



CONCEPT PAPER
Managing the movement of people to minimize threat of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka
By Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport Sri Lanka (CILTSL)

PREAMBLE

Chartered Institute of Logistics Sri Lanka (CILTSL), established in 1984 and incorporated by the Parliamentary Act no. 08 of 2000 is a progressive territory of CILT International, which is based in UK and has a 100 year legacy with a global membership of over 35,000 and a presence in 37 countries. As the leading international chartered professional body for everyone who works within supply chain, logistics and transport CILT has contributed immensely to the industry over the decades and to date remains an integral stakeholder in the industry.

CILT's global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been relevant and timely. Through our best practice sharing webinars, discussing logistics, transport and supply chain challenges, have helped countries across the globe to mitigate the domino effect of the pandemic. In addition to contributing to above, CILTSL has responded in practical ways through donations and extending support to the health services/military/government in its efforts to combat the Corona virus.

It is our view, that post the lifting of curfew on 04 May 2020, or any alternative day, there will indeed be an influx of movement among the people, as they will seek to meet their basic human needs, such as food, medicine and will attempt to revive their livelihoods, in order to sustain their families. In the midst of all of this, it is imperative that the movement of the masses are regulated to minimize the exposure/ threat of COVID-19 once the curfew is lifted.

CILTSL is encouraged by the robust efforts of the government to protect the nation of Sri Lanka, the government has issued clear instructions and articulated the processes ensuring that the public sector and the formal private sector are addressed in this document.

This document is an attempt to cover the needs of the informal sector who in our view are adversely affected and will resort to desperate measures, even risking the health of themselves, their families and society at large. CILTSL would like to draw your attention to personnel such as Domestic helpers who are covered through a daily wage, those in the construction trade, such as masonry basses, carpenters, electricians, plumbers etc.) and household members who would also take this opportunity to purchase their needs frantically from supermarkets, retail outlets, pharmacies etc., to replenish stocks in the wake of a second wave.

CONTENT

In this document we have categorized the general public into 4 segments and our recommendations are given under each sector:

1. PUBLIC SECTOR
2. FORMAL PRIVATE SECTOR
3. INFORMAL SECTOR
4. HOUSEHOLD PERSONNEL

RECOMMENDATIONS BY SECTOR

PUBLIC SECTOR

- Respective companies are to be responsible for the implementation of the procedures already prescribed by the government. (Number of staff restricted to 30% of the total workforce)
- Respective offices to issue the staff with a letter confirming their requirement to report to work, which can be presented as a hard copy or through a smart phone at check points.
- Staff called to work should always have the ID cards issued by the respective government departments and their NIC to show as proof at check points for verification.
- Provide respective services to only those who are eligible to be out on that respective day as per the last digit of the NIC number.

FORMAL PRIVATE SECTOR

- Respective companies are to be responsible for the implementation of the procedures already prescribed by the government. (Number of staff restricted to 30% of the total workforce)
- Respective formal private sector offices to issue the staff with a letter confirming their requirement to report to work, which can be presented as a hard copy or through a smart phone at, check points.
- Staff called to work should always have the ID cards issued by the company and their NIC to show as proof at check points for verification.
- Provide respective services to only those who are eligible to be out on that respective day as per the last digit of the NIC number.

INFORMAL SECTOR

- As described above, Informal sector pose a relatively high risk due to the high density of people who fall into this category and therefore their movement should be restricted.
- Enroll the services of the Grama Niladhari through the Divisional Secretariat to verify the authenticity of their trade. They should hold a certification for the services they offer.
- It is advisable to ask this segment not to go to police stations, as the Police might not have the required information with them as they are already inundated with other work. Therefore this segment should be tackled through Grama Niladhari to prevent overcrowding the Divisional Secretariat but still verify the claims of these people through their service registers or other official means. This service register should be shared with the Police.
- These personnel should register and get an approval letter from the Grama Niladhari or the Divisional Secretariat as feasible.
- Special needs that arise as well as in case of emergencies, due consideration will need to be given on how they will procure the material/consumable requirements (spare parts for machines, vehicle, building construction materials etc.) for their work.

HOUSEHOLD PERSONNEL

- Follow the currently prescribed segregation by the government using the last digit of the NIC number to determine the date they are allowed to come out.
- Respective Retail Establishments to ensure they serve only those who are permitted to be out using the NIC verification process introduced by the government.
- Permission should be granted for people, especially the differently abled and elderly, to travel using any available transport. They should be given permission for a second person to accompany them if necessary to assist. This will have to be at the discretion of the armed force personnel, manning the check points.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Super markets / retail outlets to maintain and **operate two queues** to cater to the **elderly and** another for other **persons**. This is already being practiced by some of the supermarket chains, however needs to be made mandatory.
- All retail outlets and supermarkets to display the number corresponding to the day at the entrance and strictly enforce entry based on this number.
- Allow the **elderly** to travel with **one other person** so they can be assisted through the formalities and processes to obtain their needs.
- Express counters and specific times to be designated at banks for pensioners/widowed-pensioners who are not receiving their pensions directly to their bank accounts.

- Consider if the approvals can be **issued electronically** through registration using an Internet Platform and the approvals sent back via a registered mobile through an SMS message when the curfew is lifted. This is to limit crowding at any permit issuing office.
- **Urban low-income areas to be stringently monitored** by the armed force personnel as many families are living together in very cramped and crowded conditions as they pose a higher risk of spreading the infection.
- All those who travel outside to wear the masks at all times and strictly practice social distancing and hygienic guidelines issued by the government.

CONCLUSION

CILTSL feels that the above proposal will help to bridge the gaps and supplement the current guideline issued by the government to prevent congregation to contain the spread of the virus once the curfew is relaxed. It is important to understand the need for a disciplined approach in social behaviour subsequent to the relaxation to ensure the safety of the nation and a technical approach, hence this submission.

Disclaimer: The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to CILTSL, and not necessarily to CILT organization, committee or other groups or individuals.

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