

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 24.06.2024

01. Implementation of Mangrove Conservation Projects with financial grants from the Commonwealth Blue Charter Project Incubator

The Commonwealth Blue Charter Project Incubator has invited project proposals from Commonwealth countries for mangrove conservation grants in 2023. The Commonwealth Blue Charter Project Incubator has selected two project proposals submitted by Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the institute has decided to give grants for the project to calculate the basic carbon sample of mangroves in Sri Lanka and the project to study on early migrants in mangrove restoration and map the mangrove and seagrass intertidal zone with the help of satellite and drone technology. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation to implement the said projects by the Department of Wild life Conservation and the Department Conservation under the supervision of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation and, to enter into the relevant agreements.

02. Entering into an agreement on educational cooperation between Sri Lanka and Vietnam for the period 2024 – 2026

The need to further develop cooperation in the field of higher education between Sri Lanka and Vietnam has been identified. For that, the two parties have agreed to implement the agreement reached during the period of 2017-2020 with amendments for the period of 2024-2026. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to enter into an agreement between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to be valid for the period of 2024-2026 with the objectives of exchanging information and experience related to development and innovation in the field of higher education and promoting bilateral cooperation programs between research institutions and, exchange of scholarships for undergraduate or postgraduate studies in fields agreed by both parties and exchange of students/scholars between universities/research centers of the two countries. etc.

03. Allocation of a block of land in Pitipana, Homagama to the Ceylon Electricity Board.

As the need for electricity for urban development projects related to science and technology cities has increased, the Ceylon Electricity Board has requested the Urban Development Authority to allocate a portion of land from the Mahenawatta land located in Pitipana, Homagama for the construction of a grid substation in that area. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to allocate the relevant block of land of 2 acres, 3 roods and 15.41 perches to the Electricity Board on a lease basis for a period of 30 years based on the valuation of the Government's Chief Appraiser.

04. Re-lease of land at Rajagiriya leased to Sri Lanka College of Physiologists for a period of 50 years

A 30 perches block of land in Welikada, Rajagiriya, owned by the Urban Development Authority, has been allocated to the Sri Lanka Institute of Physiologists for a period of 30 years on a concessional lease basis with effect from 13.05.1999 for the construction of a building for research purposes. The main building built in that land is currently in need of repair, so a significant financial investment has to be made for it. Taking these facts into consideration, the Sri Lanka Institute of Physiologists has submitted a request to allocate the land above mentioned again on long term lease basis. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Acting Minister of Urban Development and to allocate the relevant land to the Sri Lanka College of Physiologists for a period of 50 years on the basis of collecting an annual rent determined by the government assessor.

05. Development of Higurakgoda Airport

Higurakgoda Airport is currently operated under the management of the Sri Lanka Air Force and the need to develop the airport in accordance with international civil aviation standards has been identified. Accordingly, a committee consisting of representatives of Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Authority, Airports and Aviation Company (Sri Lanka) (Pvt.) Ltd and Road Development Authority has been appointed for the preparation of the master plan for the airport and other related tasks. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the combined proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as Minister of Defense and the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation for making preparations to develop Higurakgoda Airport as a complete airport as per the recommendations of the said committee.

06. Introduction of Digital Technology for Piriven education

The Ministry of Technology and the Ministry of Education have jointly planned to implement a program to empower private education by introducing digital technology. This will enable Piriven teachers and clergy/lay students to use digital technology to explore and analyze Sri Lankan national Buddhist heritage. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the combined proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as Minister of Technology and the Minister of Education to implement the proposed program to provide at least two computers, a smart board and a printer per each Pirivena.

07. Extending the duration of the Gandara fishing port construction project and revising the financial cost estimate

Approval has been granted in the Cabinet meeting held on 07.07.2019 for the construction of a fishing harbor at the existing Gandara fish landing site. The project was scheduled to be completed by December 2023, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic crisis, the construction of the project has not been completed as expected. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Fisheries to extend the period from December 2023 to December 2026 and to revise the total cost estimate based on price variations so that all the works including land construction related to the project can be completed.

08. Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Sri Lanka UNESCO Partnership

The Sri Lanka-UNESCO partnership completes 75 years this year. The Sri Lanka UNESCO National Commission, the Ministry of Education and other ministries and institutions have jointly planned to implement a number of programs to celebrate the anniversary. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to celebrate the 75th anniversary on 16.07.2024 at the Nelum Pokuna Theater with the objectives of celebrating 75 years of UNESCO partnership and achievements, promoting tourism by informing the local and international community about the heritage listed by UNESCO in Sri Lanka and further improving the existing understanding between the two parties.

09. Carrying out renovation activities of Mahinda Rajapaksha Sports Complex Diyagama.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 08.01.2024 to get the construction works pertaining to the ongoing and proposed to be held new sub projects in relation to carrying out renovation activities of Mahinda Rajapaksha Sports Complex Diyagama done by Sri Lanka Army. Accordingly, it has been planned to construct roofs of second viewing pavilion of the junior sport auditorium and the new athletics ground. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs to get the construction activities performed by Sri Lanka Army.

10. Renewal of responsibilities, monitoring and maintenance of Thambapawani wind power electricity plant.

The total commercial monitoring activities of Thambapawani wind power electricity plant belong to Ceylon Electricity Board was inaugurated from 18.05.2021. Ceylon Electricity Board has entered into an agreement with Vestas Wind Lanka (Pvt.) Limited for bearing responsibilities, and performing monitoring and maintenance services for three (03) years and its contract period ends on 17.05.2024. Therefore, a new service provider should be selected for those activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Electricity and Power to select an appropriate service supplier following the competitive procurement methodology.

11. Geo gas terminal at Kerawalapitiya comprised of internal burner engines of 200 Megawatt with twin fuel capacity.

Geo gas terminal project at Kerawalapitiya comprised of internal burner engines of 200 Megawatt with twin fuel capacity is a project recognized by the long term electricity generating plan 2023 – 2042 approved by Sri Lanka Public Utilities Commission. The block of land adjoining the Sobadnavi Company Limited in Kerawalapitiya has been allocated for this project and this plant is expected to be executed / developed under build – owning rights – operation – transfer (BOOT) basis for 20 years as an independent power generator. Whereas, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Electricity and Power to recognize an appropriate investor following the competitive procurement process for the above purpose.

12. Awarding long time contract for procurement of four (04) shipments of diesel (0.05%M.S.)

Quotations have been invited from registered suppliers for the long time contract for procurement of four (04) shipments of diesel (0.05%M.S.) from 01.08.2024 to 31.12.2024. Accordingly, subsequent to evaluation of bids received, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Electricity and Power to award the contract of supplying 04 shipments of 280,000 + / - 5 % of diesel (0.05% M. S.) to M / s Zhongxi Energy Development (Ningbo) Co. Ltd., China during the period specified, based on recommendations given by the Special Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

13. Completion of remaining work of constructions of Sri Lanka Police

Although a number of construction projects has been inaugurated implementation with the objective of providing infrastructure facilities to Sri Lanka Police, the following projects planned to be completed during 2021 – 2023 could not be completed due to Covid – 19 pandemic situations in 2020 and the economic crisis followed it;

- Project to construct family / married personnels' official quarters at Kumaran Rathnam Road, Colombo 02
- Project to construct residential building of Katana National Police Academy.
- Project to complete remaining work of Kollupitiya Police Station.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Civil Defense to amend total cost estimation of those projects so that remaining work of those projects can be completed and to extend of project winding period up to 2024 – 2027.

14. Amendment of National Innovation Agency Act No. 22 of 2019

The National Innovation Agency established in 2022 is engaged in preparing national policies and providing on social, scientific and technological, security, environmental and services innovational recommendations. In par with the concurrent requirements, and as per the National Innovation Agency Act No. 22 of 2019, the requirement of introducing several revisions to the said act has been recognized in order to accomplish the objectives of the institution. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Education to instruct the Legal Draftsmen to prepare a bill to amend the said act.

15. Amendment of Mediation Board Act No. 72 of 1988.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted on 25.09.2023 to amend section 7 of Mediation Board Act No. 72 of 1988 in order to accomplish the requirement of non – avoidance of appearing before courts at the instances on which mediation is not agreed by both parties as well as administrative issues such as delays in issuance of non – clearance certificate which is issued by the mediation boards or non – existence of mediation boards already established or in operation. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsman has drafted the revised bill and clearance of the Attorney General has been given for the same. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the said draft bill in government gazette notification and thereby present the Parliament for obtaining its concurrence.

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