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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

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

Seal

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

Presidential Directive

ESTABLISHMENT of a Presidential Task Force for the creation of a Green Socio- economy with Sustainable Solutions for Climate Changes, in terms of the powers vested in His Excellency the President by Article 33 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

To :

1. Hon. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy
2. Hon. R.M.C.B. Rathnayake Esquire, M.P.
Minister of Wildlife & Forest Conservation
3. Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa Esquire, M.P.
Minister of Irrigation
4. Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera Esquire, M.P.
Minister of Environment
5. Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage Esquire, M.P.
Minister of Agriculture
6. Hon. Ramesh Pathirana Esquire, M.P.
Minister of Plantation



7. Hon. Duminda Dissanayaka Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Solar Power, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development
8. Hon. Arundika Fernando Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing & Export Diversification
9. Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Provincial Councils & Local Government
10. Hon. Kanaka Herath Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Company Estate Reforms, Tea and Rubber Estates Related Crops Cultivation and Factories Modernization and Tea and Rubber Export Promotion
11. Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Development of Minor Crops Plantation including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion
12. Hon. Mohan De Silva Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Organic and Natural Fertilizer
13. Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Re-forestation and Forest Resource Development
14. Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports
15. Hon. Sathasivam Vyalendiran Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandry & Minor Economic Crop Cultivation
16. Hon. D.B. Herath Esquire, M.P.
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17. Hon. Shashindra Rajapaksa Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture
18. Hon. Nalaka Godahewa Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
19. Hon. Seetha Arambepola, M.P.
State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
20. Hon. Channa Jayasumana Esquire, M.P.
State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals
21. Hon. Anurdha Yahampath
Governor, Eastern Province
22. Hon. Manjula Dissanayake
Member of Parliament
23. Dr. M.W.N. Dharmawardana Esquire
Chairman, Tea Research Institute
24. Jayampathi Molligoda Esquire
Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Board
25. Jayantha Wickremasinghe Esquire
Chairman, Coconut Research Institute
26. Prof. Sudeera Ranwala
Chairperson, Rubber Research Institute
27. Dr. G.A.S. Premakumara Esquire
Chairman, Industrial Technology Institute
28. Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya
Medical Specialist
29. Dr. D.M.J.B. Senanayake Esquire
Director, Rice Research and Development Institute

30. Prof. S. Ananda Kulasooriya Esquire
National Institute of Fundamental Studies
31. Dr. T.L. Gunaruwan Esquire
Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo
32. Prof. P.I. Yapa Esquire
University of Sabaragamuwa
33. Dr. H.M.G.S.B. Hitinayaka Esquire
Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya
34. Dr. Azeez Mubarak Esquire
Chief of Research and Innovations, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (pvt) Ltd.
35. Dr. Yasantha Mapatuna
Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme
36. Dr. Chris Dharmakeerthi Esquire
Environment Scientist
37. Sachithra Yapa Esquire
General Manager, Marginalized Organic Producers Association
38. Wickey Wickramatunga Esquire
Managing Director, Agriworld Private Limited
39. Herman Gunarathna Esquire
Planter and Owner, Herman Teas
40. Dhammika Kobbekaduwa Esquire
General Manager (Human Resources), Lalan Rubber Agri Division
41. Devaka Wickramasuriya Esquire
Former Chairman, Elkaduwa Plantation
42. Jeewaka Atapattu Esquire
Chairman, Standard Tea and Land Limited
43. Dilhan C. Fernando Esquire
Chief Executive Officer, Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company, PLC
44. Mohamed Aneez Junaid Esquire
45. Dilith Jayaweera Esquire
Chairman, Derana Media Network
46. Vijith Welikala Esquire
Chairman, Wild Holidays (pvt) Ltd.

Greetings!

Whereas the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been received for the overall policy framework and proposals set out in the Cabinet Memorandum presented by His Excellency the President on 27th April 2021 to transform Sri Lanka into a Green Socio-economy with Sustainable Solutions for Climate Changes,

And whereas, a popular verdict has been given in order to meet the challenges posed having regard to the matters relating to the use of fertilizer, lands, biodiversity, atmosphere, waste, industries, renewable energy, settlements & towns and environmental education that have been emphatically referred to in the policy statement: “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”.

Giving consideration to the fact that no relatively good quality production is secured in spite of the colossal amount being currently expended nationally on chemical fertilizer, weedicides and pesticides and such matters as the pollution of water due to its excessive use causing onset of diseases affecting health of the people resulting in their being deprived of their means of livelihood and the difficulties being increasingly experienced by them in securing toxin-free foods.

Focusing on the need to retain within the country the foreign exchange being drawn away on importation of chemical fertilizer, fuel, plastics, chemical substances and the benefits that could be derived nationally and internationally by the launch of a programme for improving biodiversity in Sri Lanka and eco-friendly houses by utilization of organic and natural fertilizer and the potential for sustainable development by minimizing climate changes and through a green economy,

And whereas, Sri Lanka's access to a green socio-economic pattern providing sustainable solutions needs to be prioritized so as to make people adapt themselves to an eco-friendly socio-economic pattern in order for the country to reap benefits from prevailing highly favourable conditions in the global economy in the context of the emerging global economic trends.

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. Hon. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy
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Chairman, Wild Holidays (pvt) Ltd.

as members of the Presidential Task Force for the creation of a Green Socio-economy with Sustainable Solutions for Climate Changes, in order to accomplish the below-mentioned tasks :

This Task Force is designated as “Presidential Task Force for the creation of a Green Sri Lanka with sustainable Solutions for Climate Changes”.

1. Draw up a Road Map for fully transition from chemical farming to natural farming thus adopting the use of organic fertilizer and products as against the use of chemical fertilizer, pesticides and weedicides and introduce a Front Loaded Action Programme based on the last year in order to withdraw from the use of chemical fertilizer and introducing and implementing methodologies to enhance productivity by enrichment of soil, water and crops by the adoption of the use of optimal fertilizer mixtures and to supply organic and natural fertilizer to the farms involved in food crops production and encourage the fertilizer productions locally utilizing waste and droppings of animals, such as, cattle, goats and fowls and household waste and the suppliers and direct them to the Organized Business Field,
2. Adopting necessary and speedy measures for the small, medium scale and organized business sector to produce organic fertilizer of high standard and good quality and to identify the countries producing organic fertilizer of such high standard and to cater to national requirement by importing the fertilizer,
3. Adopting measures to popularize among the farmers the technical knowhow of undertaking cultivation utilizing organic fertilizer by deployment of all Development Officers, Extension Officers and Research Officers of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Development, Tea Small Holdings Development Board, Department of Export Agriculture, Coconut Development Board, Coconut Cultivation Board, Samurdhi Development Department and Divisional Secretariats in order to maintain extension and monitoring services and for an inclusive people-centric programme to be launched involving all stakeholders including lecturers in universities, agronomists, professionals and land owning planters.
4. Deployment of personnel of the Agrarian Development Department and farmers in the relevant areas in developing those cultivable but uncultivated paddy lands now lying abandoned for the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and traditional varieties of rice, green leafy varieties and for horticulture etc. utilizing organic and natural fertilizer.
5. Speedily initiating actions to undertake cultivation of tea, coconut, rubber as well as crops such as cinnamon, pepper and jack etc. in uncultivated lands owned by plantation companies deploying young entrepreneurs who are interested in such cultivations.
6. Diverting the countrywide trade network of the state fertilizer and private fertilizer companies towards the delivery of organic fertilizer.
7. Formulating and launching a programme for the production of toxin-free foods, increased food supply, identification of areas where such farming is done locally and the farmers involved in such farming, increased production and distribution by popularizing such foods nationally and internationally.
8. Identifying the measures to be adopted and implementing the decisions reached for speedily launching without impediment renewable energy projects such as solar power and windmill as well as the use of electric vehicles in place of fossil fuel in order to minimize environmental and air pollution.
9. Implementing appropriately proposals and a methodology to further minimize the use of plastics that has been banned and for restricting the importation of chemicals.
10. Initiating immediate action to enforce the executive directive issued by me by the *Gazette* No. 2222/13 dated 05th April 2020 preventing continued cultivation of oil palm that has already been banned as required to ensure soil conservation and conservation of catchment areas.

11. Initiating necessary actions to bring under cultivation very urgently the forests presently identified in forest reserves as has been observed by the Sri Lanka Air Force.
12. Developing and presenting methodologies in re-settling appropriately those who have taken up residence obstructing the elephants' entry points and for properly re-arranging the elephant corridors thereby expediting the construction of elephant's fences in order to call a hold to the elephant-man conflicts.
13. Presenting appropriate proposals to encourage the relevant divisions and individuals to construct urban houses and buildings in an eco-friendly manner.
14. Adopting necessary measures to encourage all industries to put in place a methodology designed for the proper disposal of garbage and converting such waste matter into organic material through the process of re-cycling thus ensuring the conservation of a green-environment.
15. Presenting appropriate proposals for improving the school education and higher education systems in order to inculcate in children an environmental knowledge and for their attitudinal development through the conservation of bio-diversity and environment and subject-based and extracurricular activities centered around sustainable development.
16. Coordinating the deployment of media in launching learned discussions, television and radio programmes, and community programmes for onward march towards a green economy bringing about an attitudinal change in the populace thus finding sustainable solutions for climate changes by environmental conservation.
17. Enforcing the instructions issued for restructuring National Fertilizer Secretariat as the National Organic and Natural Fertilizer Secretariat and creating a new institutional leadership by deployment of natural and organic fertilizer entrepreneurs and public officials knowledgeable about the relevant subject.
18. Initiating action to amalgamate Ceylon Fertilizer Company and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company and to effect restructuring for the production and distribution of natural fertilizer, imposing a ban on importation of chemical fertilizer.
19. Issuance of circulars and Instructions for settlement of transitional issues and adoption of methodologies for utilization of organic and natural fertilized in place of chemical fertilizer.
20. Taking over all stocks of chemical fertilizer currently available in the country from importers and local distributors of stocks and determining the maximum price leviable on such fertilizer and publishing by *gazette* notification the required regulation in order to identify the quantity of fertilizer to be used and imposing a ban on activities carried on in contravention of such regulations.
21. Management of the administrative issues involved by scientific computation of the short term transitional fertilizer requirements identifying the quantities to be used, crops and mode of distribution.
22. Adopting necessary measures for the creation of green products and a green society at rural and divisional level in coordination with District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, Department of Agrarian Development and Department of Samurdhi Development and the related institutions.
23. Proper coordination of the public and private sectors in the implementation of policy and decision framework approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 27th April 2021 and immediate settlement of issues being transitionally confronted.
24. Enlisting the support of the International Monetary and Technology Institutions, United Nation Agencies, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Environmental Development Fund, Financial Agencies and their local offices and diplomatic missions as well as foreign embassies in Sri Lanka that incentivize launch of programmes on climate changes, green society and economic programmes, for this trail blazing move on the part of Sri Lanka.

25. Focusing urgent attention of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on popularizing locally and abroad green bonds and financial instruments leading to novel financial moves by international monetary agencies and the market.

And, I appoint **Hon. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire, President's Special Envoy, as the Chairman** of the aforesaid Task Force.

And, I do hereby direct the said Task force to liaise with Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Task Force and the Presidential Task Force for "Gama Samaga Pilisandara"(Dialogue with the Village) Rural Development.

AND, I do hereby authorize the said Presidential Task Force to make such inquiries and issue such instructions as are required for the purpose of executing the tasks so entrusted.

AND, I do hereby authorize you, the members of the said Task Force, to present to me reports from time to time.

Furthermore, I hereby direct you, members of the aforesaid force, to submit reports to me at least once a month.

AND, I do hereby require and direct all public officers and other persons to whom the said Task Force may issue instructions or from whom assistance for provision of services may be requested, to comply with all such instructions, render all such assistance and furnish all such information as may be properly complied with, rendered and furnished on 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.

Given at Colombo under the Seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 10th day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

By His Excellency's Command,

P. B. JAYASUNDERA,
Secretary to the President.