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பிரதம அமைச்சரின் அலுவலகம்
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

58, ඉමත් අර්නස්ට් ද සිල්වා මාවත, කොළඹ 07.
58, ஸ்ரீமத் ஏர்னஸ்ட் த சில்வா மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு 07.
58, Sir Ernest de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 07.

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திகதி
Date } 29.12.2023

Very Important/Priority

To all Secretaries to the Ministries

Enhanced Initiative for Regional Development Acceleration and Empowerment of District-Level Coordination, in Conjunction with the Resurgence of Large Scale [Mega] Development Projects, Re-envisioned under the guidance of the National Operations Room

Pursuant to Policy Decision No. 23/Miscellaneous (070) as promulgated on 19.12.2023 by the esteemed Cabinet of Ministers, it is imperative to institute a novel paradigm of coordination with public institutional frameworks at the district echelon. This initiative is vital to ascertain the timely and effective realization of objectives for the Large Scale Developmental Projects under the aegis of your Ministry. These projects, previously in abeyance due to the prevailing fiscal constraints, are now slated for reactivation from January 2024, underpinned both by Multilateral and Bilateral International Financial assistance (refer Annexure 01).

Subsequent to a meticulous analysis, it has been unequivocally ascertained that a significant impediment to the completion of approximately 80% of the Large Scale Developmental Projects executed within the country over the past decade was the ineffectual performance of the Project Management Units (PMUs) coupled with deficiencies in ministerial oversight processes. This has been identified as one of the contributory factors to the financial exigencies currently faced. In alignment with the aforementioned Cabinet Decision, a novel District Level Progress Review Mechanism shall be operational from the onset of the fiscal year 2024.

In light of this, it is incumbent upon you to expedite the communication of this directive to the pertinent Project Management Units (PMUs). They are to be apprised of the requisite actions, as delineated in the enclosed format, pertinent to each Large Scale Development Project orchestrated under your Ministry's jurisdiction.

- (1) Stipulated Quarterly Performance Targets (physical/financial) for each Project Component during the fiscal year 2024 for every project.
- (2) Identification of distinct Administrative Districts where Project Components for each Large Scale (Mega) Development Project will be executed upon reactivation.
- (3) Specified Quarterly Performance Targets (physical/financial) for Project Components within the confines of each Administrative District, as outlined in (1).
- (4) In instances where precise financial target quantification within a specific District boundary under (3) is challenging, an estimated appropriate District Quarterly Target (physical/financial) should be formulated, utilizing a suitable weighting mechanism related to the quarterly objectives of the respective overall Project Components.

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Based on the data from (1), (2), (3), and (4) above the total count of Project Components being executed in each Administrative District, as compiled by each Project Management Unit (PMU) under your Ministry, mandates the preparation of a consolidated Quarterly Performance Target (physical/financial) for your Ministry. This should encompass all projects slated for execution in the subsequent fiscal year within each District. Furthermore, in light of the projects' implementation, it is crucial to delineate:

- (i) The quantity of permanent/temporary skilled and unskilled job opportunities anticipated to be generated in each District.
- (ii) The expected procurement of raw materials and services from small and medium-scale industrial entities within each District for Project Construction Works.
- (iii) The explicit public amenities to be furnished to the District upon project culmination (e.g., the number of household connections for drinking water supply, the additional volume of water allocated for agricultural use, the creation of new vocational training prospects, the contribution of the District's crops to national production increment, forecasted surge in export earnings, etc.).
- (iv) The quarterly progression milestones and the financial outlay projected to be channeled through various Projects under your Ministry in the specific District for the year 2024.
- (v) The identification of public/private institutions mandated to support the Project Management Units in the respective Districts to meet Project Targets, along with the nature of assistance required from each District.

In accordance with the directive stipulated in Cabinet Decision No. 23/Miscellaneous (070) dated 19.12.2023, it is imperative to utilize District Coordination Committees (DCC) established at each District Secretariat level. These committees are tasked with providing planning and coordination support related to the allocation of public funds from various sources. These sources include Decentralized Budget (DCB) Funds, Provincial Council Funds, funds allocated through the consolidated fund to the Ministry, and Large Scale Development Investment Funds derived from Foreign Funding Sources.

In light of this directive, you are hereby instructed to undertake immediate action to formulate and prepare a comprehensive suite of "25 District Development Implementation Strategies." These strategies should detail the execution plan for various project components, aligning with the criteria previously delineated, across the 25 Administrative Districts on the Island. These meticulously crafted strategies are to be submitted to this Office no later than 15th January 2024. Upon submission, they will serve as a pivotal guide for District Secretaries, providing them with the necessary orientation and instructions. The guidance will be based on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), as analyzed and disseminated by the National Operations Room (NOR), ensuring a targeted and effective approach to anticipates district development.


Anura Dissanayake
Secretary to the Prime Minister
Chairman, National Operations Room

Copies -

- (1) Secretary to the President - Referring to Cabinet Decision No. 23/Miscellaneous (070) dated December 19, 2023, based on the Cabinet Memorandum presented by HE the President.
- (2) Secretary to the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers - F.Y.I., action has been taken related to Cabinet Decision No. CP 23/Miscellaneous (070) dated December 19, 2023.
- (3) Auditor General - FYI
- (4) Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies - FYI
- (5) Official Member Officers of the National Operations Room (NOR) - FYI
- (6) Secretary and Convener, National Operations Room - for appropriate follow-up actions.

