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SUWASIRIPAYA

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

මගේ අංකය) NDCU/MIO/FA/2013
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உமது இல) SLTPB/Russia/2012
Your No. :)

දිනය) 2012-10-23
Date)

Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Board

**Briefing by Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson,
Mr. A.K.Lukshevich, 18 October 2012**

As a response to the above matter, as referred by Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, I wish to submit the following clarification, on correct facts on dengue situation in Sri Lanka to enlighten all foreign visitors, including tourists, especially from Russia, and to dispel any misconceptions resulted from said briefing.


Since 2009, (1) the number of reported dengue cases, (2) number of confirmed dengue cases, (3) number of deaths due to dengue and (4) case fatality rate of dengue is steadily declining. Year 2012 reports the lowest of all these indicators. Currently, 3rd quarter of the year reports remarkably low number of cases in comparison to the same period of 2011. During the same period, Colombo district, which attracts business travelers as well as tourists, shows a 20% reduction of cases and this downward trend is continuing. Districts of major tourist attractions as well as Northern and Eastern Provinces reports less than 5% of the total reported cases and near zero local transmission of dengue cases in these areas.

Currently both entomological and epidemiological surveillance, by Ministry of Health and electronic reporting system enable prompt control measures.

There have been no cases of dengue reported among tourists. Hospitality industry in Sri Lanka hire qualified vector control services as per national guidelines and provide personal protection facilities for tourists.

Kindly bring this information to relevant authorities, staff and agencies.

Thank you.


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Dr. Y.D. Nihal Jayathilaka

Secretary of Health

CC:

1. Additional Secretary (Public Health Services)
2. Deputy Director General (Public Health Services) 1