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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

#### PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Seal

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA.

#### PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE

ESTABLISHING a Presidential Task Force in terms of the powers vested in His EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT by Article 33 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to make a study of the exploitation of Geological resources for development priorities and self-employment and to meet smallish economic livelihood needs of those engaged in Traditional vocations and the sources and methodologies of extraction of such resources.

1. J.J. Rathnasiri Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government
2. Anil Jasingha Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Environment
3. R.W.R. Pemasiri Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Highways
4. Anura Dissanayake Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation
5. R.A.A.K. Ranawaka Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Lands



6. M.K.B. Harishchandra Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Wildlife & Forest Conservation
7. Major General (Retd.) W.P.P. Fernando Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Wildlife Protection, Adoption of Safety Measures including the Construction of Electrical Fences and Trenches and Re-foreststation and Forest Resource Development
8. S.D.A.B. Boralessa Esquire  
Secretary, State Ministry of Land Management, State Enterprises Land and Property Development
9. W. M. M. B. Weerasekera Esquire  
Director General, Department of Agrarian Development
10. Ms. R. M. C. M. Herath  
Land Commissioner General
11. S. A. Anura Sathurusinghe Esquire  
Conservator General of Forests
12. Ms. A.S. Ilangamge  
Director General, Department of Land Use Policy Planning
13. P. B. Hemantha Jayasinghe Esquire  
Director General, Central Environmental Authority
14. Deputy Inspector General of Police  
Environmental Range
15. Anura Walpola Esquire  
Chairman, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau
16. Harshan De Silva Esquire  
Chairman, Urban Development Authority
17. Ms. Malarmadi Gangadharan  
Additional Director General, Department of National Planning
18. W.M.K.P.S.R. Fernando Esquire  
Acting Director General, National Physical Planning Department

Greetings!

Whereas there have been difficulties in the procurement of geological resources for development priorities and to meet livelihood needs;

And whereas those engage in mining and transporting identified such resources are confronted with difficulties in the existing process;

And whereas there has been an increase in the cost of construction and provision of services due to the creation of shortage of supplies of such items compared to the demand;

And whereas my attention is focused on the fact that difficulties have arisen in maintaining the sustainability of the development process and that the damages have been caused in the conservation of environment and that there are various irregularities caused;

Having given attention to the need for the methodologies to the identified in maintaining the continued conservation of environment and development activities in the construction industry without a setback;

Now therefore I, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka reposing great trust and confidence in your prudence and ability as those directly responsible for formulating the National Plan in the context of the collective responsibility of this role do, by these presents appoint you, the said:

1. J.J. Rathnasiri Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils & Local Government
2. Anil Jasingha, Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Environment
3. R.W.R. Pemasiri Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Highways
4. D.M. Anura Dissanayake Esquire  
Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation
5. R.A.A.K. Ranawaka Esquire  
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Acting Director General, National Physical Planning Department

to be members of the Presidential Task Force to make a study of the exploitation of Geological Resources for development priorities and self-employment and to meet smallish economic livelihood needs of those engaged in traditional vocations and the sources and methodologies of extraction of such resources and accomplish the tasks detailed below :

1. To identify separately development priorities utilizing such Geological resources like metals, sand and earth as main raw materials and assess the quantities of supply required on a yearly basis.

2. To identify and remark areas and places throughout the Island giving priority of attention to the environmental conservation where the above mentioned raw materials could be obtained the said development priorities.

3. To identify scientific and simple methodologies in carrying out mining in such places and study the methodologies adopted for securing raw materials with prior approval.

4. To obtain views and suggestions of the persons traditionally resident in the neighbourhood of the localities where geological resources such as metal, sand and earth available as well as of those producers exploiting the such resources and those engaged in the construction industry.

5. To review the existing legal provisions in respect of the supply mining and transportation requested as basic construction raw materials, minerals resources such as metal, sand and earth in order to service the needs of the development projects, self-employment and Traditional vocations as well as smallish economic livelihood and introducing and implement simple and efficient methodologies integrating charges and state levies in force.

6. To review the existing methodology of licenses issuing the said purposes and revisit the out dated rules and regulations, institutional and administrative structures in place and make proposals for reforms in order to update them as well as proposals to appropriately update complex administrative systems and circulars now in force.

7. To introduce a methodology facilitating the grant of all approvals through a single institutions structure in order to avoid unnecessary delays being experience in obtaining approvals required for construction work.

8. To identify division wise agricultural lands where various crops are commercially cultivatable, inland fisheries farms including prawn farming, cattle farming and poultry farming, animal husbandry farms industry and investment zones, container yards and stores complexes, mining sites of geological resources such as sand ,earth, metal etc. Urban development and housing schemes, information technology zones, tourist zones and centers highways and urban facilities, play grounds and parks, forests and places of natural scenic beauty etc. to be prioritized as national pogramme and also identify jointly with the divisional secretaries and other officials by carrying out environmental assessments, approvals and assessments by the government valuer the places where infrastructure projects that meet public requirements could be launched and make recommendations to publish such places in the government *gazette* with the prior approval.

And, I do hereby appoint, J.J. Ratnasiri Esquire, Secretary to the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government as the Chairman of the said Task Force.

And I do hereby appoint, Mr. K. R. Gangadhara, Senior Assistant Secretary to the President as the Secretary of the said 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 you are further required to report to me within 45 days in relation to the places and methodologies that could be prioritized in the accomplishment of this task.

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.

Given at Colombo under the Seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 06th day of October Two Thousand and Twenty.

By His Excellency's Command,

**P. B. JAYASUNDERA,**  
Secretary to the President.