

Public Administration Circular letters: 02/2013

My No:- EST-2/POLCY/03/0798  
Ministry of Public Administration and  
Home Affairs,  
Independence Square,  
Colombo 07

21.06.2013

Secretaries to Ministries  
Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils  
Head of Departments

**Implementation of the Official Languages Policy**

The Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers has informed me that the proposals relating to the acquisition of proficiency in the Official Languages, submitted by the Committee chaired by him, have been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 20.06.2013 and that accordingly, Cabinet approval has been granted to amend the Public Administration Circular No. 07/2007 relating to the Implementation of the Official Languages Policy, and its Amendments.

02. One of the proposals mentioned therein is, that a pass in the subject of “Second Language” Sinhala/Tamil at the G.C.E. O/L examination would be accepted instead of a pass in the Sinhala Language & Literature/Tamil Language & Literature as a main subject (core subject) at the G.C.E. O/L examination, which had been specified as an alternative qualification to obtaining the written proficiency in the Second Language for certain public officers. Furthermore, other public officers, too, if they wish to do so, have the opportunity to fulfill the relevant written proficiency requirement by obtaining a pass in Sinhala/Tamil as “Second Language” at G.C.E. O/L examination, instead of passing the written tests conducted by the Department of Official Languages. Therefore, action may be taken to apprise the relevant officers of the aforesaid facts, as well as, the closing date of applications for the G.C.E. O/L examination, scheduled to be held in December 2013, being extended by the Commissioner General of Examinations, up to 05<sup>th</sup> of July 2013.

03. An amended Circular, incorporating the proposals contained in the Report approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, referred to at paragraph 01 above, will be issued in the near future.

Sgd: P.B.Abeykoon  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs