

My Number : EST-1/MISCL/06/0032(II)

Ministry of Public Administration,

Provincial Councils and Local Government,

Independence Square,

Colombo 07

30.12.2025

Secretaries to Ministries

Chief Secretaries of Provinces

Heads of Departments

Heads of State Corporations and Statutory Boards

Commencement of Work, Year – 2026

The committed and proactive service rendered by public officers to maintain essential public services and restore the lives of the civilians to normalcy amidst the catastrophic conditions resulting from the severe disaster caused by Cyclone 'Ditwah' which struck Sri Lanka in late 2025 before the commencement of the new year 2026, is highly commendable.

02. As public officers, we face two major challenges arising from this catastrophic situation. On one hand, we must strive to restore disrupted public life and damaged physical resources. On the other hand, we must remain committed to the task of rebuilding the country by ensuring that the financial provisions and human resources allocated for this purpose are managed effectively and utilized with high productivity.

03. It is imperative that we, as public officers, prioritize our commitment to an integrated public service that ensures efficiency in service delivery during this period of stepping forward by addressing the said challenges. Further, it is emphasized that instilling the necessary motivation and dedication in all public officers at the commencement of the year 2026 is crucial in this regard.

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 Thursday, 01st January 2026, the first working day of the year 2026. 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 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 members of the Tri - Forces and others who sacrificed their lives on behalf of the motherland.

- III. Reading aloud the Oath/Affirmation 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 policies 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./ S. Alokabandara
Secretary
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- Copies :-
- 1. Hon. Governors of all provinces
 - 2. Secretary to the President
 - 3. Secretary to the Prime Minister
 - 4. Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers
 - 5. Auditor General
- For information
 - For necessary action
 - For necessary action
 - For necessary action
 - For necessary action

Oath/ Affirmation of the Public Service

Today, the first working day of the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka marks the commencement of a prosperous New Year that will transform the aspirations of the entire nation into reality.

I,
an employee paid by the public,
as a stakeholder of a well-organized governance that leads the way
to showcase the dignity of a nation that has gained the courage
to stand unshaken as one country, one nation, under one flag
during the New Year that begins today,
through the vision “a thriving country and beautiful life”
reflecting the true meaning of the theme - to be resilient in the face of challenges,
do hereby swear/ affirm to perform in 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.