

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 13.05.2024

1. Institutionalization of "Result-Based Management" in the public sector

The Department of Project Management and Supervision combined with line ministries and has prepared the Ministerial Result Frameworks in relation to 10 Ministries with highest budget allocations and institutions under those ministries. That Ministerial Results Frameworks will ensure timely achievement of development goals and achievement of expected benefits within the scopes of the respective institutions in line with the hierarchical responsibilities of each ministry. Also, it is expected that this will result in a results-oriented institutional structure that can measure the effectiveness of the investments made to efficiently fulfill the needs of the people. 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 transfer the responsibility of achieving the goals contained in the Ministerial Result Frameworks prepared accordingly to the secretaries of the relevant line ministries, and to assign the monitoring of the performance of those ministries to the National Operations Office.

2. Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme for National Savings Bank employees

Sri Lanka Savings Bank became a wholly owned subsidiary of National Savings Bank in the year 2019. Currently, the National Savings Bank has decided to take over the assets and liabilities of the Sri Lanka Savings Bank and absorb its employees. Accordingly, the process of placement of employees of the Sri Lanka Savings Bank is currently underway. As an alternative, it has been decided to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme and it has also been decided to make a payment taking into account the market factors for the employees who retire voluntarily. As such, 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 implement the said voluntary retirement scheme as decided.

3. Providing priority to students of GCE (A/L) vocational stream in imparting NVQ 4 vocational training

Students are now provided with the opportunity to study GCE (A/L) professional stream irrespective of pass/fail in G.C.E. (O/L) Examination. At present, this subject stream is being implemented in 604 schools covering every educational division. General subjects that develop soft skills should be studied in 12th grade under that stream. In Grade 13, students are given the opportunity to study a 6-month National Vocational Qualification Level 4 course and 6 months of on-the-job training. 17 Vocational training institutes operating under 7 ministries have entered into MoUs with the Ministry of Education to conduct NVQ Level 4 courses for those students. Currently 50000 students are registered to study the vocational stream. Therefore, all vocational training institutes operating on sponsorship for providing vocational training have recognized the need to give priority to those students. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to make it mandatory for vocational training institutions operating under all ministries to provide vocational training to students studying Advanced Level Vocational Stream and to give priority to vocational stream students while admitting students to the courses of those institutions and provide necessary facilities for training.

4. Starting General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) classes immediately after completion of General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) examination

It takes at least three months for the Department of Examination to release the results after the completion of the General Certificate of Education (O/L) examination. During this period, the students' deviation from school education is the reason for the decrease in the tendency of them to go to study G.C.E. (A/L) education and it also creates various social issues. Moreover, it also creates various social problems. Taking those facts into account, it has been recognized that it is appropriate to start Advanced Level education in schools with the end of the general level examination in the year 2024, making it possible to manage students' time effectively and provide enough time for teachers to cover the Advanced Level syllabus. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to start the Advanced Level classes immediately after the end of the examination for the students appearing for the G.C.E. (O/L) examination in May 2024 in relation to the year 2023.

5. Implementation of Power Wheeling Facility for electricity consumers

Power Wheeling Facility is an approach that allows for collective use of the power grid, consisting of power transmission and distribution systems to deliver power to a location where power is needed. Power Wheeling Facility enables the customer to utilize an existing electricity supply from another location using the existing grid, subject to payment of a fee, reducing costs effectively. As there is currently no legal provision to implement that system in Sri Lanka, a committee has been appointed to conduct a detailed study regarding providing that facility. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy based on the recommendations of the committee to implement this facility only for new renewable energy projects

6. Appointment of 1000 officers of Sri Lanka Education Administration Service, Sri Lanka Teacher Educators Service and Sri Lanka Principal Service as Commissioned Officers in the National Cadet Corps

The National Cadet Corps is established under the Ministry of Defense as an auxiliary military body under Section V of the Mobilization and Supplementary Forces Act (No. 40 of 1985). Officials of the Ministry of Education and school students are recruited as officers and cadets of the force respectively. In order to further promote cadet activities in the field of education, it is intended to conduct a basic training course to recruit officers belonging to the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service, Sri Lanka Teacher Educators Service and Sri Lanka Principal Service to the National Cadet Corps as Commissioned Officers. It is scheduled to recruit 1000 officers belonging to grades I,II and II of the said services and appoint them as Commissioned Officers after a basic training course. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the joint proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Education to and National Policies to select 1000 officers belonging to the Sri Lanka Education Administration Service, Sri Lanka Teacher Educators Service and Sri Lanka Principal Service in a systematic way and train them under 3 categories and appoint them as Commissioned Officers.

7. Technology promotion draft bill

Approval of the Cabinet of ministers was granted at their meeting held on 18.12.2023 to prepare a concept paper for amending the Information and Communication Technology Act No. 27 of 2003 as well as to perform required institutional reforms for digital transformation. Accordingly,

a concept paper has been prepared for introducing new laws for digital improvement / transformation and it has proposed to established a technology innovation council as well as a digital transformation agency. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Hon. President to introduce the Technology Promotion Act by cancelling the Information and Communication Technology Act No. 27 of 2003 and direct the Legal Draftsmen to prepare a draft bill based on the concept paper already prepared.

8. Acceleration of rural development programmes.

An amount of rupees 212.59 billion has been released under 50 proposals from the budget 2024 to several Ministries for sectors recognized that should be developed immediately. The Presidential Secretariat implement projects for 13 of those proposals. Since some of the development programmes had to be suspended due to economic issues existed during the past few years and some development programmes inaugurated with foreign exchange had to be suspended until the loan restructuring programme is ended, the rural community is deprived of the benefits of development programmes that had been planned at rural level. Especially, various parties request acceleration the renovation of rural road, bridges, small reservoirs, cannels, and completion of development projects such as rural entrepreneurship development programmes as well as rural schools, hospitals, low income housing units and rural water supply etc. As a remedy to that, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to submit a proposal to the Parliament to utilize the expected savings funds from the programmes to which allocations are made by the Presidential Secretariat for carrying out essential development activities performed at rural level and completion of rural development programmes halted.

9. The project to distribute government lands to the residences of the war heroes.

Circular instructions have been issued by the Land Commissioner General from time to time on the method to follow when distributing lands for residing for the war heroes in the three armed forces, Sri Lanka Police and Civil Defense Department and have sacrificed their lives at the active service, disappeared and disabled, retired and also engaged in active service at the time being. Within the methodology approved at present, it is apparent that the relief is not sufficient to the war heroes and the actual economic value of those lands are not envisaged due to limiting factors existing in the legal documents with conditions of ownership for the lands enjoyed. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President for taking necessary actions to revise the existing methodology by including solutions for the issues erupted due to the methodology the lands are granted to war heroes at present.

10. Economic Transformation Draft Bill

Policy approval has been granted for the initial draft of the Economic Transformation bill at the gathering of the Cabinet of Ministers on 25.03.2024 and the Legal Draftsmen has been directed to present the formal draft bill as soon as possible including the revisions suggested by the Attorney General as well. Accordingly, the clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the so prepared draft bill. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Hon. President to publish the said notification in the government gazette notification and subsequently forward the said draft bill to the Parliament for its concurrence.

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