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THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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His Excellency Maithreepala Sirisena,
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
President Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

Yours Excellency,

The need for a National Policy for International Trading & Trade Agreements.

The Government has announced that an Indo-Sri Lanka Trade and service Agreement is to be signed this year.

Trade agreements should be drafted, preserving the country's identity and security. Furthermore, it should mutually benefit the country and its citizens. The prevailing Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade agreement has not benefited Sri Lanka. The individuals who consulted and drafted this agreement seem to not be taking responsibility towards Sri Lanka and the burden now lies upon us, as citizens. Similarly, the massive loss caused through the "Hedging" agreement has to be borne by generations to come.

These bilateral agreements go beyond the scope of the Sri Lanka Judiciary. The short comings in an agreement are solved through international arbitration. For a country like Sri Lanka, this procedure is technically and legally very complex and difficult, and a massive amount of money is spent. This was evident during the arbitration of the Hedging agreement.

There appears to be no transparency among the individuals involved in consultation and drafting of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement which is to be signed this year. However, we convey our gratitude to Hon. Minister Malik Samarawickrmama for providing us some information regarding the said matter. But our membership is not convinced regarding the speculated advantages and their opinion is that this agreement will cause more harm than the prevailing Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade agreement.

Hence, we propose that there should be a national policy when formulating international trade agreements and until such time, signing of an Indo-Sri Lanka Trade agreement should be delayed. Intellectual analysis will resolve the confusion and non-transparency surrounding this process as well.

Since your Excellency was instrumental in providing the leadership for a policy based good governance, we kindly request you to consider our suggestions in this regard.

Thank you,
Yours faithfully,

Dr. A.B.Padeniya
President

Dr.Nalinda Herath,
Secretary.

Cc: Hon. Prime Minister
Hon. Speaker of the Parliament
All Hon. Cabinet Ministers
All Hon. Members of Parliament
Secretary to His Excellency the President
Secretary to the Hon. Prime Minister
All GMOA Branch Unions