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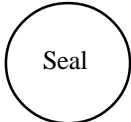
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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Proclamations & C., by the President

BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA.

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE

ESTABLISHMENT of a Task Force for Poverty eradication and Livelihood Development in terms of the powers vested in His Excellency the President by Article 33 of the Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,

To:

1. S.B. Divarathne Esquire
Retired Deputy Secretary to the Treasury
2. V. Sivagnanasothy Esquire
Retired Secretary to Ministry
3. Prof. H.M.W. Ariyaratna Herath Esquire
Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya



4. Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda Esquire
University of Kelaniya
5. Dr. S.S. Sivakumar Esquire
Senior Lecturer, University of Jaffna
6. Nimal Abeysiri Esquire
Retired District Secretary
7. Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya Esquire
Consultant
8. Dr. (Ms.) Sanjeevani Hapugoda
Consultant
9. Sumedha Perera Esquire
Retired Major General
10. Ms. Gayathri Gunaruwan
The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
11. Sanjeewa Gunawardana Esquire
Executive Officer, M/s. E.W. Creasy and Company
12. Samantha Kumarasinghe Esquire
Owner, M/s. Nature's Secrets

Greetings !

Whereas the frustrations experienced by the rural people, plantation community and low income earning urban people at their role not being properly evaluated in terms of their skills, exceptional abilities and potentials as well as their weaknesses and challenges in a context where during the past period, the local economic strengths had not been subject to due appraisal within the international context, has received the priority attention of the incumbent Government,

And whereas the difficulties, problems and setbacks of the rural low income earning communities are faced with have been more accurately identified based on their own observations through the "Dialogue with the village" and "Vistas of prosperity and splendour",

And whereas the overall economic goals to be achieved by Sri Lanka in the future and development objectives recognized by the United Nation as well as trends forwards increasing poverty and gap between haves and have-nots in the context of the World Economic trends have been clearly identified by the incumbent Government,

And whereas the poverty has been a major drawback in achieving the said development goals for a secure and prosperous nation and that the need has also arisen for strategies to be adopted for empowerment of rural community based on a people-centric economy,

And whereas clear out integrated programmes to be implemented for building the country within the framework of vision under the theme: "A secure country, A land of prosperity, A productive citizen" and "A happy family" has been presented in the policy statement: "Vistas of prosperity and splendour",

And whereas the programme for expanding educational facilities and improving skills and potentials of students as well as health, quality food consumption of the people and environmental conservation have been prioritized,

And whereas it is imperative that an novel approach is established by expanding the access for finance through Banking and Financial Institutions as is deemed appropriate for the rural, plantation and low-income earning people to be directly linked to the process of economic empowerment locally as entrepreneurs by reviving the small and medium scale enterprises through the established Government machinery as Central Government Ministries, District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats,

Now, therefore, I, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka reposing great trust and confidence in your prudence, ability and fidelity do by these presents appoint you the said,

1. S.B. Divarathne Esquire
Retired Deputy Secretary to the Treasury
2. V. Sivagnanasothy Esquire
Retired Secretary to Ministry
3. Prof. H.M.W. Ariyaratna Herath Esquire
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4. Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda Esquire
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as members of the Task Force to be established for poverty eradication and livelihood development and appoint you as my Commissioners to the accomplishment of the under-mentioned tasks -

- (a) Implementation of programmes for supply of essential food items in order to ensure the food security of Samurdhi beneficiaries,
- (b) Co-ordination Lanka Sathosa, CWE, Cooperative system and Mark-Fed in expanding the Network for the supply of foods and other essential items,
- (c) Incentivizing and mobilizing local suppliers in supplying foods and other commodities at concessionary prices through the above retail Network,
- (d) Establishing a network of authorized dealers at grass root level in order to expand the supply network through Lanka Sathosa, Coop-Fed and Mark-Fed and give priority for women's entrepreneurship in the expansion of the said authorized dealers' network,
- (e) Co-ordinating with the multi-purpose Task Force to ensure the availability of sustainable livelihood programmes for the 100,000 needy families identified in respect of the 100,000 employment programme,
- (f) Co-ordinating with the Ministry of Highways, Provincial Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas the 100,000 K.M rural road development programme for the provision of a good quality road system for the people mostly resident in rural, estate and semi-urban areas,
- (g) Co-ordinating with the Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing facilities and the Water Supply and Drainage Board to ensure the provision of 150,000 water supplies in order to satisfactorily to meet the requirements of people resident in rural state and semi-urban areas,
- (h) Co-ordinating with the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Regional Development Bank, Samurdhi Bank, Cooperative Banks, Housing Development and Finance Corporation and Micro - Finance Institutions in providing financial facilities for the needy and low income earning communities prioritizing small scale business development, self employment, cottage industries development initiatives and facilitating provision of financial facilities for the low income recipients,

- (i) Coordinating with the Ministry of Lands, Lands Commissioner's Department and "Bim Saviya" Programme in providing long-term permit on 30 year lease basis for agricultural and business development, to those identified from among the poor and under low income earning people,
- (j) Coordinating with Local Government Institutions, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats and other Government Institutions to ensure said communities have been provided with facilities for the delivery of services at grass-root level,
- (k) Coordinating with the Department of Wildlife and Divisional Secretariats in providing protection for the villages and cultivated lands from wild elephants,
- (l) Initiating necessary measures for the CSR programme launched by the private sector to be linked as far as possible to the national programme for the eradication of poverty,
- (m) Coordinating with the relevant institution in mobilizing funding provided by various international bank and Funds in making this programme a success.

AND I, appoint **S.B. Divarathne Esquire** as **the Chairman** of the Task Force and I do hereby authorize the Task Force for Poverty Eradication and Livelihood Development to issue instructions to make inquiries and investigate such matters as may be necessary in relation to the accomplishment of the Task hereby entrusted;

AND I, do hereby require and direct all public officers and such other persons to whom the Task Force Poverty eradication and Livelihood Development may issue instructions or apply for assistance for information, to comply with such instructions, render all such assistance and furnish all such information as may properly be complied with, rendered and furnished, in that behalf.

AND, I do hereby require and direct the said Task Force to report to me all instances where any Government employee or an officer in any Ministry, Government Department, State Corporation or any such Institution who delay the performance of duties and fulfillment of responsibilities or fail to perform such duties and responsibilities to be entrusted by the said Task Force.

I do hereby direct the said Task Force to accomplish its mandate **within One Year** and report to me.

Given at Colombo, under the seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on this 24th day of January Two thousand and Twenty.

By order of His Excellency,

P. B. JAYASUNDERA,
Secretary to the President.