



ஃமா திர்ணய கஃதீதன் ஃதாவ  
எல்லை நிர்ணய ஆணைக்குழு  
DELIMITATION COMMISSION

கார்துமய துதநி வார்தாவ  
2017 - 1 வுதி கார்துவ

காலாண்டு ஃசயலாற்றுதக அறிக்கைகள்  
2017 - 1ம் காலாண்டு

Quarterly Performance Report  
2017 - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

**1st Quarter Report 2017**  
**Delimitation Commission – Sri Lanka**  
**(1st January to 31st March 2017)**

**Background**

- The current Delimitation Commission was constituted under articles 41B and 95 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 13 November 2015. The Delimitation Commission (DC) consists of three members appointed by His Excellency the President. Dr. K.Thavalingam is the chairman and Dr. (Mrs) .A.D. Bandaranarika and Prof. S.H. Hasbullah are the members of the DC.
- The present Constitution does not provide a mandate for the newly appointed DC. Meanwhile, several Legislative enactments and procedures in Sri Lanka cater to different forms of delimitation at electoral and administrative levels which need to be rationalized for optimum benefit to the country. The current thinking conveyed by the Constitutional Council indicates that all such delimitations will be rationalized under a new mandate of a single Delimitation Commission, once it is spelt out in an amendment to the constitution or under new legislature.

**Meetings held during the quarter (1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017)**

- 20 January 2017;
- 06 March 2017 and
- 29 March 2017

**Staff matters**

- Administrative Officer: Mr. H.D Jayasiri will assume his duties on 01 June.
- New Acting Appointment- Secretary: Saman Sri Rathnayake, Additional Election Commissioner has been appointed to act as part-time Secretary to the DC for one year with effect from 21 March 2017.
- Former Acting Secretary: Mr. R.M.A.L. Rathnayake, Additional Election Commissioner resigned due to his promotion in the Department of Election. His excellent work as Secretary was appreciated by the DC, and a letter of appreciation will be sent to him.
- Extension of Acting Appointment- Accountant: Mr. H.W.N. Kumara, Accountant's period of acting appointment is ending by 31 March. Action has been taken to extend his period for another one year.

**Action taken on the direction of CC**

Based on the direction of CC, DC is in the process of developing a proposal to redraw parliamentary, provincial and Local Government electoral boundaries.

**Action taken on other matters**

The following subjects were proposed and discussed at the meetings for action: Planning and collecting delimitation related Information for future exercise; Analysis of previous Delimitation reports in the context of Sri Lanka's current population and Land priorities.

### **Revisiting Previous Vision and Mission of DC**

Several discussions were conducted on the above matters; DC members found that the country needs to revise the thinking of the past and to come out with a fresh approach that would fulfil the needs of the day. Dr. Anila Dias Bandaranaike was entrusted to work on this matter in consultation with the Chairman and other member. At the last meeting, members had taken a final view on the document prepared. All agreed that the document is acceptable and these thoughts have to be shared with CC for their observations.

### **Furthering the conceptual understanding of delimitation**

Many related subjects were discussed; particularly Dr. Anila Dias Bandaranaike proposed analytical categories for subgrouping the provinces of Sri Lanka in relation to land, resources and population distribution for re-demarcation of Grama Niladharis' boundaries. These ideas were endorsed by the DC.

### **Official Identity Card**

The usefulness of members of the commission having an Official Identity Card was discussed and it was decided to act on this.

### **Collection of Gazette Notifications from Local Authorities and Divisional Secretariats on boundary demarcation and revision related information**

As the above-mentioned documents are not available in one location in government departments, it was decided to seek that information from the respective local authorities. Local authorities and DSs were contacted. Many have responded to our request positively so far and it is expected that others will also comply with our request.

### **Reports prepared and submitted.**

- Minutes of all DC meetings were circulated and discussed.
- Performance Report – 4th Quarter (October to December 2016) was circulated and discussed.
- Dr. Anila Dias Bandaranaike agreed to prepare Annual Performance Report (APR) based on performance reports of Quarters 1-4. This report will have a summary of final accounts for year 2016. Budget proposals for 2017 are to be included in the APR.

### **Resource Centre**

The DC also decided to set up a resource centre on delimitation related materials and information in order to strengthen the public and state officials' knowledge on this subject. Action has already been taken in this direction.