

**Media Release Issued by the Members of Parliament Representing the  
Opposition of Parliament**

**14.11.2025**

The attention of the Members of Parliament of the opposition has been drawn to the circular No. PS/DASA/Circular/07/2025 issued by the President's Office regarding implementation of the Praja Shakthi National Movement for Eradicating Poverty.

Several complications that arise from it can be identified at an in-depth examination of the circular issued regarding the Praja Shakthi National Movement for Eradicating Poverty.

What is being attempted through this program is to grant an official acceptance to the ruling party's grassroots-level party mechanism.

Through it, a subtle program has been put into action to transfer the responsibilities and services of Members of Parliament and representatives of Local Government institutions to the political cadres of a party. It can be well-identified when examining the provisions made in that circular for establishing the Community Development Council. "The Chairman of the Community Development Council shall be the Chairman of the Regional Coordination Committee or a representative appointed by him." The representatives of the Community Development Council are also appointed through a convener appointed on behalf of the Regional Coordination Committee. It cannot be prevented that this convener, as well as all the appointed representatives, are grassroots-level activists of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna.

The revisions proposed regarding the Regional Coordination Committee and the District Coordination Committee in paragraph 05 of that circular are extremely serious. Accordingly, the coordination committee mechanism currently in operation is being reorganized and it is stated that those committees should function within the Praja Shakthi National Movement. This is clearly a snatching away of the responsibilities and mandates of the Members of Parliament and representatives of Local Government, from such public representatives, who operate in the Regional Coordination Committees and District Coordination Committees.

In paragraph 06 of that circular, the Praja Shakthi Committee is introduced as the main actor for allocating and recommending the funds allocated for development from the budget for Ministries and Provincial Councils for projects.

When considering the role that the Praja Shakthi Committee has been instructed to execute, according to clauses 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6 of clause 07 of the circular, the Members of Parliament elected by the public vote and the Local Government representatives have now been placed in a situation where they are no longer a responsible party in the community development process. According to that section, the planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs for eradicating poverty are assigned to the Praja Shakthi Committee. Similarly, the implementation of welfare programs and economic development programs, as well as empowerment programs, and the establishment of an institutional structure accountable to the public is assigned to the Praja Shakthi Committee. Furthermore, Praja Shakthi Operations Committee has the authority of coordinating all Ministries, Provincial Councils, and State Institutions for the implementation of programs, and as required for that, summoning government departments, institutions, and provincial heads to the committees.

Paragraph 10 of the circular, which has provided provisions to subjugate the Provincial Councils, District Coordination Committees, and Regional Coordination Committees, which have been functioning in a decentralized manner so far, to the functionality of the Community Development Council, shows that the Community Development Council must create a division-level data and information system and maintain it updated, and through that, the economic, social, ethical/moral, and environmental problems of the division should be identified. The tasks of identifying suitable projects based on priorities and preparing an integrated village development plan must be performed by the Community Development Council.

This is an extremely serious situation. Subordinating the country's development to a mechanism being created by a political party, while subjugating the constitutionally established public representative councils and statutory state services, is an attempt to lay the foundation for a one-sided political control. It is a deadly blow struck against multi-party democracy.

We must identify the danger by reading between the lines, without being complacent with the surface-level interpretation of the circular issued regarding the Praja Shakthi National Movement for Eradicating Poverty. Therefore, the Members of Parliament of the opposition insist that this circular and program should be withdrawn immediately.