

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 01.04.2024

01. Transferring the Ehalepola Walawwa to the Temple of the Tooth Relic

In accordance with a decision taken in the Cabinet meeting held on 19.02.2024, Secretary to the President has been informed to discuss with all the relevant parties and submit a report with recommendations to the Cabinet regarding the handing over of Ehalepola Walawwa to the Temple of the Tooth Relic. The report recommended that this building should be transferred to the Temple of the Tooth Relic since a project has been prepared by the Temple of the Tooth Relic, aiming to present the information about the history in a more attractive way to the present society by establishing a museum in this building to represent the great historical and the environmental background of the Kingdom of Kandy that existed hundreds of years ago and to create local and foreign tourist attraction. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to hand the Ehalepola Walawwa and the grounds over to the Temple of the Tooth Relic through a title deed of sacred premises

02. Memorandum of Understanding between Ocean University of Sri Lanka and Notre Dame university in the United States of America.

It has been proposed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Ocean University of Sri Lanka and Notre Dame university in the United States of America valid for a period of 5 years from 2024-2028 for implementation of a research project on Ocean and Atmospheric Science in the Bay of Bengal. The project is expected to facilitate the development of academic, research, undergraduate and postgraduate students' skills in other national universities and higher education institutions including the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. The total cost of the project is USD 62000 out of which USD 60000 has been agreed to be given as a grant by the Notre Dame University and Washington University in the United States of America. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Ocean University of Sri Lanka and Notre Dame university in the United States of America for the implementation of this project.

03. State Vesak Festival - Year 2568 of the Buddhist Era

The State Vesak festival for Sri Buddha year 2568 (2024) is scheduled to be held from 21.05.2024 to 27.05.2024, naming it as Vesak week and focusing on Matale district. The theme of this year's State Vesak festival is "Let's not look at what others have done and look at what we have done". The opening ceremony of the festival is scheduled to be held at the premises of Dharmaraja Pirivena in Matale and the closing ceremony at Millawana Sri Sunandarama Temple premises in Pallepola Divisional Secretariat. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to implement the scheduled series of programs and to stop the slaughter of animals, and to close down meat shops, and places where drugs are sold including liquor stores on May 22, 23 and 24, 2024.

04. Setting up a laboratory for energy efficiency testing of air conditioners in Sri Lanka

The South Korean government has agreed to provide support under the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Project to establish a laboratory in Sri Lanka for testing the energy efficiency of air conditioners. The project is financed through the Korea Energy Agency and the installation of the laboratory and necessary training of human resources in this project is scheduled to be completed during the year 2024. The agreement of the Department of Foreign Resources, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney General's Department has been received for the memorandum and referrals to be signed by the Government of South Korea and the Government of Sri Lanka expressing their agreement for the implementation of the proposed project. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approve the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to sign the memorandum of understanding and referrals between the two countries so that the proposed project can be implemented.

05. Permits for Black Gram importation

Sri Lanka's annual Black Gram requirement is Around 20000 MT. Due to the fact that the harvest reaches the market only during a certain period, there is a shortage of Black Gram in the market during the festive season of April and December every year. Therefore, measures should be taken to prevent the shortage of Black Gram in the market during the upcoming festival season and to control the increase in the price of Black Gram. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries to lift the temporary ban on the importation of Black Gram and to import 2000 metric tons of Black Gram only through the State Trading (General) Corporation, the National Food Promotion Board and the Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka subject to the Special Commodity Tax imposed by the Special Commodities Act No. 48 of 2007.

06. Installation of 9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Pallekele with capacities ranging from 1-5Mw

The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been given on 22.05.2023 to call for proposals to establish 7 Mw solar Photovoltaic Power Plants. The Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee that evaluated the proposals submitted for that purpose identified 4 successful project proponents. Also, the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee has evaluated the proposal of another investor based on the recommendations of the Procurement Appellate Board and has also recommended the same investor as a suitable investor for the implementation of a project to construct a 5 Mw solar photovoltaic power plant. Accordingly, the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to award contracts for the construction and operation of solar photovoltaic power plants with a total capacity of 9 Mw was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

07. Submission of gazette notifications to Parliament for approval

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to submit to Parliament for approval the terms/orders/regulations published under the following Acts and the relevant Gazette Notifications.

- Order issued under Excise (Special Provisions) Act, No.13 of 1989 published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2364/36 dated 31.12.2023
- Order issued under Ports and Airports Development Levy Act, No. 18 of 2011 published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2364/37 dated 31.12.2023

- Orders issued under the Finance Act No. 25 of 2003, published by Extraordinary Gazettes No. 2369/27 and No. 2374/19 dated 01.02.2024 and 06.03.2024 respectively.
- Notification issued under Finance Act No. 35 of 2018 (Luxury Tax on Motor Vehicles) published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2368/24 dated 24.01.2024
- Regulations issued under Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 19 of 2021 published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2366/34 dated 12.01.2024
- Excise Notification No. 03/2023 issued under Excise Ordinance published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2361/44 dated 08.12.2023
- Excise Notification No. 04/2023 issued under Excise Ordinance published by Extraordinary Gazette No. 2364/35 dated 31.12.2023
- Terms issued under the Casino Business (Regulation) Act No. 17 of 2010, published by Extraordinary Gazettes No. 2366/33 and No. 2369/42 dated 12.01.2024 and 02.02.2024 respectively.

08. Submission of the orders made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under section 34(1) of the Convention Against Doping in Sport Act, No. 33 of 2013, to Parliament

According to the provisions of the Convention against Doping in Sport Act, No. 33 of 2013, the list of prohibited substances should be published in the Gazette annually. Since it has been reported that doping is given to athletes as well as animals used in sports, a list of doping substances has also been published for horse sports and horse racing from this year. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs to submit to Parliament for approval the Anti-Doping (Prohibited List) Regulations No.09 of 2023 published under the provisions of Convention Against Doping In Sport Act No. 33 of 2013, in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No.2373/14 dated 27.02.2024.

09. Submission of the rules published in the gazette notification to the approval of the Parliament.

It is necessary to obtain the concurrence of the Parliament for the rules published in the gazette notification within the prescribed time frame mentioned in the relevant act for empowering the amendments to special commodities tax imposed when importing certain selected good categories under the Special Commodity Act No. 48 of 2007. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to forward the rules published in the extraordinary gazette notifications mentioned below under the Special Commodity Act No. 48 of 2007 for the concurrence of the Parliament.

- Extraordinary gazette notification No. 2360/52 dated 30.11.2023
- Extraordinary gazette notification No. 2365/04 dated 02.01.2024
- Extraordinary gazette notification No. 2365/84 dated 07.01.2024
- Extraordinary gazette notification No. 2372/06 dated 19.02.2024
- Extraordinary gazette notification No. 2373/42 dated 01.03.2024

10. Awarding the contract of obtaining four (04) wide – body aircrafts under operational lease for Sri Lankan Aviation Co. Ltd.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 18.03.2024 to award the contract of obtaining two (02) aircrafts out of the requirement of five (05) aircrafts with wide – body aircrafts for Sri Lankan Aviation Company Limited under operational lease scheme. Based on the recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) and the standing procurement

committee, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation Services to award the contract of obtaining four (04) wide – body aircrafts on monitoring lease facility as mentioned below along with an additional aircraft.

- Contracts relevant to obtaining 02 aircrafts from ORIX Aviation for a monthly lease of USD \$ 360,000 for a period of 06 years.
- Contracts relevant to obtaining 02 aircrafts from Aergo Capital Limited for a monthly lease of USD \$ 365,000 for a period of 08 years.

11. Identified work in the project that include Main Terminal Building (MTB), Passenger Bridge No. 02 and the Passenger Bridge No. 03 under step 2 of Phase II of the Bandaranayake International Airport (BIA) Development Project (BIADP).

Four (04) bids have been received for the bidding invitation under the National Competitive Bidding Methodology for the above construction from contractors registered under the Construction Industries Development Authority (CIDA) going along with the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 30.10.2023. based on the recommendations of the technical evaluation committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation Services to award the contract for the relevant activities to Access Engineering PLC which submitted the bid substantial responses.

12. Establishing a production facility for radioactive based cyclotron pharmaceuticals on the basis of Building, Ownership and Operating (BOO)

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held o 29.03.2021 to implement a cyclotron based radioactive pharmaceuticals in Sri Lanka with the loan and grants from local banks. Accordingly, on the basis of Building, Ownership and Operating (BOO), EOI has been called and five (05) resolutions in this regard have been received. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Electricity and Power to award the related contract to M/s Access International (Pvt.) Ltd that has furnished the resolution with all required technical requirements based on the recommendations of the project committee and the Cabinet appointed negotiation committee.

13. Programme to provide sanitary pads for female school students.

The total student population in Sri Lanka amounts to 04 million and out of this 1.2 million are female students who have attained youth and the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Education to implement a programme to provide sanitary pads free of charge annually from April 2024 to 800,000 female students studying in most remote schools, remote schools, isolated schools, estate schools and in urban schools where poor female students are in.

14. Awarding land rights to estate community

In order to secure free-hold land rights to estate community, the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies submitted a proposal under the caption “Awarding land rights to the estate community” by the budget proposals of 2024. In order to realize this objective, a programme has been planned to be implemented by the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Facilities Development along with the New Village Development Authority for the estate zone with the assistance of non - Cabinet Ministry of State Plantation Entrepreneurship

Rehabilitation. Under the programme, 4151 families living in the estates belong to regional estate companies and state owned estate companies have been identified and the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the joint resolution furnished by the Hon. President and the Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Facilities Development to award free – hold grants with immediate effect for the same lands those families are resided at present.

15. Supplying essential transportation facilities for an accelerated development in the tourism industry.

Although it is considered a custom within the tourist industry that vehicles engaged in tourism industry for transportation of tourists would not be used for more than 06 years, it is apparent that the condition of the vehicles used in the tourism industry for transportation is not satisfactory and sufficient, and the fame earned by Sri Lanka as a prominent tourist destination is tarnished due to usage of age old vehicles as a result of limitation of vehicles and essential spare parts. Therefore, the requirement of importing vehicles essential for enhancing the industry has been recognized considering the contribution to the tourist industry within the economic revival process of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Tourism and Lands to import 750 vans with a seating capacity of 6 – 15 (electric and hybrid) and 250 buses with seating capacity from 16 – 30 which are small buses and larger buses with seating capacity of 30 – 45 for transportation of tourists without any special tax relief.

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