

Public Administration Circular : 22/2024

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Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial
Councils and Local Government
Independence Square
Colombo 07.

30.12.2024

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

**Commencement of Work of the Year 2025 along with the National
Programme “Clean Sri Lanka”**

A stable approach to making behavioral changes in a society can be achieved through role modeling, motivation, guidance and strongly emphasizing the need for change. A well-organized programme should be implemented to steer the country to achieve progress in economic, social, cultural, moral and environmental aspects. For this purpose, the rulers of a country, public servants and the citizens should work as a team aiming at one objective and direction. The new government has identified the requirement of implementing such a programme at the national level.

02. The citizens, in their efforts for the development of their country, should emerge as one nation devoid of racial, religious, caste, political and geographical prejudices. A huge space is now open to build ethnic harmony, which is the long -term aspiration of the people. This powerful momentum should not be missed, and the responsibility for the creation of a stable social structure, closing every door for religious and racial extremism, is now on our shoulders.

03. One of the matters to which our attention should be drawn as public servants is that people have certain negative attitudes toward the public service. The public service should be reformed with a unique perspective if the public service of the country does not fulfill the aspirations of the people or it fails to satisfy its citizens. For this purpose, the new government has put forward a set of proposals, and therefore, the public service has the responsibility to win again the credibility of the general public for the public service by way of implementing the proposals of the government. The stability of the public service is decisive for a country in its development, and accordingly, every country that achieved its development goals successfully has gained the fullest cooperation from the public service. The public service of the country is now at a challenging juncture, where it should look forward with a new approach following these precedents.

04. Therefore, the public servants should be determined to re-direct the whole public service for a citizen-centered public service. Accordingly, methodologies should be formulated in order to ensure the participation of citizens in the formulation and implementation of policies, launching development programmes and the delivery of

public services. The year 2025 should be made as a foundation for a progressive transformation by way of taking action as far as possible to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, accuracy and transparency of the public service with the application of digitalization as a tool.

05. In the meantime, the attention of the public service should also be drawn to a number of crises faced by the society at present. Non-communicable diseases are widely spreading due to substandard food and unhealthy food habits. In fields such as food trade, ingredients unsuitable for consumption are being applied and substandard foods are being supplied. The activities and behaviors of mankind contribute to the spread of diseases such as dengue making it difficult to control. In our country which has a proud history of good manners, the information on behavior contrary to such good manners has been reported in fields such as tourism and the foreign employment sector. The supply and maintenance of common amenities are not up to the expected standards. The citizens with special needs have been neglected in the construction of buildings in public and private sectors and further in the delivery of services such as education, health and transport that are provided by the government.

06. We, by becoming a nation that does not value integrity as a society, all the parties exhibit a passive response in the process of being accountable to the society. It has become an obstacle to developing good human relations in the society.

07. At present the lack of proper standards in the constructions in public and private sectors can be identified as a major weakness. Despite the legal system on the construction and maintenance of public properties in the country, substandard constructions have been carried out through the irregular development processes violating such laws. The lack of standards can be observed also in the infrastructure facilities such as transportation, sanitation, housing and construction and further in education and health systems. The public service should pay attention to the fact that the final responsibility for all those acts lies with the public sector.

08. The government has planned to implement the Clean Sri Lanka initiative with the objective of making a fruitful transformation in moral, environmental and social aspects, considering all the above facts. Arrangements have been made to launch this programme by the President on 01.01.2025 at the Presidential Secretariat. A gazette notification has already been issued establishing a Presidential Task Force comprising a group representing all the sectors of the country to direct the programme.

09. Accordingly, a programme has been formulated by the Clean Sri Lanka Presidential Task Force joining with the Presidential Secretariat with a view to launching the Clean Sri Lanka programme as a joint effort of public and private sectors on the 01st of January, the first working day of the year 2025. The official ceremony for the commencement of works at workplaces should be held with the participation of all public servants along with the heads of all public institutions concurrently to the ceremony held at the Presidential Secretariat. Since the entire public service should be determined to ensure efficient and effective public service delivery to the utmost satisfaction of the general public, arrangements should be made to conduct the following programme at all public institutions and offices representing national, provincial, district and divisional levels at the same time on the same day.

- I. **At 8.30 a.m.:** Hoisting the national flag by the Secretary of the Ministry/ Head of the Department/ Head of the institution
- II. Singing the national anthem
- III. Observing two- minute silence to commemorate all who sacrificed their lives for the country
- IV. **At 9.00 a.m.:** Joining with the national ceremony for launching the Clean Sri Lanka programme which is telecasted and broadcasted from the Presidential Secretariat.

10. Action has been taken to telecast and broadcast the national programme for launching the Clean Sri Lanka programme at the Presidential Secretariat through all public and private media channels. Therefore, the Secretaries of ministries, Chief Secretaries of provincial councils, heads of departments and heads of state corporations, statutory boards and state-owned companies should make facilities for their staff to watch this live programme and they should join this live programme to read this oath on Clean Sri Lanka.

11. You are kindly requested to give priority to making this programme a success.

Sgd./ S. Alokabandara
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils and Local Government

Telephone - 011-2662340
Fax - 011-2692158
Email - ade-i@pubad.gov.lk

Copies :-

1. Hon. Governors of 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

Clean Sri Lanka- Oath/Affirmation of Citizens

We welcome year 2025 flourishing the hearts of all the citizens of country with fresh expectations.

The expectation of the country is to regain the coexistence, social and economic development, modernity and cultural life, which we have missed as a country.

We are aware that we should face with the challenge of rebuilding our motherland.

‘Clean Sri Lanka’ is the essential process for dedicating as a team with accountability in order to create a thriving country and beautiful life. Therefore we hereby swear/affirm to join with this national programme devoid of cast, religious, or political prejudices.

We are committed to follow the doctrines such as unity, accountability, frugality, transparency, and equality as ideals for ensuring a higher social status and provide solutions whilst maintaining these doctrines.

We hereby swear/affirm to dedicate in all conscience and with unity to create a thriving country and a beautiful life for the citizens of Sri Lanka