

19 .11.2025

The Chief Executive Officers  
Degree Awarding Institutes

### **Guidelines on the annual recognition of Degree Programmes**

This circular provides the guidelines applicable to the Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs) regarding the number of new degree programmes that may be recognized per year, ensuring quality assurance, sustainability, and alignment with national higher education reforms.

2.0. For clarity and consistency, the DAIs will be categorized in following manner and the degree programmes will be approved as per the requirements stipulated for each category.

#### **2.1 Category I – DAIs that have successfully completed the periodic institutional review**

- DAIs in this category are eligible for recognition of up to two new degree programmes per year.
- The restriction on the two-degree limit may be relaxed for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields in concurrence with national reforms.

#### **2.2 Category II – DAIs that have completed the periodic institutional review but have not successfully complied for the required standards**

- No new proposals or pending reviews will be recognized for these DAIs until they meet the required quality standards in a subsequent review.

#### **2.3 Category III – DAIs that have not yet undergone a periodic institutional review**

- These DAIs may propose only one new degree programme per year until their first periodic review is completed and passed.

### **3.0 Future Submissions**

This directive may apply to all future submissions, whereby new proposals will not be accepted if they exceed the one-degree limit. However, ongoing review processes that have already commenced may continue until their conclusion.

### **4.0. Implementation and Authority**

The final decision for recognition, amendment, or rejection of any degree programme will remain vested with the Honourable Minister in charge of the subject of Higher Education as per Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 (as amended).

Nalaka Kaluwewa  
Secretary/ Specified Authority