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சனாதிபதி அலுவலகம்
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

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All Secretaries to Ministries and Heads of Department

USE OF UNICODE COMPATIBLE FONTS IN GOVERNMENT

Background

Consequent to an initiative to standardize use of IT in Sinhala, the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) has accepted a standard (SLS 1134) as the Sinhala Character Code for information interchange. The International Standards Organisation has also accepted SLS 1134 for inclusion in ISO/IEC 10646-1 (ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993 Information Technology – Universal Multiple Octet Coded Character Set) with the modifications effected in the first revision (SLS 1134:2001).

Therefore, SLS1134 (2004) is the internationally established standard for Sinhala computing and enables seamless Sinhala communication between modern IT operating systems.

Why use SLS1134

- 1) Compatibility - A document or program using a SLS1134 compatible font can be read using another SLS1134 compatible font. Such fonts are available locally and from multinationals like Microsoft. With the use of these fonts, there is no need for a user to download and copy a plethora of fonts just to read a document.
- 2) Choice - Many commercial, academic and non-profit entities are supporting and developing software which adheres to SLS1134. The commercial entities which provided the many incompatible fonts now provide software and fonts that adhere to SLS1134. No longer will a single private entity be able to dictate the price of Sinhala computing.

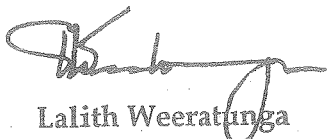
Minimum Requirements

Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 2+, Ubuntu 7.x, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5, Debian 4.0

Visit www.fonts.lk for information on how to download and install the Sinhala Kit. The information and installation packs are available free of charge.

At present the awareness and usage of SLS1134 is low, thus causing many unnecessary difficulties and inefficiencies within the public sector and partner organisations. By encouraging and supporting the public sector adoption of SLS1134, a truly inter-connected ICT environment in Government could be realized as inter-operability between IT systems is essential for the success of e-Government.

In view of the above, all Ministries and Departments are hereby directed to use SLS1134 compatible fonts and are directed to visit www.fonts.lk for usage guidelines.



Lalith Weerasinghe
Secretary to the President