



GMOA

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THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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GMOA/HE/2024/0006
29/04/2024

Mr. E.M.S.B. Ekanayake,
Secretary to the Hon. President,
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

Dear Sir,

Future expansion of Medical Education in Sri Lanka and Current developments in recruitments of Medical faculty, Kotelawala Defence University (KDU).

This is further to our previous communication dated 05.07.2023, addressed to Hon. President Ranil Wickremesinghe, with a copy to your good offices, forwarding our observations on future expansions of Medical Education in Sri Lanka. (Annexure I).

We would like to re-emphasize the following facts with regard to any future expansions.

1. Any such expansion should not have a direct or indirect impact on quality and standards of existing State Medical Education institutions.
2. Any future expansions should be based on Principals of Quality and Standards and should abide by Minimum Standards of Medical Education declared by Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC)
3. Should be bound by rules and regulations declared by University Grants Commission (UGC) and any such establishment should be under purview of UGC.
4. Any further expansions should be proceeded, based on facts and figures collected through a Feasibility Study.
5. Should clearly identify the critical limiting factors such as Human Resources for training purposes, clinical training opportunities and available facilities for compulsory internship training, prior to proceeding with any such expansion.

On this background, Executive Committee of GMOA would like to draw your attention to media reports of a recent cabinet decision and a subsequent advertisement for recruitments by Medical Faculty Kotelawala Defence University, declaring major changes in criteria of recruitments to aforesaid faculty.

We would appreciate, if you could coordinate with relevant authorities and seek clarifications for below mentioned crucial issues, which are mostly declared in an ambiguous manner.

1. Regarding Entry Qualifications, what would be the "additional qualifications", which is mentioned in the cabinet decision, in an unspecified manner.
2. Whether the minimum entry qualifications spelled out for A/L Bio Science stream at Cambridge/ Edexcel or equivalent A/L examinations tally with the minimum standards declared by Sri Lanka Medical Council.
3. How the priority list for recruitments will be decided in transparent manner, after considering Z-scores of local A/L students and Grade scores of Cambridge/ Edexcel or equivalent A/L examinations.
4. Why the candidate should be unmarried as declared in entry qualifications.
5. Whether the management of KDU has the authority to act upon only with a decision by Cabinet of Ministers, without amending the KDU Act.

Further as observed by GMOA, serious doubts about the transparency and genuineness has aroused due to the final clause of the application procedure which declares that, the Board of Management of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University reserves the **exclusive right** to select the candidates.

On this background, GMOA Executive Committee unanimously decided to declare following;

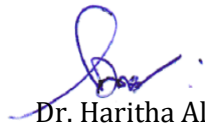
1. To strongly protest against the arbitrary nature of decision making, without consulting stakeholders, before declaring a major policy change in expansion of Medical Education in Sri Lanka.
2. To protest against the aforesaid decision of recruiting Day Scholars, local category on paid basis, without considering the already declared observations of GMOA.

Further, GMOA Executive Committee decided to request relevant authorities to revisit and upgrade the currently declared minimum entry criteria, as per Sri Lanka Medical Council regulations, in par with current developments and international standards, before declaring any changes in recruitment criteria.

With current developments, GMOA observes growing unrest not only among medical fraternity, but also within medical students' community, especially with regard to maintenance of quality and standards of Medical Education in Sri Lanka.

Having considered all these developments, GMOA Executive Committee has decided to request authorities to temporarily withhold the declared recruitment process to Medical Faculty Kotelawala Defence University, until identified irregularities are rectified and mechanism declared to carryout future expansion of Medical Education in Sri Lanka, only with a scientific approach.

Thank You
Yours Faithfully,



Dr. Haritha Aluthge,
Secretary

Cc: Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Hon (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Health
Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajyantha, Minister of Education
Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition
Secretary to Hon. Prime Minister
Secretary to Cabinet of Ministers
Secretary, Ministry of Education
Secretary, Ministry of Defence
Secretary, Ministry of Health
Director General of Health Services
Chairman, University Grants Commission
President, Sri Lanka Medical Council
Vice Chancellor, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
To all Deans of State Medical Faculties
Dean, Medical Faculty of Kotelawala Defence University
To all Secretaries of GMOA Branch Unions