

## **The State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control**

The State Ministry is entrusted with the primary role of assisting the Ministry of Health in the formulation of policies in relation to Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control. Primary health care is a core function in the national health system and it is a complex responsibility area that includes multiple forms of community health services across the provinces. An already complex responsibility has now been complicated by new waves of COVID endemic here and elsewhere in the world. In view of the evolving health phenomena, the State Ministry has to work seriously and collaboratively to ensure total safety of the general public including communities, industries and national and international movement of people.

Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency Gotabaya Rasjapaksa, the State Ministry of Health Care Epidemics and COVID Disease Control will endeavor to achieve the development objectives within the government's policy framework of Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour.

As such, we are preparing to deliver our responsibilities particularly in (i) implementing a joint programme with all offices of Provincial and Regional Director of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health Offices in coordination with the Ministry of Health for the control of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, (ii) Strengthening the maternity and infant health care services to keep the maternal and infant mortality rate as low as possible, (iii) Expansion of Medical, nursing and other allied support facilities in all regional and primary hospitals, (iv) Designing and implementing programs to improve the immunity of children, (v) Taking steps to improve primary health care basic infrastructure. (vi) Implementing health promotion and health education programmes, (vii) Expansion of adult health care facilities targeting low income earners in rural, backward and urban areas, and (viii) Coordinating the dispensaries and maternity clinics owned by Local Government Institutions, the Department of Health Services.

My staff and I earnestly expect to engage all stakeholders in primary health care services to perform our best in order to steer the national health care system forward, and face the challenges effectively.

**Dr. Amal Harsha de Silva**  
**Secretary, State Ministry of Primary Health**  
**Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control**