

Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 07-10-2024

01. The agreement between Sri Lanka and Russia to obtain the support for cooperation and mutual administration on custom matters

Although the cabinet approval was granted on 15-11- 2021 to sign a bilateral agreement to provide facilities for legally valid trade activities through transparent and predictable customs procedures after a series of bilateral discussions between the Sri Lankan Government and Russian Government, this agreement has not been signed yet. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism to sign for the said agreement, taking into consideration the trend uprising the benefits and bilateral customs cooperation entitled trade relationships existing between two countries.

02. 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Taking into consideration the matters submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs relevant to the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which will be conducted from 09-09-2024 to 11-10-2024 in Geneva, the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers has been obtained to present the position of Sri Lanka as follows.

- Sri Lanka has strongly rejected the proposed drafted resolution at the present session of the United Nations Human Rights Council and Sri Lanka continues to oppose the 51/1 resolution of the drafted resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council and has not agreed to any resolution that extends the powers of the collection of external evidence mechanism.
- Even though, the said proposal has been denied, Sri Lanka has firmly believed to take action in respect of main human right issues including the reconciliation through local procedure
- Sri Lanka will continue to engage in the cooperative and meaningful discussions with the Human Rights Council and regular human right mechanism.

03. Regional project to be strengthened the resilience of communities in Sri Lanka and Indian for the vulnerable to the intensifying impacts of climatic changes

A proposal has been submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation, and Community Infrastructure Facilities to the Adaptation Fund with the United Nations Food Program for a regional project to strengthen the resilience of communities in Sri Lanka and Indian for the vulnerable to the intensifying impacts of climatic changes, and approval of the Board of the Adaptation Fund has been received in that respect. The proposed project will be implemented for a period of 5 years, and a finance grant of about US\$ 13 million will be received to Sri Lanka and India for this project. The project is to be implemented in Moneragala, Trincomalee, Mannar, Mulativu, Vavuniya, and Kurunegala districts in Sri Lanka. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Environment, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation, and Community Infrastructure Facilities to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and the World Food Program for the implementation of this project.

04. Awarding the procurement for supplying, establishment, Assignment, and Maintenance of for the Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka and Finance PLC of Core Banking Solution

Bids have been called for the procurement for supplying, establishment, assignment, and maintenance of the Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka and Finance PLC of Core Banking Solution following the National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Four (4) institutions have submitted their bids. It has been recommended to award the respective procurement to Scinter Technologies (PTE) Ltd by the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers after the appraisal of technical proposals and financial proposals. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His. Excellency the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism to award the said procurement.

05. Construction of exhibition stall representing Sri Lanka at the TTG -2024 exhibition conducted in Milan, Italy from 09-10-2024 to 11-10-2024

25 travel agents and hoteliers from the tourism industry are going to participate in the TTG-2024 exhibition to be held in Milan, Italy, from 09-10-2024 to 11-10-2024. Accordingly, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau has taken steps to allocate 100 square meters of exhibition area to provide facilities for the Sri Lankan representatives. Although the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau has called for bids under the Limited International Competitive Bidding Procedure to install exhibition stalls, no bids have been submitted. Accordingly, it has been decided to provide the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers for the matters presented by His. Excellency the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism, the relevant services to be supplied from the Prostand S.r.l, the official construction company of the exhibition organizers, taking into consideration the limited timeframe.

06. Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Project prescribed to be implemented under Japan loan facilities

Approval was granted by the Cabinet of Ministers in the year 2009 to convert Sri Lankan television broadcasting to the Digital broadcasting instead of existing Analog technology in compliance with the global trends. Implementation of this technology conversion had delayed and approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 27-07-2022 to implement digital television broadcasting project under the Japan ISDB-T technology. Since, the Japan International Co-operation Agency has agreed to provide required funds to the project, it has been able to commence the functions of the project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Defense and Mass Media to appoint a special committee under the chairmanship of Secretary of Ministry of Mass Media and comprising of representatives from other relevant institutions to submit a report to the cabinet of ministers with the observations and recommendations studying the current requirements and technology for ensuring the implementation of digital terrestrial television broadcasting project in such away more benefits are gained to the Sri Lankan Community.

07. Cancellation of appointments made on the approval of Cabinet of Ministers

Steps have been taken to establish the “office for the Affairs of Sri Lankan in Abroad” under the President’s office and to establish a “National Peoples Council” for the setting up a Peoples Council to strengthen participation for democracy and to implement “Agriculture Modernization Program” and the officers/consultants have been appointed on contract basis for that purpose. Since it could be able to implement anticipated functions that are expected from those offices and programs from the relevant Ministries, action has been taken by His Excellency the President to terminate the service of the officers/consultants appointed on a contract basis with effect from the 30-09-2024 after making aware the cabinet of ministers and the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers has also been given in that respect.

08. Extension of the service of Director General of Civil Defense Department

Approval has been granted by the Cabinet of Ministers to appoint Air Vice Marshal R.S.Biyawila to the post of Director General of the Civil Defense Department with effect from 14-09-2023. The appointment period has ended on 13-09-2024. Therefore, The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President in his capacity as Minister of Defense to continue his service as the Director General of the Civil Defense Department until 31-12-2024.

09. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons

The post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons has been vacant from 24-09-2024. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Defense to appoint Mrs. M.S.P. Sooriyapperuma, a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is currently working as an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Public Defense, to the post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons on an acting basis.

10. Appointment of Commissioner General of Excise of the Department of Sri Lanka Excise

The Sri Lanka Excise Department is the main revenue collection agency of the government and the efficiency and the good governance of this Department directly affects the revenue of the government. The said department should be given leadership that can achieve future challenges and goals while maintaining the progress of fulfillment of the revenue targets of the department. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His. Excellency the President, in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism to dismiss the service of Mr. J.M.Gunasiri, who is presently serving as the Commissioner General of Excise on a contract basis with immediate effect and to appoint U.D.N.Jayaweera, a special grade officer of the Inland Revenue Service, who is presently serving as an additional secretary (Agency Coordination II) of the President Secretariat, to appoint as the Commissioner General of Excise of the Department of Sri Lanka Excise with immediate effect.

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