SOC on Open and Accountable Government directed the officials of local government bodies to provide the necessary services with equal consideration to the public

Date : 27-11-2023

- **Local Government Officials requested the committee to appoint an IT officer for every local government body to prevent corruption and irregularities**

The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Open and Accountable Government directed the heads of local government bodies to provide the necessary services with equal consideration to the public who come to get services.

The matter was discussed when the said committee met in Parliament on 17.11.2023 under the chairmanship of Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumitraarachchi, Member of Parliament. The officials of the Urban Councils, Municipal Councils and Divisional Secretariats of the Western Province were summoned before the committee.

The Chairman of the Committee emphasized that if all the government officials act according to the Establishments Code, no person coming to get services will be inconvenienced.

The Chairman pointed out that it is necessary to send replies to the letters sent to the institutions by the public regarding various matters.

The Local Government Officials requested the committee to appoint an IT officer to every local government body to prevent corruption and irregularities. The committee advised the officials to prepare an efficient system to approve various types of plans for the relevant government institutions after checking them. The committee also pointed out the need to not accept incomplete files submitted by the public to fulfill their needs. It was also pointed out by the committee that several issues can be avoided by accepting complete files.

Members of the Committee, Members of Parliament Hon. Vajira Abeywardena, Hon. J. C. Alavatuwala, Hon. Chaminda Wijesiri, Hon. Udayana Kirindigoda, Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, with the permission of the Committee Chair, Member of Parliament Hon. Madhura Withanage, Hon. Isuru Dodangoda were also present at the committee meeting.

overnment directed the officials of local government bodies to provide the necessary services with equal consideration to the public