PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) ACT, No. 27 OF 2026

[Certified on 30th of October, 2026]

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Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 27 of 2026

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L.D. - O 11/2026

AN ACT TO AMEND THE POISONS, OPIUM AND DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 218)

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

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, No. 27 of 2026.

Amendment of section 54A of Chapter 218

2. Section 54A of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218) (hereinafter referred to as the "principal enactment") is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section as follows:-

(1) in paragraph (*a*) of that subsection, by the substitution for the words "heroin or cocaine or morphine or opium", of the words "heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium or methamphetamine"; and

(2) by the insertion, immediately after paragraph (*a*) of that subsection, of the following paragraph:-

"(*aa*) manufactures any dangerous drug set out in Groups A, B, C, D and E in Part I of the Third Schedule, other than heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium and methamphetamine, shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance and shall, on conviction by the High Court without a jury, be liable to a fine not less than two hundred thousand rupees and not exceeding five hundred thousand rupees, or to imprisonment

of either description for a period not less than ten years and not exceeding twenty years, or to both such fine and imprisonment;".

Amendment of section 54AA of the principal enactment

3. Section 54AA of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section, by the substitution for the words "heroin, cocaine, morphine or opium," of the words "heroin, cocaine, morphine, opium or methamphetamine,".

Amendment of section 83 of the principal enactment

4. Section 83 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subsection (2) of that section and substitution therefor, of the following subsection:-

"(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 84 and 85, a person suspected or accused of an offence under subsection (1) of section 54A, subsections (1) and (2) of section 54AA and section 54B-

(*a*) of which the pure quantity of the dangerous drug, trafficked, imported, exported or possessed is one hundred grammes or above in terms of the report issued by the Government Analyst under section 77A or, in the absence of such report, the gross quantity of such dangerous drug, trafficked, imported, exported or possessed is one hundred grammes or above; and

(*b*) which is punishable with death or life imprisonment,

shall not be released on bail except by the Court of Appeal in exceptional circumstances:

Provided however, where the Court of Appeal takes cognizance and assumes jurisdiction under this subsection, such Court shall continue to exercise jurisdiction in respect of such matter, notwithstanding that the report issued by the Government Analyst under section 77A subsequently discloses that the pure quantity of the dangerous drug is less than one hundred grammes, unless the Court of Appeal, in the exercise of its discretion, directs that the matter be transferred to the relevant High Court.".

Amendment to Third Schedule to the principal enactment

5. Third Schedule to the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

(1) in Section 1 of Group B of Part I of that Schedule-

(*a*) by the repal of item 26 thereof and substitution therefor of the following item:-

"26	Cannabis	The flowering or fruiting tops of the cannabis plant (resin not extracted)";

(*b*) by the insertion immediately after item 26 thereof,of the following items:-

"26A	Cannabis	*Cannabis sativa L.*
26B	Cannabis	Any galenical preparation of *Cannabis sativa L.*"; and

(*c*) by the repeal of item 27 thereof and substitution therefor of the following item:-

"27	Cannabis Resin, Extracts and Tinctures	The separated resin, (crude or purified) obtained from the cannabis plant "; and

(2) in Part III of that Schedule-

(*a*) by the substitution for the words and figures "(section 54A)" of the words and figures "(sections 54A and 54AA)"; and

(*b*) in the Table in that Schedule, by the substitution for the sub-heading "Cannabis", of the sub-heading "Cannabis/ *Cannabis sativa L.*/ any galenical preparation of *Cannabis sativa L.*".

Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

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

English Acts of the Parliament can be purchased at the "prakashana piyasa", Department of Government Printing, No. 118, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 8.