

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

CA WRIT Application No. 186/2026

In the matter of an application for the grant and issue of Writs of Certiorari and Mandamus under and in terms of Article 140 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Abel Tesfay Kebedde,
Ethiopia,
Addis Ababa,
Bole House No.1486 (Postcode 14700)

And now also

No. 459, Dehigasthalawa, Balangoda,
Sri Lanka.

Petitioner

Vs.

1. Director General of Customs,
Sri Lanka Customs,
No.40, Main Street,
Colombo 11.
2. R.A.L.K. Ranasinghe,
Senior Deputy Director of Customs,
Sri Lanka Customs,
No.40, Main Street,
Colombo 11.
3. M.D.C.P. Walpola,
Assistant Superintendent of Customs,
Sri Lanka Customs,
No.40, Main Street,
Colombo 11.
4. Magistrate of the Negombo Magistrate's
Court,

Negombo Magistrate's Court,
Negombo.

5. Athambawa Jaleel,
Deputy Director of Customs,
Sri Lanka Customs,
No.40, Main Street,
Colombo 11.

Respondents

Before: **Damith Thotawatte, J.**
K.M.S. Dissanayake, J.

Counsels: Harith Hettiarachchi with Shenal Fernando and Budhdhi Udara
instructed by Dimuthu Kuruppuarachchi for the Petitioner.

Supported: 24.03.2026

Order Delivered: 30.04.2026

Thotawatte, J.

Upon consideration of the Petition and Affidavit filed of record, together with the submissions made on behalf of the Petitioner in support of the application, this Court is satisfied that the matters urged disclose, *prima facie*, arguable grounds sufficient to warrant the issuance of notice on the Respondents in the first instance.

Accordingly, the Registrar of the Court of Appeal is directed to issue notices on the Respondents.

Upon a further consideration of the Petition, Affidavit, and the submissions tendered in support of the application for interim relief, this Court is not satisfied, at this stage, that

the Petitioner has established sufficient grounds warranting the grant of interim relief as prayed for in sub-paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of the prayer to the Petition.

Accordingly, the application for interim relief contained in sub-paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of the prayer to the Petition is hereby refused.

However, it is clarified that this refusal shall not operate as a bar to the Petitioner seeking interim relief at a subsequent stage of these proceedings, should circumstances arise necessitating such relief, or upon further material being placed before Court demonstrating the existence of urgency, prejudice, or other circumstances warranting reconsideration.

Judge of the Court of Appeal

K.M.S. Dissanayake, J.

I agree

Judge of the Court of Appeal