

## **National Action Plan**

In almost all countries including Sri Lanka, Bribery and corruption create political scandals and delay social developments, interrupt good governance and democratic values, destroy law and social cohabitation, breach human rights, create disparity in resource distribution and defame country image in international arena and among investors. Countries at present are trying to rescue themselves from bribery and corruption clouding over all fields. Hence, many have created local, regional and international laws, conventions and mechanisms to prevent bribery and corruption.

Sri Lanka also had taken many attempts to prevent corruption from past to date. Accordingly, the Bribery Act, Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law, Money Laundering laws are in practice against corruption. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption was established under the 'Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption Act No. 19 of 1994' to play the major role in reducing corruption. Further strengthening domestic laws, the Act to Protect Witnesses and Victims, Right to Information Act and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was introduced to the law.

In terms of Article 156A(1) b of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, adopted on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the acceptance was given to take necessary steps to implement United Nations Convention Against Corruption and other international conventions to prevent corruption.

Sri Lanka signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004 and ratified it on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is bound under Article 05(02) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to implement legal background and administrative criterion to fight corruption.

The Open Government Partnership concept created in collaboration of 08 nations as an Ad-hoc to the UN General Assembly on 20.09.2011 and Sri Lanka obtained membership on October 2015. Being a member of the multilateral Open Government Partnership, Sri

Lanka is obligated to its people to create a transparent and accountable government. All members are bound to create a National Action Plan addressing main 08 areas in collaboration with public sector, private sector, civil organizations and general public.

Accordingly, the National Action Plan was created on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 with the approval of Cabinet of Ministers addressing areas such as health, education, Information and Technology, environment, local government, women's affairs, women's role in politics, corruption prevention and right to information. The government of Sri Lanka is bound to implement Action Plan within two years.

The goal of having a 'National Action Plan' was decided to create through a series of defined steps. Which is as follows,

1. Have discussion with all the relevant line Ministries to make the awareness and to obtain their support in 'National Action Plan'

This step was carried out by having several face to face discussions with the Representatives of the relevant Ministries, from January 2018. Further, this was strengthened by two round table discussions with the Heads of the Ministries and other relevant officials on February 12 and 13 and March 13 to 16, 2018. This step is an ongoing process.

2. Creating a 'Working committee'

A Working committee with members from CIABOC, members from other Ministries and public and private sector representatives was created to match the requirement

3. Exploit media support to spread the news

A media conference was held on March 8, 2018 to suffice the requisite

4. Collecting Public Experiences and suggestions to the conceptual 'National Action Plan'

A superb response from public was received so far, which is continuing

5. Gather required information and suggestions from the relevant sectors by the working committee and compilation of all the received information

Will be commenced by the beginning of May 2018 with 12 Provincial meetings and National level meetings. An international consultant and a National consultant is recruited for this purpose and a team of members are already working in necessary arrangements.

6. Drafting a 'National Action Plan'

This is already initiated with the support of Legal Draftsman Department of Sri Lanka

7. Presenting the 'Drafted National Action Plan' to the Public and collect their views and suggestions for changes

8. Making all the necessary changes to the 'Drafted National Action plan'.

9. Translating the 'Final draft of the National Action Plan' to all three languages

10. Receiving the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to the 'Final draft of the National Action Plan'

11. Publicizing the approved 'National Action Plan'

12. Implementation of the content of the 'National Action Plan'

A great success was achieved with the completed steps of above mentioned design and we as CIABOC working towards the remaining steps with courage and strength. In order to

strengthen us more your suggestions are highly welcome. Please contact us by any means that is mentioned in our website.