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Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Statement No: HRC/S/i/E/12/02/26

Statement on Protest Campaign at the Premises of the Head Office

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) issues this statement to clarify matters surrounding the protest campaign staged by one of the Commission's staff members at the premises of the Head Office. This is the second such protest staged by this staff member. The first protest was held on 10 December 2025.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Commission would not think it appropriate to issue statements on internal administrative matters concerning its staff. However, the present circumstances are extraordinary, and the Commission has decided to issue this statement to ensure that members of the public are kept informed of the Commission's actions and decisions. This statement is also necessitated by the fact that several media reports with respect to this protest, as well as the previous protest staged by the same staff member, have failed to seek any comment from the Commission.

The Commission states that the staff member concerned is aggrieved that she did not receive a promotion to the post of Assistant Director when she applied for this position in 2023. The recruitment process was completed and the candidates who achieved the highest marks at the interview were appointed. A staff member who wishes to challenge a recruitment decision of the Commission has a variety of judicial remedies. The said staff member, having failed to avail herself of any such remedies, is presently attempting to agitate her position through a series of protests.

The staff member concerned was initially serving within the Inquiries and Investigation Division of the Commission. Following disputes between her and others within that division, she was, on her request, transferred to the Research & Monitoring Division. There too, disputes arose, and the said staff member alleged that she was not assigned any duties. At a point when the Commission was considering whether the said staff member could be transferred to the Administrative Division, she made complaints to various institutions including the Office of the H.E. President and the Ombudsman, making various allegations against the Commission and specific staff members, and reagitating her claim to be promoted. In turn, other staff members also presented various allegations against this staff member. The Commission, thereafter, decided to transfer her to the Administrative Division, and to request the Ministry of Public Administration to nominate an independent committee to fully investigate allegations made by and against the staff member concerned.

At the time the said staff member decided to stage a protest on 10 December, the Commission had already verbally communicated the above decision to her. Despite such verbal communication, and at a time the country was reeling from a disaster, this staff member deliberately created a media spectacle outside the Head Office of the Commission. The Commission then formally communicated its decision in writing to her, after which the staff member stood down from her protest. Thereafter, the staff member was assigned duties at the Administrative Division. She initially refused to assume duties on the basis that she did not recognise the authority of another staff member who is covering the duties of the post of Secretary. The staff member concerned only assumed duties after a letter of warning was issued to her.

Moreover, the Commission wishes to confirm that the above-mentioned independent committee of inquiry has begun its investigation and is in the process of recording statements.

Despite the ongoing investigation, the said staff member has decided to stage another protest on 10 February 2026 making a series of further unfounded allegations against the Commission. The staff member has also written to civil society representatives requesting their intervention as well. The Commission observes that this new protest is designed to disrupt the work of the Commission and damage public confidence in the Commission.

In the above circumstances, the Commission wishes to assure the members of the public that disciplinary action will be taken against any staff member who deliberately, and for personal gain, attempts to disrupt the work of the Commission or damage public confidence in the Commission. The Commission also requests that the media takes steps to report on this matter responsibly and impartially.

Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

12/02/2026