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SUPREME COURT

Law Takes Effect Only When Made Public

Supreme Court Draws a Firm Line on Gazette Publication

Sheikh Rayees • January 22, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

Subordinate legislation does not acquire legal force the moment it is signed or uploaded online. It becomes binding only when it is published in the Official Gazette. Drawing this clear boundary, the Supreme Court has ruled that rights cannot be restricted and obligations cannot be imposed on citizens unless delegated legislation is formally brought into the public domain through Gazette publication.

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