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நிதி, பொருளாதார உறுதிப்பாடு மற்றும் தேசியக் கொள்கைகள் அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND NATIONAL POLICIES

මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය, කොළඹ 01,
ශ්‍රී ලංකාව

செயலகம், கொழும்பு 01,
இலங்கை.

The Secretariat, Colombo 01,
Sri Lanka.

කාර්යාලය } 011-2484500
அலுவலகம் } 011-2484600
Office } 011-2484700

ලැක්ස් }
தொலைநகல் } 011-2449823
Fax }

වෙබ් අඩවිය }
இணையதளம் } www.treasury.gov.lk
Website }

මගේ අංකය }
எனது இல }
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திகதி } 29.11.2023
Date }

PRESS RELEASE

MISLEADING MEDIA REPORTS REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF HUMAN IMUNOGLOBULIN DRUGS BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

This is in reference to certain misleading media reports that have been published in several national newspapers and social media relating to the procurement of Human Immunoglobulin drugs under the Indian Line of Credit by the Ministry of Health. In terms of the Court order made by the Magistrate/ Magistrate Maligakanda Courts, the CID was asked to obtain statements from Treasury officials concerning the procurement guidelines applicable with regard to utilizing of funds from the Indian Line of Credit.

The Department of Public Finance and the Department of Development Finance are the relevant Treasury departments responsible for the overall procurement guidelines and the administration of the Indian Line of Credit. Accordingly, the CID officials who visited the Treasury on 27th and 28th November 2023 have obtained statements from the Director, Department of Development Finance and the Deputy Director, Department of Public Finance regarding the procurement guidelines and the process followed in utilizing funds from the Indian Line of Credit.

It is to be noted that no Treasury officials visited the CID Headquarters as claimed in the false media reports, and have only assisted the CID in understanding the procedures that should have been followed in procurement and utilizing funds received from the Indian Line of Credit. Treasury officials provided documents relating to communications that occurred between the relevant Departments in the Treasury and the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies has no involvement in the specific procurement carried out. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies will continue to extend its fullest support to the CID and to the Courts in carrying out the investigation.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies has already informed relevant media organizations to rectify the false/ misleading and malicious information published. A decision has also been taken to inform this to the Courts and the Inspector General of Police to investigate persons/media establishments who are involved in deliberately spreading false and misleading information with malicious intent.