

## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 28-10-2024**

### **01. Introduction of a mechanism for the prevention of disputes and resolution of disputes**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 20-11-2023 to introduce a mechanism for the prevention of disputes and resolution of disputes. Accordingly, Public Administration Circular 05/2024 has been issued to implement the mechanism for resolution of disputes within the overall public service. Accordingly, approval has been granted to obtain the technical and specialist support of the International Labor Organization, and the International Labor Organization has requested the project aid from the United Nations Secretary General's Peace Building Fund in order to implement the aforesaid mechanism. Accordingly, US\$ 02 million has been given for 2 programs "the Public Service Social Discourse Program" and "the Social Discourse Promotion Program in the Private and Informal Economic Sectors" under the new program "Social Dialogue for Peace and Crisis Prevention in Sri Lanka." The Cabinet of Ministers has taken into consideration the matters presented by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Council, Local Government, and Labour, stating that the said programs will be implemented during the period 2024-2026 under the coordination of an Inter Coordinating Committee co-chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Council, Local Government and Labour and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

### **02. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka Institute of Bio Technology and Ohio University of United States of America**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Bio Technology (Pvt) Ltd, is an institute that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and has been established in full partnership with the Treasury, to achieve the objectives of establishment of a centralized biotechnology background with modern technology, development of a culture of innovation to accelerate the biotechnology industry through providing technology breeding facilities to the inventors,

development of new biotechnology industries to fulfill global market requirements, and the introduction of renewable medicines to the Sri Lankan health sector. It has been proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology and the Ohio University of the United States of America with the aim of promoting cooperation in the field of research and higher education between the said institute and the Ohio University of the United States of America and obtaining the facilities for sharing the knowledge on research, innovations, education and culture. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Science and Technology to enter into the said Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

**03. Submission of joint application by Sri Lanka and Indonesia to obtain the facilities under “Inter Regional agglomeration” included in the United Kingdom’s trade scheme for developing countries**

The system of trade scheme for developing countries is implemented from June 2023 to maintain trade preferences awarded under the European Union generalized system of preferences subsequent to the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union. Since Sri Lanka is a beneficiary of the generalized system of preferences of the European Union, Sri Lanka has automatically become the beneficiary of the trade scheme of the United Kingdom. According to the criteria under the proposed system, in order to obtain the benefits of the relevant preferences system for garment production, garments should be manufactured by using locally knitted and woven fabrics as raw materials. However, Sri Lankan garment manufacturers have not been able to obtain the optimum benefit of the trade scheme of the United Kingdom due to insufficient domestic production of knitted and woven fabric. However, according to the criteria of the trade scheme for developing countries, if input/raw materials produced by a regional country that the benefits of the trade preferences entitled are incorporated into a product manufactured by a country of another regional group with similar preferential benefits, provisions are included for such product to be considered as a product of the finally manufactured country. The aforesaid criterion is known as interregional agglomeration, and thereby it is enabled to claim the benefits for the exporters of both countries. As per the said provisions, both the Asian region (Regional Group I) and the SAARC region (Regional Group II) are two regions that have above preferential benefits. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon.

Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Trade, Commercial, Food Security, Cooperative Development, Industry, and Entrepreneurship Development to submit one joint application by Sri Lanka and Indonesia by using the provisions on Inter Regional agglomeration and to obtain fabric/raw materials required for the garment industry from Indonesia and to take necessary steps for obtaining the preferential benefits to both countries by exporting finished garments of Sri Lanka to the United Kingdom.

**04. Providing the land maintained the Southern Provincial Instruction and Extension Center of the Sri Lanka Tea Research Institution on long term lease basis**

The southern Provincial Instruction and Extension Center of the Sri Lanka Tea Research Institution is maintained at Kottawa area in Galle since the year 1961, and an area of 69.63 acres has been enjoyed by the institute at present. This premise is used for tea field demonstrations for tea growers, tea industry officials, and students of universities and training and schoolchildren. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation, and Community Infrastructure Facilities to provide the relevant land on a long-term lease basis to the said institute that enables to maintain this center more formally and effectively.

**05. Completion of remaining work of the auditorium of the Police Welfare building**

The construction contract for the auditorium of the Police Welfare building has been executed by Interwest Engineering and Construction Institute as a subcontract under the Project Management of the Building Department, with a total cost estimate of Rs. 98.846 million. Arch International (Pvt) Ltd has provided consultation services for this project. The Building Department suspended the project on 24-02-2023 due to the failure to complete it on time as specified by Arch International (Pvt) Ltd. The consulting institution has prepared and submitted an amended total cost estimate of Rs. 122.921 million, based on current prices, to finish the remaining work. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the Minister of Public Security's proposal to complete the remaining work of the project according to the original plan of the Building Department under the amended total cost estimate.

**06. Awarding the liquefied Petroleum Gas Supply Contract for 2025**

Tenders have been invited for the supply of liquefied petroleum gas to the Litro Gas Lanka Limited for the year 2025 under the single stage double envelope system following the international competitive bidding system. Only the two institutions, M/S OQ Trading Limited and M/S Siam Gas Trading Pte Ltd, have submitted bids. The bid submitted by M/S Siam Gas Trading Pte Ltd, was rejected at the technical evaluation. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism to award the contract for supplying the liquefied Petroleum Gas Supply Contract for 2025 to the M/S OQ Trading Limited, the substantially responsive bidder, as per the recommendations of the standing procurement committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers.

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