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මගේ අංකය எனது இல My No.	MOT/DEV/Circular	ඔබේ අංකය உமது இல Your No.		දිනය திகதி Date	21.09.2023

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All Secretaries to Ministries

Directives of the Committee on Ways and Means: The Technical Capability and Interoperability of Information Technology - based Systems

The Hon. President aims to lead the country into a digital revolution, positioning it as a leading force in the Asia-Pacific region. This vision hinges on promoting sustainability and inclusivity in the digital economy, ensuring that all citizens can actively participate and benefit from this transformation, with no one left behind.

Sri Lanka aims to transform into a connected government by using digital technology and interconnected systems. This shift will improve government communication, collaboration, and efficiency, benefiting both the government and citizens. It allows for stronger governance, citizen-centered services, and data-driven decision-making.

Government institutions utilize various information systems to enhance services, but the lack of interoperability among these systems is a significant issue. This leads to data isolation, redundant processes, and difficulty in sharing crucial information between institutions, hindering efficient service delivery.

The absence of interoperability also results in duplicated efforts, increased administrative burdens, and higher operational costs, reducing the effectiveness of public services and impeding the government's ability to make data-driven decisions and respond to emerging challenges swiftly.

Meanwhile, on July 21, 2023, the Parliamentary Committee on Ways and Means issued the following directive, aligning with the decisions reached during its meeting on July 19, 2023.

"When a project proposal on the installation of software systems in government institutions is forwarded to the Cabinet of Ministers for its approval, to make recommendations to the effect that the technical capability of the system is ensured in order to integrate it with IT systems of other institutions."

In accordance with this directive, which addresses the aforementioned concerns, it is essential to give due consideration to the following mandatory requirements during every stage of the IT systems development process.

1) **System integration and interoperability:** Ensure the system can seamlessly integrate with existing systems of different organizations and third-party services such as payment gateways.

2) **Data Storage and Management:** Implement secure and efficient data storage and management solutions, ensuring system data is properly organized, backed up, and easily retrievable when needed.

3) **Scalability and performance:** Design the system to handle many users and data while maintaining high performance, ensuring that it can efficiently scale as per growing needs and evolvements.

4) **Platform compatibility:** Ensure the system is compatible with various devices, operating systems, and browsers, including mobile devices, desktop computers, and various accessibility tools.

5) **System architecture and design:** Establish a robust and modular system architecture, enabling the application to be easily maintained, updated, and expanded with new features and functionality as needed.

6) **Security and reliability:** Implement robust security measures to protect the system and its users from potential cyber threats and ensure the application remains reliable and operational in various conditions.

7) **Data protection and privacy:** Ensure proper measures are in place to protect sensitive data and comply with applicable data protection and privacy regulations.

8) **Use of open and compatible technologies:** Ensure the use of open and compatible technologies that enable technology agility, flexibility, cost-efficiency and scalability.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to engage in consultations with the Ministry of Technology to obtain a Clearance Report, verifying your institution's adherence to the above mandatory IT system requirements. This Report would be a prerequisite in submitting *a project proposal on the installation of software systems in government institutions* for approval to the Cabinet of Ministers.

Please forward this circular to all institutions under your Ministry's purview.

For further inquiries and clarifications, please contact Additional Secretary (Development) Mr. M.P.N.M. Wickramasinghe on info@mot.gov.lk or Mobile: 071 838 6047

Prof. N.D. Gunawardena
Secretary

cc:

01. Secretary to the President	- For necessary action, please.
02. Secretary to the Prime Minister	- For necessary action, please
03. Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers	- For necessary action, please
04. Secretary to the Committee of Ways and Means The Parliament of Sri Lanka	- For necessary action, please