

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 04.03.2024

01. Establishment of land management trust for formal allocation of land owned by government and statutory bodies for investment activities

The government owns about 82% of the total land area in the country. A number of government agencies are responsible for protecting and controlling these lands. Various problems have arisen in the release of government land for investment activities due to the fact that these institutions have not adopted a unified approach regarding these lands. Therefore, in order to encourage investment opportunities that can create new industries and services and create new job opportunities, it is essential to establish a mechanism with proper authority from the time of identifying land with suitable potential to the formal release of land to investors following a transparent system. Accordingly, the proposal presented by the Honorable President to establish the Land Management Trust under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the President to make appropriate recommendations regarding the release of land owned by the government and statutory institutions to investors was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

02. Development of telecommunication industry by improving Information and Communication Technology education

In line with Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Strategy, the need to develop the telecommunications industry through improving ICT education has been identified to drive economic growth and innovation. This will enable the development of skilled professionals for the sustainable development of the telecommunication industry. The Telecommunication Regulatory Commission is empowered to use or provide 50% of the telecommunication development fee charged to the licensees, for the benefit of the telecommunication industry. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers Approved the joint Proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Technology and the Minister of Education to implement the "Suhuru School Project" so that 1000 schools that teach information and communication as a subject for the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination can be provided with the necessary equipment through the provisions of the Telecommunication Development Fee Fund and to commence a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to 5000 low-income families studying information and communication subjects for the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination with the operational support of the President's Fund.

03. Approval for the Policy Framework for appointing of Common Customs Bonded Warehouses

A Customs Bonded Warehouse is a storage facility provided to ensure the safety and quality of the goods prior to the payment of taxes applicable to imported goods and the transportation of those goods. Under the provisions of section 69 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235), the Minister in charge of Finance may, on the recommendation of the Director General of Customs, appoint customs bonded warehouses. In view of the advancement of warehousing technologies and the need to create competitive advantage in the supply chain process, it has been recognized that the mandatory minimum space in a common customs bonded warehouse should be revised. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to empower the "Revised and Updated Policy Framework for appointing of Common Bonded Warehouses laid down under section 69 of the Customs Ordinance, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

04. Inaugural International Conference Against Ransomware

Sri Lanka has also received an invitation to join the International Inaugural Action Against Ransomware, which the United States has started as a common platform in 2021 with a group of other countries for international coordination to eliminate Ransomware. So far, 48 countries around the world and the European Union as well as the International Police have joined the initiative. Since Sri Lanka has recently faced various problems due to Ransomware, it has been recognized that it can benefit from joining the international Anti - Ransomware initiative. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the joint proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Technology and Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to join the International Initiative Against Ransomware and taking further action.

05. Commencement of two floating solar power generation pilot projects of 1 MW capacity each on the surface of Chandrika wewa Reservoir and on the surface of Kiriibban wewa Reservoir

According to the minutes signed between the Korean government's Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology and the Ministry of Power and Energy in Sri Lanka, two (02) floating solar power generation pilot projects with a capacity of 1 MW each have been decided to be implemented on the surface of Chandrika wewa Reservoir and on the surface of Kiriibban wewa Reservoir. In relation to the two projects, a request has been made to provide parts of 0.99 hectares each on the water surface of the Chandrika wewa Reservoir located in the Embilipitiya Divisional Secretariat Area and the water surface of the Kiriibban wewa Reservoir located in Sewanagala Divisional Secretariat Area and plots of 0.1 hectares each from the reservoir reserves for activities such as construction of power plants and transmission stations, training of maintenance workers and maintenance of solar panels. Implementation of the proposed projects will add about 3 Gigawatt hours of annual electricity generation to the national grid. Accordingly, the Cabinet of

Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Irrigation to provide the above-mentioned reservoir surface parts and land plots to the Sri Lanka Solar Energy Authority on an annual lease basis for running the two solar pilot projects.

06. Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) in Sri Lanka and Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Nepal

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed for a period of four years from 01.09.2018 with the aim of improving cooperation and training exchange between the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute of Sri Lanka and the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the effective period of that MoU has ended in the year 2022. As such the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to amend the relevant provisions and sign a new Memorandum of Understanding, so that the validity period of the MoU can be extended once every five years upon the agreement of the two parties.

07. Justice of the Peace (Appointment, Suspension, Revocation and Code of Conduct) Regulations No 03 of 2023

Section 45 (6) of the Judiciary Organization Act No. 2 of 1978 empowers the Minister of Justice to make orders for the suspension, cancellation and termination of the office of Justice of the Peace. In accordance with the delegated powers, the Minister of Justice has published the Justice of the Peace (Appointment, Suspension, Revocation and Code of Conduct) Regulations No 03 of 2023 and the subsequent amendments to the said orders through extraordinary gazette notices dated 2023.11.27 and 2024.02.13 respectively. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to table these regulations in parliament for approval.

08. Implementation of the Agricultural Sector Modernization Program

The focus has been on modernizing Sri Lanka's agricultural sector based on the examples of other countries in the world that have modernized and transformed their agricultural sector applying modern technology and new knowledge. Accordingly, it is planned to use the amount of 2.5 billion rupees allocated for the strengthening of agriculture and fisheries modernization boards in the budget for the year 2024 to establish agriculture modernization centers and implement the agriculture modernization program throughout the island following short-term, medium-term and long-term plans. In the first phase of this program, it is expected to implement pilot projects in twenty-six divisional secretariats selected in the twenty-five districts and in the second phase to implement agricultural modernization projects in 75 divisional secretariats in the island covering three divisional secretariats selected from each district. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal resented by the Hon. President to implement the Agricultural Modernization

Program by allocating 650 million rupees, 25 million rupees each for an agricultural modernization center in each of the Divisional Secretariats selected for the implementation of the first phase of the pilot project and by allocating 175 million rupees with 35 million rupees each to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Export Agriculture, Department of Animal Production and Health, Department of Cinnamon Development and Sri Lanka National Aquaculture Development Authority.

09. Setting up a museum in the historical Seethawaka Area

The formation of the Kingdom of Seetawaka in the year 1521 is a unique milestone in the history of the kingdoms of Sri Lanka, but no place has been established to display the regional identity of that kingdom. Therefore, it is planned to set up a museum for the formal public display of Sinhalese guns, Sinhalese swords and other military equipment manufactured during the Seetawaka Kingdom era, Antiquities such as weighing and digging tools, Stone tools belonging to the prehistoric age identified through the excavations carried out in the area belonging to the kingdom of Seetawaka and among those in the possession of the public and animal and plant remains as well as information about tools and food used by early humans. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the combined proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, and Minister of Transport and Highways to set up the said museum in the Currently underutilized Sri Lanka Railways Departmental Quarters adjacent to Head Post Office Seethawaka.

10. Submission of the Import and Export (Control) Regulations No. 2 of 2024 issued under the Import and Export (Control) Act No. 1 of 1969 for Parliament's approval

Cabinet approval has been given on 08.08.2022 for the implementation of a scheme for granting licenses to Sri Lankans working abroad to import fully electric vehicles on the basis of formal bank transfer of foreign remittances at the licensed bank in Sri Lanka. It has been decided in the Cabinet meeting held on 08.01.2024 to extend the validity period of the scheme till 30.6.2024. 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 of to submit the Import and Export Control Regulations No. 2 of 2024 issued under the Import and Export Control Act No. 1 of 1969 to parliament for approval.

11. Developing Gall harbour as a harbour for commercial and recreation activities.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 14.08.2023 to invite aspirations to select an appropriate investor under the public private partnership for the development of infrastructure facilities related to the Galle Harbour Development Project and

development of infrastructure facilities related to recreation activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to invite aspirations / proposals to select an investor for the proposed project of developing the Galle harbor on the basis of construction, monitoring and handing over after investing in construction development work of the water break, deep water passenger shaft, retention wall, oceanic wall, excavation of channels, and oceanic structures related to land filling as well as post mixed - development activities of the filled lands

12. Implementation of ‘School Food Programme’ for student from grades 1 – 5 in government schools.

The ‘School Food Programme’ is implemented in 7,902 schools belong to 100 education zones in the island covering 1.08 million total of the school student community and an amount of Rs. 85/- is spent per day for a meal for one student. The committee of officers to study into this matter has reported that an approximate amount of Rs. 110/- is atleast spent for a meal as a result of the price fluctuation. Whereas, Save the Children organization has agreed to provide 03 items of food to 2 hundred thousand students in 917 selected schools for the year 2024 under the ‘School Food Programme’. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Education to escalate the amount spent for a meal for a student up to Rs. 110/- and to implement the ‘School Food Programme’ for 170 days within the year 2024 for the students in the primary division.

13. Developing the buildings within which the main railway stations are situated in the proximity of Colombo city.

It has been recognized at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 06.11.2023 that there is a probability of developing the buildings within which the railway stations of Wellawatte, Bambalapitiya, Kollpitiya and Slave Island are situated in the proximity of Colombo city as commercial centres. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the joint proposal submitted by the Ministers of Transport and Highways and Urban Development and Housing to apply the construct, monitor and hand over procedure over Dehiwala and Mt. Lavinia railway stations apart from those with the public private partnership, and to invite the aspirations from the interested investors.

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