

Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 15.07.2024

01. Indigenous Medicine National Policy in Sri Lanka 2024 – 2034

The legal framework for the practice of indigenous medical system within the country has been provided by the Indigenous Act No 31 of the 1961 as amended by the Indigenous Act No 19 of the 2023. However, single national policy which guides the national policy direction for the indigenous medicine service has not been formulated so far. The necessity of indigenous medicine national policy has been arisen within the main stream of national health policy to resolve the issues emerged at present in supplying the services and to offer quality and strong medical system to the future generation through protection of indigenous medical system. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to implement indigenous medicine national policy 2024 – 2034 in Sri Lanka which has been prepared through the wide participatory process by a panel of experts.

02. Facilitation for enrolment of foreign students to the degree awarding institutions

5% has been allocated annually for the foreign students in 17 universities which are under the University Grant Commission. In addition, it has been identified that the objective of turning Sri Lanka into a knowledge hub can be fulfilled through the widening the opportunities for admission the foreign students to the 26 degree awarding institutions which are recognised by the Section 25(A) of the University Act. However, it is observed that there is no definite procedure to determine the ability to compliance the minimum qualification which are considered for the university admission by each country, as a required qualification to admit for a degree course of a recognized degree awarding institution under the Section 25(A) of the University Act in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to consider the minimum qualification recognized for university admission by the 193 United Nations Member countries, as the minimum qualification to enrol for the degree programmes recognized degree awarding institutions under the Section 25(A) of the University Act in Sri Lanka and to confirm the exceptional opportunities which are not revealed by aforesaid qualifications, from UK NARIC institution.

03. Providing a plot of land at Vedamulla, Kelaniya, for a housing project approved by the Board of Investment Sri Lanka to the H.M.K. Property Developers (Pvt) Ltd

Approval was previously given at the Cabinet Sub Committee meeting on Investment Promotion to grant the approval for providing 12 acres plot of land at Vedamulla, Kelaniya which is owned to Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation to the H.M.K. Property Developers (Pvt) Ltd. However, since the said company has failed to comply with the relevant agreements, steps have not been taken so far to grant relevant portion of land to the said company. A request has been again made by the H.M.K. Property Developers (Pvt) Ltd through the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka to obtain the said portion of land for implementation of a housing project under 3 stages. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to grant the portion of land 08 Acres 2 Rood 16.26 Perches in extent identified for implementation of the proposed project to the said company on the current assessment submitted by the Chief Assessor of the Government.

04. Lease of portion of land located at Kelaniya , Mudun Ela area to the Storight Logistics (Pvt) Ltd

A request has been made by the Bitsuthra IT (Pvt) Ltd to provide them a portion of land located adjacent to the Colombo Harbour for logistic services and storage facilities on the ground of approval of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. Since the basic requirements relevant to the project proposal submitted by the said company have been fulfilled, as per the provisions of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, a new company by the name of Storight Logistics (Pvt) Ltd has been established. It has been identified that a portion of land 02 Acres 1.08 Perches in extent located at Kelaniya , Mudun Ela which is owned to the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation is appropriate for the said project. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to grant the said land on lease basis to the Storight Logistics (Pvt) Ltd for 30 years on the current assessment submitted by the Chief Assessor of the Government.

05. Implementation of Tariff Policy and Price Formula for review of Tariffs National Water Supply and Drainage Board

The new tariff policy and formula of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board was discussed at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 08-04-2024 and it has been ordered to forward the new tariff policy and formula inclusion of required amendments having discussed with all relevant parties. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to implement the formulated amended water tariff policy and amended water tariff formula from the year 2025.

06. Operation of Currency Exchange Counters in the area designated for Customs purposes at the arrivals area of Bandaranayaka International Airport, Katunayake

As per the cabinet decision taken on 08-01-2024, Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited has invited limited complete bidding to operate Currency Exchange Counters in the area designated for Customs purposes at the arrivals area of Bandaranayaka International Airport, Katunayake. Accordingly, 05 bids have been forwarded. Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to award the contracts as follows for 3 years on the recommendation of Technical Evaluation Committee and Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers after evaluation of the said bids.

- Counter No 1 Sampath Bank PLC
- Counter No 2 People's Bank
- Counter No 3 Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC
- Counter No 4 Thomas Cook Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
- Counter No 5 Bank of Ceylon

07. Award of contract for provision of bidding services and related ancillary services for automatic booking of upper class seats in the Sri Lankan Airlines.

Plusgrade system is used by the Sri Lankan Airlines (Pvt) Ltd at present for providing bidding services and related ancillary services for automatic booking of upper class seats. When there are unreserved seats are available in the business class, an opportunity is provided for a passenger whose ticket is economical class, to bid for obtaining a business class ticket. Thereby, this service increases the revenue for the air line. Bidding has been called to maintain this service under international competitive bidding system and two (2) biddings have been received. Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to award the contract for provision of bidding services and related ancillary services for automatic booking of upper class seats in the Sri Lankan Airlines to the Plusgrade

Inc for 5 years on the recommendation of Technical Evaluation Committee and Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers subsequent to evaluation of the said bids.

08. Allocation of funds from the Saudi Funds for Development for the completion of the part 1 of the Godagama- Homagama road which is finished halfway

The funds of the Saudi Funds for Development has been utilized to implement the Kurinchakeni Bridge Project in Trincomalee district. After completion of the procurement procedure of this project, there is further loan balance of 10.5 Million Us Dollars and it has been decided to use the said loan balance to finish of the part 1 of the Godagama- Homagama road which is finished halfway. It is further 12 Million Us Dollars required to complete the balance work of this road and the consensus has been given by the Saudi Funds for Development to grant 1.5 Million Us Dollars from the loan amount of the Road Network Development project funded by the Saudi Fund for Development. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport and Highways to complete the part 1 of the Godagama- Homagama road which is finished halfway.

09. Completion of Nanuoya Railway station Modernisation project

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 03-04-2023 to implement Nanuoya Railway station Modernisation project by utilization of funds of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. The contract value of 74. 63 Million rupees for the modernization of Nanuoya Railway station has increased to 101.81 Million rupees. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Tourism and Land to complete the relevant modernization activities by the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB) and the additional amount required to obtain from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau on the recommendations of the Department of Railway under the revised estimate.

10. Implementation of SMART Youth Exhibitions &Nights – 2024 programme implemented by National Youth Service Council island wide.

The youth community had to be encountered critical painful situation arisen due to COVID pandemic spread globally as to the limitation of movements, mutual relationships, personal meetings and gathering as groups during the period of two (2) years starting from 2019. It has been seemed that it is appropriate to conduct recreational programmes throughout island targeting prevention them subject to so pressurized situations and to develop their entertainment, enjoyment and mental wellness and providing opportunities for youth community to maintain social relationships physically and providing them the opportunities for working together. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Minister of Sports and Youth affairs to implement SMART Youth Exhibitions &Nights – 2024 programme throughout the island.

11. procurement of medicinal ginger necessary for the products of Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation

Medicinal ginger is used as a raw material for the 87 medicines products manufactured by the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation and there is a severe scarcity of medicinal ginger in the market at present. There is a about 50 tons of medicinal ginger which were confiscated by the Sri Lanka Customs and the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health to obtain the said stock of medicinal ginger to the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation under the concessionary price.

12. Obtaining the approval for the amendments proposed by the Sectoral Oversight Committee to the Animal Welfare Bill.

Approval was granted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 10-01-2022 to submit the Animal Welfare Bill to the Parliament and accordingly the said Bill has been # presented to the Parliament. The said Bill has been forwarded to the Food Safety and Agriculture Sectoral Oversight Committee for the recommendations and the said committee has proposed several amendments to the said Bill. The said amendments have been formulated by the Legal Draftman so as to enable to submit at the Committee stage which is relevant for the respective Bill and the clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the respective Bill. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries.

13. Introducing Amendments to the Primary Courts Procedure Act No. 44 of 1979

On 18.03.2024, the Cabinet of Ministers has given approval to amend the Primary Courts Procedure Act No. 44 of 1979. Act in order to avoid the problems faced by the applicants who submit requests under Section 66 of the Act. Constitutionality of the bill prepared accordingly by the legal draftsman is certified by the Attorney General. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the bill prepared in Government Gazette and then table in parliament for approval.

14. Amending the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The Cabinet of Ministers has given its policy approval on 09.07.2024 to amend paragraph (b) of Article 83 of the Constitution by replacing the words "exceeding six years " with the words "exceeding five years" stated in paragraph (b) of Article 83 of the Constitution. The Bill prepared accordingly by the Legal Draftsman has received the clearance of the Attorney General. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the combined proposal presented by the Hon. President and the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the bill in the Government Gazette and then table in parliament for approval.

15. Agricultural Modernization Programme

In the meeting held on 04.03.2024, Cabinet of Ministers approved the implementation of the first phase of the Agriculture Modernization Program. As the second phase of the program, it has been decided to implement agriculture modernization projects by selecting 3 more divisional secretariats in each district. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Proposal presented by the Hon. President to implement the second phase of the Agriculture Modernization Program by using 750 million rupees from the allocation allocated by the 2024 budget for 75 Divisional Secretariat Divisions at 10 million rupees per division.

16. Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka Bill

Cabinet approval has been received on 18.12.2023 for publishing the Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka Bill in the Government Gazette. Due to the submission of further amendment proposals for the said bill by various parties, no steps have been taken to present the said bill to the Parliament. The Interim Secretariat for Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism has conducted several consultations rounds and identified the amendments to be made to the relevant bill. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the joint proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to instruct a legal draftsman to prepare a bill based on the preliminary draft prepared by incorporating the said amendments and to cancel the gazette notification issued earlier announcing the relevant draft bill.

17. Introduction of amendments to Bills of Exchange Ordinance.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 24.01.2024 to amend or remove out dated provisions of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance No. 25 of 1927. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the amended draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Therefore, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the said draft bill in the government gazette notification and subsequently present to the Parliament for its concurrence.

18. Amendment of the Bank of Ceylon Ordinance No. 53 of 1938.

Bank of Ceylon established under the Bank of Ceylon Ordinance No. 53 of 1938 is a pioneer establishment in the Sri Lankan Financial Market and remarkably contribute to the growth of the national economy as a commercial bank with government ownership. Executing in the competitive and it has been recognized that there are several constraints and challenges rapidly changing the finance market that need to be applied to the said ordinance that is active at the moment. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a draft bill based on the fundamental draft prepared for amendment of the Bank of Ceylon Ordinance No. 53 of 1938 according to the current requirements

19. Colombo Port City (Charges) Orders – (Subject No. 43)

Colombo Port City (Charges) Orders No. 2 of 2024 have been imposed by the gazette notification dated 06.06.2024 as per provisions of Colombo Port City Economic Commission No. 11 of 2021. As per section 71 of the said act, each order imposed as such according to the provisions should be forwarded to the Parliament for its concurrence within 03 months from the date it has been published in the government gazette. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Hon. President as the Minister of Investment Promotion to submit the Colombo Port City (Charges) Orders declared by the extraordinary gazette No. 2387 / 38 dated 06.06.2024.

20. Amendments to Criminal Procedure Code (Increase of fines)

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 27.11.2023 to amend the Criminal Procedure Code so that the fines mentioned in the Criminal Procedure Code can be escalated based on the current monetary value. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the amended draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the said draft bill in the government gazette notification and subsequently present to the Parliament for its concurrence.

21. Amendment of Companies Act No. 07 of 2007

The requirement to amend the Companies Act to empower the local law implemented to suppress / prevent money laundering and financing for terrorism including other illegal activities has been recognized and accordingly the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 09.07.2024 to amend the said act. The clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for the draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Industries to publish the amended draft bill in the government gazette notification and subsequently submit the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

22. Suraksha Student Insurance Coverage – 2024

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 06.05.2024 to execute the Suraksha Student Insurance Coverage programme once again and call quotations from Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation in par with that. Hence, having evaluated the bidding proposal furnished by Sri Lanka

Insurance Corporation by the negotiation committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers, it has been recommended to execute the Suraksha Student Insurance Coverage for the years 2024 /2025, 2025 / 2026 and 2026 / 2027 for an amount of rupees 6.027 billion (excluding VAT). Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted their approval to the joint proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Polices with the Minister of Education to award the contract of Suraksha Student Insurance Coverage to Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation General Limited for three (03) years as mentioned above and to award the death benefit of parents under life insurance which is entitled to the students of families whose annual income is less that rupees 180,000 to students of the families covered under 'Aswasuma' programme as well.

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