

***KARUNARATNE, v. THE QUEEN, S.C. 2/68 (Bribery)-D. C. Colombo, B/7 (2/CA) Decided on 27/02/1973.***

*Bribery Act (Cap. 26)-Jurisdiction thereunder of District Courts to try offences committed prior to 29th July, 1965-Procedure and punishment applicable to offences-Power of Legislature to alter them retrospectively.*

G. P. A. SILVA, S.P.J With WALGAMPAYA, J. agreeing,

Court contemplated whether an offence of bribery committed prior to 29th July 1965 may be tried by a District Court under the Bribery Act, No. 2 of 1965, which was passed on 29th July 1965; after the crime was committed. Consequently, the jurisdiction of the District Court to determine the charges and to pass the sentence was challenged in this case.

**Held;**

Karunaratne v. The Queen; The argument that there was no offence in contravention of section 19 (c) before the coming into operation of Act No. 2 of 1965 fails."

It is considerable that the sentence prescribed for the offence by the original Act before amendment, is indicative of the intention of the legislature. Thus the imposed punishments were not an excessive sentence.

*Appeal dismissed.*