after the commencement of this Act, be construed as a reference to the Government Agent of the Administrative District of Colombo.

8. (1) The written laws specified in column I of the Second Schedule to this Act are hereby amended in the manner specified in column II of that Schedule.

(2) The Minister may by Order published in the Gazette make such amendments in any other written law, or make such provision in regard to any matter, as may be necessary in consequence of the provisions of this Act. Every Order made by the Minister under this sub-section and published in the Gazette shall have the force of law.

9. (1) This Act shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any by-law, regulation, rule, order, notification or notice made by the Government Agent of a Province under any other written law before the commencement of this Act.

(2) This Act shall not be deemed to affect the continuance in force of any licence, permit, certificate of registration or other document issued, and the validity of any instrument executed, by the Government Agent of a Province before the commencement of this Act.

(3) Where the Government Agent of a Province has, before the commencement of this Act, determined any fees or charges by virtue of the power conferred on him by any other written law, such determination shall not be affected by this Act.

(4) Where any act or thing is commenced by the Government Agent of a Province under any other written law in any part of that Province and is not completed before the commencement of this Act, that act or thing may be carried on and completed by the Government Agent of the Administrative District within which that part of that Province lies.
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FIRST SCHEDULE

Column I

Administrative Districts:

1. Administrative District of Colombo, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   - Hapitigam Korale, Alutkuru Korale North (A), Alutkuru Korale North (B), Alutkuru Korale South, Siyane Korale West (Adikari Pattuwa), Siyane Korale East, Hewagam Korale, Salpiti Korale and Colombo Divisional Revenue Officer’s (Colombo Mudaliyar’s) Division

2. Administrative District of Kalutara, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officer’s Divisions:
   - Rayigam Korale, Kalutara Totamune, Panadure Totamune, Pasdon Korale West and Pasdon Korale East

3. Administrative District of Kandy, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   - Udumuwara and Yatinuwara Division, Tumpane, Harispatuwa, Pata Dumbara, Uda Dumbara, Kandy and Pata Hewaheta Division, Uda Palata and Uda Bulatgama

4. Administrative District of Matale, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   - Matale South, Matale East and Matale North

5. Administrative District of Nuwara Eliya, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   - Kotmale, Uda Hewaheta and Walapane

Column II

Limits of the Administrative Districts

Northern: Pitigal Korale South in Puttalain District, Katugampola Hatpattuwa and Dambadeni Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District

Eastern: Dambadeni Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District, Beligal Korale, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama, Atulugam and Panawal Korales in Kegalla District and Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District

Southern: Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District and Rayigam Korale and Panadura Totamune in Kalutara District

Western: Sea

Northern: Salpiti Korale and Hewagam Korale in Colombo District

Eastern: Kuruwiti Korale and Kukul Korale in Ratnapura District

Southern: Hinidum Pattuwa and Bentota Walallawiti Korale in Galle District

Western: Sea

Northern: Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District, Matale South and Matale East in Matale District

Eastern: Bintenna Division and Wiyalawa Division in Badulla District, Walapane, Uda Hewaheta and Kotmale in Nuwara Eliya District

Southern: Kadalawata and Meda Korale, Navaldu Korale and Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District

Western: Kuruwiti Korale in Ratnapura District, Atulugam and Panawal Korales, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama, Paranakuru Korale and Galboda and Kingoda Korales in Kegalla District and Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District

Northern: Kalagam Palata and Hurulu Palata in Anuradhapura District and Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District

Eastern: Tamankaduwa in Polonnaruwa District, Bintenna Pattu in Batticaloa District and Bintenna Division in Badulla District

Southern: Uda Dumbara, Pata Dumbara and Harispatuwa in Kandy District

Western: Weudawili Hatpattuwa and Hiriyala Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District

Northern: Pata Dumbara and Uda Dumbara in Kandy District

Eastern: Wiyalawa Division and Udukinda Division in Badulla District

Southern: Welisawaya Division in Badulla District, Kadalawata and Meda Korales in Ratnapura District and Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District

Western: Uda Bulatgama, Uda Palata, Kandy and Pata Hewaheta Division and Pata Dumbara in Kandy District
Administrative Districts Act, No. 22 of 1955

Column I

Administrative Districts

6. Administrative District of Galle, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
   Bentota Walallawiti Korale, Wellaboda Pattuwa, Four Gravets, Talpe Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa and Hingum Pattuwa
   (6)

7. Administrative District of Matara, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
   Morawak Korale, Kandaboda Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa, Weligam Korales and Wellaboda Pattuwa and Four Gravets
   (6)

8. Administrative District of Hambantota, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
   Giruwa Pattuwa West, Giruwa Pattuwa East and Magam Pattuwa
   (3)

9. Administrative District of Jaffna, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
   - Delf Division, Islands Division, Jaffna Division, Valikamam West Division, Valikamam North Division, Valikamam East Division, Tenmarakodi Division, Vadamaradchchi Division, Pachchilaippali-Karachchi and Punakari-Tunukkei
   (10)

10. Administrative District of Mannar, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
    Mantai Division, Mannar Island Division and Musali Division
    (3)

11. Administrative District of Vavuniya, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
    Vavuniya South (Tamil), Vavuniya South (Singalee), Vavuniya North and Maritime Pattus
    (4)

12. Administrative District of Batticaloa, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:—
    Panama Pattu, Akkarai Pattu, Karavaku and Nintavur Pattus, Sammanturai Pattu, Eravil Poratiku and Mannunai Pattu South, Bintenna Pattu, Mannunai Pattu North, Eravur and Korale Pattus and Wewgam Pattu
    (4)

Column II

Limits of the Administrative Districts

Northern: Kalutara Totamune, Paudun Korale West and Paudun Korale East in Kalutara District and Kukul Korale in Ratnapura District
Eastern: Morawak Korale and Weligam Korale in Matara District
Southern: Sea
Western: Sea

Northern: Hinidum Pattuwa in Galle District
   Kukul Korale and Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District
   Eastern: Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District and Giruwa Pattu West in Hambantota District
   Southern: Sea
   Western: Talpe Pattuwa, Gangaboda Pattuwa and Hinidum Pattuwa in Galle District

Northern: Kolonna Korale in Ratnapura District, Wellawaya Division and Buttala Division in Badulla District and Panama Pattu in Batticaloa District
   Southern: Sea
   Western: Wellaboda Pattuwa and Four Gravets, Gangoboda Pattuwa, Kandaboda Pattuwa and Morawak Korale in Matara District

Northern: Sea
   Eastern: Sea
   Southern: Maritime Pattus and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District and Mantai Division in Mannar District
   Western: Sea

Northern: Punakari-Tunukkei in Jaffna District and Vavuniya North in Vavuniya District
   Eastern: Vavuniya North and Vavuniya South (Tamil) in Vavuniya District
   Southern: Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District and Kalpitiya Division in Puttalam District
   Western: Sea

Northern: Pachchilaippali-Karachchi in Jaffna District
   Eastern: Sea
   Southern: Kaddukkulam Pattu in Trincomalee District, Hirulul Palata, Nuwaragam Palata East and Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District
   Western: Nuwaragam Palata West in Anuradhapura District, Musali Division and Mantai Division in Mannar District, Punakari-Tunukkei and Pachchilaippali-Karachchi in Jaffna District

Northern: Koddiyar Pattu in Trincomalee District
   Eastern: Sea
   Southern: Magam Pattuwa in Hambantota District
   Western: Buttala Division, Wellassa Division and Bintenna Division in Badulla District, Matale East in Matale District, and Tamanakaduwa in Polonnaruwa District
13. Administrative District of Trincomalee, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   Wanni Hattpattuwa, Hiriyala Hattpattuwa, Wendawili Hattpattuwa, Dambadeni Hattpattuwa, Dowanedi Hattpattuwa and Katugampola Hattpattuwa

14. Administrative District of Kurunegala, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   Northern: Nuwaram Palata West and Kalagam Palata in Anuradhapura District
   Eastern: Kalagam Palata in Anuradhapura District, Matale North and Matale South in Matale District and Harispattuwa in Kandy District
   Southern: Tumupe in Kandy District, Galboda and Kinigoda Koraale and Beligal Koraale in Kegalle District, Hapitigam Koraale and Aluthkur Koraale North (A) in Colombo District
   Western: Pitigal Koraale South, Pitigal Koraale North and Demala Hattpattuwa in Puttalal District

15. Administrative District of Puttalam consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   Puttalam Patto and Gravets, Kalpitiya Division, Demala Hattpattuwa, Pitigal Koraale South and Pitigal Koraale North

16. Administrative District of Anuradhapura, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   Nuwaram Palata West, Nuwaram Palata East, Hurulu Palata and Kalagam Palata

17. Administrative District of Polonnaruwa, consisting of the Divisional Revenue Officers’ Division of Tamankaduwa

18. Administrative District of Badulla, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers’ Divisions:
   Binthenny Division, Wiyalawa Division, Udakinda Division, Yatikinda Division, Wellassa Division, Buttala Division and Wellawaya Division
Column I

Administrative Districts

19. Administrative District of Ratnapura, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:
   - Kuruviti Korale, Nawadun Korale, Kukul Korale, Kolonna Korale, Atakalan Korale and Kadawata and Moda Korales

(6)

20. Administrative District of Kegalla, consisting of the following Divisional Revenue Officers' Divisions:
   - Galboda and Kinigoda Korales, Paranakuru Korale, Beligal Korale, Dehigampal Korale and Lower Bulatgama and Atulugam and Panawal Korales

(6)

SECOND SCHEDULE

Column I

Written Laws

1. The Marriage Registration Ordinance (Chapter 95)

Column II

Amendments

(a) In section 3 (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946), sub-sections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor:

"(1) For each district there shall be a District Registrar of Marriages.

(2) The Government Agent of a district shall be the District Registrar for that district.

(3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district.

(4) Every Assistant Registrar-General shall be an Additional District Registrar for the district of Colombo.

(5) There may be appointed any person as a District Registrar or as an Additional District Registrar in addition to, or in place of, any officer who is a District Registrar or an Additional District Registrar by virtue of the preceding provisions of this section."

(b) In section 4—

(i) in sub-section (1) (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946), for the words "revenue districts", substitute the word "districts"; and

(ii) add, immediately after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section:

"(3) Every reference to any revenue district in any notification made under sub-section (1) of this section before the commencement of the Administrative Districts Act shall, after the commencement of that Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district."

Column II

Limits of the Administrative Districts

Northern: Atulugam and Panawal Korale in Kegalla District, Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District, and Walapan in Nuwara Eliya District

Eastern: Wellawaya Division in Badulla District, and Magam Pattuwa in Hambantota District

Southern: Giruwa Pattu East and Giruwa Pattu West in Hambantota District, Morawak Korale in Matara District and Hindum Pattuwa in Galle District

Western: Pasdun Korale East and Rayigam Korale in Kalutara District and Hewagam Korale in Colombo District

Northern: Dambadeni Hatpattuwa and Weudawili Hatpattuwa in Kurunegala District

Eastern: Tumpane, Udunuwara and Yatinuwara Division, Uda Palata and Uda Bulatgama in Kandy District

Southern: Kuruviti Korale in Ratnapura District

Western: Hewagam Korale, Siyane Korale East and Hapitigama Korale in Colombo District
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<td><strong>Written Laws</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amendments</strong></td>
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<td>(c) In section 59 (as amended by Ordinance No. 34 of 1946) substitute, for the definition of &quot;district&quot;, the following new definition:—</td>
<td>&quot;district&quot; means Administrative District ;&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Guides Ordinance (Chapter 202)</td>
<td>In section 2 (as amended by Act No. 41 of 1951), in the definition of &quot;proper authority&quot;, substitute, for paragraph (c), the following new paragraph:—</td>
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<td>&quot;(c) in relation to any place, the Government Agent or the Assistant Government Agent of the Administrative District within which such place is situated.&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The British Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute of Colombo Ordinance</td>
<td>In section 3 (1) substitute, for the words &quot;Western Province&quot;, the words &quot;Administrative District of Colombo&quot;.</td>
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<td>(Chapter 221)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4. The Resthouses Act, No. 12 of 1951</td>
<td>In section 2 (2) substitute, for all the words from &quot;vested&quot; to the end of that section, the words &quot;vested in the Government Agent of the Administrative District in which that resthouse is situated.&quot;.</td>
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<td>5. The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, No. 13 of 1951</td>
<td>In section 97 substitute, for the definition of &quot;district&quot;, the following new definition:—</td>
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<td>&quot;district&quot; means Administrative District ;&quot;.</td>
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<td>6. The Motor Traffic Act, No. 14 of 1961</td>
<td>(a) In section 44 (2)—</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(i) in paragraph (a) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Assistant Government Agent at Mannar&quot;, the words &quot;Government Agent of the Administrative District of Mannar&quot;;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(ii) in paragraph (b) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Assistant Government Agent at Trincomalee&quot;, the words &quot;Government Agent of the Administrative District of Trincomalee&quot;; and</td>
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<td>(iii) in paragraph (c) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Southern Province&quot;, the words &quot;Administrative District of Galle&quot;.</td>
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<td>(b) In section 134 (2)—</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(i) in paragraph (a) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Northern Province, the Assistant Government Agent at Mannar&quot;, the words &quot;Administrative District of Mannar&quot;;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) in paragraph (b) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Assistant Government Agent at Trincomalee&quot;, the words &quot;Government Agent of the Administrative District of Trincomalee&quot;; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iii) in paragraph (c) thereof substitute, for the words &quot;Southern Province&quot;, the words &quot;Administrative District of Galle&quot;.</td>
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<td>(c) In section 242 substitute, for the definition of &quot;licensing authority&quot;, the following new definition:—</td>
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<td>&quot;licensing authority&quot;—</td>
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<td>(a) in relation to the Administrative District of Colombo means the Registrar; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) in relation to any other Administrative District, means the Government Agent or Assistant Government Agent of that Administrative District.&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, No. 17 of 1961</td>
<td>(a) In section 4—</td>
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<td>(i) sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor:—</td>
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<td>&quot;(1) For each district there shall be a District Registrar of Births and Deaths (hereinafter referred to as the &quot;District Registrar&quot;).&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) The Government Agent of a district shall be the District Registrar for that district.

(3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district."

(ii) sub-section (4) is hereby repealed.

(b) In section 5—

(i) renumber section 5 as section 5 (1);

(ii) substitute, for the words "revenue districts", the word "districts"; and

(iii) add, at the end of that section, the following sub-section:

"(2) Every reference to any revenue district in any notification made under sub-section (1) of this section before the commencement of the Administrative Districts Act shall, after the commencement of that Act, be construed as a reference to the Administrative District consisting of the area which constituted that revenue district."

(c) In section 6 (1) substitute, for the words "revenue district", the word "districts".

(d) In section 70 substitute, for the definition of "district", the following new definition:

"district" means Administrative District;"

8. The Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act, No. 44 of 1962:

(a) In section 39, sub-sections (2) and (3) are hereby repealed and the following sub-sections are substituted therefor:

"(2) For any district referred to in sub-section (1) the Government Agent of that district shall be the District Registrar.

(3) Every Additional Government Agent, Assistant Government Agent, Additional Assistant Government Agent and Office Assistant to a Government Agent, of a district shall be an Additional District Registrar for that district."

In section 66 substitute, for the definition of "district", the following new definition:

"district" means Administrative District;"