

## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 21-10-2024**

### **01 Issuance of commemorative stamps to commemorate Sri Lanka - Pakistan diplomatic relationship**

It has been marked 75 years to the year 2022 for the establishment of relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Consensus has been reached by both parties to issue 02 commemorative stamps to mark long term relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. 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 sign Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Postal and Postal Institute of Pakistan.

### **02. Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference – (CHOGM)**

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference is scheduled to be held from 24 to 26 October 2024 in Apia, Samoa under the theme “A Challengeable Future, A meaningful Commonwealth”. Accordingly, in that respect, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to give its consensus to the proposal presented by Hon. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, a group of representatives comprising the senior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sri Lanka High Commission in London to participate in representing Sri Lanka.

### **03. Renovations of Warikaramaya building which belonged to the Department of Buddhist Affairs**

The Warikaramaya building situated at Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07, belonging to the Department of Buddhist Affairs, is used for providing accommodation services for the Mahanayaka theros when they arrive in Colombo. Since the facilities of this monastery are not sufficient, the renovations have been commenced in the year 2021 under the labor contribution of the Navy. Since the cost of the materials in the market is increased and inclusion of additional functions is identified, the cost of the initial estimate has to be revised. 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 amend the estimate for the renovation, to rupees 86.97 million and to obtain rupees 31.86 million required by the Department of Buddhist Affairs as additional provisions for the year 2024.

### **04. Disposal of scrap metals in Sri Lanka Railway Department and Sri Lanka Transport Board**

A huge amount of scrap metals is collected by the Sri Lanka Railway Department and Sri Lanka Transport Board annually, and the approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 11-06-2024 to remove this stock of scrap metals collected at present following the international competitive bid calling procedure. It has been identified that it is appropriate to follow international competitive bid calling procedures in order to enable the submission of their quotations on a competitive basis and purchase the scrap metals as a solution for the scarcity of

raw materials for the local industrialists. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation to act accordingly.

**05. Declaration of Eastern Container Terminal Project as a special project.**

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 01-02-2021 to develop the eastern container terminal of the Colombo South Development Project in stages by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and to implement it as a container terminal with the full ownership of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. Accordingly, the contract for civil work has already been awarded, and the construction is being proceeded. Further, the procurement for the purchase of cranes has already been awarded. Further, various tax concessions have been provided to the private terminal operators and service providers under the Strategic Development Act and Board of Investment Law. Taking into consideration these matters, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation to declare the eastern container terminal project as a "special project" by the Minister in charge of the subject of finance.

**06. Co-operative development program for continuation of operational safety and airworthiness**

The program "Co-operative development program for continuation of operational safety and airworthiness – South Asia" was commenced in the year 1997 with the co-operation of South Asian countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka under the sponsorship of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The annual cost contribution for this program should be provided by the respective countries and Sri Lanka has paid the contribution up to Phase V. In order to achieve 08 objectives under Phase VI of the program, a program has been planned for 05 years. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation to pay an annual contribution of US\$ 95,848 each for the next 5 years and to provide necessary support to the International Civil Aviation Organization for implementation of related programs.

**07. Repair of Mirihana, Kikiliamana and Vavuniya communication towers owned by Sri Lanka Police**

Communication towers had been established covering all the area in the island in order to maintain the communication network of the Sri Lanka Police. Out of these towers, Mirihana, Kikiliamana and Vavuniya communication towers should be repaired urgently. Accordingly, taking into account the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Security to repair the said communication towers by obtaining necessary provisions within the 2024-2026 medium term budget framework, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the said proposal to award the consultancy service agreement to the Sri Lanka State Engineering Corporation and to offer the contract for repairing the said communication towers to an institution selected by following open competitive bid procedure.

**08. Renovation of Ampara Ekgaloya tourist bungalow and Riverstone tourist bungalow( Dumbara Forest Home)**

The Department of Forest Conservation has identified (nine) 09 tourist bungalows that should be renovated under the recommendations of the committee appointed to recommend an appropriate strategy for utilization of resorts and tourist bungalows owned by the Government institutions in the most effective manner. For that purpose, an estimated provision of Rupees 166.93 million has been received and the said project has to be completed within this year. 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, the Ekgaloya and Riverstone tourist bungalows to be renovated by the Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd under the supervision of Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau.

**09. Appointment to the post of Director General of the Sri Lanka Coast Conservation Department.**

Rear Admiral, Mr. P.Vithana, who served as the Director General of Sri Lanka Coast Conservation Department, retired from the service on 13-09-2024 as to completion of 55 years. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Defense to appoint Rear Admiral Y.R.Serasinghe, who is serving as a Deputy Director General of the Department of Coast Conservation at present, to the said post of Director General of the Sri Lanka Coast Conservation Department.

**10. Appointment the officers for the higher management of the Treasury**

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the following appointment according to a proposal presented by the His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Compilation, Planning and Tourism.

- Appointment of Mr. H.C.D.L.Silva, the Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Accountant Service, who is serving as a Director General of the Department of Treasury Operations, to the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.
- Appointment of Mr.D.A.P. Abesekara, the Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, who is serving as the Director General of the Department of External Resources at present, to the post of Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, after the retirement of Mr. R.M.P.Rathnayaka, who is currently serving as a Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, on 06-11-2024.
- Appointment of Mr. A.N.Hapugala, the Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Accountant Service, who is serving as the Additional Director General of the Department of Public Finance, to the post of Director General of the Department of Treasury Operations, that will be vacant as to the appointment of H.C.D.L.Silva, to the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.
- Appointment of Mr. N.S.M.P. Ranjith, the Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, who is currently serving as the Acting Director General of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring, to the post of Director General of the same Department.

- Appointment of Mrs. J.M.S.D.Rathnayaka, the Special Grade Officer of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, who is presently serving as the Additional Director General of the Department of National Planning, to the post of Director General of the same Department.

#### **11. Appointment of Dr. T.M.J.Nilan Cooray to the post of Director General of the Central Cultural Fund**

Since Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe, who served as the Director General of the Central Cultural Fund, has resigned from the post, the said post is vacant at present. It has been recognized that Dr. T.M.J.Nilan Cooray who has training and experience in the field of local and foreign archeology, architecture and archeology conservation, and has given leadership and guidance to many publication projects and academic research, is suitable for the said post. 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 appoint Dr. T.M.J.Nilan Cooray to the post of Director General of the Central Cultural Fund on a contract basis.

#### **12. Appointment of Chairman and members of the Board of Directors of the National Transport Commission**

As per the provisions of the National Transport Commission Act 37 of 1991, the commission should be comprised of 8 members. According to the section 3(1) (a) of the said Act, three of the members are appointed on ex officio representing the Ministries of Transport, Policy Planning and Finance. Subject to the criteria of Section 3(1) (b) of the said Act, five members shall be appointed by the Minister in charge of transport with the approval of the Cabinet, and their term of office shall be 03 years. Further, in terms of the provisions of the Section 37 of the National Transport Commission Act No 1991, the Minister in charge of the subject should appoint the chairman. Accordingly, as per the provisions of Section 3(1) (b) of the said Act, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation to appoint following four (4) members as the members of the National Transport Commission, and out of these members, to appoint Dr. Bandura Dileepa Vitharana as the chairman of the National Transport Commission.

- Dr. Bandura Dileepa Vitharana – Senior Lecturer of the Open University of Sri Lanka
- W. Ravi Prasad De Mel - Senior Lecturer of University of Sri Jayawardenapura
- Mrs. Dr. Namali Tharanga Sirisoma - Senior Lecturer of Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
- A.I.U.Perera – Commissioner of Inland Revenue Department

#### **13. Revision of limits of Bribery Raid Imprest Account of the Bribery or Corruption Allegation Commission.**

A raid advance account is maintained to provide money for the raids conducted by the Bribery or Corruption Investigation Commission, and the maximum expenditure limit of that advance account is Rs. 50 million. As the amount given as bribery cannot be determined definitely and the nature of the bribery complaints, the amount requested as bribery is very high, the maximum

expenditure limit should be revised urgently. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, President, to take necessary steps to increase the maximum limit of the bribery raid advance account up to Rs. 150 million.

**14. Obtaining funds through the small cost financing facilities for the large scale projects funded by the Asian Development Bank.**

Taking into consideration the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the Asian Development Bank has agreed to grant US\$ 30 million from the general capital resources of the Asian Development Bank under small cost financial facilities for the completion of construction and post-construction activities of the Moragolla hydroelectric project and for the implementation of complementary projects targeted at the development of renewable energy. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has agreed to the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Power and Energy to obtain the said loan amount directly to the Ceylon Electricity Board in 02 installments.

\*\*\*\*\*

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