

ASSESSMENT OF THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ITS CRISIS-RESPONSE POLICIES IN 2022

March 2023

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BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka’s prolonged economic crisis and socio-political turmoil have had severe repercussions for its citizens. Three defining characteristics of the crisis have been: acute shortages in essential medicine & drugs, surging food inflation, and fuel shortages that rendered citizens immobile for months.

In this context, Verité Research set out to assess how well the government implemented policies it proposed to overcome these three problems during the first half of 2022.

The objectives were to:

- Improve visibility on government decision-making and its subsequent follow-through; and
- Hold the government and its vast network of bureaucracy accountable.

HOW IT WORKS

This assessment tracked 15 cabinet decisions and proposals introduced in parliament by government MPs. Keywords were used to identify all cabinet decisions and proposals that related to policies across health and medicine, food and agriculture, and fuel and power recorded in the Parliament Hansards and online publications of cabinet decisions.

All decisions thus tracked were assessed using two indicators: *Openness* and *Progress*.

While the research team tracked the online proactive disclosure of relevant information, it relied primarily on Right to Information (RTI) requests filed with implementing agencies via the Right to Information Act No.12 of 2016. The requests were filed on 4th November 2022. Given the unique circumstances of the crisis, information for assessment was accepted from agencies for a period of 1.5 months, until 16th December 2022. Any information received beyond this time period was not considered for assessment.

OPENNESS TRACKER

This indicator tracks the extent to which the government is **saying what it is doing**. It measures the government’s level of disclosure of information about the implementation of each decision/proposal. In short, this indicator tracks transparency.

Openness is based on the information available at the time of assessment and is categorized as follows:



Closed

No information is available to determine progress for full period of assessment and/or information was not provided in a timely manner



Restricted

Information is insufficient to determine progress for the full period of assessment and/or was not provided in a timely manner



Open

Information on full progress is proactively disclosed or provided on request and/or was provided in a timely manner

PROGRESS TRACKER

This indicator tracks the extent to which the government is **doing what it is saying**. It evaluates the level of progress made by the government in implementing the proposals and cabinet decisions, based on timelines and milestones established.

Progress is categorised as follows:



CLOSED

No information is available or available information is unusable



POOR

Progress in implementation is below 25% of the target



PARTIAL

Progress in implementation is between 25%-50% of the target



SUBSTANTIAL

Progress in implementation is between 50%-80% of the target



FULFILLED

Progress in implementation is above 80% of the target

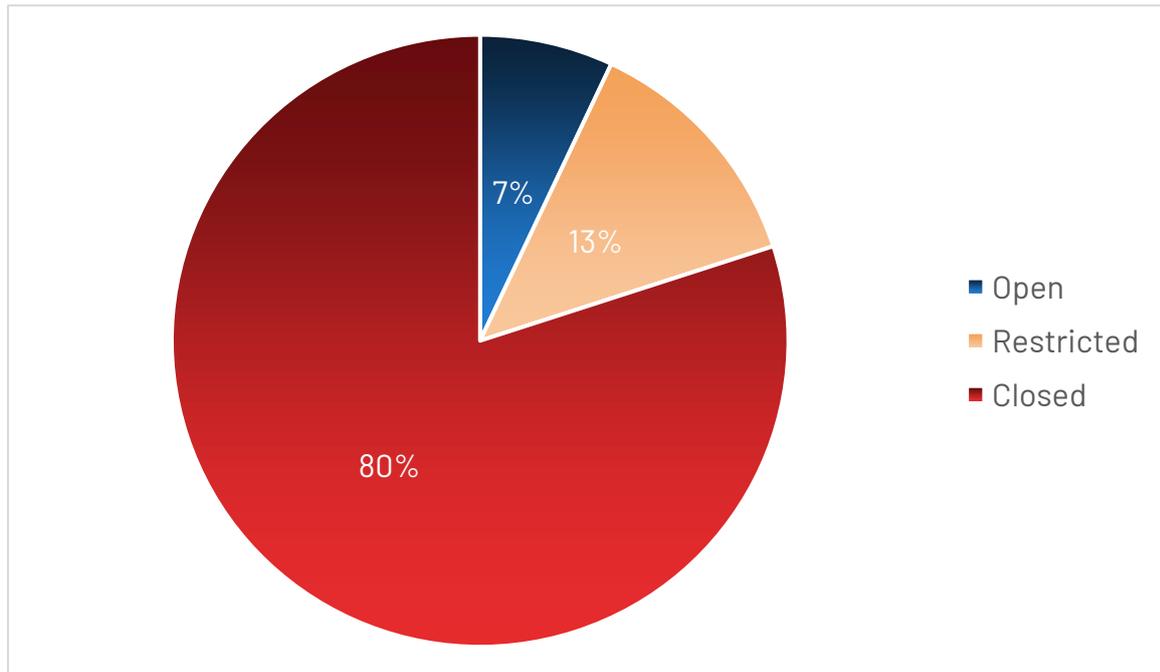
FINDINGS

OPENNESS

The 15 proposals tracked were under the purview of nine agencies, none of which proactively disclosed progress of any of the proposals online.

Even upon filing Right to Information requests with the respective agencies, responses were received from only three (20%). Out of the responses received, only the information provided by a single (7%) agency was sufficient to assess progress, while the other two (13%) were either not relevant or not useful for assessment purposes.

Exhibit 1: Categorisation of “openness” of the 15 proposals tracked

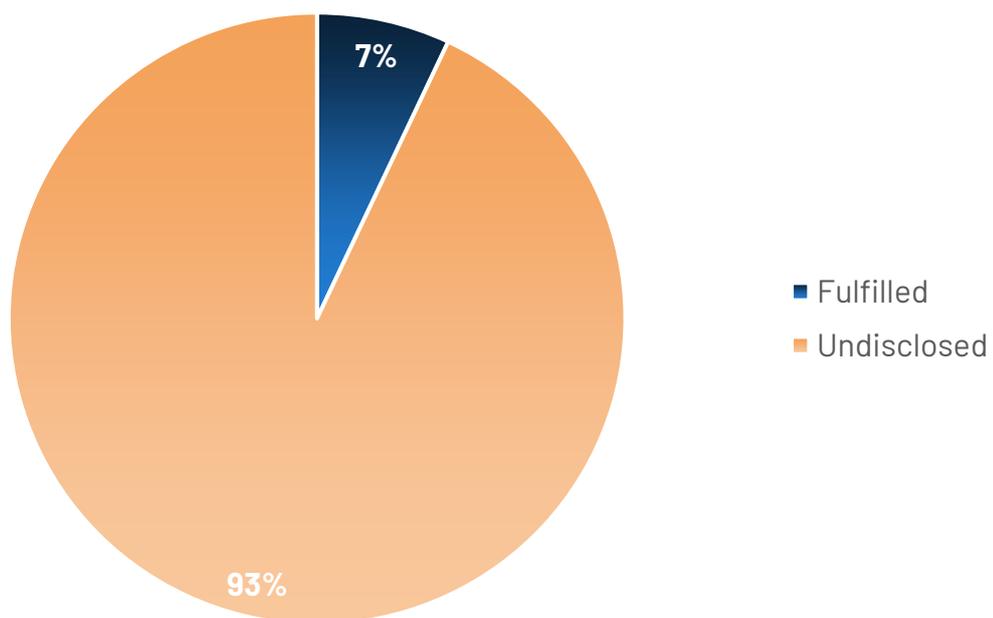


PROGRESS

Sufficient information to assess implementation was received for just one proposal (7%), “Writing off Non-performing Paddy Farming Loans”. As per the information provided, the research team concluded that the proposal could be categorised as ‘fulfilled’.

Of the proposals tracked, 93% remained undisclosed.

Exhibit 2: Categorisation of “progress” of the 15 proposals tracked



FINDINGS IN DETAIL

Proposal/Cabinet Decision	Details of the Proposal	Openness	Progress	Comments on the RTI	Government Agency
Samata Viduliya	On page number 14 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 19.01.2022, The Hon. Isuru Dodangoda stated that measures had been taken to supply electricity, which is one of the necessities for people to carry out their daily activities. A special programme called "Samata Viduliya" was implemented in order to expand the supply of electricity to households with low levels of income.	Restricted	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 – RTI request filed with Ministry of Power (MOP).</p> <p>15.11.2022 – Called to follow up and MOP asked for 14 days to respond.</p> <p>17.11.2022 – Received an acknowledgement letter dated 10.11.2022.</p> <p>23.11.2022 – Called to follow up and was informed that they had already posted the information.</p> <p>25.11.2022. – Information received via post.</p>	Ministry of Power
Special Relief Programmes for Fisheries and Transportation Sectors Affected by the Fuel Price Hikes	On page number 81 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 19.04.2022, The Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera stated that the government had planned to implement special relief programmes for sectors such as fisheries and transportation. He stated that it was crucial to increase fuel prices in light of the crude oil price in the world market and the Dollar rate, adding that crude oil orders were essential if the government was planning to implement measures in the future to provide an uninterrupted	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 – RTI request filed with Ministry of Power (MOP).</p> <p>15.11.2022 – Called to follow up, was informed the RTI had been transferred to the Petroleum Section of the Ministry of Energy (MOE).</p> <p>23.11.2022 – Called to follow up with the Petroleum Section of the MOE but was informed they had</p>	Ministry of Power /Ministry of Energy

	supply of electricity and do away with power cuts. He further stated that the government was obliged to increase fuel prices in order to meet the expenditure for crude oil orders by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. However, the government had planned to implement special relief programs for sectors such as fisheries and transportation, as stated by the minister.			not received any transfers from the MOP. 02.12.2022 - Called to follow up and the MOE had not received the transferred RTI request. No information received.	
Achieving Self-sufficiency in Electricity Generation through Renewable Energy	On page number 55 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 10.03.2022, The Hon. Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi stated that the Ministry of Power was pursuing the goal of producing electricity using as many renewable energy sources as possible by 2030 and renewable energy should be added to the national grid by using solar heat and wind power plants. She further stated that steps were being taken to add at least 1,000 more megawatts to the national grid and make this country a self-sufficient country with renewable energy.	Restricted	Undisclosed	04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Power (MOP). 15.11.2022 - Called to follow up, MOP asked for 14 days. 17.11.2022 - Received an acknowledgement letter dated 10.11.2022 from the MOP. 23.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they had sent Verité their response to the RTI by post. 25.11.2022 -Verité received a response via post.	Ministry of Power
Programme to Distribute Kerosene Oil among Low-income Groups, Estate Sector Workers, and Fishermen	On page number 10 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 18.05.2022, The Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera proposed implementing a programme specifically focused on the distribution of kerosene oil among low-income groups, estate sector workers, and fishermen, as a solution to the shortage of kerosene oil in the country. The aforesaid programme was meant to supply kerosene oil as a subsidy directly	Closed	Undisclosed	04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Power (MOP). 15.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the RTI had been transferred to the Petroleum Section of the Ministry of Energy (MOE). 23.11.2022 - Called to follow up with the Petroleum Section of the	Ministry of Power/ Ministry of Power

	to the target population without the mediation of fuel stations. The Minister also asserted that steps would be taken to investigate the stockpiling of kerosene oil by individuals such as bus owners.			<p>MOE, but was informed they had not received any transfers from the MOP.</p> <p>02.12.2022 - Called to follow up and the MOE had not received the transferred RTI request.</p> <p>No information received.</p>	
Paddy Purchasing Programme in Maha Season 2021/22	The Paddy Purchasing Programme of the Government in the Maha Season 2021/2022 aimed to provide a reasonable price for the harvest of farmers and maintain a buffer stock of paddy. The purchase of paddy harvest was to be carried out directly by the Paddy Marketing Board and District Secretaries/Government Agents through small and medium scale millers. The sum of Rs 29,805 million required for purchasing said paddy harvest was to be secured through government banks. Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposals made by the Minister of Agriculture, the Cabinet decided to: (i) purchase paddy by the Paddy Marketing Board at the competitive prices with the Private Sector under the Paddy Purchasing Programme of the Government in the Maha Season 2021/2022; (ii) pay compensation of Rs. 25/- per kg to secure the income level of farmers affected by a reduction in the paddy harvest, if any, during the Maha Season 2021/2022.	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Paddy Marketing Board (PMB).</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB stated that they were still collecting the requested data and would get back to us in a week's time.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB informed us that an update would be received within two days and that the RTI may have to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for further information.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information was ready and would be sent to Verité by 01.12.2022 the latest.</p> <p>08.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information would be sent to Verité on 09.12.2022 via email and by post.</p> <p>13.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that information would be provided for one out of</p>	Paddy Marketing Board

				<p>three RTI requests and that information for the balance two RTIs had to be provided by MOA.</p> <p>15.12.2022 - Called to follow up but received no response.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	
Methodology of Paying the Incentive for Utilization of Green Agricultural Inputs during Maha Season 2021/22	<p>Cabinet approval had been granted previously to formulate a suitable methodology in consultation with the General Treasury for the payment of compensation of Rs.25/- per 01kg of paddy, with a view to strengthening the income level of farmers who were affected by the decreased harvest during the Maha Season 2021/2022.</p> <p>Accordingly, a methodology was formulated to grant the compensation calculated based on the relevant criterion for the maximum extent of cultivation of 05 acres, as an incentive and to provide the same to small and medium scale farmers as well as subsistence level small-scale farmers. As such, the proposal made by the Minister of Agriculture to implement the said methodology and to provide the funds required for that purpose to the Department of Agrarian Development from the State Ministry of Promoting the Production & Regulating the Supply of Organic Fertilizer, and Paddy & Grains, Organic Foods, Vegetables, Fruits, Chilies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promoting, Seed Production and</p>	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Paddy Marketing Board (PMB).</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB stated that they were still collecting the requested data and would get back to us in a week's time.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB informed us that an update would be received within two days and that the RTI may have to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for further information.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information was ready and would be sent to Verité by 01.12.2022 the latest.</p> <p>08.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information would be sent to Verité on 09.12.2022 via email and by post.</p> <p>13.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that information would be provided for one out of three RTI requests and that</p>	Paddy Marketing Board

	Advanced Technology Agriculture, was approved by the Cabinet.			information for the balance two RTIs had to be provided by MOA. 15.12.2022 - Called to follow up but received no response. Information not received.	
Importation and Distribution of Fertilizer for Paddy Cultivation in Maha Season 2022/23	With the expectation to cultivate 800,000 hectares of paddy in the Maha Season 2022/23, action needed to be taken to provide fertilizer for that purpose. It was estimated that 150,000 MT of Urea, 45,000 MT of Muriate of Potash and 36,000 MT of Triple Super Phosphate were required for paddy cultivation in the Maha Season 2022/23. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Minister of Agriculture to import the required stock of fertilizer through Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizers Limited and distribute the same to farmers was approved by the Cabinet.	Closed	Undisclosed	04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Paddy Marketing Board (PMB). 15.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB stated that they were still collecting the requested data and would get back to us in a week's time. 22.11.2022 - Called to follow up and PMB informed us that an update would be received within two days and that the RTI may have to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for further information. 29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information was ready and would be sent to Verité by 01.12.2022 the latest. 08.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the information would be sent to Verité on 09.12.2022 via email and by post. 13.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that information would be provided for one out of three RTI requests and that	Paddy Marketing Board

				<p>information for the balance two RTIs had to be provided by MOA.</p> <p>15.12.2022 - Called to follow up but received no response.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	
Purchase of Locally Produced Sterile Liquid Small Volume Parenterals (SLSVP) - Injectables for the State Sector	<p>The government spends approximately Rs. 3,000 million (around US\$ 15 million) annually for the purchase of Sterile Liquid Small Volume Parenterals (SLSVP) Injectables. Approval was granted by the government for M/s Kelun Lifesciences (Pvt) Ltd to establish a factory in the Pallekale area with the capacity to produce 50 million of these injections annually. This company, the only one in the country possessing the capability of producing SLSVP consistent with the relevant standards, has been ready to supply its products from February 2022. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Minister of Health for an agreement between the aforesaid company and the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation of Sri Lanka (SPMC) to secure SLSVP to meet the needs of the government, was approved by the Cabinet.</p>	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Health (MOH).</p> <p>23.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the RTI request had been transferred internally to the Additional Secretary - Admin II on 11.11.2022 under the reference code (mh/pd/01/Gen.Misc/2022/volume1)</p> <p>Additional Secretary requested more time to draft the information.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, but no answer.</p> <p>02.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the request had been transferred to the Additional Secretary of the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals and that the transfer letter had been posted to Verité.</p> <p>02.12.2022 - Received a copy of the transfer letter on WhatsApp.</p>	Ministry of Health / State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals

				<p>09.12.2022. - Received hard copy of transfer letter by post.</p> <p>No further correspondence was received.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	
Supply of Crude Oil to Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery	<p>Necessary measures had already been taken to supply crude oil required for the Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery until the month of July 2022 and measures had to be taken for the supply of crude oil required beyond that date. The Terra Navis Group of Cyprus had called an unsolicited proposal for the supply of crude oil for the Sapugaskanda Refinery. The said proposal submitted for the supply of crude oil on a 180-day extended credit basis was evaluated by the Special Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee and a recommendation was made to obtain an initial shipment of 450,000Bbls. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Minister of Energy for the supply of crude oil as recommended by the said committee was approved by the Cabinet.</p>	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Energy (MOE).</p> <p>22.11.2022 and 23.11.2022 - Called to follow up and was directed to another person within the ministry. However as not provided with their contact details.</p> <p>05.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they had posted the necessary information to Verité a week prior, however information was not received via post. Verité requested a copy via email/fax. An additional two days were requested to do so.</p> <p>15.12.2022 - Visited the MOE, but the Information Officer was not available to meet.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	Ministry of Energy
Construction of an Organic Fertilizer Manufacturing Yard for the Mahaweli Knuckles Organic Agriculture Zone	<p>Moragahakanda, Kalu Ganga Mahaweli "F" Zone was declared a sustainable development zone where organic agricultural products are produced through a Gazette Extraordinary Notification as per the provisions of the Mahaweli Authority Act. It is expected to</p>	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL).</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Received a letter stating the RTI request had been transferred to the Ministry of Irrigation (MOI) by the MASL, since</p>	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka / Ministry of Irrigation

	<p>increase the income of the farming community through the production of agricultural crops using non-toxic organic inputs, and achieve the targets relating to the production of national organic agricultural crops with the contribution of farmers who possess in-depth knowledge on organic farming. It was planned to construct two Organic Fertilizer Manufacturing Yards equipped with the necessary laboratory facilities in Wallawaya and Guruwela Mahweli Zones with a view to manufacturing organic fertilizer required for long-term crop cultivation within the same zones. It was decided to establish the Wallawaya Organic Fertilizer Manufacturing Yard as the first phase of the plan and it was predicted that 2000MT of fertilizer could be produced from the said yard annually. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Minister of Irrigation to award the contract for the construction of the said Organic Fertilizer Yard to the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau as a direct contract was approved by the Cabinet.</p>			<p>the former did not possess the requested information.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called MOI, was informed the request might be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>24.11.2022 - Called to follow up, but they did not give any updates.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called multiple times, but no answer.</p> <p>08.12.2022 - Tried calling again multiple times, but no answer.</p> <p>09.12.2022 - Received a letter dated 04.11.2022 from the MOI about internally transferring the RTI request to the Additional Secretary (Irrigation and Water Resource Management). No further correspondence.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	
<p>Appointing District-level Committees to Tackle Food Shortages through a Programme that would use Vacant Plots of Government Land for Agricultural Purposes</p>	<p>On page number 17 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 19.05.2022, the Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe proposed to appoint district-level committees to tackle the problem of food shortage. He specifically requested support from MPs representing the Colombo District to use the vacant plots of land held by the government in the district for agricultural purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture was</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Information received on 26.12.2022 (RTI filed on 04.11.2022), therefore information received</p>	<p>Undisclosed</p>	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with the Department of Agriculture (DOA).</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the RTI request would be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA),</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture / Ministry of Agriculture</p>

	<p>put in charge of the project. The PM stated that, except for Avissawella and a part of Homagama, all the other areas in Colombo should implement the said project. The final decision on the proposed programme was to be taken the week after at a discussion with the respective MPs.</p>	<p>outside 14 days (and 21 days) - considered a late response.</p>		<p>since the former did not have the required data.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called the MOA, was informed they had received the transferred request and the relevant additional secretary was in the process of drafting the information.</p> <p>25.11.2022 - Verité received a copy of the internal transfer letter.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they needed another week to provide the requested information.</p> <p>05.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that two of the assigned officers had completed drafting the information and they would send responses to all four RTIs by 09.12.2022.</p> <p>09.12.2022 - Tried calling the MOA, but no response.</p> <p>13.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they were waiting for one more assigned officer to complete drafting the information and they would send us responses to all four RTI requests by 14.12.2022 by post and via email.</p> <p>14.12.2022 - Called to follow up multiple times, but there was no</p>	
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				response. We then discontinued communication. 26.12.2022 - Information received via post.	
"Ekwa Wawamu-Rata Dinawamu" - The Crop Production National Drive	As an expedited solution to the country's emerging crisis on food security, it was planned to implement an accelerated food production drive island-wide, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with other ministries including the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs. The entire programme was to be carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture with the technical contribution of the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. Accordingly, Cabinet approved the joint proposal made by the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to implement the said programme called 'Ekwa Wawamu-Rata Dinawamu'- The Crop Production National Drive, utilising lands in extent of approximately 250,000 hectares belonging to Buddhist temples and places of worship, Christian churches, Mosques and Hindu Kovils.	Closed	Undisclosed	04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with the Department of Agriculture (DOA). 15.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed the RTI request would be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), since the former did not have the required data. 22.11.2022 - Called the MOA, was informed they had received the transferred request and the relevant additional secretary was in the process of drafting the information. 25. 11.2022 - Verité received a copy of the internal transfer letter. 29.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they needed another week to provide the requested information. 05.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that two of the assigned officers had completed drafting the information and they would send responses to all four RTIs by 09.12.2022.	Department of Agriculture / Ministry of Agriculture
		Information received on 26.12.2022, which is after the deadline for accepting RTI responses.			

				<p>09.12.2022 - Tried calling the MOA, but there was no response.</p> <p>13.12.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed they were waiting for one more assigned officer to complete drafting the information and they would send us responses to all four RTI requests by 14.12.2022 by post and via email.</p> <p>14.12.2022 - Called to follow up multiple times, but there was no response. We then discontinued communication.</p> <p>26.12.2022 - Information received.</p>	
Distribution of Agricultural Seeds to Households	On page number 44 of the Hansards of the Parliament of Sri Lanka of 19.01.2022, The Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha stated that Rs. 85,000 million had been allocated in the budget to distribute agricultural seeds to 20 million household units in order to encourage planting fruits and vegetables in their own home gardens.	<p>Closed</p> <p>Information was provided once the period for accepting information from ministries had lapsed.</p>	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request submitted to the Department of Agriculture (DOA).</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Called to follow up and DOA stated that they did not possess the data, hence RTI request would be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called to follow up and MOA stated that the Additional Secretary was drafting the information.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Called to follow up and MOA stated they needed another week to provide the information.</p>	Department of Agriculture / Ministry of Agriculture

				<p>05.12.2022 - Called to follow up and MOA stated that they had completed drafting the response and would send the response by 09.12.2022.</p> <p>13.12.2022. - Called to follow up and MOA informed that some information was still pending and would be sent by 14.12.2022.</p> <p>14.12.2022 - Called to follow up multiple times, but there was no response. We then discontinued communication</p> <p>26.12.2022 - Information received via post.</p>	
Agricultural Crop Cultivation Programmes Launched by the Department of Prisons and the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation	The Department of Prisons planned to implement a crop cultivation programme named "Sarusara - From Prisons to Farm", with a view to deriving the labour contribution of the prison inmates for the agricultural development of the country, factoring them into the nation's human resources, instead of simply retaining them in prison cells. It was envisaged this programme would cultivate high-yield crops in the open prison camps and working prison camps under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture and that the harvest thus yielded would be utilised to feed the inmates. In addition to that, Agricultural Development Programmes had been initiated under three rehabilitation centres which are maintained by the Bureau of Commissioner General of	Closed	Undisclosed	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms (MOJ), Department of Prisons (DOP) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA).</p> <p>08.11.2022 - The DOP called to inform that the RTI request might be rejected because the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation was handling the programme. Verité requested that the RTI request be transferred to the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.</p> <p>11.11.2022 - Received a letter dated 09.11.2022 from the DOP</p>	Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms / Department of Prisons/ Department of Agriculture

	<p>Rehabilitation to rehabilitate drug addicts. In order to further expand the said agricultural activities, it was planned to obtain 1000 acres of uncultivated lands in Kandakadu and Nawasenapura in the Eastern Province, which belong to the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka and the National Livestock Development Board, and cultivate maize in an area of 500 acres and cultivate grains, vegetables and fruits endemic to the area in the remaining portion of land, utilising the labour of those who are being rehabilitated. Cabinet took note of the information on the said programmes submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.</p>			<p>stating the request had been rejected.</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Called the MOJ, was informed the RTI request had been transferred to the Department of Prisons (DOP). MOJ posted Verité a copy of the transfer letter. (However, this was irrelevant since the DOP had already transferred the request himself)</p> <p>16.11.2022 - Called the DOP and was informed the transfer had taken place on the same day.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Called to follow up, was informed that the Bureau of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation had not received the RTI request from the Department of Prisons.</p> <p>24.11.2022 - Received a copy of the transfer letter, dated 17.11.2022, from the DOP. Followed up with the Bureau and was informed they had received the transferred request on 22.11.2022 and had forwarded the request internally to the relevant officer to draft the information.</p> <p>30.11.2022 - Received a call from the Bureau and was informed that the cabinet proposal was under the purview of the DOP and the MOJ with whom we originally filed</p>	
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				<p>the RTI requests. However, the Bureau agreed to provide us whatever relevant information they possessed.</p> <p>08.12.2022 - Called the Bureau and was told the requested information had been sent internally to the I/O and they would update us in a few days. No further response was received from the Bureau.</p> <p>Information not received.</p>	
Writing off Non-Performing Paddy Farming Loans	<p>The economic crisis, which was mainly caused by the Easter Sunday attack and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic situation, has been steadily worsening, severely affecting every sector directly and indirectly. The farmer community, which makes up approximately 30% of the total population, was unable to cope and the hardships they faced were exacerbated by the decision to move to organic fertilizer from chemical fertilizer. Under these circumstances, farmers were unable to settle the loans obtained by them for paddy cultivation and those loans were classified by banks as non-performing loans. It became essential for government intervention to provide relief to farmers, since most of the farmers would be disqualified from obtaining loans for paddy cultivation in the next Maha season owing to their outstanding loans. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Prime Minister, in his capacity as</p>	Open	Fulfilled	<p>04.11.2022 - RTI request filed with Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies.</p> <p>15.11.2022 - Received a copy of an email sent from the Ministry to the Department of Development Finance informing the latter to provide the requested information.</p> <p>22.11.2022 - Department of Development Finance informed us that they had received the transferred request and would provide the information.</p> <p>29.11.2022 - Department of Development Finance informed us that the information was ready to be posted to Verité. A soft copy of the information was sent via email on the same day.</p>	Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
		<p>Information was provided regarding the timeline and the physical and financial progress of the project.</p>	<p>As of 21.11.2022, the project had reached 81.5% of its target in terms of timely spending of allocations and reached 91.2% of its target in terms of the target group of the population.</p> <p>The assessment determined that 86.3% of progress had</p>		

	<p>the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies, to write-off the principal amount of loans obtained from government banks for paddy cultivation in blocks of land in extent of two hectares or less that had become difficult to repay, was approved by the Cabinet.</p>		<p>been achieved.</p>	<p>09.12.2022 - Received the hard copy via post.</p>	
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DISCLAIMER

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