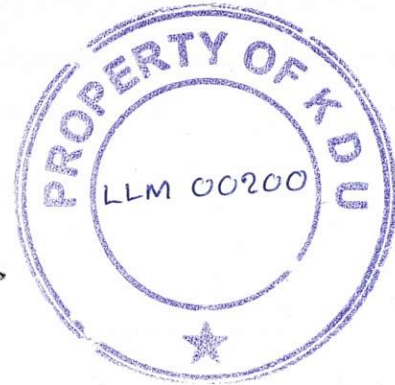


**Faculty of Graduate Studies
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**



**A REVIEW OF THE LEGAL CONTEXT OF STATE LAND
ALIENATION IN SRI LANKA**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Laws in
Public Law**

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Abstract

This dissertation critically examines the legal framework governing the alienation of state land in Sri Lanka, a topic of paramount importance due to its implications for the socio-economic context of the country. Moreover, sustainable utilization of land resources, which has been a theme of much discussion due to the escalation of malpractices and misuse of such resources owing to the inadequacies that prevail in the legal framework in the country.

The study begins with an overview of the historical context of land occupancy systems in Sri Lanka, tracing the development of the legal framework from the colonial period to the present day. It then moves to identify legislations specific to state land alienation and to analyze the legal framework including relevant legislation, policies, and institutional mechanisms governing state land alienation.

A key focus of the dissertation is the identity of the ambiguities, complexities, and non-compliance with the socioeconomic context of the country while examining the principles underlying land alienation, including equity, social justice, and sustainable development. Accordingly, it critically evaluates to what extent the prevailing legal context is adequate to fulfill the aspirations of the general public.

Furthermore, the study explores the role of government entities and administrative structures responsible for state land alienation that established by the various statutes. It examines their interests, power dynamics, and interactions, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for effective land governance.

In conclusion, this study offers recommendations for policymakers, legislators, and practitioners to draft comprehensive legislation overriding the provisions that authorize the various authorities to carry out the matters of state land alienation, thereby promoting inclusivity, sustainable development, and social cohesion.