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DELIMITATION COMMISSION

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2017 - 2 துதாஊதா துதாஊதா

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Quarterly Performance Report
2017 - 2nd Quarter

2ND QUARTERLY REPORT 2017
DELIMITATION COMMISSION – SRI LANKA
(1st April to 30th June 2017)

INTRODUCTION

The Constitutionally established Delimitation Commission of Sri Lanka (DC) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.Thavalingam and comprising two other members, Dr. .A.D. Bandaranaike and Prof. S.H. Hasbullah, commenced its work from 13 November 2015.

The Commission has established its office and recruited staff for its smooth function. It has set out its vision as “to achieve excellence in boundary delimitation based on ethical and equitable principles” in order to carry out its mission “to conduct boundary delimitation as mandated by the Constitution”. The Commission further aims to fulfill its mission “in an independent, ethical, equitable, efficient, transparent and credible manner and in accordance with the Law”.

Moreover, the Commission has set out clear goals with the objective of ensuring effective safeguarding of the democratic rights of the people and of the environment as follows: **a)** to draw geographical boundaries for political representation, administration and/or socio-economic services to citizens, such as education, health or security, within the scheduled time frame; **b)** to provide knowledge and data on delimitation to government and others to facilitate their decisions; and **c)** to develop a resource center for delimitation literature and related materials.

The Commission eagerly awaits its mandate to start its substantive delimitation function.

2ND QUARTER REPORT 2017

This quarterly report provides the decisions and functions of the DC from April 1 to June 30, 2017. During the above period, the DC held 2 meetings and completed a number of important tasks.

DELIMITATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Two meetings were held during the 2nd Quarter as follows:

1. 19th meeting on 25-04-2017
2. 20th meeting on 28-06-2017

OTHER MEETINGS

1. Meeting with HE President on 17-05-2017: HE President called a meeting with Chairpersons and Secretaries to all Independent Commissions to discuss their progress, issues and future plans. The Chairpersons of all Commissions gave presentations on “Progress & Issues” at the meeting.
2. Meeting with Secretary to the President – 29-05-2017: Secretaries to all Independent Commissions were called for a discussion with Secretary to the President on 29-05-2017 in continuation of the meeting held on 17-05-2017. At this meeting, Secretary to the President advised Secretary to the DC to prepare a draft proposal for a Delimitation Commission Act.
3. Meeting with Hon. Speaker on 30-05-2017: Chairpersons and Secretaries to all Independent Commissions had a discussion with Hon. Speaker regarding the Performance and issues faced by the Commissions. At this meeting Chairman (DC) said that, as advised by Secretary to the President, the DC would take action to prepare a draft Delimitation Commission Act in the near future. With respect to the proposed building complex for the Independent

Commissions, Hon Speaker asked the Secretary to request adequate office space for the DC, taking account of future expansion of the work of the DC.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Official Identity Cards: ID cards were issued to the Chairman, other members and staff.
2. Administrative Officer: Mr. H.D Jayasiri reported for duty on 01-06-2017
3. Letter of appreciation to the outgoing Secretary, DC: A letter was sent in mid-May 2017 appreciating his significant contribution to the initial work of the DC.

TASKS UNDERTAKEN

1. Annual Performance Report 2016: A comprehensive Annual Performance Report, 2016 was prepared and submitted to the Parliament and the CC. The Annual Report addressed issues such as statutory provisions for the appointment, powers and functions of the Delimitation Commission; appointment of staff to DC; submission of Quarterly Performance Reports which included finances and expenditure of the Commission; reports on policy issues; milestones of the DC in 2016 and other matters related to the DC.
2. Collection Of Gazette Notifications of Establishment of Local Authorities- MC,UC And PS
Letters were sent to all Local Authorities in the 1st Quarter to collect Gazette Notifications of their Establishment. The overwhelming progress at end-June is given in Table 1 below: -

Table 1: Collection of LA Gazette Notifications as at End-June 2017				
	MC	UC	PS	Total
No. of Local Authorities	22	42	272	336
Available Gazette notification (Sinhala)	22	42	272	336

3. Collection of Gazette Notifications of Establishment of Divisional Secretariats
Letters were sent to Divisional Secretaries (DSs) to collect Gazette Notifications of their Establishment. The response was encouraging; but DC needs to remind them again. The progress at end-June is given in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Collection of DS Gazette Notifications as at End-June 2017	
	Total
No of Divisional Secretaries	331
Available Gazette notification (Sinhala)	127

TASKS PLANNED FOR FUTURE ACTION

Two important future tasks were planned and discussed during the last meeting of the review period as follows:

1. Draft Policy Paper: The Commission discussed at length the need for preparing a draft policy paper for the proposed Delimitation Commission Act. For this, the Commission discussed the contents and the modalities of how to go about this.
2. Action Plan: The Annual Action Plan was prepared and finalised during this quarter (see annex).