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EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Proclamations & C., by the President

Seal

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE

ESTABLISHMENT of the Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation in terms of powers vested in His EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT by Article 33 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

To:

1. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy
2. Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe Esquire
Senior Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka
3. Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva Esquire
Chief of Defence Staff / Commander of the Army
4. D.C. Wickremaratne Esquire
Acting Inspector General of Police
5. Major General (Rtd.) Shantha Dissanayake Esquire
Chairman, Consumer Affairs Authority
6. J.A. Nushad M. Perera Esquire
Chairman, Cooperative Wholesale Establishment
7. Susantha Rathnayake Esquire
Chairman, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka
8. Jayantha de Silva Esquire
Chairman, Information & Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka



9. Ms. Kimarli Fernando
Chairperson, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
10. Jayampathy Molligoda Esquire
Chairman, Sri Lanka Tea Board
11. Prabath Subasinghe Esquire
Chairman, Export Development Board
12. A. Wimalaweera Esquire
Commissioner General of Labour
13. S. Singappuli Esquire
Commissioner of Cooperative Development
14. Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Ananda Peiris Esquire
Director General, Civil Security Department
15. Major General (Rtd.) G. Vijitha Ravipriya Esquire
Director General, Sri Lanka Customs
16. Bandula Thilakasiri Esquire
Director General, Department of Samurdhi Development
17. Sanjaya Mohottala Esquire
Director General, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka
18. Major General (Rtd.) Sudantha Ranasinghe Esquire
Director General, Disaster Management Centre
19. Mahesh Gammampila Esquire
Director, Fertilizer Secretariat
20. Buddhika Madihahewa Esquire
General Manager, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation
21. Rohan Seneviratne Esquire
Additional General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board
22. Mano Sekaram Esquire
Board Member, Information & Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
23. Major General (Rtd.) Sumedha Perera Esquire
24. Sanjeewa Gunawardana Esquire
Executive Officer, M/s. E.W. Creasy and Company
25. Samantha Kumarasinghe Esquire
Proprietor, M/s. Nature's Secrets
26. Mahesh Amalean Esquire
Chairman, M/s. MAS Holdings
27. Dr. Ravi Liyanage Esquire
Chairman, Raigam Marketing Services (Pvt.) Ltd.
28. Padmalal Withanage Esquire
Managing Director, M/s. Sanmik Group of Companies
29. S.B. Divaratna Esquire
Retired Deputy Secretary to the Treasury
30. Secretary to the Prime Minister & Secretaries to the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Roads and Highways, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils & Local Government, Plantation Industries and Export Agriculture, Industries and Supply Chain Management, Power & Energy, Women & Child Affairs and Social Security, Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities, Defence, Internal Trade, Food Security and Consumer Welfare, Foreign Relations

Greetings !

While considering that in the midst of coronavirus (Covid 19) global pandemic, Sri Lanka is doing well to control such conditions and is managing appropriate mechanisms to conduct public services without disruption with the involvement of both public and private sectors with state intervention in order to minimize impediments to carry out normal community life,

And, as it is imperative to establish a new economic agenda to promote exports in all sectors and uplift all local industries including local food production in a background where all global trends have shifted due to the current pandemic situation and overseas supplies have been suspended,

And, as the attention of the current government is focused on technology, research and innovation towards fulfilling expectations of the rural public, plantation communities and low income earning urban public who have been frustrated 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,

And, as the need has been clearly identified to create balanced social and economic development at the district level, through overall economic targets to be achieved by Sri Lanka in the future, the expectations recognized by the United Nations such as development, environmental conservation, renewable energy and toxin-free food production, as well as the need to minimize poverty and trends that enhance the gap between haves and have-nots in the context of global economic trends,

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

And, as priority has to be given to the need to align national development programmes to the nation building strategy planned out in the state policy vision: Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour,

And, as a dedicated Presidential Task Force has been set up to expand health and education facilities at rural and regional levels, promote health, quality of food consumption and environment conservation, as well as skills and competencies of students, and priority has been given to expand health, education and skills opportunities,

And, as it is imperative that a unique economic framework with a novel approach is established by reviving small and medium scale enterprises through the established government machinery comprising central government ministries, district secretariats and divisional secretariats, and by expanding access for finance through Banking and Financial Institutions as appropriate for the rural, estate and low income earning people to be directly linked to the local economic empowerment process as entrepreneurs,

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. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy
2. Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe Esquire
Senior Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka
3. Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva Esquire
Chief of Defence Staff / Commander of the Army
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Retired Deputy Secretary to the Treasury
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as members of the Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation to execute the below mentioned tasks.

1. Whilst focusing special attention to the economic and social challenges and opportunities facing Sri Lanka during the Corona pandemic, provide necessary guidance jointly with relevant institutions for a production economy by creating a unique economic framework with a novel approach based on the factors in the policy statement: Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour, focusing mainly on below mentioned facts.
 - i. Carry out joint operations to establish a people-centric economy that encourages local industrialists and entrepreneurs, blending new technologies with expansion of import substitution products, local farmer products, agricultural products and other small and medium scale industries to encourage exports and reduce the trade gap by devising measures to diversify the production economy.
 - ii. Provide necessary facilities to farmers for the production of paddy, grain, vegetables, fruits, fish, meat, milk and egg products.
 - iii. Coordinate with Tea Board and Export Development Board to get maximum economic contribution and export, through value addition in new technology utilization for export plantation products, such as, tea, rubber, coconut, cinnamon, pepper, to make quality tea, coconut oil and spices.
 - iv. Introduce new technologies and provide other required facilities to expand the network of Lanka Sathosa, Sathosa, cooperative network and Markfed Institutions to regulate the supply of food and other essential commodities.
 - v. Modernize traditional industries with new technologies to suit the market. Create new sources of income going beyond the traditional framework in the face of prevailing global economic conditions, and take steps to improve production sectors such as dairy, eggs, coconut, spices, dried fish and preserved food products, textile, face masks and sanitary products, furniture, ornaments and fertilizer targeting export market.
 - vi. Introduce unique income generating mechanisms to each category of urban, semi urban, rural and estate poor and low income groups to enhance their living conditions. For this purpose, provide necessary financial support, advisory services and other facilities, and implement and monitor same in coordination with other relevant institutions
 - vii. Identify new economic products of comparative advantage in the administrative districts, and by empowering production sectors in such districts to expand farm production, agriculture, industries and service activities, formulate mechanisms to promote jobs, including self employment, and alleviate poverty.
 - viii. Formulate and implement appropriate strategies for obtaining proper and effective service from all field officers working at grassroot levels.
 - ix. Establish a centralized information and data network with assistance of ICTA to provide services based on accurate information and data, and prevent duplication of service delivery.
 - x. Coordinate with the Tourist Board on domestic value added initiatives in the tourism industry by providing local products, as much as possible.
 - xi. Introduce technologies to connect grassroot producers and entrepreneurs directly to the mainstream of economy and create awareness on same.

- xii. Since the majority of the workforce has to work from home until the hazards of the Covid-19 epidemic have subsided, systematic procedures should be adopted complying with the circulars issued to ensure maximum economic productivity of such workforce. Take necessary steps to develop a people-centric digital governance system so that the positive aspects of such system can be taken forward.
- xiii. Identify economically favourable opportunities that have emerged in the new global economic trends during Covid-19 and formulate mechanisms to promote value added export products in that situation.
- xiv. Direct 100,000 poor families identified in the 100,000 employments program towards accelerated agricultural production mechanisms to ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities, and to make them permanent income earning families as well as expand national production.
- xv. The rural road development project of 100,000 kilometers will be implemented to provide a well-planned road network for the people living in rural, estate and semi-urban areas, increasing employment opportunities in the field of construction by coordinating with the Ministry of Highways, Provincial Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas.
- xvi. Coordinate with the Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Housing Facilities and the Water Supply Board to ensure the supply of 150,000 water supplies to rural, estate and semi urban areas in a satisfactory manner.
- xvii. Increase water reserves for the purpose of cultivation, consumption and environment conservation by renovation of rural tanks and cultivation of fallow paddy fields and taking measures to encourage the cultivation of vegetables, herbs, pasture farming, floriculture in fallow paddy fields, which cannot be used for paddy cultivation.
- xviii. Facilitate access to financing by identifying ways of cash flow to low income groups and entrepreneurs while coordinating with Ministry of Finance, Economy and Policy Development, Regional Development Bank, Samurdhi Bank, Cooperative Banks, Housing Development and Finance Corporation and Micro Finance Institutions to provide financial assistance to the poor and low income groups with priority for small business development, self employment, domestic industrial development initiatives.
- xix. Coordinate with Ministry of Lands, Land Commissioner's Department and "Bim Saviya" Program to issue 100,000 long term lease permits on 30 year lease for agricultural and business development among identified poor and low income people.
- xx. Coordinate with the Department of Ayurveda and the State Pharmaceutical Corporation to expand indigenous medical facilities and local pharmaceutical products and to promote the production of western essential drugs and health and hygiene clothing and equipment.
- xxi. Take necessary measures to facilitate the speedy implementation of the Flagship Projects by coordinating with the BOI and UDA for increasing employment opportunities in line with quarantine process. .
- xxii. Coordinate with Local Authorities, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats and other Government Institutions to ensure that grassroots services are made available to the poor and low income community.
- xxiii. Take necessary steps to coordinate and direct the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Services, Department of Samurdhi Development, Cooperative Farmers' Associations, Farmers' Organizations and private seed production companies to provide seeds, fertilizers, equipment for agriculture and encourage both public and private seed farms.
- xxiv. Direct field officers in grassroot level to promote home gardening, promotion of organic fertilizer production, use of home gardening products and as much as possible, self-consumption planning.

- xxv. Make compulsory for all samurdhi beneficiaries in the island, including the rural areas around Colombo to cultivate long term crops such as coconut, Del, Jack Fruit and fruits like banana, papaya, oranges, lime and vegetables for daily use in their home plots and direct these programmes by Department of Samurdhi Development, Department of Agrarian Services while providing crops and necessary guidance.
 - xxvi. Obtain assistance from all Government Ministries, Departments, Public Corporations, Statutory Boards, particularly Banks, Research Institutions, Information Technology Institutions and Media Sector, as applicable to the effective implementation of the above systems.
 - xxvii. Take steps to link the CSR initiatives of the private sector to the National Poverty Alleviation Program as much as possible.
 - xxviii. Coordinate with relevant agencies, Department of External Resources and donor agencies to utilize the funds provided by various international banks and funds to make this program a success.
 - xxix. Take steps to simplify the procedure of various loan schemes available to the farmers in Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank, Regional Development Banks and Samurdhi Bank Branches and provide more financial support for agriculture and rural development at all district levels.
2. Take necessary actions to distribute products required for the sustenance of overall community life in the face of the Corona epidemic while taking into consideration the operations of the Health and Education Task Force and in coordination with all relevant agencies, with the main focus on the following areas.
- a. Organize and direct all economic centers, Lanka Sathosa, Cooperative Network, Cargills, Keells, Arpico, Laughs and regional trade networks to supply agricultural products and other essential consumer goods direct to consumers.
 - b. Strengthen the distribution mechanism to supply farm products received at Economic Centres to customers in those areas as well as towns at household level by decentralizing the Economic Centres as distribution points.
 - c. Coordinate with Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Sri Lanka Customs, Corporate Banking sector and other government regulatory agencies and implement necessary decisions to facilitate the import of essential dry foods, pharmaceuticals, as well as export of tea and sanitary clothing.
 - d. Provide fuel, security services, banking facilities for the transportation of rice, coconuts, tea, animal feed, locally manufactured sanitary equipment and food.
 - e. Provide necessary facilities to health and hygiene activities of the Drivers of Lorries, Three Wheelers, School Vans, Buses, Motorcycles, Taxis and Daily Service Assistants, who are providing essential goods and services and keep selected filling stations of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) open to provide necessary fuel during the curfew hours.
 - f. Implement appropriate programmes with the coordination of Provincial Governors to dispose the garbage in rural and urban areas, keeping the roads and public places clean with the contribution of Public Health Inspectors and other relevant employees and for keeping clean weekly markets and trade centers.
 - g. Take necessary measures to provide special attention to women, low income families, disabled persons, kidney patients and directly vulnerable persons when providing the aforesaid facilities.
 - h. Issue and oversee all necessary banking services to enable customers to meet the needs of their customers and to expand the services of the people by obtaining mobile services and postal services.

And I further appoint, **Basil Rajapaksa Esquire, Special Envoy of the President as the Chairman of the Task Force,**

And **Anton Perera Esquire, Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office and D.S. Jayaweera Esquire, as the Co-Secretaries of the above the Task Force.**

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

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

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 required, 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 direct the said Task Force to report to me, all cases of delay or default on the part of any Public Officer or Officer of any Ministry, Government Department, State Corporation or other similar institution in the discharge of duties and responsibilities assigned to such public officer or such institution.

Further, Presidential Directives dated January 24, 2020 and March 24, 2020 issued for establishing the Task Force for Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Development and Presidential Directive dated March 23, 2020 for establishing the Task Force to direct, coordinate and monitor the delivery of continuous services for the sustenance of overall community life, including the supply of food provisions produced in rural areas and producers direct to consumers giving priority to the Districts of Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Puttlam, Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu which have greater vulnerability in the eradication of corona virus in Sri Lanka, are hereby cancelled.

Given at Colombo under the Seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 21 day of April Two Thousand and Twenty.

By His Excellency's Command,

P. B. JAYASUNDERA,
Secretary to the President.