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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

Ranil Wickremesinghe

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

To :

1. Hon. Justice Wewage Priyasath Gerard Dep Esquire, PC - Retired Chief Justice
2. Suntharam Arumainayaham Esquire
3. Senanayake Alisandaralage Esquire
4. Nalin Jayantha Abeysekara Esquire, PC
5. Rajitha Naveen Christopher Senaratna Perera Esquire
6. Ahamed Lebbe Mohamed Saleem Esquire
7. Madam Sagarica Delgoda
8. Madam Esther Sriyani Nimalka Fernando
9. Vitharanage Deepani Samantha Rodrigo Esquire



GREETINGS !

WHEREAS, new laws have been introduced effecting changes to the election system and the mode of conducting elections of this country with the promulgation of the 1978 Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and such laws need to be amended to suit current societal needs by conforming with principles of good governance and strengthening representative democracy;

AND WHEREAS, there is a tendency on certain occasions for political parties, independent groups and their membership to engage in unbecoming behaviour in their political and public affairs and in inappropriate media use, a need has arisen to introduce a code of conduct and media standards.

AND WHEREAS, due to registration of political parties without an actual need for the purpose of transference to other parties for financial gains and other improper objectives, as well as certain other activities of political parties, the public trust in such political parties has eroded, and therefore, there is a need to restore trust and accountability by strengthening the legal framework for registration and operation of political parties.

AND WHEREAS, I am of the view that it is necessary that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate, inquire into and report on matters hereinafter referred to;

NOW THEREFORE I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka reposing great trust and confidence in your prudence, ability, and fidelity do, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act No. 17 of 1948 (Chapter 393) as amended, by these presents appoint you, the said;

1. Hon. Justice Wewage Priyasath Gerard Dep Esquire, PC - Retired Chief Justice
2. Suntharam Arumainayaham Esquire
3. Senanayake Alisandaralage Esquire
4. Nalin Jayantha Abeysekera Esquire, PC
5. Rajitha Naveen Christopher Senaratna Perera Esquire
6. Ahamed Lebbe Mohamed Saleem Esquire
7. Madam Sagarica Delgoda
8. Madam Esther Sriyani Nimalka Fernando
9. Vitharanage Deepani Samantha Rodrigo Esquire

to be my Commissioners to obtain information, investigate, inquire into and report on the following matters, namely;

01. Examine all existing election laws and regulations and make necessary recommendations for the amendment of election laws to suit current needs, giving special consideration to following factors as well.
 - i. Increase women and youth representation.
 - ii. Reduce the period between the time of declaration of an election and the release of results after conducting such election.
 - iii. Provide an opportunity for electronic voting using modern technology instead of the printed ballot paper.
 - iv. Provide facilities for voting by Sri Lankans in overseas.
 - v. Enable a person to contest 02 elections for the selection of people's representatives and have the opportunity to represent both councils at the same time if elected (eg. to give an opportunity for a person elected to Parliament to also contest a provincial council election, and if elected, have the opportunity to represent both councils at the same time).
 - vi. Provide an opportunity for voters not serving in the government sector, who are engaged in provision of election related services on election day, to use postal voting.
 - vii. Formulate an appropriate mechanism blended with the first-past-the-post voting system for the election of people's representatives, not limiting to the proportional representation system, but taking into consideration the plural nature of society, and reflecting such plural characteristics.

02. Make recommendations for the formulation of media standards for the appropriate use of media by political parties and independent groups.
03. Make recommendations for the introduction of a code of conduct for political parties, independent groups and their membership in performing political and public affairs.
04. Make recommendations for the strengthening of laws and regulations related to registration of political parties and their operations in a manner that elicits trust and public accountability.

And, I do hereby appoint you, Hon. Justice Wewage Priyasath Gerard Dep Esquire, PC – Retired Chief Justice to be the Chairman of the said Commission.

And, I do hereby authorize and empower you, the said Commissioners, to hold all such inquiries and make all other investigations, into the aforesaid matters as may appear necessary, and require you to transmit to me within Six (06) months from the date of this warrant a report thereon under hand, setting out the findings of your inquiries and investigations, and your recommendations relating thereto.

And, I do hereby require and direct all public officers, and other persons to whom you may apply for assistance or information to render all such assistance and furnish all such information as may be properly rendered and furnished in that behalf;

Given at Colombo under the seal of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on this Fifteenth Day of October Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

By Order of the Hon. President,

E. M. S. B. EKANAYAKE,
Secretary to the President.

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