

Law Relating to the Sangha Organization.

State LORC Law No. 20/90 of Oct. 31, 1990

Chapter I - Title and Definition

1. This law shall be called the Law Relating to the Sangha Organization.
2. The following expression contained in this law shall have the meanings given hereunder:-
 - (a) "Sangha" means all monks who have attained the noble monkhood by the Natticatutthaupasampada Kammavaca and who have the same religious vows and precepts;
 - (b) "Basic Regulation" means the Union of Myanmar Sangha Organization Basic Regulation approved and prescribed by the Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana;
 - (c) "Sangha Organization" means the different levels of Sangha Organization formed in accordance with the Basic Regulation.
 - (d) "Theravada" means the Pitaka such as Pali, Atthakatha and Tika which have been submitted to and reviewed by the Six Buddhist Councils commencing from the First Buddhist Council to the Sixth Buddhist Council.

Chapter II - Stipulations

3. There shall be only one Sangha Organization in the Union of Myanmar, comprising all Orders of the Sangha prescribed under the Basic Regulations.
4. All Sanghas from the respective Theravada Sangha Sects in the Union of Myanmar are members of the Union of Myanmar Sangha Organization.
5. The following nine Sects of Sangha approved by the Basic Regulation within the Sangha Organization have the right to abide by the code of discipline of their respective Sects:-

- (a) Sudhamma Sect;
- (b) Shwekyin Sect;
- (c) Dhammanudhamma Mahadvara Nikaya Sect;
- (d) Dhammavinayanuloma Muladvara Nikaya Sect;
- (e) Ah-nauk-Chaung Dvara Sect;
- (f) Veluvana Nikaya Sect;
- (g) Catubhummika Mahasatipatthana Nget-twin Sect;
- (h) Ganavimut Kudo Sect;
- (i) Dhammayutti Nikaya Ma-har-yin Sect.

6. The Sangha Pavarana Sects existing in the respective localities are included in the Sangha Sects contained in Section 5.

7. The Sangha Sects contained in Section 5 have the right to amalgamate with agreed Sects.

Chapter III - Prohibitions

8. No new Sects other than the Sangha Sects mentioned in section 5 shall be formed separately.

9. No Sangha Organization which is not subject to the supervision of the respective Sangha Nayaka Committee, other than such organization under the supervision of the respective Sangha Nayaka Committee as Ovacariya Sangha Organizations, Nayaka Sangha Organizations of Buddhist Association, Sangha Organizations convening the Theravada Pariyatti Oral or Written Examinations shall be formed.

10. No one shall organize, agitate, deliver speeches or distribute writings in order to disintegrate the Sangha Organizations at different levels.

11. When any monk or novice is admonished by the Sangha Organization at different levels in accordance with the Basic Regulation of Sangha Organization or the Procedures, such monk or novice shall abide by such admonition.

Chapter IV - Penalties

12. Any monk or novice who violates the provision of section 8 or section 9 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 3 years.

13. Whoever violates the provision of section 10 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 3 years.

14. Any monk or novice who violates the provision of section 11 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term of 6 months.

Chapter V - Miscellaneous

15. On being informed by any Sangha Organization or any State Organization that it is necessary to institute legal proceedings under section 12 or section 13 of this Law, the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs shall institute legal proceedings.

16. On being informed by any Sangha Organization or any State Organization that it is necessary to institute legal proceedings under section 14 of this Law, the Director General of the Department of Religious Affairs or any person delegated by the Director General for this purpose shall make a direct complaint to the relevant court.

17. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any public servant in respect of anything which is in good faith done under this Law.

18. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Law, the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs may, in consultation with the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee issue orders and directives as may be necessary.

(Sd.) Saw Maung

Senior General, Chairman, The State Law and Order Restoration Council

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