

## **National Operations Room (NOR)**

The National Operations Room (NOR) is an independent Committee established as per a Cabinet Decision taken in the year 2022 (No.22/1871/604/073 dated 05<sup>th</sup> December 2022). In accordance with the proposal made at the Budget Speech 2023, the National Operations Room has been swift to resolve issues arising in the implementation of all development projects in the country. A Committee with discretion was appointed to make strategic and prompt decisions, and implement the National Evaluation Policy that was previously approved by the Cabinet of Minister to carry out a proper evaluation with an analysis of the causes for the delays in the expected benefits and their consequences, and use the learned-lessons gained through evaluation for the preparation, planning and implementation of future projects.

The National Operations Room was established as per the Cabinet Memorandum that was produced by the **Department of Project Management and Monitoring (PMMD) of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy** based on the year 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Report of the Mega Scale Development Projects implemented by the Line Ministries. In this regard, a notable role is played by the PMMD in performing the mandatory functions of the National Operations Room.

### **Terms of Reference (TOR)**

Terms of Reference of the NOR defines its objectives, the structure of the Committee, and the agreed work that is to be discharged in order to accomplish the shared goals. Further, it discusses how the subject in question will be defined, developed, and verified. It provides a documented basis to make future decisions and confirm or develop a common understanding about the scope of the subject among the relevant stakeholders.

### **Objectives:**

- a) Attend to matters as per the requirement of the Secretaries to the Ministries, as well as to the Cabinet Directives referred to the NOR
- b) Consider major issues in Mega Scale Development Projects which have been severely disadvantaged by the prevailing economic crisis situation of the country and take appropriate measures in respect to the Mega Development Projects implemented island wide.

- c) Look into matters such as restrictions, limitations and bottle-necks of the ongoing projects under Ministries and Departments and provide suitable solutions to succeed in the implementation.
- d) Ensure efficiency and productivity of the projects and assure their value-for-money
- e) Follow strategic approaches by ensuring the sustainable implementation of Mega Projects launched by relevant Implementing Units functioning within the country.
- f) Make prompt responses to the issues referred to the NOR
- g) Encourage alleviation of poverty and enhance the standard of living of the vulnerable in Sri Lanka
- h) Support in the implementation of the Government Policies, giving a special consideration on the Development Projects.

**Composition of the Committee:**

The National Operations Room Committee is chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister and several other members as listed down below.

- 1) Secretary to the Prime Minister (Chairman)
- 2) Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries
- 3) Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation
- 4) Deputy Secretary to the Treasury
- 5) Additional Secretary to the President
- 6) Director General, Department of National Planning
- 7) Director General, Department of External Resources
- 8) Director General, Department of Treasury Operations
- 9) Director General, Department of National Budget
- 10) Director General, Department of Management Services
- 11) Director General, Department of Project Management and Monitoring  
(Secretary/Convenor of the Official Committee)

**Assembly of the Committee:** The Committee of NOR is convened weekly on every Monday and discuss matters relating to government development projects. This is an effort discharged by all the Committee members collectively.