



අයිතීන් උදෙසා පාරිභෝගිකයෝ

කලුම් අමරසිංහ, කඳවුම්කරු, 122/9, කිතුලවිල, නොමාගම
0719797244 / 0112753995

2019-06-24

It's time to rally against Power and Energy Ministry and CEB for misleading the cabinet and people of the Country – Association for Consumer Rights

We would like to bring in to light your view that the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) does not function according to the law of this country.

The Minister of Power and Energy, The Secretary of Power and Energy Ministry, the Management of CEB and some of the officials in the Engineering Union of CEB are working as a one team deciding electricity purchasing, emergency power purchasing and deciding of the salaries at their discretion without giving minor concern to the law of the country.

The salary circular introduced in the year 2015 is one of those decisions. Due to the implementation of this particular circular, the salaries of the engineers along were increased from 40 per cent to 120 per cent in the past few years.

A one (1) billion Rupees had been paid for engineers due to this salary increase which introduced favouritism about 1000 engineers of CEB.

This salary increment incurred an additional 6 billion rupees for tariff payers in Sri Lanka for the period of the year 2015 to 2019 which is enough to reduce the electricity bill by 5 per cent.

However, the Appel Court ruled that this circular is null and void in this year April due to its irregularity and illegality.

But the Chairman of the CEB and the management have decided to go against the appeals court decision. The CEB Chairman has informed the CEB General Manager to pay the salaries which were halted by the Appeal Court as the Director Board has given the permission to pay it.

Ravi Karunanayake, the Minister of the Power and Energy Ministry is to propose a cabinet paper to obtain the approval of the cabinet to pay this illegal salary. The cabinet proposal had asked the approval of the cabinet of Ministers to pay the same salary which was halted by the Appeal Court.

The Minister also has stated in his cabinet proposal that the Attorney General has recommended the payment of salaries, misleading the cabinet of ministers.

The Attorney General (AG) does not have the authority to recommend the execution of an order against a court decision. The Attorney General has only recommended that the CEB employees can be paid a salary instead of an allowance until a proper salary scheme is introduced with all the approvals in line with the judgement of the appeal court. But AG has not mentioned which salary to be paid.

For sure it is not the banned salary system. What the AG had meant was to implement the salary scale of 2014 temporary until a new salary system is approved.

However, the minister of power and energy and CEB is now trying to distort the AG's opinion and to re-enforce the same salary system which was banned by the courts.

For more information contact, Convener Kelum Amarasinghe - **0719797244**