

PSC CIRCULAR

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PSC CIRCULAR NO. 35/2009

To: Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments File: 29/132

Subject: THE APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL OFFICERS
IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Date: 1st July 2009

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- 1.0 Your attention is drawn to the issue of appointment of Legal Officers in the Civil Service.
 - 2.0 Please take note that the "power" to appoint Legal Officers in the Government (with the exception of Legal Officers in the DPP's Office) is vested in the Solicitor General. No other Permanent Secretary has been vested with the authority to appoint Legal Officers in the Government.
 - 3.0 The Cabinet in 2007 had directed that all Legal Officers in the respective Government ministries and departments be transferred to the Office of the Attorney-General, under the authority of the Solicitor-General as the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Attorney-General.
 - 4.0 As per this Cabinet directive, all legal officer positions and budgetary allocations for these positions, together with persons holding these positions, were transferred to the Office of the Attorney-General in 2007. Under this Cabinet directive, all legal positions in the Government, together with necessary budgetary allocations, are now based at the Office of the Attorney-General.
 - 5.0 All appointments of legal officers in the Government are done by the Solicitor-General's Office after proper advertisement and completion of a thorough and competitive selection process, including assessment of potential candidates by senior lawyers of his Office Staff Board. Furthermore, after the State Services Decree 2009, all appointments of legal officers also require the agreement of the Attorney-General.
 - 6.0 You are all therefore required to take heed of this policy directive and to ensure that it is adhered to in future.



Parmesh Chand
Permanent Secretary for the Public Service