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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

THE Appointment of a Presidential Task Force 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 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 coronavirus in Sri Lanka.

To :

1. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy



2. Roshan Mahesh James Gunathilaka Esquire
Hon. Governor, Western Province
3. A.J.M. Musammil Esquire
Hon. Governor, North Western Province
4. Ms. P.S.M. Charles
Hon. Governor, Northern Province
5. Gamini Sedara Senarath Esquire
Secretary to the Prime Minister
6. S.R. Attygalle Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economy and Policy Development
7. Ms. Wasantha Perera
Secretary, Ministry of Power & Energy
8. S. Hettiarachchi Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,
Provincial Councils & Local Government
9. H.K.D.W.M.N.B. Hapuhinna Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and
Rural Development
10. Dr. Priyath Bandu Wickrema Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and
Housing Facilities
11. Major General (Retd.) Kamal Gunarathna Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Defence
12. G.K.S.L. Rajadasa Esquire
Secretary, Ministry of Internal Trade, Food Security and Consumer Welfare
13. Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva Esquire
Chief of Defence Staff / Commander of the Army
14. Vice Admiral Piyal de Silva Esquire
Commander of the Navy
15. D.C. Wickremaratne Esquire
Acting Inspector General of Police
16. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Ananda Peiris Esquire
Director General, Civil Security Force
17. Ms. J.M.C. Jayanthi Wijetunga
Chief Secretary, Western Province
18. P.B.M. Sirisena Esquire
Chief Secretary, North Western Province

19. A. Pathinadan Esquire
Chief Secretary, Northern Province
20. Major General (Retd.) Shantha Dissanayake Esquire
Chairman, Consumer Affairs Authority
21. Mahesh Gammampila Esquire
Director, Fertilizer Secretariat
22. J.A. Nushad M. Perera Esquire
Chairman, Co-operative Wholesale Establishment
23. Bandula Thilakasiri Esquire
Director General, Department of Samurdhi Development
24. Bonniface Silva Esquire
General Manager, People's Bank
25. Sudath Gunasekara Esquire
General Manager, Bank of Ceylon
26. Eng. Vijitha Herath Esquire
Chairman, Lanka Electricity Board
27. W.W.D. Sumith Wijesinghe Esquire
Chairman, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation
28. A. Wimalaweera Esquire
Commissioner General of Labour
29. S. Singappuli Esquire
Commissioner of Co-operative Development
30. Major General (Retd.) G. Vijitha Ravipriya Esquire
Director General, Sri Lanka Customs
31. Pradeep Yasarathna Esquire
District Secretary, Colombo
32. Sunil Jayalath Esquire
District Secretary, Gampaha
33. K. Mahesan Esquire
District Secretary, Jaffna
34. U.D.C. Jayalal Esquire
District Secretary, Kalutara
35. L.J.M.G.C. Bandara Esquire
District Secretary, Puttalam
36. N.W.G.R.D. Nanayakkara Esquire
Assistant Governor, Central Bank

37. Ms. T.M.J.Y.P. Fernando
Assistant Governor, Central Bank
38. Major General (Retd.) Sudantha Ranasinghe Esquire
Director General, Disaster Management Centre
39. S.B. Divaratna Esquire
Co-Chairman, Task for Poverty Eradication and Livelihood Development
40. Major General (Retd.) Sumedha Perera Esquire
Co-Chairman, Task for Poverty Eradication and Livelihood Development

Greetings!

Whereas the World Health Organization has indicated to me on a weekly basis that the coronavirus patients in Sri Lanka as well as the number of suspected coronavirus affected persons is increasing practically in all countries,

And whereas it is the responsibility of the Government to undertake every action necessary for the eradication of coronavirus disease from Sri Lanka by controlling the aforementioned situation and preventing its escalation to an epidemic status.

And taking note that the Government has taken measures to implement the necessary operations to control the above situation jointly with health, security, food distribution sectors and all other Government and Private Sectors.

And as a need has arisen for Government intervention to manage Government and Private Sectors with proper procedures to provide continuous delivery of public services without disruption to the conduct of normal community life.

And as food security has become a priority matter due to the emergence of a grave demand for domestic food production in the context of suspension of overseas supplies.

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. Basil Rajapaksa Esquire
President's Special Envoy
2. Roshan Mahesh James Gunathilaka Esquire
Hon. Governor, Western Province
3. A.J.M. Musammil Esquire
Hon. Governor, North Western Province
4. Ms. P.S.M. Charles
Hon. Governor, Northern Province
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Co-Chairman, Task for Poverty Eradication and Livelihood Development
40. Major General (Retd.) Sumedha Perera Esquire
Co-Chairman, Task for Poverty Eradication and Livelihood Development

as members of the Presidential 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, Puttalam, Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu which have greater vulnerability in the eradication of coronavirus in Sri Lanka, and to execute the below-mentioned tasks:

1. Provide facilities required by farmers for farming activities for the production of paddy, cereals, vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, milk and eggs, as well as plantation products such as tea, cinnamon and pepper.
2. Organise and operate Lanka Sathosa, cooperative network, Cargills, Keells, Arpico and Laughs retail network to supply agricultural products direct to customers.
3. Operate the distribution mechanism to supply farm products received at Economic Centres to customers in those areas as well as in towns at household level.
4. Coordinate with Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Sri Lanka Customs, corporate Banking Sector and other Government regulatory agencies and take necessary action to facilitate the import of essential foods and drugs as well as the export of tea, sanitary clothing etc.
5. Provide fuel, security, banking assistance for transport of rice, coconuts, tea, animal feed, domestically produced sanitary clothing and food.
6. Provide health and sanitation facilities to drivers and assistants of vehicles such as lorries, three-wheelers, buses and motor cycles transporting essential services and goods to customers, and keep selected fuel stations of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation open during curfew hours to supply them with fuel.
7. Direct and provide facilities to Agriculture Department, Agrarian Services Department, Samurdhi Authority, Cooperative Farmer Societies, Farmer Organizations, and private seed production organizations to supply seed, seedlings, fertilizer and machinery for farming activities.
8. Direct officials engaged in rural projects to encourage seed farms, popularize organic fertilizer use and encourage production of home crops, and as far as possible, popularize home gardens as a supply for self-consumption.
9. Direct and take measures to provide required loan facilities to farmers via Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank, Regional Development Banks and Samurdhi Bank branches.
10. Implement appropriate measures for waste disposal in rural and urban areas and maintain continuous electricity and water supply services.
11. Take steps to focus special attention on women, low-income families and persons directly at risk when undertaking above measures.
12. All bank branches to remain open for a minimum of 04 hours a day utilizing minimum staff to provide essential banking services to customers.

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

And I further appoint **Anton Perera Esquire, Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office as Secretary to 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 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.

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I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2020.03.26
PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 26.03.2020

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.

Given at Colombo under the Seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 23rd day of March Two Thousand and Twenty.

By His Excellency's Command,

P. B. JAYASUNDERA,
Secretary to the President.