



## Centre for Policy Alternatives Statement in Regard to the Appointment of Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe as Prime Minister.

**14th May 2022, Colombo, Sri Lanka:** Notwithstanding the serious criticisms of the Prime Minister pertaining to political credibility, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) hopes that he will be able to stem the country's descent into the direst economic circumstances, the Governor of the Central Bank recently warned of, attract the crucial bridging funds we so badly require and negotiate an agreement with the IMF. A comprehensive network of social protection addressing the needs of the vulnerable communities across Sri Lanka is absolutely essential to this, in the face of the unprecedented economic hardships faced by many Sri Lankans.

At the same time, CPA wishes to reiterate that the demands of the people are paramount: they cannot and should not be ignored. Any government does so at its peril and to the detriment of the country. Therefore, we call upon the new government to take the following measures along with whatever remedial measures need to be taken to restore the economy:

- i) to identify a timeframe for the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa,
- ii) introduce the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution Bill, the Private Member's Bill presented by the Hon R.M. Ranjit Madduma Bandara MP to the Speaker and the Secretary General of Parliament on 21 April and published in the Gazette of 6 May 2022, which will abolish the executive presidency once it passes into law, with immediate effect.,
- iii) set the date for an early general election,
- iv) revoke the declaration of emergency,
- v) ensure accountability for the violence of 9 May,
- vi) initiate measures to curb corruption including legal action and reforms and
- vii) uphold fundamental rights including the right to dissent.