

# Inflation remains at single digit in 2011

As projected in the beginning of the year the rate of year-on-year inflation, as measured by the Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI) (2006/07=100), computed by the Department of Census and Statistics, decreased to 4.9 percent in December 2011 from 6.2 percent in January 2011 and the annual average rate of inflation recorded 6.7 percent in December 2011 thus stabilising the inflation at the mid single digit level.

The year-on-year core inflation, which is computed by excluding the items of fresh food, energy, transport, rice and coconut from the CCPI basket, also declined reaching 4.7 percent in December 2011. The annual average core infla-

tion reached 6.9 percent by the year end.

The contribution to the annual average increase of 6.7 percent in the Index came mainly from price increases in the sub category of Food and non alcoholic beverages (8.8 percent).

Meanwhile, average prices in the sub categories of Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (4.3 percent); Transport (7.1 percent); Clothing and footwear (13.4 percent); Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance (4.6 percent); Health (2.7 percent); Education (3.5 percent); Miscellaneous goods and services (3.9 percent); and Recreation and culture (5.5 percent) increased compared to the previous year. However,



the prices in the sub category of Communication remained unchanged during the year.

Increases in prices of

locally produced agricultural and other food commodities, especially of vegetables were significant in the first three months of

the year, due to both crop destructions and transport disruptions that occurred owing to the flood situation which prevailed in major producing areas.

Although this situation was temporary, inflation on a year-on-year basis continued to increase until it peaked in April and then decreased with the improved supply conditions. The increase in prices of imported food commodities such as wheat flour and milk powder in the international market led to the increase in the food sub index and thereby the CCPI. The upward price revisions of diesel, petrol, kerosene, LP gas and bus fares effected during the reference period also contributed both directly and indirectly to inflation.



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2012/01/09

## New method to be adopted for census

by Ranil Wijayapala

A new method will be adopted at the enumeration stage of the 2011 population and housing census to be conducted from February 27 to March 21 to support the need assessment in the development and administrative purposes by collecting data from the residents, Director, Census and Statistics Department H.R. Gunasekara said.

At the enumeration stage,

the Census and Statistics Department will not use the de-facto method of counting people as they are found on an assigned time on a census night. "We are deviating from the earlier method this time and are collecting data from



those living in residences for more than six months continuously", he said.

"We are adopting this method as data users require data on the population who reside in the area as the residents are those that use services such as education, transport, health and security and not those found in the area on a census night", he said. SEP 2012

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At the previous census the data tabulated included people who do not reside in the place where they were enumerated.

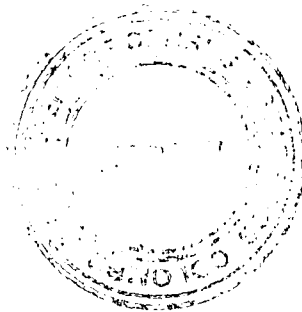
He said the Census and Statistics Department is now preparing for the enumeration stage of the population and housing census by training 80,000 enumerators recruited for the purpose and the 16,000 supervisors mainly Grama Niladharis at village level to facilitate the process.

According to the dates fixed for the enumeration stage of the census, enumerators are scheduled to visit houses from February 27 to March 19 to collect data of the persons and houses of the usual residents.

"The homeless people will be counted on March 19 night by the enumerators to include them also in the census", he said.

The enumerators are scheduled to visit households again on March 20 and 21 at the revision round to revise the data collected based on the number of deaths, births and the change of residence during this period.

"We seek the support of the public since they are the ultimate beneficiaries of this census. They should not be counted in two places. Nobody should be missed out or nobody should be duplicated", he said.



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