

Recapping The Year Gone By: The Highlights of CIABOC in 2019

Convictions and Raids

“No man is above the law, and no man is below it.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

- CIABOC was able to secure a conviction and a sentence of 20 years rigorous imprisonment against the **Chief of Staff to the Former President** marking the **highest officer** ever to be convicted since the enactment of the Bribery Act in 1954. The Chief of Staff to the Former President was convicted for accepting a bribe of 20 Million Rupees from a foreign investor.
- During the Year 2019, CIABOC secured convictions against **40 offenders** in the High Courts.
7 offenders in the Magistrates Court
- During the Year 2019, CIABOC conducted **75 Raids** out of which **39 were successful**.

Launch of The National Action Plan

- Much awaited, **The National Action Plan** (NAP) for Combatting Bribery and Corruption in Sri Lanka was ceremonially launched on 18 March 2019 in Colombo. Bringing theory in to reality, circulars have already been issued by the Presidential Secretariat for the implementation of the NAP.



The handbooks exploring certain identified areas such as Gift Rules, Conflict of Interest Rules, Integrity Handbook for State Officials and Synopsis of the proposed provisions

of the Composite law were published as supplements to the NAP.

- ✓ The National Action Plan can be downloaded from <https://www.ciaboc.gov.lk/images/nap/NAP-Book-ENG.pdf>

Law Amendments

- Drafting the **Composite Act** comprising the content of the Bribery Act No. 11 of 1954, CIABOC Act No. 19 of 1994, and the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law, No. 01 of 1975.
- Law was amended to **file corruption cases even in the High Court** which was earlier restricted merely to the Magistrate Courts
- Creating a **gateway for speedier access of justice**, The Commission of Inquiry Act was amended to allow CIABOC to consider the evidentiary material collected by “Presidential Commissions of Inquiry” (Commissions of Inquiry). Before the amendment, CIABOC had no power to consider the evidentiary material collected by the Commissions of Inquiry, resulting to resummon all the witnesses yet again.
- **Online Asset Declaration Form** was finalized and this will be implemented no sooner the Composite law is passed in the Parliament.
- With the support of the Parliamentary Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs, discussions have already started with the Law College of Sri Lanka and other Law Faculties to incorporate Bribery, Corruption and Integrity related subjects to **the curriculum of Law Students.**

International Collaborations

- CIABOC played a critical role in convincing the **European Union Delegation** who made a country visit to inspect the compliance of Sri Lanka under the GSP+ facility. CIABOC

made submissions focused on the launch of National Action Plan and the ongoing vital reformations in the field of law related to Bribery and Corruption.

- **Officials of Bhutan Anti-Corruption Commission** visited Sri Lanka and conducted training programs to senior public officials with regard to prevention and investigation of bribery and corruption.



- Sri Lanka played an active role in convincing the **International Monetary Fund Delegation** that made a visit to Sri Lanka.
- Experts from World Bank UN ODC, Slovenia and Indonesia were brought to Colombo and held in depth discussion along with Sri Lankan stakeholders to find out the gaps in our Declaration of Assets law

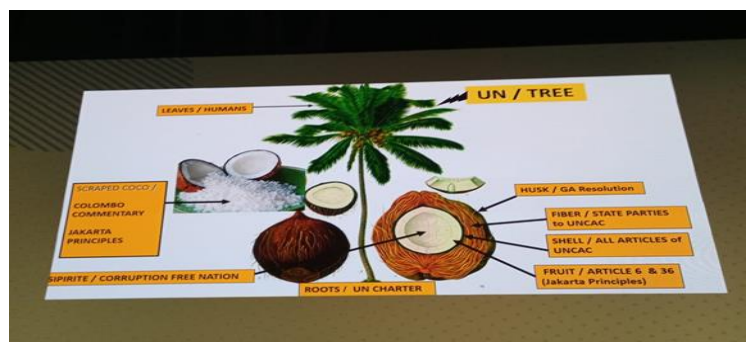
Sri Lankan Representation in the International Arena

- A CIABOC delegation visited the **Anti-Corruption Commission in Indonesia** to share the experiences with regard to investigation and prevention of bribery and corruption.
- The Director General of CIABOC represented Sri Lanka at the **Open Government Partnership Global Summit** hosted by the Canadian Government in Ottawa, Canada from 29-31 May 2019 as a member of the Sri Lankan delegation.
- The Sri Lankan delegation comprising of Commissioner III Mr. Neville Guruge and Director General Mr. Sarath Jayammane (PC), attended the Eighth Session of the **Conference of the States parties (COSP) to the UN convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** in Abu Dhabi which was held from 16th-20th December 2019. **Bilateral discussions** with the delegations from several countries were held in the sideline of the Event. These bilateral discussions were aimed



at obtaining the support and assistance for future training programs. CIABOC received several positive responses from countries like Hong Kong, Bhutan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Rwanda, Australia and Japan. The Sri Lankan delegation also attended the **Pre-COSP** Event initiated by UNODC to recognize the best ways and modalities to have more cooperation between Supreme Audit Institutes and Anti-Corruption Agencies. Further, Mr. Sarath Jayamanne and Mr. Neville Guruge actively participated in several **Side Events** such as the side event on Stolen Asset Recovery, the side event on Technological Solutions in the Prevention and Detection of Corruption and the General Conference of the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sports.

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the **‘Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Declaration’** with regard to the independence and efficiency of Anti-corruption Agencies worldwide implementing Articles 6 and 36 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).



Prevention and Awareness

- Redefining the history of the CIABOC, a dedicated **Prevention Unit** was unveiled for the first time to fight the culture of corruption and bribery. Two hundred (200) Graduate Specialized Investigators, 50 Prevention Officers along with 17 Legal Assistants were selected to serve in the Prevention Unit who are to be recruited upon the approval of the Finance Ministry in the near future.
- **A Public Awareness Campaign** was conducted targeting 500,000 commuters who daily pass through the Fort Railway Station and other Railway Stations around the island to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9th December.

An array of activities ranging from engaging with the public, distribution of leaflets and comic books, conducting raffle draws and competitions,



branding train compartments, affixing vehicle stickers, performance of street dramas and series of dramas acted by the famous artist Mr. Mihira Sirithilaka were conducted to highlight the importance of building a society with integrity free from corruption. A mobile campaign was also held as four volunteer teams travelled to outstations such as Polgahawela, Beliaththa, Kurunegala, Chilaw whilst raising awareness among the public.



- Prepared attractive **TV and Radio Commercials** showcasing the consequences of accepting bribes.

✓ You can view those commercials through the following link.

<https://youtu.be/hHyjrjHanceY>

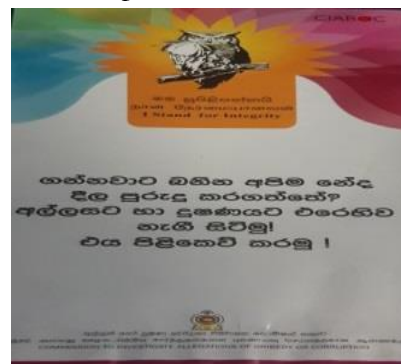
- Composed and circulated the **Anti-Corruption song** sung by the veteran Artist Mr. Amarasiri Peiris.

✓ You can listen to the Anti-Corruption song through the following link.

https://youtu.be/qtpBVMY_1So



- Launched a very effective **Anti-Corruption Poster Campaign** enlightening the general public of the importance of fighting against bribery and corruption.



- **116 Awareness Programs** targeting school kids, public officers and general public were conducted covering the entire country with the intention of creating a society with integrity.

Miscellaneous

- After obtaining the approval of the Urban Development Authority, CIABOC submitted a cabinet paper to put up a new building to address the issue of infra-structure faced by the Commission.
- Manuals and Handbooks on Investigations and Prosecutions were launched
- CIABOC was able to secure the **Gold Award** in a selection organized by the Committee of Public Accounts of the Parliament of Sri Lanka as **one of the three best institutions in Sri Lanka** with regard to performance and efficiency.

