

Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 14-10-2024

01. 77th Independence Day celebration

It has been approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, Local Government and Labour to appoint a monitoring committee with the participation of chief officers of all relevant Ministries and Departments, including tri forces and Police enabling to organize the independence day celebration in grandeur manner and to appoint a committee comprising of cabinet of ministers with the participation of Hon Prime Minister and Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Security and Mass Media under the chief of His Excellency, the President for guidance and supervision with relevant to the holding of the 77th independence day celebration fallen on 04-02-2025.

02. Handing over a portion of land belonging to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation to the Ceylon Electricity Board for the construction of proposed Ekala grid substation.

It has been proposed to construct a grid substation in the Ekala industrial zone with the objective of continuous supply of electricity as well as the increase of quality of the existing power supply according to the risen demand for electricity in Ekala and surrounding areas at present. It has been recognized that it is appropriate for the proposed grid substation to be constructed by utilization of 2 acres, 02 roods, from the 10 acres of land belonging to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, which is adjacent to the Ekala Sandcrop garden. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Security, and Mass Media to transfer the said portion of land to the Ceylon Electricity Board, having charged rupees 320 million, the valuation of the chief valuer of the government.

03. The grant offered to the Sri Lanka National Archives by the International Council on Archives

The Fund for International Development of Archives of the International Council on Archives has agreed to offer a Euro 7,000 grant to establish the platforms for Atom software (Access to memory) and Archivematica software, incorporating experts on open source software for protection of metadata in archives and Atom software (Access to memory) and Archivematica for digital protection. The International Council on Archives has agreed to utilize the said grant to bear part of the cost of stage 1 of the project, which has already been commenced for the establishment of a digital repository at the Sri Lanka National Archives. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has agreed to the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Security, and Mass Media to sign the charter with the International Council on Archives to obtain the said grant and to take other steps relevant to that respect.

04. Procurement of medical supplies from local producers

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 29-11-2013 to purchase the locally produced medicines under the Buy Back Agreement in order to encourage the local medicine producers by giving priority for the production activities of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, approval has been granted on 02-10-2018 in order to enter into buyback agreements for the productions of local medicine manufacturing companies who have already entered into agreements with the State

Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka for the 15-year period, to purchase the said medicines on a priority basis provided for the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, and to implement buyback agreements between local medicine producers and the Ministry of Health for the supply of medicines for up to 10 years. Accordingly, a pricing committee has also been appointed to determine the prices of the medicines. According to the strategy of purchasing the said medicines, it has been recognized that 20% of the requirement of medicine supplies is covered by the present strategy of purchasing the said medicines, and there is a possibility to increase the said amount up to 40%. Accordingly, the Medical Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health has identified 49 local medicine manufacturing companies that have the capability of supplying 454 medical supplies, including medicines. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Health in order to enter into buyback agreements to supply medical supplies, including local manufacturing medicines, from such identified institutions for a period of one year without being perverse to the local medicine manufacturing companies that have already been entered into buyback agreements as well as the manufacturing procedure of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka.

05. Procurement for supply security services for the hospitals/institutions under the Ministry of Health in the year 2024/25

Bids have been called to supply security services for the hospitals and other institutions under the Ministry of Health that are located in the relevant provinces from Rakna Arakshaka Lanka Limited, L.R.D.C.(Pvt) Ltd the Civil Security Department and Regional Economic Development Institution implemented under the Central Provincial Council, and the North Western Province Human Resource Development Authority implemented under the North Western Provincial Council. Accordingly, bids have been submitted by the L.R.D.C.(Pvt) Ltd to supply security services to all hospitals and Regional Economic Development Institution implemented under the Central Provincial Council to supply security services to the hospitals located in the said province and coming under the purview of the Ministry of Health. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Health to award the relevant contract to L.R.D.C.(Pvt) Ltd for the period of six (6) months with effect from 01-10-2024 taking into consideration the recommendation of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

06. Improving the productivity of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation utilizing the cash obtained from the transfer of the broadcasting station land.

The land located at the Ekala broadcasting station, which belonged to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, has been transferred to the Urban Development Authority for an amount of Rs. 1,286 million. It has been decided at the cabinet meeting held on 27-02-2023 to utilize the said amount to restructure the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation as a self-finance generation institute. Out of the said amount, rupees 525 million has been received by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, and an amount of rupees 205 million from the received amount has been incurred as compensation for the voluntary retirement scheme implemented for the employees of the corporation. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddhism, Religious and Cultural Affairs, National Integration, Social Security, and Mass Media to implement 25 activities relevant to the modernization of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation by utilizing rupees 145.72 million from the remaining amount.

07. Completion the remaining work of the project for the construction of matrimonial quarters for the Special Task Force in Kalapaluwawa

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 23-08-2016 for the construction of 36 quarters in Kalapaluwawa area, comprising 15 matrimonial quarters for the sub-inspectors, and 21 matrimonial quarters for police sergeants and police constables. Accordingly, the relevant contract was awarded to the Construction Managers & Planer (Pvt) Ltd for an amount of rupees 289.59 million (without tax). The project duration has been extended in several occasions and at present 95% of the construction has been completed. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Security to extend the project duration up to 31-12-2024, and to amend the cost of the project as rupees 460.58 million taking into consideration the increase the cost of raw materials in large amount and the effects tax amendments introduced by the government.

08. Resignation from the position of Secretary to the Opposition Leader in the Parliament

The president's lawyer, Thisath Devapriya Bandara Wijayagunawardena who served as the Secretary to has Opposition Leader in Parliament, has submitted a letter to resign from that post after serving on 09-10-2024. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has given consent to the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister to accept his resignation.

09. Appointment to the post of Government Analyst

Mrs. Deepika Seneviratne who served as a government analyst ,has retired from the service from 11-10-2024. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, Local Government and Labour to appoint Pathirage Sandya Kumudini Rajapaksha , the special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Scientific Service who is at present serving as an additional analyst in the government and has the highest seniority to the vacant post, according to the Seniority list of the special grade officers of the Sri Lanka Scientific Service.

10. Appointment to the post of District Secretary/Government Agent of Hambanthota Administrative District

Taking into consideration the request submitted by the Election Commission, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to attach Mr. H. P. Sumanasekara, who is serving as the District Secretary/ Government Agent of Hambanthota Administrative District to the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, Local Government and Labour with immediate effect and to appoint A.B.I.De Silva, a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is at presently serving as the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Rural Development, Cultural Affairs, Social welfare, Sports & Youth Affaires, Rural Development, Cultural Affairs, Social Welfare, Probation & Child care services, Women Affairs & Home economic enhancement, Housing & Employment, to appoint to the said post.

11. Purchase the Debt Management Software System required for the management of public debt in Sri Lanka

As per Public Debt Management Act No. 33 of 2024, a Public Debt Management Office should be established. In terms of Section 23 of the said Act, timely, detailed, and accurate data and information on public debt should be maintained in an appropriate data system. At present, the government uses the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat for foreign debt recording and debt management, which is established and maintained by the Department of Foreign Resources. The updating and extension of the annual license of the said system has been terminated by the Commonwealth Secretariat at present. Discussions have been conducted with the International Monetary Fund in respect of the establishment of the Public Debt Management Office and the technical delegation of the World Bank, and it has been recommended that it

is appropriate to use the Commonwealth Meridian software supplied by the Commonwealth Secretariat or the DMFAS software supplied by the United Nations Trade and Development Organization. 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, to obtain a proposal for purchasing Commonwealth Meridian software from the Commonwealth Secretariat and to refer the said proposal to refer the said proposal to obtain the recommendations of the Procurement Committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers on the basis of the cost advantage, ease of data transmission, ability to maintain the integrity of the data, and ensuring the compatibility among the systems.

12. Program to minimize the impact of the economic crisis on the fishing industry and restore the fishing industry

Although, approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 21-08-2024 to make remedial measures for the unfavorable effects occurred to the fishing industry as to the huge increase of the prices of the fuel, the said decision has not been implemented so far. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the His Excellency, the President in his capacity as the Minister of Agriculture, Land, Livestock , Irrigation, Fisheries and Water Resources to provide following concessions for period of six (6) months with effect from 01-10-2024 with the objective of uplifting the economic condition of the fisheries community.

- To grant an allowance the fisheries industry turned into normalcy subject to the maximum of rupees 300,000 per month for fishing vessel owners who obtain diesel as fuel at 25/- per liter of diesel obtained by them.
- To provide “fishing industry recovery allowance” of Rs 25/- per liter of kerosene for vessel owners who obtain kerosene as a fuel, subject to a maximum of 15 liters of kerosene per day and 25 days per month limiting to the working days only.
- Whenever price revisions are made for diesel and kerosene, the maximum concession price for diesel is Rs.250/- and the concession price for kerosene is Rs. 150/-, subject to the maximum six (6) period and this program is maintained in such away the fishing communities are received the concession of 7.5 % from the market value for diesel and concession of 12.5% from the market value for kerosene.

13. Food Policy Committee - Meeting No. 01

The food policy committee which had been established as per the cabinet decision dated 03-10- 2022 enabling to ensure that the essential items including the food are supplied to the market without any scarcity, to take necessary steps for controlling the increase of cost of living as much as possible, and to take appropriate decisions following a coordinated approach with all the parties and the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by his Excellency, the President to reestablish the said food policy committee comprising of following officers.

- Secretary to the President
- Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Compilation, Planning and Tourism
- Secretary, Ministry of Power and Energy
- Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Land, livestock, Irrigation, Fishery and Water Resources
- Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Council, Local Government and Labour

- Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Commercial, Food Protection\, Cooperative Development, Industry and Entrepreneurship, Development
- Ministry of Health
- Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation
- Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities

14. Providing relief for pensioners, paddy farmers, and fishermen

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 Compilation, Planning and Tourism to obtain the necessary funds from the provisions allocated under the development program of the Department of National Budget and manage the so obtained funds as appropriate for implementation of the Cabinet Decisions taken to grant interim monthly allowance of Rs 3,000/- to all pensioners, to increase fertilizer subsidy up to Rs.25,000 per hectare subject to the maximum of 2 hectares for the paddy cultivating farmers for 2024/25 Maha season and to provide financial assistance to fishing vessel owners.

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