

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



**LL.B. DEGREE PROGRAMME - LEVEL 5**

**CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT TEST ii - 2021/2022**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW - LLU 5811**

**DURATION - 1 HOUR**

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Time: 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.  
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**Illegible handwriting will be penalized**

**QUESTION**

*At times, some of us, through our limited understanding tend to object to every development project on environmental grounds. Whoever stalls or slows down the economic development process which generates employment, does more injustice than justice to the environment as the unemployed will be compelled to fall back on natural resources for their sustenance. The experience in many countries shows us that poverty is the biggest enemy of the environment.*

[K A S Guneseekara, Secretary, Ministry of Forestry and Environment in a message to the National Environmental Action Plan 1998-2001]

Discuss this statement in the light of the environmental impact assessment process. To what extent does this process enable a balance between the objectives of environmental protection on the one hand and the objectives of development and poverty alleviation on the other?

Discuss in particular the role of public comments and public hearings in this process.

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