

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 11.03.2024

01. Establishment of a Faculty of Medicine at National School of Business Management

It has been proposed to establish a medical college under the direct supervision and regulation of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Sri Lanka Medical Council by National School of Business Management, a fully self-financed institution owned by the government and to award MBBS degrees through it. It is expected to enroll 500 local and foreign students annually for the relevant degree course. The institution has sought approval to reserve Homagama Base Hospital as a suitable government hospital for clinical training of the degree of this Faculty of Medicine. Since the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has already been given for the use of Homagama Base Hospital for clinical training of NSBM medical students, it has been proposed to prepare a mechanism to reserve Homagama Base Hospital on the basis of resource sharing for the clinical training of medical faculty students as well as professor unit facilities. The National School of Business Management has agreed to provide necessary funds for the development of Homagama Base Hospital in accordance with the standards of medical education published by the Sri Lanka Medical Council. As such the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to take over the Homagama Basic Hospital under the purview of the Ministry of Health and upgrade it as a teaching hospital.

02. Empowerment program for families receiving benefits under Aswasuma Social Welfare Benefit Scheme

Approval has been given in the Cabinet meeting held on 17.04.2023 to prepare and implement a scheme for the payment of welfare benefits in accordance with the provisions of the Welfare Benefits Act No. 24 of 2002. Accordingly, it has been planned to implement a program with the aim of empowering the families benefiting under the Aswasuma Social Welfare Scheme economically, socially and mentally within three years. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Child and Women Affairs and Social Empowerment to launch a pilot program using Asian Development Bank and World Bank financing and local funds targeting 16,000 beneficiary families in the selected divisional secretariats covering all twenty-five districts as the initial phase of the program, and to implement the relevant program to empower the identified beneficiary families in all the divisional secretariats of the island based on the results of the pilot project.

03. Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka Standards Institution and the Standardization Administration of China

It has been proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sri Lanka Standards Institute and China's Standardization Administration to reduce technical barriers in non-tariff trade between Sri Lanka and China. The clearance of the Attorney General and the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs have been received for the relevant draft MoU. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Technology to sign the said MoU accordingly.

04. Disposal of an allotment of Land belonging to the Urban Development Authority on lease basis for a health and related activities development project

Investment proposals have been invited on a competitive basis to dispose of a plot of land belonging to the Urban Development Authority, located at Kirimandala Mawatha in Narahenpita, for a health and related activities development project for a period of fifty years on lease basis. Based on the recommendations of Cabinet Appointed Standing Negotiation Committee evaluating the respective proposals, Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to dispose 0.1929 hectares of land to M/s N W Realty (Pvt) Ltd incorporated by combining Ninewells Hospital Private Limited and Access International Pvt.Ltd. on lease basis for a period of fifty years

05. Setting up Ground Mounted/Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants on Own Build and Operate basis

International competitive bids have been invited for solar Photovoltaic power plants for Matara (10 MW) and Vavunathivu (8 MW) grid substations. Upon the recommendation made by Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee based on the project proposals received, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to award the contract for the commissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic power plant at Matara Grid Substation to Mahawa Solar (Pvt) Ltd and Heyleys Power Ltd. and the Contract for the installation at Vavunathivu Substation to Capital City Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd, on Build, Own and Operate basis.

06. Commissioning of the Oddamawadi, Batticaloa 100 MW Solar Power Plant on Own Build and Operate basis

In the Cabinet meeting held on 30.08.2021, approval has been given to call for expressions of interest for the development of renewable energy with a capacity of 50 MW or more from renewable energy technologies. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy based on the recommendation of Cabinet Appointed standing Negotiation Committee and taking the Expressions of Interest received into account, to award to the Solar Forge Batticaloa the project of commissioning a 100 MW solar power project in Oddamawadi, Batticaloa on Build, Own and Operate basis for twenty years operating period.

07. Promulgation of Standardization and Quality Control Regulations under the Import and Export Control Act No. 1 of 1969

The Import and Export Control (Standardization and Quality Control) Regulations 2017 have been enacted under the provisions of Import and Export (Control) Act No 1 of 1969 to establish standards and quality in import of 122 categories of goods classified under 217 HS codes, with the aim of protecting the national economy, public health and the environment. It has been recognized that the standards and quality parameters in Standardization Regulations of 2017 should have to be revised in order to ensure fair opportunities for local production and institutional production as well as for adjusting facilities for accelerated, secure and productive trade transportation. Under such circumstances, the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, having discussed with state institutions, business associations and chambers of commerce along with key stakeholders, has updated the existing standards and quality parameters through revisions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Hon. President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National policies to impose import and export control (Standardization and Quality Control) regulations 2024 under the Import and Export Control Act No. 1 of 1969 by repealing the Import and Export Control (Standardization and Quality Control) Regulations 2017 which is at present without prejudice.

08. Granting Japanese Yen 1,600 million as grants under the Japanese Economic and Social Development Programme.

The Japanese Government has expanded its corporation to grant immediate humanitarian grants for the communities devastated in the present economic crisis prevailing within Sri Lanka and by empowering the government sector for upgrading the economic situation of the country. Accordingly, the Government of Japan has agreed to grant Japanese Yen One Thousand Six Hundred million (approximately Rupees 3.3 billion) to implement the following projects under Japanese Economic and Social Development Programme.

- i. Response and management enhancement project for oil spills of Sri Lanka Coastal Defense Force.
- ii. The project to supply assisting equipment for maternal and infant treatments in main hospitals of the Northern province and the project to distribute assisting equipment for garment courses in vocational training centres of the Northern province.
- iii. Project to award assisting equipment for the security of fishermen in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to sign the exchange papers and other relevant documents with the Government of Japan in order to receive donation grants under the Japanese Economic and Social Development Programme for the implementation of the aforementioned projects.

09. Draft bill on Gender Socialization Equality

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 05.09.2022 for the preparation of the draft bill on Gender Socialization Equality. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for the draft bill on Gender Socialization Equality that has been prepared and the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his office as the Minister of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment to publish the draft bill in the government gazette notification and subsequently to table the same for the concurrence of the Parliament.

10. The series of Glocal Fair District Mobile Services Programme – 2024 – “Jayagamu Sri Lanka” (Let’s Win Sri Lanka)

Arrangements have been made to conduct a series of Glocal Fair District Mobile Services programmes throughout the 25 districts so that the public in those areas can obtain all services rendered by Sri Lanka Foreign Services Employment Bureau, Human Power and Employment Department, Labour Department, Srama Vaasana Fund and other establishments coming under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment as a broad programme planned with the objective of recreating the countries labour market to cater the global requirements. It is expected to introduce facilities and opportunities that can enhance educational and vocational skills of migrant workers and their children who are to join the labour market in the future as well as to further enhance the living standards of the migrant workers and provide opportunities for solving their issues. Accordingly, as per the proposal furnished by the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employments, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to grant concurrence to the measures taken in reference to conducting the series of Glocal Fair District Mobile Services Programmes in all the districts by the institutions under that Ministry

11. Draft bill of Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) (Amended) Act No.4 of 1990

A decision was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 26.02.2024 to suspend the actions taken by banks to auction any property that had been kept pawn as security for loans that had been restrained by the debtors without payments up to 15.12.2024 and to revise the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990 in order to provide for the above action. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the draft bill of Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) (Amended) Act and the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution forwarded by the Hon. President in his Capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to publish the said draft bill in the government gazette notification and subsequently forward it to the Parliament for their approval.

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the Sinhala text shall prevail.**