



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA**

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**CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT)  
ACT, No. 25 OF 2024**

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**[Certified on 03rd of May, 2024]**

*Printed on the Order of Government*

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*Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)*  
*Act, No. 25 of 2024*

[Certified on 03rd of May, 2024]

L. D.- O 29/2022

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE  
ACT, No. 15 OF 1979

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

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, No. 25 of 2024. Short title
- 2.** Section 185 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended as follows: - Amendment of section 185 of Act, No. 15 of 1979
- (1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) of that section; and
  - (2) by the addition immediately after the renumbered subsection (1), of the following new subsections: -
    - “(2) At the time of passing the sentence, the Magistrate may, after considering all relevant facts take into cognizance the time spent by such accused in custody prior to the conviction of the offence he is convicted of, and in such cases the time so spent in custody shall be considered to be part of his sentence:
- Provided that, where the time spent by such accused in custody is not considered to be part of his sentence, the Magistrate shall record reasons therefor:
- Provided further, the time so spent in custody by the accused prior to the conviction shall not

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be taken into consideration where a mandatory minimum sentence is stipulated by law in respect of the offence the accused is charged with.

(3) For the purpose of this section, “custody” means the time spent in remand custody.”.

Amendment of section 203 of the principal enactment

**3.** Section 203 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows: -

- (1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) of that section; and
- (2) by the addition immediately after the renumbered subsection (1), of the following new subsections:-

“(2) At the time of passing the sentence, the Judge may, after considering all relevant facts take into cognizance the time spent by such accused in custody prior to the conviction of the offence he is convicted of, and in such cases the time so spent in custody, shall be considered to be part of his sentence:

Provided that, where the time spent by such accused in custody is not considered to be part of his sentence, the Judge shall record reasons therefor:

Provided further, the time so spent in custody by the accused prior to the conviction shall not be taken into consideration where a mandatory minimum sentence is stipulated by law in respect of the offence the accused is charged with.

(3) For the purpose of this section, “custody” means the time spent in remand custody.”.

4. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 238 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 238A of that enactment: -

Insertion of new section 238A in the principal enactment

“Passing the sentence

238A. (1) At the time of passing the sentence, the Judge may, after considering all relevant facts take into cognizance the time spent by such accused in custody prior to the conviction of the offence he is convicted of, and in such cases the time so spent in custody, shall be considered to be part of his sentence:

Provided that, where the time spent by such accused in custody is not considered to be part of his sentence, the Judge shall record reasons therefor:

Provided further, the time so spent in custody by the accused prior to the conviction shall not be taken into consideration where a mandatory minimum sentence is stipulated by law in respect of the offence the accused is charged with.

(2) For the purpose of this section, “custody” means the time spent in remand custody.”.

5. Section 323 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (5) thereof, by the substitution for the words “the time so spent”, of the words “the time spent”.

Amendment of section 323 of the principal enactment

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Amendment of  
section 333 of the  
principal  
enactment

**6.** Section 333 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (5) thereof, by the substitution for the words “received into prison under the sentence.”, of the following:-

“received into prison under the sentence:

Provided that, the Court of Appeal may, in appropriate cases, order that the time spent by an appellant in custody pending the determination of his appeal and any time spent in custody prior to the conviction, such time not having been considered as part of his sentence passed at the time of his conviction by the court of first instance, be considered as part of his sentence ordered at the conclusion of his appeal.”.

Sinhala text to  
prevail in case  
of inconsistency

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

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GOVERNMENT PRINTING, No. 118, DR. DANISTER DE SILVA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 8.