



BUILD TOGETHER WIN TOGETHER



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NATIONAL PEOPLE'S POWER (NPP)

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NPP draft program for Sri Lankan expatriates living abroad

1. A procedure will be enabled for Sri Lankan expatriates to exercise their voting rights at elections held in Sri Lanka, from the respective countries they reside in at that moment. As an initial step, this procedure would be made available for Presidential elections, General elections and Referendums.
2. A suitable method to make available pension payments to all expatriates.
3. A government intervention to eliminate hardships and legal obstacles faced by expatriates in obtaining compensations or benefits from the overseas social security funds, available to them at the end or expiration of their work agreements.
4. Diplomatic efforts will be made to increase minimum wages to rectify discriminatory anomalies in wages and working conditions exceptionally encountered by Sri Lankans in respective countries when compared to their fellow workers of the similar circumstances.
5. Action to expand the duty free facility granted to expatriates depending on their remittances sent to Sri Lanka.
6. In line with the scientific method of establishing 25 ministries, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment will be brought permanently under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
7. Frequently updated websites will be maintained by the respective Foreign Missions and the Bureau of Foreign Employment for the benefit of those interested in seeking overseas employment. Sri Lankans will be able to access this website in their preferred choice of language and it will provide, country wise all vital

information for job seekers, such as available job vacancies, qualification requirements, salaries, cost of living etc.

8. Adequate guidance, training and legal advice will be provided to Sri Lankans expect to leave for foreign employment. The Bureau of Foreign Employment, in conjunction with the relevant institutions, will implement effective mechanisms while clearing the existing practical obstacles in this regard.
9. Existing insurance policies available for Sri Lankan workers, leaving for foreign employment will be reviewed. Accordingly actions would be taken to enhance the insurance coverage and benefits.
10. All legally registered foreign employment agencies will be supervised and regulated. All unregistered illegal agencies and agencies engaged in wrongful illegal methods will be investigated and will be dealt with legally. Every effort will be made to streamline the existing system to make it more effective and efficient.
11. A workable new mechanism will be put in place to improve the existing methods of dealing with grievances and problems of expatriates. More emphasis will be laid to introduce state of the art methods and best practices to expedite the process of granting redress.
12. Actions will be taken to motivate and support the volunteers and groups who engage in assisting the distressed expatriates in their overseas workplace.
13. Expatriates qualified for dual citizenship will be encouraged to apply for the same. Excessive processing charges levied for obtaining dual citizenship will be brought down to an affordable cost. Similarly, children born to Sri Lankans in other countries will be made eligible to obtain Sri Lankan citizenship.

14. Children of Sri Lankan expatriates studying abroad will upon request be granted opportunities to obtain easier admission to appropriate government schools in Sri Lanka. Similarly, arrangements will be provided for easy access to free higher education in Sri Lankan State Universities, provided such students have fulfilled required qualifications to enter Universities.
15. Majority of the expatriates dreams of building a house of their own in Sri Lanka. A scheme will be drawn up to grant concessionary loans on reasonable terms, depending on the remittances they made to Sri Lanka.
16. There are difficulties faced by the expatriates in obtaining documents from Sri Lankan institutions. Accordingly, technical assistance and administrative mechanisms will be introduced to overcome this difficulty to obtain documentations from Sri Lankan institutions while in a foreign country.
17. Establishing “Entrepreneur Promotion Units” in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in selected embassies to encourage dedicated and skilled expatriates working overseas to invest in enterprises becoming Small and Medium Entrepreneurs in the respective resident countries, with the expectation that it will uplift the social, economic and political status of the Sri Lankan community living in such countries and it will also contribute towards the development of the Sri Lankan economy as well. As the Sri Lankan economy develops gradually, a Fund will also be created for this purpose.
18. Establishment of bank branches of Sri Lankan state and private banks in selected countries based on the need for banking services.
19. To provide appropriate technology and training to Sri Lankan embassy staff in different countries with a view to providing efficient, effective and people friendly services to the Sri Lankans living in other countries.

- Maintaining accurate details of Sri Lankans living in different countries.
 - To digitalize the functions of Sri Lankan embassy in other countries in order to provide qualitative, effective and efficient service.
 - To renew, amend and issue new passports in lieu of lost passports in an efficient manner.
 - Birth, death, citizenship, marriage certificates etc., to be maintained under a digitized system of recording. A mechanism will be developed to maintain a proper database and issue copies of certificates etc., efficiently and effectively on requests at a nominal fee.
 - Service Counter meant for providing services to Sri Lankans in embassies will be open workdays and on holidays of host country.
20. Officers who are career professionals with good track record will be assessed based on merit appraisals to be appointed as heads of foreign missions. More emphasis will be placed on traits like professional excellence, high moral standards and diplomatic discretion. Officers fulfilling required standards will be selected for appointments to Foreign Service.
21. With immediate effect, recruitment of officers to foreign missions will be de-politicized. All future appointments will be given purely based on the assessment of their aptitudes.
- Unqualified, politically defeated candidates and retired officers will not be entertained for appointments to Foreign Service as an appeasement to them.
 - Persons above the age of 70 years will not be considered for appointment as ambassadors.

- Relatives of Ministers, any Members of Parliament or senior government officers will not be considered for appointments to Foreign Service.
 - Monitoring mechanisms shall be strengthen on all Foreign Missions in respect of the their achievements for Sri Lanka in the fields of economy, tourism, foreign employment, diplomatic support and also on the services provided to Sri Lankans in respective countries.
22. Officers having a knowledge of native language and legal system of the relevant countries will be appointed to Sri Lankan Foreign Missions.
23. Fast tracked and economically developing countries that may be useful for economic development of Sri Lanka will be recognized and Diplomatic Missions will be established in such countries.
24. With the intention of better discharging of consular services, providing people-friendly and efficient services for the welfare for Sri Lankans living abroad and also to achieve the desired foreign policy goals of the Sri Lankan government, all embassies will need to muster the expatriates in a representative system to form an “Assembly of Sri Lanka”.

A procedure will be enabled for Sri Lankans expatriates to exercise their voting rights at elections held in Sri Lanka, from the respective countries they reside in at that moment. As an initial step, this procedure would be made available for Presidential elections, General elections and Referendums.

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