

My No: E9/5/2/23
Ministry of Public Administration
and Home Affairs
Independence Square
Colombo 7.
23 June, 2004

All Secretaries to Ministries
and Heads of Departments

PAYMENT OF INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE TO PUBLIC OFFICERS
PROFICIENT IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

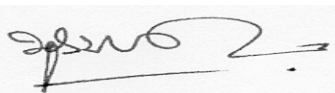
Your attention is drawn to the Public Administration Circular No. 29/98 dated 30.12.1998 on the above subject.

2. The officers of some services who joined the Public Service on their secondary/tertiary/higher education or professional qualification have been deprived of the payment of incentive allowance for the proficiency in more than one language because of the instructions in sub paragraph 02:3 of the said Circular.

3. In terms of the Treasury Circular No. 701 dated 04.09.1996 and the Article 22 as amended by the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, each public officer who has been made permanent in his post is mandatorily bound to carry out duties in Sinhala or/and Tamil. Accordingly, the Government has decided to amend sub-paragraph 02:3 of the Public Administration Circular No. 29/98, with effect from 1st January 2003, with a view to rectifying the anomalies stated in paragraph 2 above, as follows -

“ 02.3 Where the language medium applicable for appointment to the post/service is not clear according to a scheme of recruitment or a service minute, the proficiency in Sinhala or Tamil language, which is the language the officer has fulfilled as the requirement under the official language/national language policy, should be considered as the officer's first language. ”

4. In terms of this amendment, officers who have joined the Public Service and have been made permanent in the service on fulfilling proficiency in Sinhala or Tamil, which is the first language applicable to the person concerned, are entitled to receive the incentive allowances for the proficiency in a second language and a third language in terms of sub-paragraph 03.1 or 03.2 of the Public Administration Circular No. 29/98, with effect from 1st January 2003, if they have fulfilled other requirements under this Circular.



S.C.Mannapperuma
Secretary
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