

My No: EST-1/MISCL/06/0032(1)  
Ministry of Public Administration  
and Management  
Independence Square  
Colombo 07.

20.12.2016

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

**Commencement of Work, Year – 2017**

H.E the President has declared the year 2017 as the year to liberate the country from poverty. Therefore, instructions are hereby issued to implement a special programme with the participation of every public servant on 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2017, the first working day of the year, making the theme the main objective and further emphasizing the necessity to make a change in attitude to work with commitment.

02. The main official ceremony will be held at 9.00 a.m. on the said date at the premises of Presidential Secretariat under the auspices of the Secretary to H.E. the President. Action should be taken to hold this programme at all government institutions and offices representing National, Provincial, District and Divisional level, concurrently to the main ceremony. Accordingly, below mentioned programme should be followed in this regard.

- I. Hoisting the National Flag by the Head of the Institution or Office, in the presence of the members of all the staff (at the instances where the gathering of whole staff is restricted due to limited space, any alternative arrangement may be made to ensure the participation of every officer of the institution.)
- II. Singing the National Anthem after hoisting the National Flag
- III. Observing two minutes silence to commemorate the war heroes and others who sacrificed their lives on behalf of the motherland.
- IV. Reading aloud the Oath of Public Servants (attached herewith) in any language convenient for the members of the staff.
- V. Delivering a brief speech by the Head of the Institution, on the theme based on the necessity of ensuring the prompt, honest and unwavering contribution of all members of the staff, for the implementation of the programme to liberate Sri Lanka from poverty.
- VI. "The sustainable vision", proposed to be implemented with the objective of achieving the goals of sustainable development, will be declared by H.E. the President at 10.00 a.m. on the same day. Therefore arrangements shall be made for the whole staff to watch the live telecast of the programme.

03. You are kindly requested to take the initiative to make this programme a success.

Sgd./ J.J. Rathnasiri  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration and Management

## Oath/ Affirmation of the Public Service

Today, the first working day of year 2017,

marks the commencement of a new year of which the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka makes the expectations of people of the country a reality

I, an employee paid by the public do hereby swear/ affirm to perform 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,

honesty,

and with loyalty to the public,

with a view to meet the challenges of developing the motherland which flourishes as one country, one nation under one flag with unity and harmony and to alleviate poverty in year 2017 through an accelerated development which ensures benefits to every citizen and also to create a well secured future for the Sri Lankans and future generation.