EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) ACT, No. 2 OF 2021

[Certified on 18th of January, 2021]

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AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, YOUNG PERSONS
AND CHILDREN ACT, NO. 47 OF 1956

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Employment of Women,
Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Act, No. 2 of
2021.

2. Section 3 of the Employment of Women, Young
Persons and Children Act, No. 47 of 1956 (hereinafter referred
to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended as
follows:-

(1) in subsection (3) thereof, by the substitution for the
words “male young persons who have attained the
age of sixteen years but are under the age of eighteen
years ” of the words “male young persons”;

(2) in subsection (4) thereof, by the substitution for the
words “persons between the ages of sixteen and
eighteen years” of the words “young persons”; and

(3) in subsection (5) thereof, by the substitution for the
words “persons between the ages of sixteen and
eighteen years” of the words “young persons,”.

3. Section 4 of the principal enactment is hereby
amended in subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution for the
words “ a person who has attained the age of sixteen years
but is under the age of eighteen years ” of the words “a young
person”.

[Certified on 18th of January, 2021]
4. Section 9 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

(1) in subsection (1) of that section-

(a) in paragraph (a) thereof, by the substitution for the words “fifteen years” of the words “sixteen years”; and

(b) in paragraph (b) thereof, by the substitution for the words “fifteen years” of the words “sixteen years”;

(2) in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for the words “fifteen years” of the words “sixteen years”; and

(3) by the repeal of subsection (3) of that section.

5. Section 10 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed.

6. Section 20 of the principal enactment is amended as follows:-

(1) in subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution for the words “No child or young person who has not attained the age of 16 years” of the words “No child”; 

(2) in subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for the words “No person who has attained the age of fourteen years but is under the age of eighteen years” of the words “No young person”; and

(3) in subsection (4) thereof, by the substitution for the words “a person who has attained the age of sixteen years but is under the age of eighteen years” of the words “a young person”.

Amendment of section 9 of the principal enactment

Repeal of section 10 of the principal enactment

Amendment of section 20 of the principal enactment
7. Section 34 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

(1) in subsection (1) thereof-

(a) by the substitution for the definition of the expression “child” of the following definition:-

“child” means a person who is under the age of sixteen years;”;

(b) in paragraph (c) of the definition of the expression “industrial undertaking” by the substitution for the words “fourteen years” of the words “sixteen years”;

(c) by the substitution for the definition of the expression “night” of the following definition:-

“night”—

(a) with reference to the employment of women, means at least eleven consecutive hours including the period between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.; and

(b) with reference to the employment of persons under the age of eighteen years, means at least twelve consecutive hours which shall end not later than 6 a.m. and which-

(i) in the case of such of those persons as have attained the age of sixteen years, shall, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (ii), include at least seven consecutive hours falling between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; and
(ii) in the case of such of those persons as have attained the age of sixteen years and are undergoing vocational training in the baking industry or are apprentices in that industry, shall, if work during the night in that industry prohibited for all workers, include the seven consecutive hours falling between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m., instead of the period of at least seven consecutive hours referred to in sub-paragraph (i) if the Minister by Order published in the Gazette so directs;

(d) by the substitution for the definition of the expression “young person” of the following definition:

“young person” means a person who has attained the age of sixteen years but is under the age of eighteen years.”; and

(2) in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) thereof, by the substitution for the words “fourteen years” of the words “sixteen years”.

8. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.
Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Act, No. 2 of 2021