



Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 05.12.2023

01. Signing the Colombo Security Conclave Charter, Memorandum of Understanding and Headquarters Agreement

The Colombo Security Conclave, which has been established for the maritime security of the Indian Ocean and to face common security threats and challenges to the member countries, is a convention that operates respecting the core values of the member countries. This Colombo Security Conclave currently operates as a regional organization with India, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka as member states and Bangladesh and Seychelles as observer states. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Defense to sign a charter to further streamline the work of the Colombo Security Conclave, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the member countries concerning the secretariat of the organization proposed to be established in Colombo city and to sign a headquarters agreement between the General of the Secretariat and Sri Lanka regarding the functions of the Secretariat.

02. World Bank-funded Financial Sector Safety Net Strengthening Project

In the Cabinet meeting held on 24.04.2023 the policy approval of the Cabinet has been given for the implementation of the project to strengthen the safety net of the financial sector under World Bank funds. The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan amount of USD 150 million during the loan agreement negotiations held according to this approval. This loan will be given under the components of Capitalization of Sri Lanka Deposit Insurance Scheme, Institutional Capacity Development of the Central Bank and Supervision of the implementation of that project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic stabilization and National Policies to enter in the respective agreements accordingly.

03. Agreement between Sri Lanka and the Maldives on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

On 22.09.2022, the Cabinet has given its approval for entering into an agreement between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives on mutual assistance in criminal matters. After granting this approval, the Maldivian side has proposed several more amendments to the proposed agreement and for that reason, the agreement has not been signed. Then a revised new draft has been prepared with the agreement of both parties and the clearance of the Attorney General has been received for that draft. As such the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to sign this agreement and subsequently to ratify the agreement by the diplomatic missions of the two countries.

04. Agreement between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Latvia on the Surrender of Sentenced Persons

Transfer of Offenders Act No. 5 of 1995 includes relevant provisions so that when a citizen of another country is convicted and sentenced and imprisoned by the courts of Sri Lanka, that person's sentence can be served in the country of which he holds citizenship. Also, the Act also includes provisions for a Sri Lankan citizen who has been sentenced to imprisonment in a specific country to spend the rest of his sentence in a Sri Lankan prison. Accordingly, it has been proposed to sign an agreement between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Latvia regarding the transfer of offenders. The Attorney General's Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed and reached an agreement in this regard and accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to sign this agreement and to ratify the same consequently.

05. Implementation of a capacity building program to improve the knowledge of Transfusion Physicians and the clinical staff

The European Union has agreed to provide a grant of Rs.41.28 million to design and implement an educational program to improve the knowledge and skills of transfusion Physicians and the clinical staff. It has been decided to conduct the proposed program by a consortium consisting of partners from European, Indian and Sri Lankan universities and the Colombo National Blood Transfusion Service and the Asian Blood Transfusion Association. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health to sign a collective agreement for the implementation of the project.

06. Procurement for supplying 1,450,000 syringes of *Enoxaparin Sodium injections* used for treatment to heart patients.

International bids have been called under 02 procurements for supplying 1,450,000 syringes of 0.6 ml of IU 6000 *Enoxaparin Sodium injections* pre-filled used for treatment to heart patients. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolutions furnished by the Minister of Health to award procurements as follows based on the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

- For awarding the procurement of purchasing of 450,000 *Enoxaparin Sodium injections* from M/s Gulf Pharma (Pvt.) Limited.
- For awarding the procurement of purchasing 1,000,000 *Enoxaparin Sodium injections* from M/s Slim Pharmaceuticals (Pvt.) Limited.

07. Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code No. 15 of 1979

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 27.09.2021 to amend the Criminal Procedure Code No. 15 of 1979 to enable furnishing legal provisions so that the criminal court is eligible to decide whether the requirement for suspect / convicted to be appeared before court under certain recognized circumstance can be expurgated even amidst the ongoing trial. Accordingly, some interested parties have submitted further facts before submission of the prepared draft bill to the Parliament. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to the resolution submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a new draft bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Code No. 15 of 1979 by further modifying the bill already drafted considering the above facts as well.

08. Amendments to the Penal Code (19th Authority) – Escalation of fines.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 12.12.2022 to formulate a draft bill to amend the fines defined in the penal code according to the current finance value. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to the resolution submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the draft bill in the government gazette notification and thereby table the same in the Parliament for its concurrence.

09. 12th round of discussions of the proposed India – Sri Lanka economic and technology co-operative agreement (ETCA)

12th round of discussions of the proposed India – Sri Lanka economic and technology co-operative agreement (ETCA) have been conducted from 30.10.2023 to 01.11.2023 in Colombo and at these discussions the active groups of the two parties have agreement upon several relevant sectors. The two parties have agreed to hold 13th round of discussions from 08.01.2024 to 10.01.2024 in India and to wind up the technical level discussions by March 2024. The Cabinet of Ministers considered the information forwarded by the Hon. President on the 12th round of discussions.

10. Implementation of National Evaluation Policy within the State Sector from the year 2024

The Department of Project Management and Supervision of the General Treasury has already inaugurated the initial work required to implement the national evaluation policy within the state sector from the year 2024. It has been recognized that it is appropriate to design an institutional structure to implement the said evaluation policy without establishing a new institution to implement that. Whereas, it has been identified the necessity to establish a permanent national evaluation committee so that independent decisions can be taken at different occasions within the evaluation process thereby annually submitting recommendations for evaluations performed to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament as applicable. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to appoint a National Evaluation Monitoring Committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies and to take necessary actions to submit the Cabinet of Ministers with the information and recommendations on the particularly revealed at the evaluations of the said committee.

In the event of any inconsistency between the English translations of this document, the Sinhala text shall prevail.