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06.04.2020

His Excellency Gotabhaya Rajapaksa
HE the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 01

Your Excellency,

Socio economic impact of COVID 19 infection

We are quite aware of the absolute necessity of imposing curfew along with other measures to control COVID 19 pandemic.

Protracted curfew has deprived many wage earners of their daily income. This forms a considerable segment of the Sri Lankan workforce .

Since most of them belong to the lowest income group, their savings are not sufficient to sustain their day to day living.

This situation warrants urgent remedial intervention to protect this segment of the society. Otherwise, this may lead to serious consequences leading to chaos and unlawful activities.


We feel that the government should start to recognize needy at Grama Niladhari level and supply goods to people who can buy essentials and to supply subsidized or free essentials to people whose income disappeared during lockdown period. Grama Niladharies and Divisional Secretariats should be utilized for this process.

Further, obtaining essential medicines has become difficult during this lockdown period. We have seen long and slow moving queues in front of pharmacies. We need to develop a mechanism to keep pharmacies open for many hours a day without compromising social distancing strategies. The MOHs , PHMs can find out patients in their areas who needs essential medicines and they can obtain free medicine on behalf of these patients from government hospitals through a suitably designed mechanism.

We plead your excellency to draw your kind attention to address these issues urgently with practical remedial measures.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


Dr Lalantha Ranasinghe
President

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Cc: Hon. Prime Minister
Chairman, Presidential Task Force on COVID-19
Secretary to the President