

Die Statuten der Sarvodaya Shramadana, der buddhistischen Sozialbewegung in Sri Lanka, vom 3. 5. 1972

Hellmuth Hecker

Durch einen singhalesischen Lehrer in Colombo, A. T. Ariyaratne wurde 1958 der Grundstein für die spätere Sarvodaya Shramadana Bewegung (SSM) gelegt. Nachdem sie zunächst um die Besserung der Lage der Rodiyas, der Unberührbaren Ceylons, bemüht war, entwickelte sie sich allmählich zu einer allgemeinen Sozialbewegung, die heute in etwa 1000 Dörfern der Insel zur »Erweckung aller durch Zurverfügungstellen von Arbeitskraft« – so läßt sich der Sanskritname der Bewegung übersetzen – tätig ist. Diese Sozialarbeit erfolgt besonders durch »Work Camps« als Mittel für ein »angemessenes geistiges Klima«, in welchem die Erziehungs- und Ausbildungsziele verwirklicht werden können¹.

Die SSM wurde 1965 als gemeinnützig anerkannt (approved charity) und durch Parlamentsgesetz Nr. 16 vom 3. 5. 1972 inkorporiert, d. h. es wurde ihr die Rechtsfähigkeit als Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts verliehen.² Sie ist eine non-governmental organisation und legt Wert auf ihre parteipolitische Neutralität.³ Nachdem die Versuche sozialistischer Regierungen, Dorfentwicklungsprogramme auf der Insel durchzuführen, in bürokratischer Schwerfälligkeit steckengeblieben waren, erkannte die 1977 an die Macht gekommene Regierung der United National Party die eigenständige Arbeit der SSM auf den Dörfern an. Durch die Entwicklung der SSM wurde ihre Überzeugung verstärkt, daß noch so perfekte Organisation wenig hilft, wenn nicht die geistige Einstellung durch Bewußtseinsveränderung zu einer Motivation der Dorfbevölkerung führt. Die SSM legt daher den größten Wert auf Vermittlung ihrer weltanschaulichen Grundlagen und psychologischen Ziele.

In den Statuten der SSM, die als 23 Rules den Bestimmungen der 11 Sections des Gesetzes von 1972, angehängt sind,⁴ kommen diese geistigen Grundlagen wie folgt zum Ausdruck:

Ausgangspunkt ist das Sarvodaya-Ideal, nämlich »Die Wohlfahrt aller« – so übersetzte Gandhi den von ihm geprägten Begriff Sarvodaya – wie sie von Gandhi und Vinoba Bhave auf der Grundlage der Lehren der Hindu-Heiligen, Buddhas, Mohammeds und Christi vertreten wurde.⁵ Dies findet seinen Niederschlag in drei Prinzipien: Wahrheit, Gewaltlosigkeit und Selbstlosigkeit.⁶ Dabei unterscheidet die Gewaltlosigkeit die SSM vom

1 Zur SSM näher: D. Kantowsky, *Sarvodaya, The Other Development*, Delhi 1980; Hecker, *Sarvodaya Shramadana*, in: *Wissen und Wandel* (Bindlach) 1981, S. 2–39 (zitiert WW)

2 *Ceylon Government Gazette, Suppl., Part II*, vom 19. 5. 1972.

3 *Rules*, Art. 6 (3).

4 Text des Act und der Rules siehe folgend. Deutsche Übersetzung von Art. 5–6 in: *WW aaO* S. 31–34.

5 Art. 6 (6).

6 Art. 6 (1), erläutert *WW aaO* S. 14–23.

Kommunismus mit seinem Klassenhaß, die Selbstlosigkeit vom Kapitalismus mit seiner Profitgier. Und die Wahrheit weist den mittleren Weg zwischen den Extremen mit dem Ziel einer gewaltlosen Revolution. Die Sarvodaya-Sozialordnung gründet sich auf Gemeineigentum, Zusammenarbeit, Liebe und Selbstverleugnung.⁷ Sie will unter der Landbevölkerung die »Fähigkeit zu selbstlosem Dienen, Selbstverleugnung, Zusammenarbeit, Selbstbeherrschung und der Würde der Arbeit« verbreiten.⁸

Dabei kann sich die SSM auf jahrhundertealte buddhistische Erfahrungen berufen, die ihren Niederschlag in zweimal vier Eigenschaften, Idealen oder Verhaltensnormen findet, die als »Vier Grundlagen der Gemeinschaft«⁹ und als »Vier brahmische Verweilungen«¹⁰ bezeichnet zu werden pflegen. In ihren Veröffentlichungen weist die SSM immer wieder auf diese Eigenschaften hin, durch die die Prinzipien der Rules erst ihre Ausfüllung erfahren.¹¹

In einer der wichtigsten Darlegungen zum buddhistischen Sozialprogramm erklärt der Buddha,¹² wie die menschliche Gemeinschaft durch vier Elemente zusammengehalten wird, so wie die Nabe die divergierenden Speichen eines Rades zusammenhält. Wie die Speichen ohne die Nabe haltlos durcheinanderfallen würden, so daß das Rad nicht die Last auf einem Fahrzeug tragen oder fortbewegen könnte, so kann es ohne vier Vorgehensweisen keine friedliche oder auch nur erträgliche Koexistenz und Kooperation einer Menschengemeinschaft, im Kleinen wie im Großen, geben. Diese vier in ihrer hilfreichen Wirkung sich steigernden Vorgehensweisen heißen:

1) Geben: Abgeben, Mitgeben, Spenden, Freigebigkeit, Teilen mit anderen. Diese humane Berücksichtigung der Existenz des Nächsten ist das Gegenteil des asozialen Egoismus, der Habsucht und Profitgier, wodurch ein Klima der Kälte, Rivalität und Rücksichtslosigkeit entsteht. Im Namen der SSM kommt das Geben (dana) bereits zum Ausdruck, nämlich als Geben von Arbeitskraft (shrama-dana).

2) Freundliche Sprache: Eine Redeweise aus wohlwollendem Geiste, die mehr als bloße Höflichkeit ist. Das Gegenteil ist Härte und streitsüchtige, verletzende, brüskierende Schärfe. Besonders wird das verächtliche Sprechen über andere Gruppen von der SSM verurteilt.

3) Hilfreiche Förderung: Sinnvolle, nützliche Tätigkeit für das Gemeinwohl durch Beratung, Ausbildung, Erziehung und psychologische Betreuung ohne Aufrichtung von Schranken. Das Gegenteil ist Gleichgültigkeit mit der Not des Nächsten, Oberflächlichkeit oder Sektengeist.

4) Ich-Du-Gleichheit, der Kern der Nächstenliebe durch Sichversetzen in die Situation des anderen und seine Nöte, Sorgen, Wünsche und Freuden. Das Gegenteil sind all die Barrieren, welche die tiefere Kommunikation verhindern, und die alle Egozentrik sind.

7 Art. 6 (5).

8 Art. 5 (4) = Sec. 3 (4) des Act.

9 erläutert in: Die Einsicht (Konstanz) 1955, S. 65–68 = englische Übersetzung, in: The Wheel Nr. 74/5, Kandy 1964, S. 80–83.

10 erläutert kurz in: WW aaO S. 27–29, ausführlicher Nyanaponika in: WW 1963, S. 290–299.

11 Überblick: Kantowsky aaO S. 49.

12 Längere Sammlung Nr. 31; Angereichte Sammlung Nr. IV/32; Jataka Nr. 532, Vers. 87–89.

Die vier »brahmischen Verweilungen« stellen einen anderen psychischen Querschnitt dar, der noch tiefer die Emotionen verwandelt und die spirituelle Entwicklung vertieft: Liebe statt Haß, Güte statt Bosheit, Wohlwollen statt Übelwollen, Einfühlung statt Nächstenblindheit, Freundschaft statt Feindschaft: das ist die erste brahmische Verweilung.

Erbarmen statt leere Geschäftigkeit, Hilfsbereitschaft statt Machtgier, Mitleid statt Grausamkeit, Fürsorge statt Berechnung, tätige Hilfe statt Wortschwall: das ist die zweite brahmische Verweilung.

Mitfreude statt Schadenfreude, Gönnen statt Mißgönnen, Anteilnahme am Wohl des Nächsten statt ihn zu beneiden, aufrichtiges Gratulieren statt säuerliche Floskeln, anderen Erfolg gönnen statt eifersüchtige Scheelsucht: das ist die dritte brahmische Verweilung.

Gleichmut statt Gleichgültigkeit, Gelassenheit statt Verdrängung, unparteiisches Zusehen statt Vergessen, Überblick statt Vogelstraußpolitik, Unerschütterlichkeit statt Gerissenheit: das ist die vierte brahmische Verweilung.

Wo diese zweimal vier Grundsätze vernachlässigt werden, da müssen Eintracht, Frieden und Wohlfahrt abnehmen, da müssen Krisen und Katastrophen in Familie, Schule, Beruf, in Wirtschaft, Staatsleben und Weltpolitik zunehmen, da müssen die Menschen innerlich verkümmern und äußerlich verkommen. Wohlfahrt für alle durch Wahrheit, Gewaltlosigkeit und Selbstverleugnung setzt ein Wachstum an jenen zweimal vier Haltungen voraus. Darum besteht der Kern der Arbeit der SSM darin, diese Haltungen zu fördern. Alle Organisation soll dem dienen. Die nicht zu leugnende Gefahr, durch Bürokratisierung und Institutionalisierung die ursprüngliche Spontanität zu verlieren, kann nur durch ständige Rückbesinnung auf die Übung jener acht Haltungen gebannt werden. Die mannigfachen Schwierigkeiten, die sich für die SSM ergaben,¹³ sind vor allem darauf zurückzuführen, daß bei den Teilnehmern jene Haltungen zu schwach vorhanden waren.

Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Incorporation) Act,

No. 16 of 1972

(May 3, 1972)

An Act to incorporate the Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya.

[Date of Assent: May 3, 1972]

WHEREAS an association called and known as the »Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya« also popularly called the »Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of

¹³ Dazu ausführlich Kantowsky aaO S. 108–146.

Ceylon« has heretofore been established at Colombo for the purpose of effectively carrying out and transacting all matters connected with the said association according to the rules agreed to by its members:

And whereas the said association has heretofore been successfully carrying out its objects and it is now desirable that the said association should be incorporated:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of 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 Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Incorporation) Act, No. 16 of 1972.

2. The members for the time being of the association known as the Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (hereinafter referred to as »the Association«) shall be a body corporate (hereinafter referred to as »the Corporation«) with perpetual succession, a common seal, and the name »Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya«. The Corporation may sue and be sued in such name.

3. The general objects of the Corporation shall be the following: –

(1) To provide, by means of Shramadana Camps and other constructive ways, adequate opportunities and the appropriate mental climate for the realization of the principles, the philosophy and the objects of Sarvodaya by the Shramadana Sewakas and Sewikas who volunteer to engage themselves in village development and community welfare projects.

(2) To provide opportunities to the youth to acquire a correct understanding of the socio-economic and other problems of the country, and to organize educational and training programmes for them to learn ways and means of solving these according to the Sarvodaya philosophy.

(3) To organize programmes with a view to the eradication of distrust and disintegration springing from differences such as of caste, race, creed and party-politics.

(4) To disseminate qualities of selfless service, self-denial, co-operation, self-discipline and dignity of labour among the people of the land.

(5) To encourage the development, especially in the youth of healthy views of social justice, equality, love of one's motherland and international brotherhood.

(6) To develop self-confidence, co-operation and unity among the urban and rural communities and to evoke their inherent strength to bring about an allround development in their spiritual, moral, social, economic and educational life.

(7) To train and organize groups of youth who are ready to come forward and render voluntary service in times of national distress as well as in community development and social welfare programmes.

(8) To collect and mobilize the maximum possible resources of the people such as their time, intelligence, energy, land, wealth, specialized skills and technological knowledge which they are prepared to donate of their own free-will, and utilize these scientifically to bring about the general economic and social progress of the people.

(9) To help generally in the realization of the objects of the various institutions of the

United Nations and especially to assist in the programmes of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the UNESCO and the WHO respectively, to eradicate hunger, illiteracy and disease from our world.

(10) To promote the idea of the need for, and the importance of, the establishment of an International Shramadana Corps, under the auspices of the United Nations, through its member nations.

4. (1) The affairs of the Corporation shall, subject to the rules for the time being of the Corporation, be administered by an Executive Council which shall consist of the office-bearers of the Corporation and other members elected to the Executive Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation.

(2) The Executive Council may delegate any of its functions to one or more Standing Committees or Sub-committees.

5. (1) The General Secretary of the Corporation shall keep a register of the members of the Corporation.

(2) The Register of the members of the Corporation shall contain the following particulars: –

(i) The name and full postal address of each member.

(ii) The date of admission to membership.

(iii) The date on which such member ceased to be a member.

6. (1) The Corporation may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Corporation, make rules for admission to, and removal from, membership of the Corporation, for the performance of the duties of the office-bearers and other members of the Executive Council of the Corporation, for the procedure in the transaction of business, and otherwise generally for the management of the affairs of the Corporation and the accomplishment of its objects.

(2) The rules of the Corporation shall not be revised, rescinded or amended except at a special general meeting convened for the purpose and by a vote of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting.

(3) Written notice of the proposed additions, amendments and deletions shall be forwarded to the Executive Council through the Honorary General Secretary, and the Executive Council shall decide by a majority vote of the members of the Council present, the additions, amendments and deletions which should be presented at a special general meeting, for approval.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of this section, the rules set out in the Schedule to this Act shall be the rules of the Corporation.

7. All debts of the Association existing at the commencement of this Act shall be paid by the Corporation and all debts due and fees, subscriptions and grants payable to the Association shall be paid to the Corporation.

8. The Corporation may acquire and hold any movable or immovable property by right of purchase, grant, gift, testamentary disposition or otherwise, and, subject to the rules for the time being of the Corporation, may sell, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of any movable or immovable property of the Corporation.

9. The seal of the Corporation may be altered at the pleasure of the Corporation. The seal shall not be affixed to any instrument whatsoever except in the presence of two office-bearers of the Corporation one of whom shall be the President or in his absence a Vice-President, who shall sign their names on the instrument in token of their presence, and such signing shall be independent of the signing of any person as a witness.

10. The General Secretary of the Corporation shall have the custody of the seal of the Corporation.

11. Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice or affect the rights of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs and Successors or of any body politic or corporate or of any other person except such as are mentioned in this Act and those claiming by, from or under them.

SCHEDULE

Preamble

We, who have dedicated our lives to the noble cause of the building up of a Sarvodaya Social order in Sri Lanka and other countries of the world, where Truth, Non-violence and Selfdenial shall be the foundations of such Society and where the welfare of all-Sarvodaya-shall be the goal of our common endeavour, while pledging ourselves to work towards this ideal as members of one family where mutual love, faith, co-operation and co-sharing shall prevail, yet for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of efficiency in our service programmes and for establishing relationship with other social organisations and institutions, do hereby constitute ourselves as an organisation under the name »Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya« under the following rules.

RULES OF THE LANKA JATIKA SARVODAYA SHRAMADANA SANGAMAYA.

Article 1.-Name:

The name of the Association shall be »Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya« hereinafter called »The Association«.

Article 2.-Symbol:

The symbol of the Association shall be a light red open lotus flower with the rising sun in the background.

Article 3.-Motto:

The Motto of the Association shall be »Let us go from village to village and do service to all«.

Article 4.-Flag:

The Association shall have a flag comprising the rising sun and the light red open lotus flower, which is the symbol of the Association, on a white background.

Article 5.-General Objects:

The General Objects of the Association shall be –

- (1) To provide, by means of Shramadana Camps and other constructive ways, adequate opportunities and the appropriate mental climate for the realization of the principles, the philosophy and the objects of Sarvodaya by the Shramadana Sewakas and Sewikas who volunteer to engage themselves in village development and community welfare projects.
- (2) To provide opportunities to the youth to acquire a correct understanding of the socio-economic and other problems of the country and organize educational and training programmes for them to learn ways and means of solving these according to the Sarvodaya Philosophy.
- (3) To organize programmes with a view to the eradication of distrust and disintegration springing from differences such as of caste, race, creed and party-politics.
- (4) To disseminate, qualities of selfless service, self-denial, co-operation, self-discipline and dignity of labour among the people of the land.
- (5) To encourage the development, especially in the youth, of healthy views of social justice, equality, love of one's motherland and international brotherhood.
- (6) To develop self-confidence, co-operation and unity among the urban and rural communities and to evoke their inherent strength to bring about an all-round development in their spiritual, moral, social, economic and educational life.
- (7) To train and organize groups of youth who are ready to come forward and render voluntary service in times of national distress as well as in community development and social welfare programmes.
- (8) To collect and mobilize the maximum possible resources of the people such as their time, intelligence, energy, land, wealth, specialized skills and technological knowledge which they are prepared to donate of their own freewill, and utilize them scientifically to bring about the general economic and social progress of the people.
- (9) To associate generally for the realization of the objects of the various institutions of the United Nations and especially to assist in the programmes of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the UNESCO and the WHO respectively, to eradicate Hunger, Illiteracy and Disease from our world.
- (10) To promote the idea of the need for, and the importance of, the establishment of an International Shramadana Corps, under the auspices of the United Nations, through its member nations.

Article 6.—General Principles:

The members of the Association accept the following Ten Basic Principles, for which they shall strive:

- (1) To observe Truth, Non-violence and Self-denial at all times.
- (2) To reduce gradually their everyday needs in order to attain progressively the goal of a simple way of living.
- (3) To steer clear of any political-party affiliations in order that the sanctity of the Association may be preserved.
- (4) To reduce and not to add to the burdens of the State in regard to the financing of

community development and social welfare projects of the government and to render assistance through Shramadana to expedite such work.

(5) To change over by non-violent methods to a Sarvodaya social order which is based on community ownership, co-operation, love and self-denial by giving up the present way of life based on private ownership of wealth, selfish competition, hatred and greed.

(6) To accept the Sarvodaya ideal, namely, »The Welfare of All« as propounded by Mahatma Gandhi with the help of teachings of Great Religious leaders such as Lord Buddha, Hindu Saints, Lord Jesus Christ, and Prophet Mohammed and as pursued today in India under the enlightened guidance of Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

(7) To preserve the purity of means by which the objects of the Association are to be achieved.

(8) To accept and abide by the decisions of the Executive Council and the Elders' Council in matters pertaining to membership of the Association such as removal from membership and to pledge that such member shall voluntarily resign from membership if the said Councils decide to remove such member from membership.

(9) To realize that Shramadana is only the first step in the achievement of a total non-violent revolution in all matters social, moral, political and economic and to render service in other Sarvodaya steps that may be taken from time to time to establish a society where justice and equality shall prevail and where exploitation of man by man in any form would be entirely eliminated.

(10) To realize and work towards the ideal that maximum well being and happiness of humanity can only be achieved when within countries people are non-violently organized as self-reliant, rural and urban communities where scientific and spiritual values are harmoniously combined for the welfare of all and when the world community consisting of such nations organize themselves into a commonwealth of independent national states where peace, co-operation and mutual respect for such independent nations' freedom are the salient features.

Article 7.-The Pledge:

(1) All those who apply for the membership of the Association shall agree to take the following pledge on admission to membership and all members at every Annual General Meeting shall as a body renew this pledge.

(2) »I do agree to abide by the decisions of the Executive Council and the Council of Elders as final in all matters connected with my membership and discipline of the Association.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the association if I am made to forego my membership in the association or lose office in the association I held at that time, while I do pledge not to consider the same as a personal damage or an insult that has been caused to me, I shall strive to rectify and correct the shortcomings and violations of principles that I may have been responsible for with a view to qualifying myself to regain membership at a later time«.

Article 8.-Membership:

(1) The Executive Council shall have the power to admit to membership any person

who is not under 16 years of age and who agrees to accept and abide by the Principles, the Objects and the Pledge of The Association.

(2) When the application for membership on the prescribed form accompanied by the subscription is received by the Honorary General Secretary, the Executive Council shall consider the granting of membership to such applicant.

(3) The Executive Council of the Association shall have all powers for admission to membership, refusal to grant membership, suspension of membership and removal from membership of the Association.

(4) In case of matters pertaining to disciplinary action with regard to membership while the Executive Council shall not be obliged to give reason for such action to the General Meeting of any other party or person, it shall however place such decisions before the General Meeting for ratification.

(5) There shall be six categories of members, namely, Youth members, Ordinary members, Sampathdayaka members, Life members, Honorary members and International members.

(6) Youth members shall mean those persons who have completed 16 years of age but not completed 25 years of age; 'Ordinary members' shall mean those persons who are above 25 years of age; 'Sampathdayaka members' shall mean those persons who donate annually any contribution over and above the subscription fee stipulated in Article 9 hereunder;

'Life members' shall mean those persons who subscribe the amount stipulated for such membership in Article 9 hereunder; 'Honorary members' shall mean those persons who belong to any religious order and who, in the opinion of the Executive Council, are by reason of their eminence qualified for membership; 'International members' shall mean those persons who are not resident in Ceylon but who have subscribed to the Sarvodaya thought and rendered service to the movement from abroad and whom the Executive Council decide to admit to membership.

Article 9.—Membership Fees:

(1) Youth members shall pay One Rupee per year and ordinary members shall pay Five Rupees per year as annual subscription.

(2) Sampathdayaka members shall pay at least Ten Rupees as their annual subscription.

(3) Members who pay one hundred rupees in one payment shall be deemed to be life members.

(4) Honorary and International members are not obliged to pay membership fees.

(5) Members of the Youth, Ordinary, and Sampathdayaka categories shall have to renew their membership for the new year by paying the stipulated membership fee before the 31st of January of each new calendar year.

(6) Those who forfeit their membership by a decision of the Executive Council, by resignation or by any other means shall not be entitled to claim a refund of any subscription or donation they have paid to the Association during their period of membership.

Article 10.—Membership Register:

The Honorary General Secretary shall maintain a Register of members giving their names, category of membership, permanent address, date on which membership was granted, date on which one ceased to be a member and any other relevant information that the Honorary General Secretary may consider to be necessary.

Article 11.—Council of Elders:

(1) The Council of Elders shall consist of fifteen members. At least eight members of the Council of Elders shall be selected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

(2) The Executive Council shall have the power to fill any vacancies in the Council of Elders that occur as a result of the full number of members not being able to be selected at the Annual General Meeting, or by resignation during the course of the year or by the termination of membership owing to some other reason.

(3) All members selected for the Council of Elders shall be from among the Honorary and Life Members of the Association.

(4) The Council of Elders shall function as an advisory and guiding body to the Executive Council.

(5) If an occasion arises when the Executive Council is unable to arrive at a decision in regard to a disciplinary matter connected with members or office-bearers, such matter shall be placed before the Council of Elders and the decisions given by the Council of Elders in such instances shall be accepted as final by the members, the Executive Council and the office-bearers alike.

(6) The members of the Council of Elders are deemed to be *ex officio* members of the Executive Council and shall have the power to participate in the Executive Council meetings as other members of that Council.

(7) The Council of Elders shall within one month after election appoint from among themselves (a) a President and (b) a Secretary.

(8) If any member of the Council of Elders does not attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive Council without informing in writing the reason for such absence and such member does not attend the next meeting, of the Executive Council even after the Honorary General Secretary has specially written to such member requiring him to attend, such person shall be deemed to have vacated the membership in the Council of Elders.

Article 12.—Executive Council:

(1) The Executive Council shall be empowered to take all such practical measures deemed necessary for the good working of the Association and the realization of the objects of the Association.

(2) The Executive Council shall consist of 35 members namely, the fifteen members of the Council of Elders, the six office-bearers elected at the Annual General Meeting, and fourteen other Executive Council members also elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(3) The Honorary President shall have the power to suspend the membership of any member of the Executive Council if under the signature of five Executive Council mem-

bers such request is made personally by them at an Executive Council Meeting and the Executive Council decides to accept such request.

(4) The Executive Council shall meet at least once a month and the quorum for a meeting shall be fifteen members.

(5) Any member of the Executive Council absenting himself from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Council without informing in writing his or her inability to attend such meetings shall be considered to have vacated his or her membership from the Council.

(6) The Honorary General Secretary with the consent of the President shall have power to invite any persons who are not members of the Executive Council to participate in Executive Council meetings on occasions when such persons' presence is considered to be necessary.

Article 13.-Powers of the Executive Council:

The Executive Council of the Association shall have the authority to exercise all its powers to carry out the duties and responsibilities stipulated below: –

(1) Admission of members, suspension of members, and expulsion of members.

(2) Definition of the duties of office-bearers, delegation to them of such powers as are necessary and withdrawal of such powers.

(3) Filling up the vacancies of the Executive Council and the Council of Elders, and subject to Article 14 hereunder, filling up the vacancies of the office-bearers.

(4) Appointment, delegation of powers to, and dissolution of, special service committees, subcommittees and working committees.

(5) Appointment, allocation of duties and removal of Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurer.

(6) Appointment, allocation of duties, control and removal of organisers and workers for office level, institutional level, village level, divisional level, district level and national level duties.

(7) When necessary approval of allowances and payments for the maintenance of workers and organizers.

(8) Organization, Establishment and Control of Sarvodaya Govi Haulas, Sarvodaya Sisu Haulas, Sarvodaya Guru Haulas, Sarvodaya Kulangana Haulas, Sarvodaya Welenda Haulas, Sarvodaya Singithi Haulas, and Sarvodaya Pre-employment Service, and the appointment and removal of organizers and organizing committees for the same.

(9) According to the needs of the Association, the association with Ministries, Departments and other Governmental institutions.

(10) The establishment and maintenance of relationship with similar organizations both national or foreign according to the needs of the Association.

(11) Establishment, control and discontinuance of Sarvodaya farms, training centres, social welfare homes and educational institutions.

(12) Custody of, control, putting to right use, improvement and addition to, and derivation of income when possible from, all movable and immovable property belonging to the Association.

- (13) Acquisition as donations or by other means of land, buildings, equipment, or monies, for the use of the Association and their utilization and investment in the interest of the objects of the Association.
- (14) Maintenance and keep in safe custody of all documents of the Association.
- (15) Maintenance and keep in safe custody of proper accounts of income and expenditure of the Association.
- (16) Appointment of qualified auditors to examine all accounts of the Association and present their duly audited and certified annual statements of accounts to the General Meeting and the required government institutions.
- (17) Organization and implementation of programmes of work in accordance with the objects of the Association.
- (18) Interpretation and clarification of the rules and the giving of decisions on matters not provided for in these rules.
- (19) When amendments, revisions, or deletion of the constitution are necessary the taking of decisions on such matters and presenting them for approval for the Special General Meeting summoned for such purpose.
- (20) Establishment, control and maintenance of the Central Office, and Branch Offices of the Association.
- (21) The organization and responsibility for Shramadana Camps, Shanthi Sena Camps, Spiritual Brotherhood Camps, Moral Preservation Camps, Community Development Projects and Social Welfare Schemes.
- (22) Assistance of individuals, families, groups, villages and institutions, when assistance from the Association is sought by way of advice, Shramadana, equipment or monetary help.
- (23) Assistance of members of the Association and other deserving persons for the good of the Association and people of the Country in sponsoring educational tours, scholarship, and training facilities both within the Country and abroad.
- (24) Decision of the dates, times and venues for Annual General Meetings, Special General Meetings and General Meetings.
- (25) Organization of lectures, talks, seminars, and conferences, at International, National, District, Divisional, Village and institutional levels.
- (26) Printing and publishing of books, magazines, newspapers and other literature on Sarvodaya and allied subjects.
- (27) Establishment of a Sarvodaya Printing Press specially to print and publish books, magazines and newspapers for children's literature.
- (28) Participation generally in other social reconstruction activities which are not specified in these rules but which are in keeping with the objects, principles and programmes of the Association but strictly excluding party and power political activities.

Article 14.-Office-Bearers:

- (1) the Association shall have the following nine office-bearers: –
Honorary President.
Two Honorary Vice-Presidents.

Honorary General Secretary.

Honorary Organising Secretary.

Honorary Treasurer.

Two Honorary Assistant Secretaries and an

Honorary Assistant Treasurer.

(2) The Honorary President, the two Honorary Vice-Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Organizing Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(3) The two Honorary Assistant Secretaries and the Honorary Assistant Treasurer shall be elected from among the Executive Council members at the first Executive Council meeting held after the Annual General Meeting and their names shall be proposed respectively by the Honorary General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. At the request of the Honorary President, the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Organizing Secretary or the Honorary Treasurer, the Executive Council shall have power to remove the aforesaid three office-bearers and replace them with three other members of the Executive Council.

(4) The office-bearers shall implement the policy decisions of the Executive Council. The office-bearers shall be responsible to the Executive Council for all their actions.

(5) The Honorary President, the Honorary Vice-Presidents, the Honorary General Secretary, the Honorary Organizing Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall cease to hold office on (1) resignation from membership or office, (2) death, (3) becoming a lunatic or of unsound mind, (4) being convicted of any criminal offence or (5) being requested in writing to resign by a minimum of 20 members of the Executive Council.

Under such circumstances while the Executive Council shall have power to fill such vacancies in the case of offices of the Honorary President, the Honorary General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, such appointments shall be ratified at a general meeting summoned within not less than two calendar months from the date of such vacancy being filled.

Honorary President.

(6) The Honorary President shall (1) himself observe and see that others observe the objects and principles of the Association, (2) put before the general meeting the decisions of the Executive Council, (3) generally supervise and direct all affairs of the Association, and (4) preside at the meetings of the general body and the Executive Council.

(7) In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, and in the absence of both the President and the Vice-Presidents, an elected member of the Council of Elders shall preside and conduct the meetings of the general body and the Executive Council.

Honorary General Secretary.

(8) The Chief Executive officer of the Association shall be the Honorary General Secretary. He shall have such powers and duties vested in him by the Executive Council. His special duties shall be to summon general meetings and Executive Council Meetings, sign documents of the Association, bear responsibility for work assigned to Assistant Secretaries, suspend work of Assistant Secretaries, and inform the Executive Council for

necessary action, keep minutes, and safeguard the records of the meetings and the Association.

(9) By a special resolution passed with a two-thirds majority at a meeting of the Executive Council the office-bearers and the Executive Council shall have the right to resign *en bloc*, and the Honorary General Secretary shall summon a special general meeting of the Association within one month from the date of adoption of such resolution and elect a new Executive Council and office-bearers to function in office till the next Annual General Meeting.

Honorary Organizing Secretary.

(10) The Honorary Organizing Secretary shall implement the decisions of the Executive Council in matters connected with the propagation of the Sarvodaya Movement, the administration of the developmental, welfare and other projects undertaken by the Association and the establishment of liaison with other similar national and international organizations. At the request of the Honorary General Secretary or in his absence by a decision of the Executive Council the Honorary Organizing Secretary shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Honorary General Secretary.

Honorary Treasurer.

(11) The Honorary Treasurer, under the directions of the Executive Council, shall be responsible for the collection, the safe custody and the disbursement of all monies of the Association. He shall maintain proper accounts of all moneys received and spent, keep inventories and documents of all equipment and property received and disposed of and shall make available to the Executive Council such accounts books, receipts and documents, when called for. The Honorary Treasurer shall bear the full responsibility for the work assigned to the Assistant Treasurer and he shall have the power to suspend, if necessary the Assistant Treasurer, from office and inform the Executive Council for necessary action.

Article 15. – The General Meeting.

(1) The General meeting shall be open to members of all categories. The quorum shall be fifty members.

(2) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of February or March on a date as determined by the Executive Council.

(3) At least ten days' notice shall be given to members for the Annual General Meeting.

(4) The Executive Council shall have the power, provided where unavoidable circumstances prevent the holding of such meeting, to postpone such meeting to a date not exceeding one month from the date for which the said annual general meeting was fixed.

(5) The six chief Office-bearers, the Council of Elders and the Executive Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(6) At the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Treasurer shall present the statement of accounts of the preceding year duly audited by approved auditors and the Honorary General Secretary shall present the Annual Service Report and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the preceding year.

(7) Special General Meetings shall be summoned by the Honorary General Secretary by order of the President or at the written request of a minimum of five members of the Council of Elders, or when the Executive Council decides to have such meeting, or when fifty members or one-fifth of the membership of the Association whatever number being the lesser makes a written request. The time limit between the date of such request and the summoning of such Special General Meeting shall be not more than one month.

(8) Any resolutions that the members wish to present to a General Meeting shall be forwarded to the Executive Council through the Honorary General Secretary at least five days before such meeting and the Executive Council shall reserve the right to decide upon such resolutions that may be selected for presentation to the general meeting from amongst those that were forwarded to the Council.

(9) Even though the Sarvodaya convention among the members of the Association is to arrive at unanimous decisions on all matters connected with activities, decisions may be taken in special cases by majority vote. The right to vote shall be vested only in Honorary and Life members and members of the Youth, Ordinary and Sampathdayake categories who have paid up their membership fees without arrears upto the date on which such general meeting is held.

Article 16. – Control of Funds.

(1) Moneys received by the Association by way of subscription fees, donations from local or foreign private institutions and persons, grants, and donations received from the Government of Ceylon or a foreign Government or institution, income received from the movable and immovable properties of the Association, shall be considered the funds of the Association.

(2) The responsibility for receiving all such moneys, their custody and disbursement shall be vested in the Honorary Treasurer under the directions of the Executive Council.

(3) All moneys exceeding Rupees Three hundred shall be deposited in an approved Bank in favour of the »Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya«. The cheques for the withdrawal of moneys shall be signed by two persons, one being the Honorary Treasurer and the other being one out of the Honorary President, the Honorary General Secretary and the Honorary Organizing Secretary.

(4) The financial year of the Association shall be from the 1st of January to 31st December each year.

(5) The Executive Council shall appoint recognized Auditors for annual inspection of Accounts.

(6) At the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Treasurer shall present the Annual Statement of Accounts duly Audited and certified by the auditors.

Article 17. – Branch Societies.

(1) The Executive Council shall have the power to authorize the organisation of a branch society in any place where there are at least five members of the society belonging to any category.

(2) The Branch Societies shall function in accordance with the objects, the principles and the programmes of the Association.

(3) The Executive Council shall have power to frame rules, to delegate powers, to control and dissolve Branch Societies.

Article 18. – Recognized Organizations.

(1) If any voluntary organizations, devoid of party political affiliations, apply to the Association to co-operate in programmes and activities carried out according to the general objects of the Association, the Executive Council shall have the power to accede to such request and register them as Recognized bodies with the Association or reject such request or after registration cancel such recognition.

(2) The recognition of such body shall not in any way affect the identity and independence of such body or the Association from each other.

(3) The Association or the recognized organization shall have the power to unilaterally cancel such registration as a Recognized organization of the Association.

Article 19. – Sarvodaya Haulas.

(1) With a view to propagate the Sarvodaya thought among various sectors of the community and to get them to participate in the activities of the Association, the Executive Council shall have the power to organize, direct and control Sarvodaya Haulas.

(2) These Haulas may be given any such names as Sarvodaya Govi Haula, Sarvodaya Sisu Haula, Sarvodaya Kulangana Haula, Sarvodaya Shramadayake Haula, Sarvodaya Pera Rekiya Seva Haula and Sarvodaya Singithi Haula.

(3) The Executive Council shall give special consideration to members of the Sarvodaya Haulas when members are admitted to the Association.

Article 20. – The Power to Sue and be Sued.

The Association shall have the power to sue and be sued. Under such an eventuality while the Honorary President and the Honorary General Secretary shall have all necessary powers to appear on behalf of the Association they also shall have power to delegate such powers with the concurrence of the Executive Council to another member of the Executive Council.

Article 21. – Sarvodaya Conference.

The Executive Council shall organize at least once in three years an all Island Sarvodaya Conference in which members of the Association, members of the Branch Societies, Representatives of the Recognized organizations, members of the Sarvodaya Haulas, and guests from other National and international organizations are invited to participate.

Article 22. – Registered Office.

(1) The Executive Council shall decide the place where the registered office of the Association shall be maintained.

(2) The registered office of the Association shall normally be situated in the District of Colombo but the Executive Council shall reserve the power to shift the registered office to any other District of the country by a decision of the Executive Council.

Article 23. – Amendments of Rules.

(1) The rules of the Association shall not be revised, rescinded or amended except at a special general meeting convened for the purpose and on the vote of not less than two-thirds of those present voting in favour of the proposed amendment.

(2) Written notice of the proposed revisions, amendments and deletions must be forwarded to the Executive Council through the Honorary General Secretary, and the Executive Council by a decision of the Executive Council members present, shall decide by majority vote of those present the revisions, amendments, and deletions that should be presented for such special general meeting for approval.

(3) The amendments, revisions and deletions to these rules as approved by the Executive Council should be proposed at the special General Meeting by the Honorary General Secretary and in his absence by the person presiding at such meeting.