My No. E/III/2/3-3 Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Plantation Industries Independence Square Colombo – 07. 05 September, 2000.

All Secretaries of Ministries Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils, and Heads of Departments.

Personnel for the Conducting of the Parliamentary Elections 2000

It is essential that the Commissioner of Elections and the Returning Officers have the services of the entirety of the Public Service including the Provincial Public Service available to them for the conducting of the Parliamentary Elections to be held on 10th October, 2000. Besides the officers initially identified for election duty, other officers also should stand by for deployment in the event of their services being required.

- O2. Therefore the Government has decided that the following steps should be taken.
 - (a) No leave should be granted to any officer in the Public Service including the Provincial Public Service during the period 01.10.2000 to 15.10.2000 (both days inclusive). Any leave already granted for this period stands cancelled. The Secretary of the relevant Ministry or the Chief Secretary of the Provincial Council will in consultation with the Commissioner of Elections decide on the granting of leave in very exceptional circumstances such as illness.
 - (b) Permission will not be granted for travel abroad for official or private purposes during the above mentioned period other than in the case of those who proceed on study leave for 3 months or above. Any permission already granted which is in conflict with this stipulation will stand cancelled.
 - (c) Where a Secretary to a Ministry or the Chief Secretary considers that due to very exceptional reasons the travelling abroad of an officer is essential and cannot be postponed, a comprehensive report should be submitted to the Secretary to the President.
 - (d) All Ministries and Provincial Councils should ensure that all official engagements including negotiation with visiting Foreign Missions, Seminars, Conferences and Training Programmes are so scheduled or rescheduled as not to stand in the way of any officer being deployed on election duty during the above-mentioned period.

You are kindly requested to comply with the above instructions and to bring same to the notice of all the officers in your Ministry / institutions.

Mahinda Bandusena Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs