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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 a Commission on the Simplification of Existing Laws and Regulations in the interest of the people in accordance with the powers vested upon HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT by Article 33 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

To:

1. Lalith Weeratunga Esquire
Principal Advisor to the President
2. S.D.A.B. Boralessa Esquire
Secretary, State Ministry of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
3. M.M.C. Ferdinando Esquire
Retired Ministry Secretary, Power Sector
4. Krishan Balendra Esquire
Chairman, John Keells Group
5. Suresh de Mel Esquire
Chairman, Export Development Board
6. Ms. J.C. Weligamage
Director General, Department of Public Finance
7. Chandana Kumarasinghe Esquire
Director General of Establishments, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government
8. Dr. Harsha Cabral Esquire, PC
9. Nihal Jayawardana Esquire, PC



10. Thishan Subasinghe Esquire
Chartered Accountant of Sri Lanka
11. Ranjith Gunathilake Esquire
Chief Executive Officer, Sanken Constructions (Private) Limited
12. Ms. Renuka Weerakoon
Executive Director, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka
13. Gerard Ondaatjie Esquire
Member, Board of Directors, Mercantile Investments and Finance PLC
14. Arjun Fernando Esquire
Non-Executive Director, Nation Trust Bank
15. S.P. Liyanarachchi Esquire
SME Construction Sector
16. Anslem Perera Esquire
Managing Director, Mlesna Tea
17. Nissanka Wijeratna Esquire
Secretary General / Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Construction Industry
18. Chandra Wickremasinghe Esquire
Chairman / Director General, Theme Resorts and Spas

Greetings !

While considering that the complex, lengthy procedures and mechanisms for issuing permits, licenses and approvals, have a negative impact on the overall development process,

And, while focusing on the fact that these diverse, protracted, regulatory procedures create disruptions to the lives of ordinary people and to everyday livelihoods,

And, under those circumstances, and in a situation which is overly regulated and where the money, time and labour that can be used for the development is not productively utilized, there is a possibility for creating space for irregular practices and corruption,

And, recognizing the need to redesign these complex circulars, laws and regulations in a people-friendly manner in order to facilitate community life and take the country towards rapid development,

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 said :-

1. Lalith Weeratunga Esquire
Principal Advisor to the President
2. S.D.A.B. Boralessa Esquire
Secretary, State Ministry of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
3. M.M.C. Ferdinando Esquire
Retired Ministry Secretary, Power Sector
4. Krishan Balendra Esquire
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Chairman / Director General, Theme Resorts and Spas

as members of the Commission on the Simplification of Existing Laws and Regulations in the interest of the people to execute the below-mentioned tasks:

01. Review all laws, regulations and circular instructions pertaining to Government finance, revenue laws and circular instructions, licensing and permit arrangements, investments, approvals and building permits etc, and how those regulations and circular instructions have evolved and circumstances influencing such regulations.
02. Assess as to whether the issuance of regulations and circular instructions has resulted in over regulation and deviated from the scope and objectives of original legislations.
03. Assess the relevance of them in the context of global standards and applicability of them in the Sri Lankan context to identify new rooms to adopt to make the most effective modern regulatory systems.
04. Assess the cost of enforcement to the state, compliance cost to the people and potentials for corruption and irregular practices associated with complex and over regulatory systems.
05. Identify areas where simplifications and rationalization could be made to existing regulations and circular instructions and issue directions to do away, modify if required and simplify all such regulations.
06. Study if there is a repetition occurs due to issuing various approvals, permits and licenses through the national level, Provincial Councils and local authorities and take necessary measures to amend such processes appropriately.

Also, I appoint **Lalith Weeratunga Esquire, Principal Advisor to the President and Krishan Balendra Esquire, Chairman, M/s. John Keells Group, as Co-Chairmen of the aforesaid Commission.**

And, I, Further appoint **G.S. Vithanage Esquire, retired Ministry Secretary, as Secretary of this Commission.**

Further, I do hereby authorize the said Commission to make such inquiries and issue such instructions as required for the purpose of executing the tasks entrusted.

Further, I do hereby authorize you, the members of the said Commission, to submit to me reports from time to time.

Further, the execution of these functions should be completed within 90 days.

And, I do hereby require and direct all public officers and other persons to whom the said Commission 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 direct the said Commission 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 07th day of January Two Thousand and Twenty One.

By His Excellency's Command,

P. B. JAYASUNDERA,
Secretary to the President.