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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Proclamations & C., by the President**

Seal

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

**PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE**

ESTABLISHMENT of a Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine in accordance with the powers vested in HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT by Article 33 of the Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

To :-

1. Lalith Weeratunga Esquire  
Principal Advisor to the President
2. Major General Dr. Sanjeewa Munasinghe Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Health
3. Dr. Amal Harsha de Silva Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and  
COVID Disease Control
4. K. R. Uduwawala Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals
5. General Shavendra Silva Esquire  
Commander, Sri Lanka Army /Head of the COVID – 19 Task Force
6. Dr. Prasanna Gunasena Esquire  
Chairman, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation
7. Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya Esquire  
Pediatric Neurologist / President, Government Medical Officers' Association
8. Dr. Asela Gunawardena Esquire  
Director General of Health Services



Greetings !

Whereas, the COVID-19 outbreak, causing enormous pressure on national health systems and disrupting the economic and social progress of citizens, has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Association in March 2020;

Whereas, 41,054 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 194 deaths have been reported in Sri Lanka as of 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020;

Whereas, immunization of the population by a safe and efficacious vaccine is considered the most effective and lasting method to enhance immunity and contain the disease spread;

Whereas, the timely and efficient delivery of such vaccine to achieve population immunity to COVID-19 is a paramount need facing the country at present;

And Whereas, a concerted high level national intervention is required to achieve coordination and collaboration among relevant government agencies and stakeholders at national, district and local levels for effective deployment of vaccines and vaccination;

Whereas, Secretary to the Health Ministry is authorized to determine the protocols and sources of procurement;

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 appoint you, the said;

1. Lalith Weeratunga Esquire  
Principal Advisor to the President
2. Major General Dr. Sanjeewa Munasinghe Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Health
3. Dr. Amal Harsha de Silva Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control
4. K. R. Uduwawala Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals
5. General Shavendra Silva Esquire  
Commander, Sri Lanka Army /Head of the COVID - 19 Task Force
6. Dr. Prasanna Gunasena Esquire  
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Pediatric Neurologist / President, Government Medical Officers' Association
8. Dr. Asela Gunawardena Esquire  
Director General of Health Services

as the members of the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine to execute the below-mentioned tasks.

- (a) Identify a safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccine(s) that is most appropriate for Sri Lanka in consultation with technical experts and on available evidence.
- (b) Establish appropriate and streamlined regulatory and administrative procedures for emergency approval, fast track procurement, imports, customs clearances and release to the national immunization programme in order to facilitate timely access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- (c) Collaborate with relevant embassies, donors, UN Agencies and professional groups for technical and material support.
- (d) Identify and prioritize population groups who are at higher risk from COVID-19 for vaccination in the first phase, and thereafter sequence the delivery for the general public.

- (e) Formulate and implement a COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination plan including *inter alia* clear responsibilities, standard operating procedures and time-lines for participating stakeholders, chain of reporting and management structures.
- (f) Assess existing supply chain systems in order to identify and address gaps, such as in storage, distribution, temperature monitoring and tracking and reporting vaccine stocks.
- (g) Establish a robust supply chain information system on stock management and distribution that includes monitoring and reporting of vaccine utilization.
- (h) Devise appropriate logistics plan for the roll out of the vaccination plan, including identification of locations for vaccination, vaccination teams, procurement of required equipment, consumables and their distribution, cold chain capacities and storage of the vaccine, and monitor its implementation.
- (i) Identify the human resources, technology, and budgetary requirements to ensure timely delivery of vaccines and vaccination.
- (j) Regularly review global information related to COVID-19 vaccines and incorporate it, where appropriate, into the planning and preparation for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination processes.
- (k) Enforce a vaccination vigilance plan to record and monitor the process of vaccination and report adverse events in real-time.
- (l) Ensure proper training for supply chain and health staff for the successful and timely deployment of vaccines and vaccination and liaise with relevant experts and agencies to ensure quality of training.
- (m) Establish a public communication mechanism to report on the progress of the vaccine deployment and vaccination strategy.

AND, I appoint **Lalith Weeratunga Esquire, Principal Advisor to the President,**  
**as the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine,**

AND. **Ms. Chandima Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary to the President as the Secretary of the said Task Force.**

AND, I do hereby authorize the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine to issue directions, make inquiries, and investigate such matters as may be necessary in relation to the execution of tasks hereby entrusted.

AND, I do hereby require and direct all public officers and such other persons to whom the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine 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 Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine 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.

AND, I do hereby direct the Presidential Task Force for National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine to submit reports to me from time to time.

Given at Colombo under the Seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December Two Thousand and Twenty.

By His Excellency's Command,

**P. B. JAYASUNDERA,**  
Secretary to the President.