

Provincial Grand Lodge
of SRI LANKA

Ancient, free and Accepted Masons of Ireland

BY-LAWS

Approved By The Grand Lodge Of Ireland

2006

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland, hereinafter called the Grand Lodge, has an inherent right to make Laws and Regulations, and to alter those already made, for the government of all Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland, and whereas it is ruled by the Constitutions emanating from such Grand Lodge, that a Provincial Grand Lodge under its Jurisdiction, has the power of framing By-Laws for its own government, provided that such By-Laws as well as any alteration that may be made therein, be first submitted to and approved of , by the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge, the following By-Laws are approved by the Grand Lodge and enacted to have effect in the Province of SRI LANKA.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of SRI LANKA meets under the authority of the Provincial Grand Master, duly authorized and appointed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SRI LANKA
(IRISH CONSTITUTION)
BY-LAWS

01 The Provincial Grand Lodge consists of the Provincial Grand Master the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the present and past Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, the Master and Wardens of all Lodges in the Province holding their Warrants under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and all Past Masters who are subscribing members of a Lodge under the Irish Constitution within the Province. All Past Masters of other Constitutions, who are subscribing members of a Lodge in the Province holding its Meetings under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, shall be members of the Provincial Grand Lodge and eligible for office in the Provincial Grand Lodge.

2. The Members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, rank in the following order viz:-

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master,
Right Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Masters,
Right Worshipful Past Grand Inspectors,
The Right Worshipful the Provincial Deputy Grand Master,
Right Worshipful Past Provincial Deputy Grand Masters,
The Very Worshipful the Provincial Senior Grand Warden,
The Very Worshipful the Provincial Junior Grand Warden,
Very Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Wardens,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Treasurer,
Very Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Treasurers,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Registrar,

Very Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Registrars,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Secretary,
Very Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Secretaries,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Chaplain,
Very Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Chaplains,
The Worshipful the Provincial Senior Grand Deacon,
The Worshipful the Provincial Junior Grand Deacon,
Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Deacons,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies,
Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Inner Guard,
Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Inner Guards,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Tyler,
Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Tylers,
Masters and Wardens of all Subordinate Lodges,
Past Masters.

03. The Provincial Grand Lodge shall meet for the dispatch of business in the months of June and December at such time and date as shall be decided by the Provincial Grand Master in conjunction with the Board of General Purposes.
04. The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence the Provincial Deputy Grand Master may convene Provincial Grand Lodges of Emergency whenever such may be deemed necessary.
05. Notice of Stated Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be issued by the Provincial Grand Secretary, in accordance with Grand

Lodge Law 171, seven days, and of Emergency Communications, five days, before the day for which the Communication is summoned.

06. Any properly accredited Master Mason of the Irish Constitution may be present at the Communications of Provincial Grand Lodge, but he may not take part in its deliberations without the permission of the Presiding Officer and shall have no vote.
07. The Clothing and jewels being the property of Provincial Grand Lodge, are for the sole use of the Brethren who are actually in Office and are not, save by consent of the Presiding Officer, to be worn by others. The Regalia of Office of Provincial Grand Lodge shall be left in the special keeping of the Officers invested, and they shall be responsible for any loss or damage which may occur.
08. Provincial Grand Lodge Officers shall in case of unavoidable absence, forward to the place of meeting, their regalia and jewel of their Office for the use of the Brethren who shall be appointed to do duty in their stead pro tempore.
09. At each Communication the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be opened and ruled by the Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the member of the Provincial Grand Lodge then present, who shall be next in order of precedence.
The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the following shall be the order of business at all Stated Communications:-
 - (a) Calling the roll of Lodges, if required by the Presiding Officer.

- (b) The minutes of the last Stated and of any intervening Communication shall be read, and when confirmed, shall be signed by the Presiding Officer.
- (c) Business arising out of the minutes of previous Communications.
- (d) Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report.
- (e) Correspondence: Communications from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, from the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, from any other Grand, District Grand, or Provincial Grand Lodge.
- (f) Report of Dispensations granted.
- (g) The report of the Provincial Board of General Purposes shall then be submitted to the Provincial Grand Lodge for its determination.
- (h) Consideration of Motions of which notice has been previously given.
- (i) Notice of Motions for future consideration.

10. The Provincial Grand Lodge reserves to itself the power of hearing and determining all applications, memorials and petitions which it may deem proper, though not previously submitted to the Provincial Board of General Purposes.
11. The Business to be transacted at an Emergency Communication shall be expressed in the summons convening the same, and no other business shall be entered on at that Communication.
12. Except with the unanimous consent of the members present, no motion, other than a formal motion, or a motion arising out of the report of any Board or Committee, shall be made in Provincial Grand Lodge, unless notice thereof in writing, signed by the mover, shall have been delivered to

the Provincial Grand Secretary, not less than 21 days before the Communication at which it is to be considered.

Provided that in cases of urgency in matters affecting the honour or safety of the Craft (of which urgency the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be the judge) motions may be made without notice and shall take precedence over all other business.

13. A discretionary power is vested in the Presiding Officer of rejecting at the time of being handed in, any notice of motion, if such shall be deemed by him to be improper, unlawful or inconsistent with the ancient landmarks of the Order.
14. An Agenda Paper shall be prepared and distributed before each Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, setting forth the business to be transacted, and a copy thereof shall be sent with the summons convening the Communication.
15. Motions shall be entered in the Agenda Paper according to priority of their receipt, and shall, unless by consent, be brought forward for consideration in that order, but no motion shall be put to Provincial Grand Lodge unless duly proposed and seconded.
16. Business not disposed of at one Stated Communication shall take precedence over all subsequent notices of motion until it has been considered by Provincial Grand Lodge, or otherwise disposed of.
17. Every Brother shall, when speaking, address the Provincial Grand Master or other Presiding officer, standing, and shall not be interrupted, unless on

a point of order. No one shall speak twice upon the same question or motion unless in explanation, by permission, or the mover in reply.

18. All questions in the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be determined by a simple majority of votes of the members present, the Presiding Officer included, and if on a division, the numbers shall be equal, the Presiding Officer shall then have a casting vote.
19. The accounts of Provincial Grand Lodge and also of the Charity Fund, up to and including 31st December in each year, shall immediately thereafter be examined and certified by a member of the Craft, who is qualified to do so, to be appointed for that purpose by the Provincial Grand Lodge at its Stated Communication in June, and shall be printed and posted to each member of Provincial Grand Lodge, with the written notice summoning the Stated Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held in December.
20. In all cases, not herein provided, the practice and usages of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the laws and regulations as contained in the Book of Constitutions, with any addition thereto or alteration thereof, which may from time to time be made by the Grand Lodge, shall be adopted and made applicable to this Provincial Grand Lodge, and, when necessary, the term "Grand Lodge " used in such Book of Constitutions, shall be taken to imply and include this Provincial Grand Lodge.

PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

21. The appointment of the Provincial Grand Master is by patent of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland.

22. The Provincial Grand Master is empowered by the Grand Lodge Law to appoint the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, who shall thereupon be proclaimed and installed in proper form.
23. The Other Provincial Grand Officers-that is to say, the Provincial Grand Wardens, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Registrar, Provincial Grand Secretary, Provincial Grand Chaplain, Provincial Grand Deacons, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Provincial Grand Inner Grand, and Provincial Grand Tyler, shall be elected annually by Provincial Grand Lodge at the Stated Communication in June and at the next Stated Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge, shall be Invested and Saluted.
24. Personal canvassing for any office in Provincial Grand Lodge is strictly forbidden, and any Brother proved to be guilty of such conduct shall be thereupon deemed to be ineligible for election of office in the Provincial Grand Lodge.
25. The Provincial Grand Master shall be President of the Provincial Board of General Purposes, and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master shall be Deputy President thereof.
26. Every Brother notified of his election or appointment to an office shall be considered as accepting it, and pledged to strict performance of the duties thereof, unless he, formally by letter addressed to the Provincial Grand Secretary, advises the Provincial Grand Lodge of his declining to accept the office within one calendar month, but no Provincial Grand Officer shall be invested until he has paid the fee of office.

27. Should a Brother decline to accept the office to which he has been elected, or should there not be an election to any office at the Stated Communication in June, it shall be competent for Provincial Grand Lodge to fill the vacancy by election at a subsequent Communication, but if a vacancy in any office in the Provincial Grand Lodge occurs after a Brother has been installed in such office, save in that of Provincial Grand Master, or Provincial Deputy Grand Master, such office shall remain vacant until the ensuing annual election.

28. The Provincial Board of General Purposes shall have the privilege of nominating Brethren to hold office in the Provincial Grand Lodge, such nomination to be submitted to the Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge in June, together with a return showing the attendance of the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers during the previous year, and at the said Communication it shall be competent for any member of the Provincial Grand Lodge to propose any other qualified Brother or Brethren for any such office. No Brother shall be nominated, either by the Provincial Board of General Purposes or by any Member of the Provincial Grand Lodge, who has not paid the current dues to the Lodge, or Lodges, of which he is a Subscribing Member. If more than one Brother be proposed for any such office, the election shall be by ballot, otherwise those nominated by the Board shall be declared elected.

29. Every Brother, having paid the fee of honour, and having held Provincial Grand Office for one year shall, on the completion of the year, be entitled to receive a certificate conferring on him Past Provincial Grand Rank in the office which he has held.

30. The Following fees of honour shall be payable to the Provincial Grand

Lodge in advance:-	Per annum
Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Year of appointment only)	..... Rs.1,000
Provincial Senior Grand Warden	..... Rs.750
Provincial Junior Grand warden	..... Rs.750
Provincial Grand Treasurer	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Registrar	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Secretary	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Chaplain	..... Rs.500
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	..... Rs.500
Provincial Junior Grand Deacon	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Inner Guard	..... Rs.500
Provincial Grand Tyler (If unpaid)	..... Rs.500

The fees of honour for any individual officer may be varied at the discretion of the Provincial Board of General Purposes.

31. The Provincial Grand Treasurer shall receive all monies and donations, giving a receipt for the same and pay them to the credit of the Provincial Grand Lodge account at a designated Bank forthwith. He shall keep a

correct and separate account of all monies received and paid on account of each Lodge. The Banking Account of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be operated upon by the signatures of the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer or Provincial Grand Secretary, and one other member of the Provincial Board of General Purposes who shall be appointed annually, any two of whom may sign.

32. The Provincial Grand Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge, he shall duly issue summonses for all communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge as herein before provided, and keep a register of all members of Provincial Grand Lodge, Past Masters and Members of Subordinate Lodges.

33. The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, shall have authority to require the Provincial Grand Treasurer and the Provincial Grand Secretary to attend whenever he shall deem it necessary.

34. All communications to the Provincial Grand Lodge must be made through the Provincial Grand Secretary.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

35. The Provincial Board of General Purposes shall consist of the following:-
The Provincial Grand Master , the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Wardens, the Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Provincial Grand Registrar, the Provincial Grand Secretary, together with a P.M. and W.M to represent each of the Lodges in the Province.

Four shall form a quorum.

All Past Provincial Grand Masters, and Past Provincial Deputy Grand Masters are entitled to attend Provincial Board of General Purposes and take part in its deliberations with the permission of the Presiding Officer, but shall have no vote.

36. Every Lodge in the Province shall each year elect a Past Master (being then a subscribing member of some Lodge in the Province on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ireland) together with the W.M. to represent it on the Provincial Board of General Purposes, and shall on or before the first day of June, return the name of the Brothers so elected to the Provincial Grand Secretary, which name shall be submitted to the Provincial Grand Lodge at Stated Communication in June, and in case any Lodge shall omit to make a proper return of a name, the Provincial Grand Lodge may appoint a qualified Past Master as representative for such Lodge. Any member of the Provincial Board of General Purposes as detailed in By-Law 36 is qualified to be appointed a Lodge representative with the exception of the Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Deputy Grand Master.

37. The Provincial Grand Secretary shall be Secretary to the Board.

38. Any Lodge which has neglected to make its returns, or is three months in arrears of dues to the Provincial Grand Lodge, shall not whilst in arrears be entitled to elect or nominate a representative to the Board of General Purposes.
39. If any elected member or representative of a Lodge is absent from the meetings of the Board for three successive meetings (unless through illness, or other unavoidable cause, or he has applied for and duly obtained leave of absence), his place shall be vacated.
40. When any Vacancy occurs on the Provincial Board of General Purposes, such vacancy shall be notified to the Lodge in respect of which the same has occurred, and such Lodge may, if it thinks fit, proceed to elect a qualified Past Master to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the current year, such election to be approved by Provincial Grand Lodge before such vacancy can be filled.
41. A return, showing the attendance of members of the Board, shall be kept by the Provincial Grand Secretary, as Secretary to the Board, and such return shall be produced at each meeting.
42. The Board shall meet at least once each quarter, at such place and time as shall be decided by the Provincial Grand Master in conjunction with the Board.
43. In the absence of the President, the Deputy President shall take the chair. Should both be absent at the time of meeting, the members present shall

chose one of their number to be Chairman of such meeting, but such Chairman shall give place to the President, or Deputy President, on his entry.

44. The Board may form Sub-Committees and appoint brethren from amongst its members for specific purposes, who shall report to the Board on the subject referred to them.

45. The duties of the Board shall be as follows:-
 - (a) To arrange and put in order all business matters for the convenience of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and to prepare Agenda Papers for its meetings.
 - (b) To examine the correspondence between the Provincial Grand Lodge and other bodies or individuals, and to report thereon to Provincial Grand Lodge.
 - (c) To investigate all subjects of Masonic complaints, or irregularities, which may be referred to it.
 - (d) To submit to the Provincial Grand Lodge the returns from all the Lodges in the Province, with the names of all officers-elect, and to report thereon.
 - (e) To nominate Provincial Grand Lodge officers in conformity with By-Law No.29, such nomination to be submitted at the Stated Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge in June, of each year, and to be subject to approval of Provincial Grand Lodge.
 - (f) To sanction Payment of all accounts which have been previously certified as correct..

(g) To make a full report at each Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge on all matters dealt with by the Board during the previous half-year, and of anything affecting the Province.

46. The Board shall have full power to inspect all books and papers relating to the accounts of the provincial Grand Lodge and to give orders for the correct arrangement of them, and to summon the Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Secretary, or other Brethren having possession of any books, papers, documents, or accounts belonging to the Provincial Grand Loge, and to give such directions as may be necessary.
47. When considered advisable, the Board may summon the officers of any Lodges to attend before it, and to produce the warrant, books, papers, any accounts of the Lodge, or may summon any Brother to attend before it and produce any certificates as well as any books and/or papers in his possession belonging to any Lodge. If the summons be not complied with, or sufficient reason be not given for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued ;and, in case of contumacy, the Lodge or Brother may be recommended to the Provincial Grand Lodge for censure, fine or suspension.
48. All questions before the Board shall be determined by a simple majority of votes of Members present (the Presiding Officer included); and if on a division the numbers are equal, the Presiding Officer shall have a casting vote. Each individual member of the Board shall have only one vote.

49. All matters on which the Board has come to any decision shall be entered in their report book, and submitted to the next Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE CHARITY FUND

50. The Charity Fund Shall be administered by the Provincial Board of General Purposes.

51. The Charity Fund shall be applied to the relief of distressed Brethren, or the widows or children of deceased Brethren, or to such other objects of charity, Masonic or otherwise, as the Board may deem fit.

52. The monies of the Provincial Grand Lodge Charity fund, which shall be derived from collections at all Stated and Emergency Communications of Provincial Grand Lodge, together with all fees of honour collected under By-Law 31, shall be placed to the credit of the Account at a designated Bank forthwith, and the Bank Account shall be operated upon by the signatures of the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer or the Provincial Grand Secretary, any two of whom may sign.

53. No portion of the Charity Fund shall be disbursed without the amount first being voted by the Provincial Board of General Purposes and approved by the Provincial Grand Lodge, except in cases of urgent distress, to meet which the Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Deputy General Master, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, shall have power to relieve, by granting sums not exceeding Rs.5,000/=, such cases to be reported at the next meeting of the Board.
54. All petitions for relief must be lodged in the Provincial Grand Secretary's office at least three clear day prior to the meeting of the Board.
55. Relief to Brethren under other Constitutions can only be considered after application to their Provincial or District Grand Lodges, except in the case of Brethren hailing under a Constitution not represented by a Provincial or District Grand Lodge in the Masonic Province of Sri Lanka.

SUBORDINATE LODGES

56. Each Lodge shall, on or before the first day of May in each year, transmit to the Provincial Grand Secretary a correct list of all officers and members thereof, and a return of the Brethren admitted during the preceding twelve months, with the dates of their initiation, passing and raising or joining.

Such returns must be made out on the authorized form, signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the Lodge.

Each Lodge shall submit to the Provincial Board of General Purposes, at least two months before the date of Installation, the names of the Brethren elected to office for the ensuing year, together with a certificate signed by the Worshipful Master and Treasurer, that they have paid all dues to date, and at the same time remit to the Provincial Grand Lodge all monies due thereto, failing which the Provincial Board of General Purposes may, in its discretion, withhold its approval of the Officers elected. Any Lodge failing to make the said returns may be dealt with under Grand Lodge Law 148.

57. No Lodge shall elect to any office any Brother who has not paid all monies due by him to any Lodge, or Lodges, in the Province of which he is a subscribing Member, up to the date of the proposed election.

58. The following shall be the fees payable to Provincial Grand Lodge, such fees shall include all dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Ireland:-

For a Lodge Warrant	.....	*
For a Duplicate Warrant	.....	*
For Every Subscribing Member (Annually)		
Payable to Grand Lodge	.....	*
Payable to Provincial Grand Lodge	.....	Rs.50
For Every Complaint investigated by Committee	.....	Rs.75
For Grand Lodge Laws and Constitution, per copy	.....	*
For Provincial Grand Lodge By-Laws, per copy	.....	Rs.100

*As charged by Grand Lodge

59. The Master and Wardens, or representative of any Lodge which fails to make regular returns, or is three months in arrears of any dues to the Provincial Grand Lodge, shall be thereby disqualified from voting in Provincial Grand Lodge, or acting upon any Board of Committee until such returns and payments have been made.
60. Each Lodge, for its better government, shall frame By-Laws, which shall be in strict accordance with the Book of Constitutions. Three copies of such By-Laws, and of any alteration therein, shall be submitted for the approval of the Grand Lodge, and shall become valid and take effect only from the date of such approval. When printed, three copies of such By-Laws, and of any alteration therein shall be deposited in the Provincial Grand Secretary's Office.
61. All communications from Lodges to the Provincial Grand Lodge must be signed by the Secretary, and have the seal of the Lodge affixed.
All communications to the Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Grand Lodge must be submitted through the Provincial Grand Secretary.
62. All Communications to and from the Grand Lodge, or the Provincial Grand Lodge, must be read in open Lodge, and must take precedence of all other correspondence.
63. Previous to a ballot for affiliation taking place, the Secretary shall declare in open Lodge that M.M. Certificate and Clearance Certificates (and/or receipts for current subscriptions, as the case may be) have been examined and found to be in order.

In case of election, all such Clearance Certificates and receipts, shall be endorsed by the Lodge which affiliates a Brother to the effect that he has become a member thereof , such endorsement should be signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and bear the date of his affiliation.

As soon after the ballot as may be possible, the Secretary shall forward to the Provincial Grand Secretary an application for registration of such affiliated Brother, together with a certificate signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, to the effect that all the provisions of the By-Law have been duly complied with.

Every affiliated Brother from any other recognized Constitution shall, after election, sign a declaration as laid down in Grand Lodge Law No.140.

64. When a person who is resident in a town within this Province in which a Lodge is established, seeks to become a candidate for initiation in a Lodge in another town within this Province, the Lodge to which his seeks admission must submit the usual letter of inquiry to the Lodge established in the candidate's residence town setting out the reasons for the candidates' decision. The Lodge receiving this inquiry shall deal with the matter at their next Standing Committee Meeting, and submit its reply in writing. Any dispute or delay in such matters must be immediately referred to the Board of General Purposes.
65. The Secretary of each Lodge in the Province shall forward to the Provincial Grand Secretary, two copies of the summons of every Statutory Communication and Emergency Meeting of his Lodge, at the same time as it is forwarded to Members.

66. In all cases of doubt or difficulty, Masters or Secretaries of Lodges should apply for instructions to the Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy, though the Provincial Grand Secretary, to whom also all appeals or complaints should be submitted in writing.
67. Masters of Lodges should ensure that a copy of these By-Laws be presented to each candidate at his Raising.

ALTERATION IN BY-LAWS

68. No. alteration or addition shall be made to these By-Laws, unless such proposed alteration, or addition, has been forwarded in writing to the Provincial Grand Secretary twenty-one days, and notice of the same has been give to each member at least seven days, before a Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and then only if it is adopted b the votes of two-thirds of the members present at such Communication, and approved by the Grand Lodge.

Approved by Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes

Grand Secretary
Freemasons Hall

17 Molesworth Street
Dublin 2

