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MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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திகதி } 20.01/2025  
Date }

Public Debt Management Circular No: MOF/PDMO/01

Secretaries to the Ministries  
Heads of Special Spending Units  
Chief Secretaries  
Heads of Departments  
District Secretaries  
Heads of Statutory and Trust Funds  
Heads of Local Authorities  
Heads of State-Owned Enterprises

### Compliance with the Public Debt Management Act No. 33 of 2024 and Establishment of Public Debt Management Office

01. The Public Debt Management Act No. 33 of 2024 (PDMA) was enacted on June 18, 2024 and declared effective on November 25, 2024 by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development by order published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2411/41 dated November 21, 2024.
02. The new legislation strengthens and centralizes the management of the public debt, improves accountability and debt transparency and ensures the implementation of efficient and transparent borrowing practices, which are imperative for debt sustainability and long-term fiscal health of the country. The objective of Public Debt Management in Sri Lanka is to ensure that the government's financing needs are met in a timely manner, at the lowest possible cost consistent with a prudent degree of risk, while also promoting the development of the domestic debt securities market.
03. This Act shall apply to the following entities
  - a) Ministries, Departments, District Secretariats of the Government, and Special Spending Units;
  - b) Statutory funds and trusts to which public finance is allocated with the approval of Parliament;
  - c) State-owned enterprises;

- d) Provincial Councils, Ministries, Departments, other institutions coming under the Provincial Councils and local authorities; and
- e) Any other entity as defined in the PDMA

04. The Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) was established under the provisions stipulated in the Section 4 of the PDMA. The PDMO is the sole entity responsible for managing the debt of the Government and overseeing all activities related to the management of public debt. This includes the issuance and management of loan guarantees, on-lending operations, recording and reporting of Public debt including guaranteed and non-guaranteed debt of all State Owned Enterprises, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities. The PDMO will take over relevant functions from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the Department of External Resources and the Department of Treasury Operations and will centralize country's debt management operations in a holistic manner as mandated by the PDMA.
05. PDMA mandates that all government agencies fully cooperate with the PDMO on all matters related to public debt. The relevant parties shall provide necessary data and information to the PDMO concerning outstanding loan guarantees and on-lending, credit institutions involved in on-lending and non-guaranteed debt, and any other information as needed.
06. PDMA vests the sole authority to the Minister in charge of subject of Finance to borrow and issue debt securities within or outside Sri Lanka, in local or foreign currencies. Therefore, no government entity shall initiate any borrowing, issue any debt securities, arrange any supplier's credit as defined in the PDMA or enter into finance lease agreements unless otherwise the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance, has authorized to perform such activities.
07. The PDMO is authorized to manage a centralized Public Debt Data Repository and to record, maintain and publish accurate and timely data on public debt. The PDMO shall have the authority to request from entities under records of public debt and finance arrangements, data and information concerning outstanding loan guarantees and on-lending, credit institutions coming under on-lending and non-guaranteed debt and such other information as may be required under the PDMA. Accordingly, all government entities are required to furnish any related information to the PDMO within the prescribed time and in the specified form.
08. The Minister in charge of the subject of Finance has the sole authority to undertake Government loan guarantees and on-lending operations as per the Sections 19 and 20 of PDMA, respectively. Any government entities that wish to receive a government loan guarantee or borrow government funds shall adhere to the prescribed provisions of the PDMA, as well as to the debt reduction objective outlined in the Public Financial Management Act No. 44 of 2024.
09. Prior written approval of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance shall be obtained for any public issue of debt securities, raising of funds denominated in foreign currency and issuance of guarantees by a State Owned Enterprise in compliance with the Section 26 of

the PDMA. Further, State Owned Enterprises shall submit to the PDMO all terms and conditions for each of planned borrowings and a copy of the executed debt contract.

10. Each Provincial Council, Local Authority and State Owned Enterprise shall submit to the PDMO a record of its outstanding debt not later than forty five days after the end of each quarter in compliance with Sections 27 and 28 of PDMA.
11. Please note that as per Section 33 of the PDMA, the Government shall not be bound by the terms of any loan agreement, finance lease agreement, supplier's credit agreement, derivative or any guarantee issued or purported to be contracted or issued for or on its behalf by any other entity or person, other than the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance or the public officer authorized in writing in that behalf by the Minister.

In light of the above, you are requested to adhere to the provisions of PDMA and coordinate with the Public Debt Management Office to ensure the effective management of public debt in the best interests of the country.



K M Mahinda Siriwardana

Secretary to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Copies:

1. Secretary to the President
2. Secretary to the Prime Minister
3. Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka
4. Honorable Attorney General
5. Auditor General, National Audit Office
6. Secretary, Finance Commission of Sri Lanka