

My Number : EST-01/MISCL/06/0032(II)
Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,
Provincial Councils and Local Government
Independence Square
Colombo 07.

15.12.2023

Secretaries to Ministries
Chief Secretaries of Provinces
Heads of Departments
Heads of State Corporations/Statutory Boards

Commencement of Work, Year – 2024

The coming year 2024 will bring new aspirations for all of us in the public service, with the facts outlined by the Honorable President presenting the budget for the year 2024 under the theme of “A Prelude to the Stable Future,” which provides the basis for a new economic system in line with current international trends.

02. The dedication shown by public servants to maintain public services despite the economic downturn is highly commendable, and the active contribution and commitment of all of you in the public service is further needed to alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment, enhance local production and boost foreign exchange earnings under the short-term and long-term plans to overcome the economic crisis.

03. At this time, when the country is moving forward facing an economic crisis that the world has never experienced in its history, you should focus more than before on reducing the expenditure of the government and increasing government revenues, with the introduction of reforms required by the public service to ensure efficient delivery of service to the public, by way of studying the lessons on the reforms introduced by other countries in the world to meet the challenges in the face of an economic crisis.

04. The official ceremony to mark the commencement of duties at service stations should be held with the participation of all the public servants on Monday, 01st January 2024, the first working day of the year 2024. The main official ceremony will be held at the Presidential Secretariat at 9.00 a.m. on the said day under the auspices of the Hon. President. Since the entire public service must be fully committed to provide an efficient and effective service to the public with firm determination, action should be taken to conduct the following programmes on that day and at the same time concurrently with the main ceremony at all public institutions and offices at the national, provincial, district and divisional levels. The below-mentioned programme should be adapted for this purpose.

- I. Hoisting the National Flag and singing the National Anthem.
 - II. Observing two minutes silence to commemorate the war heroes and others who sacrificed their lives on behalf of the motherland.
 - III. Reading aloud the Oath of Public Servants (attached herewith) in any language convenient for the members of the staff being at their work places.
 - IV. Delivering a short speech on the government policy and the programme introduced to overcome the present challenges and the contribution of the public servant in achieving the said objectives in order to motivate them.
05. You are kindly requested to take the initiative to make this programme a success.

Sgd./ K.D.N. Ranjith Asoka
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,
Provincial Councils Local Government

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Copies :-	1. Hon. Governors of all provinces	- For information
	2. Secretary to the President	- For necessary action
	3. Secretary to the Prime Minister	- For necessary action
	4. Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers	- For necessary action
	5. Auditor General	- For necessary action

Oath/ Affirmation of the Public Service

Today, the first working day of the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, marks the commencement of a new year in which the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka makes the expectations of the people of the country a reality.

I,
an employee paid by the public,
being a part of a government with an efficient human resource,
do hereby swear/ affirm to perform each and every way
the role entrusted to me in the implementation of public policies and goals,
efficiently,
productively,
with firm determination,
and utmost dedication,
honestly,
and with loyalty to the public,
with a view to creating a people-centric economy in the motherland which
flourishes as one country, one nation, under one flag
with unity and harmony,
under the theme of “A Prelude to the Stable Future” by achieving
sustainable development goals as a prosperous state.