

Decentralization and Local Governance

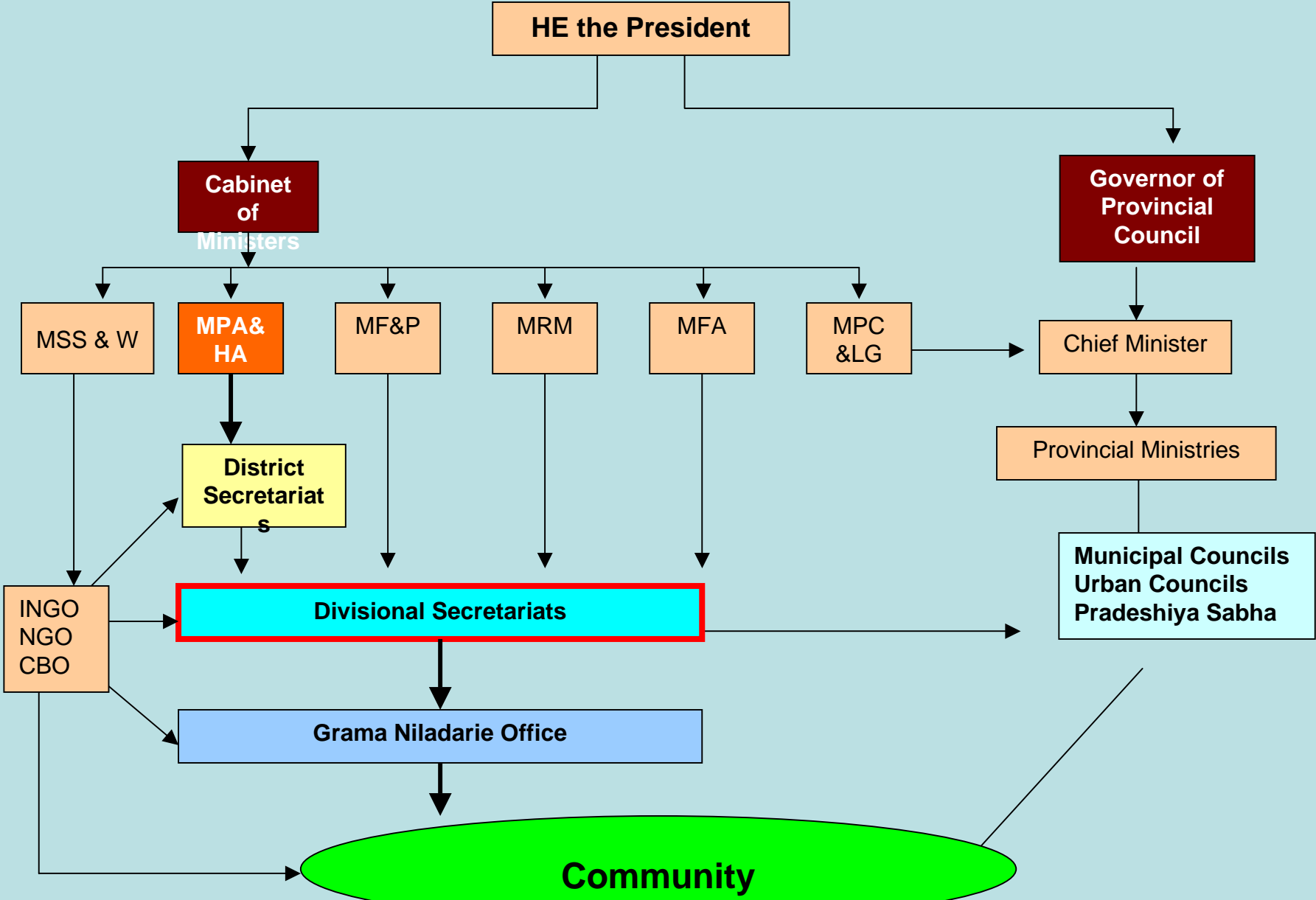
(Country Experience of SRI LANKA)

**Ministry of Public Administration
and Home Affairs**


Bringing Government Closer to People

- Overview of the Government Structure
- Legal Framework
- Local Government
- District and Divisional Secretariats
- Relationship between Local Government and NGOs
- Service Delivery

Decentralization Structure



Legal Framework on Decentralization

- The 13th Amendment to the constitution of Sri Lanka on 14th November 1987 provided power sharing on the basis of devolved subjects such as;
 - List (i) - Provincial Council List 
 - List (ii) - Domain of the Central Government
 - List (iii) - Concurrent authority Provincial
- Provincial Governments will operate according to the Central Government policy based on Provincial Councils Act no 42 of 1987 and Provincial Councils Act no 12 of 1989
- Further devolved powers of District Secretaries to Divisional Secretaries by Act no 58 of 1992

Local Governments

- Provincial Council has further devolved its functions to Local Government bodies such as;
 - Municipal Councils - 17
 - Urban Councils - 38
 - Pradeshiya Sabha (Divisional level) - 257
- Powers have been vested for Local authorities to provide comfort convenience and welfare of the rate payers

District Secretaries

- 25 Districts in the Country are administratively headed by the District Secretaries/Government Agents
- Powers have been vested to coordinate matters in the District pertaining to all line Ministries as its Deputy Head
- Responsible to oversee all the matters on behalf of the Central Government

Divisional Secretaries

- 330 Divisional Secretariats in the Country are administratively headed by the Divisional Secretaries (DS)
- Each District has number of Divisional Secretariats
- Powers of District Secretary's have been vested to Divisional Secretary by Act No.58 of 1992
- 14000 Grama Niladaris those who are in charge for Village administration are managed by the Divisional Secretaries
- While central Government officer, plays dual role – Central and Province

Local Government- NGOs and CBOs

- ◆ Central and Provincial Governments allocate funds for LGs for the purpose of administration & development in addition to their revenue collection
- ◆ NGOs & CBOs assist LGs to minimize the level of poverty by providing know-how and funds etc.

Service Delivery

- Decentralization provides innovative solutions to meeting demands of the Public
- Divisional Secretariat is the central hub at divisional level by linking service chain of Central and Provincial Governments
- Divisional Secretariats have more skilled human resources with compare to LGs.
- Since the inception in 1992, Divisional Secretariats play significant role on service delivery to citizen at grass root level

Conclusion

- The role of decentralization is remarkable
- **BUT public trust is being declined?**

To increase public trust we attend to;

- ✱ Use of ICT for Communication and monitoring purposes
- ✱ Strengthen institutional and human resources capacity building
- ✱ Enhance public-private participatory approach etc.....

Thank you!

Provinces, Districts and DS Divisions

