

# e-GP in Sri Lanka

*a candid account*

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# Preamble

- Sri Lanka's 2014 'moment'
- Focus on freedom of expression and dissent
- Concern for excesses addressed via Constitutional amendment
  - Setting up of 7 independent commissions
- Some 'throwing baby with bathwater'
- Not a replacement of one regime with another

# Taking stock of where we are

- Sri Lanka had an initiative in e-Procurement in 2003/4
- A lead agency (NPA) was created in 2005
- Subsequently closed down in 2008
- And with it the e-GP initiative itself stalled
- We are now back to the drawing board

# The bigger picture

- e-Gov initiative very active via e-Sri Lanka programme
- Driven by ICTA as lead agency from 2004 to 2013
- Many other priority areas, some success stories (e.g. Visa, Passport, Revenue License etc.)
- Major achievements in legal framework, network access, CIO training, community engagement

# Approach taken

- Need to start new initiative
- Cognizant of significant achievements in enabling environment
- Rest of presentation: SWOT analysis

# Strengths

- Legal framework up to date
- Overall e-Gov implementation experience
- ICT infrastructure and penetration
- Trained pool of government CIOs
- Increasing ICT literacy among population
- Ministry of Finance initiative (new)

# Weaknesses

- Previous effort stalled
- Ministry silos
- ICTA confined to a line ministry
- No dedicated agency for e-GP
- e-GP not in the ICTA radar
- Lack of updated e-Gov framework

# Opportunities

- Good governance mandate and momentum
- Learn from countries in the region
- Adopt best practices in planning, rollout
- Adapt ICT solution without starting from scratch
- Leapfrog by avoiding pitfalls
- Civil society push

# Threats

- Government/policy change
- Spread of corruption owing to delay in implementing e-GP

# Conclusions – Road Ahead

- Sri Lanka has to reboot its e-GP process: need a champion
- There's much we can learn – adopting best practice, avoiding pitfalls
- Seizing the window of opportunity when the political will is present
- Importance of business model for sustainability
- Need for planning for contract management and monitoring
- Watch this space (5<sup>th</sup> SAR PPC) for e-GP a la Sri Lanka!