

A Brief History of Eastern Provincial Council

The Provincial Councils were set up in Sri Lanka for the first time in terms of 13th Amendment to the Constitution and the Provincial Council Act. No. 42 of 1987.

Elections were held to all the eight Provincial Councils for the first time in 1988. The elected North East Provincial Council (NEPC) was constituted on 5th December 1988. It had only a brief existence as it was dissolved in June 1990. As election to the North East Provincial Council has not been held thereafter it continues to be administered under the direction of the Hon.Governor of the North East Province.

After a period of about twenty years, as per judgment of the Supreme Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 16th October 2006, the North East Province has been de-merged into two separate provinces; viz: Northern Province and Eastern Province.

The administration of the two provinces was brought under two Governors. His Excellency the President has appointed Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama USP, NDC, PSC as the Governor for the Eastern Province.

At present there are five Ministries headed by Secretaries. The Secretaries are appointed by the Hon.Governor. The five Ministries are as follows :-

1. Chief Minister's Secretariat
2. Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Child care Services, Women Affairs, Youth Affairs, Sports, IT Education, Cooperative Development, Food Supply and Distribution
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production and Development, Rural Industries Development and Fisheries
4. Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Lands and Land Development, Transport
5. Ministry of Road Development, Irrigation, Housing and Construction, Rural Electrification and Water Supply

The 16 Departments shown below are for different sectors that come under the purview of these five Ministries:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Department of Animal Production and Health
3. Department of Land Administration
4. Department of Irrigation
5. Department of Education
6. Department of Sports
7. Department of Health Services
8. Department of Indigenous Medicine

9. Department of Local Government
10. Department of Cooperative Development
11. Department of Management Development and Training
12. Department of Industries
13. Department of Rural Development
14. Department of Road Development
15. Department of Social Services
16. Department of Buildings

The institutions viz: Provincial Treasury, Planning Secretariat, Provincial Audit, Office of the Infrastructure Development, Legal Unit and Department of Motor Traffic are under the purview of Chief Secretary's Secretariat. The Centre for Information Resource Management is under the purview of the Planning Secretariat.

The following institution is under the purview of Governor's Secretariat :-

Provincial Public Service Commission.