

06.11.21

**The Secretary to the Treasury
Through the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka Ltd
Ministry of Finance**

Dear Sir,

REQUESTING AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY -ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF LITRO GAS LANKA AGAINST THE FORMER CHAIRMAN AND THE REFERENCES TO AN 'IMAGINARY' LPG MAFIA ON A PRESS CONFERENCE-05.11.21

I write with great concern caused to me personally as the former Chairman of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd and, to other stakeholders, the customers and the staff of Litro Gas Lanka and to the people of Sri Lanka by the irresponsible and unsubstantiated comments made by the current Chairman of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd Mr Theshara Jayasinghe during a press conference held at the Litro Gas Lanka Head Office.

As you are aware, you represent the Government interests on the boards of the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd (SLIC) and Litro Gas Lanka, which is fully owned by SLIC.

The baseless allegations made by the current Chairman of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd has caused great pain of mind to me personally while bringing into disrepute the period during which I functioned as the Chairman/CEO of the Company, which was from December 27th 2019 to July 15th 2021.

The outgoing CEO/MD at the time was Muditha Peiris – I took over from him on 25th January 2020.

I would like to formally request you to conduct an independent inquiry into the said allegations to ascertain the truth – taking into consideration the fact that such allegations not only tarnish my image but also that of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd and its brand name and reputation carefully cultivated as the national LPG provider since inception in 2011.

Such atrocious allegations also insult the customers of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd and the people of Sri Lanka.

Accordingly, I would like to place the following facts before you, concerning the contract the allegations refer to.

- The Agreement which I signed on behalf of the Company was done with Board approval and as per the Cabinet Paper No 20/0280/204/019 dated 31st January 2020
(Annexure 01)

- The standard and established Government procurement process to was followed with due diligence done, as clearly specified in the Procurement Process of the Company.
(Annexure 02)
- As per the conditions stipulated in the Agreement, either party could exit with 01 months' notice given, if any of the conditions are not met adequately.
- During my time, I informed the Treasury and took the necessary steps to re-tender for a period of another 02 years as is the norm ie: until February 2022.
- We have followed the stringent requirements stipulated by the Government tender process which normally takes around 06 months to progress.
- It must be reiterated that both parties signatory to the agreement reserve the right to exit the agreement if the required obligations are not fulfilled by either party.
- The clearly set procedure and protocols of the agreement do not allow any manoeuvring or strong arm tactics as alleged by the current Chairman and CEO of Litro Gas Lanka Ltd ; rather, it affirms that such allegations are not only baseless but also malicious and deliberately misleading the consumers, the public and other stakeholders of the industry.
- It must be stressed upon that as per the agreement, the supplier is required to meet all the conditions as deemed fit by Litro Gas Lanka Ltd. If such conditions were not met as alleged, then the Company reserved the right to exit the agreement ; which nullifies the said allegations of a mafia and extortions.
- The Rs 10 billion loss he refers to mentioning an imaginary 'mafia' styled operation seems to exist only in his mind and that of those trying to bring disrepute to the great institution that Litro Gas Lanka is – it even seems to be an effort to cause harm to its good name as a well-managed SOE.

As a State Owned Enterprise accountable to the Government and the general public, Litro Gas Lanka must be able to take into account the interests of the economy, the people and the current industry conditions.

Failure to do so can only reflect the inability of the office of Chairman and CEO Mr Theshara Jayasinghe to give right direction and guidance to the Company to fulfil such obligations required of the national LPG provider.

Given the fact that as clearly indicted above, nothing illegal or unethical has taken place during my period as Chairman/CEO of the Company, I would strongly like to request for an independent inquiry to be held into such allegations and the findings made available within a period of 01 month to clear my good name and that of the Government.

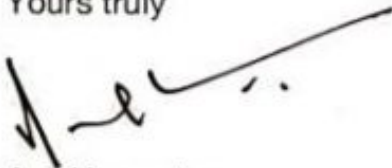
It must be noted that making such baseless allegations brings disrepute to the Government, the Company, its employees and the customers who have placed their trust in the brand name carefully nurtured over the years.

If I may recall, during my time as Chairman/CEO of Litro Gas Lanka, I believe I was able to fulfil the national mandate required of the Company ; we ensured there was no shortage of LPG even during the pandemic, meeting exacting customer needs. We were also able to provide LPG at Rs 1,493.00 for a 12.5 kg cylinder, ensuring an economic benefit to the consumers.

It must also be stated that none of the shortcomings faced by the Company in the current scenario would have taken place, if the Chairman and CEO of Litro Gas Lanka while enjoying the perks of office, had succeeded in giving leadership and guidance to the management and the staff in ensuring the stipulated duties are carried out with efficiency and effectiveness as demanded by the unprecedented commercial environment we are faced currently.

As a member of the public myself and a consumer of LPG, I would like to place the facts before you and humbly request you to set the record straight not only for me personally but also for the interests of the Government, the people and the customers.

I remain
Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anil Koswatte', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anil Koswatte
Director SLIC/ Former Chairman & CEO Litro Gas