

Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 02-12-2024

01. 77th Independence Day fallen on 04th February 2025

Approval has been given at the cabinet meeting held on 14-10-2024 to appoint a cabinet subcommittee under the patronage of His Excellency, the President, for guidance, directing, and supervision with relevance to the conducting and organizational activities of the commemoration of the 77th Independence Day, which will be fallen on 04-02-2025. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Council and Local Government to appoint a cabinet subcommittee under the patronage of His Excellency the President, with the participation of Hon Prime Minister for required guidance relevant to the organizing 77th Independence Day fallen on 04th February 2025 inclusion of the ministers in charge of relevant subjects that are appointed as the members of the Cabinet after the parliamentary election.

02. Requesting Supplementary Budget provisions for the year 2024 for the road projects under the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Port and Civil Aviation

Since it has temporarily terminated providing foreign debt for certain projects implemented through foreign debt financing due to the economic crisis that existed in the recent past, it has been unable to completely utilize the provisions granted under the foreign debt financing. Further, the expenses incurred under foreign debt financing have been increased in huge amounts, as to increase prices of the raw materials considerably. As a consequence, a problematic situation has arisen as to the insufficiency of the provisions allocated at present to settle the bills submitted by the contractors. Taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation, it has been decided to grant the cabinet approval to present a supplementary estimate to the Parliament for obtaining necessary additional provisions under local financing instead of savings of provisions allocated to the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation under the foreign debt financing.

03. Procurement for supplying essential medicines by the local medicine manufacturers and State Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 14-10-2024 to purchase the locally manufactured medicines and medical supplies identified for the period of one year from the local producers. Accordingly, 04(four) lists of medicines have been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Mass Media of which said medicines could be supplied by State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, local producers that have signed the joint venture agreements with the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, local producers that have signed the easy purchase agreements with the Ministry of Health and local producers that are not entered into agreements at present. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the procurements as follows based on the recommendations submitted by the Standing procurement Committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers after examining the 04(four) lists.

- To award the procurement of supplying 42 types of medicines to the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation for an amount of Sri Lankan Rs. 5,398.83 million.
- To award the procurement of supplying 131 types of medicines to the local producers that have signed the joint venture agreements with the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation for an amount of Sri Lankan Rs. 16,611.42 million.
- To award the procurement of supplying 36 types of medicines to the local producers that have signed the easy purchase agreements with the Ministry of Health and Mass Media for an amount of Sri Lankan Rs. 9,022.10 million.
- To award the procurement of supplying 130 types of medicines to the newly selected 24 local producers for an amount of Sri Lankan Rs. 13,374.65 million.

04. Appointment to the posts of Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. the Prime Minister to appoint to the 02 vacant Additional Secretary posts in the Prime Minister's Secretariat as follows.

- To appoint Mr. J.M.I. R.K. Jayasundara, a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is currently serving as an additional secretary of the District Secretariat in Kurunegala, to the post of additional secretary of the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

- To appoint Mrs. Chandani Sagarika Bogahawatte, grade I officer of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, who is serving as Director of the Department at the Department of Project Management and Monitoring of the Ministry of Finance, to the post of additional secretary of the Prime Minister's Secretariat on full time acting basis.

05. Appointment to the post of District Secretary in the Administrative District of Kandy

The post of District Secretary in the Administrative District of Kandy has been vacant since 25-11-2024. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, the Provincial Council, and Local Government, to appoint Mr. Indika Anuruddha Piyadasa, special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is presently serving as a Divisional Secretary at Ampara, to the post of District Secretary in the Administrative District of Kandy with immediate effect.

06. Appointment to the post of Secretary to the leader of the opposition in Parliament.

the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon Prime Minister to appoint M.G.C.S. Ranasighe, a grade I officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is presently serving as a Senior Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat of the opposition leader in Parliament, to the post of Secretary to the opposition leader in Parliament on full time acting basis

07. Identification and solving the issues existing and associated with the development officers in the public service, officers in the associated service categories, the officers who are already in the different posts in the public service with a degree, although the degree is not considered as a basic qualification to enter into the public service, and the graduates who are expected to join the public service.

There are more than 150,000 graduates in the central government and provincial public service, including development officers recruited to the public service in 07 occasions from year 1994 to year 2020 under different schemes. The officers, in the development service category and associated service category, were recruited to the public service without proper evaluation of skills and professional qualifications. It has been unable to achieve the expected performances due to not providing the induction training and in-service training and failure to assign the relevant functions and responsibilities. Further, more than 15,800 development officers are engaged in teaching in the national schools and provincial schools and

problematic situations have arisen in respect of recruiting them to the teaching service. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. The Prime Minister to appoint a cabinet committee comprising the following ministers/deputy ministers under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and to appoint a committee consisting of the following officers under the chairmanship of the secretary to the Prime Minister to support the said committee for the identification of various issues that have arisen at present pertaining to the administrative activities of the development officers and their performance and analysis of said issues and submission of sustainable solutions to these issues.

Cabinet Committee

- **Hon. Prime Minister - Chairman**
- **Hon. Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Council, Local Government**
- **Hon. Deputy Minister of Economic Development**
- **Hon. Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education**
- **Hon. Deputy Minister of Professional Development**

Officers Committee

- **secretary to the Prime Minister - Chairman**
- **Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Council, Local Government**
- **Secretary, Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Professional Education**
- **Secretary, Finance Commission of Sri Lanka**
- **Director General, Department of National Budget**
- **Director General of Establishment**
- **Director General, Department of Management services**
- **Director General of Combined Services**

08. Recalling of nominations called for the Local Government election due to be conducted in the year 2023 and providing provisions to call for new nominations.

It has been decided at the cabinet meeting held on 02-09-2024 to instruct the legal draftsman to formulate the bill for Local Government Election (Special Provisions) for providing provisions to recall the nominations called for the Local Government Election due to be conducted in the year 2023 and providing

provisions to call for new nominations. The consensus has been reached at the recognized party leaders' meeting conducted on 25-11-2024 under the patronage of the Hon. Speaker in the parliament, that the next Local Government Election should be conducted cancelling nominations called for the election due to be conducted in the year 2023 and calling new nominations. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial council and Local Government to instruct the legal draftsman to prepare the bill (Special Provisions) for Local Government Election providing provisions enabling to recall the nominations that were already called and new nominations to be called in such a manner protecting the right of all voters and securing the right of youth in presenting nomination for the election.

09. Disposal of luxury vehicles that are huge burden to the government institutions in proper procedure

Taking into consideration the huge cost for maintenance and fuel of certain luxury vehicles used in government institutions, it has been shown that the disposal of such luxury vehicles is more economically effective. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, to vest the power to the Secretary to the General Treasury to issue relevant circulars and instructions with the view of reporting to the Comptroller General of the General Treasury to dispose of the said luxury vehicles before 01.03.2025 following the prescribed procurement procedure with petrol vehicles that have engine capacity of more than 1800cc and diesel engine capacity above 2300cc (excluding single cabs/vans/buses) under the custom code 87.03 after conducting a formal study of the existing vehicles in all government institutions.

10. Implementation of "Clean Sri Lanka" program

At present, Sri Lanka is not only economically but also politically, socially, spiritually and ecologically, in a significant setback, and taking into consideration this condition, a program called "Clean Sri Lanka" has been planned as an operation for the well-being harmony and progress of the people of this country. This program as a transformative, initiative, guided by the new government's vision of a "a rich country, a beautiful life" will be implemented with the objective of social, environmental and ethical awakening. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, to establish a presidential task force and to establish a fund by the name of "Clean Sri Lanka Fund" which will be controlled by a governing body to provide necessary funds to implement the program.

11. Introducing amendments to the Aswasuma Welfare Payment Scheme.

The Aswasuma Welfare Payment Scheme has been implemented from 01-07-2023 and it has been again revised by the Extraordinary Gazette notification no 2384/30 and implemented from 01-07-2024. The benefits are provided to the Aswasuma welfare beneficiary families under 04 categories.

Since the effects of the economic crisis have not been completely freed, the necessity of providing relief further for a short term to the selected families that undergo transitional and vulnerability category under the first stage and to the families where the selection process has started from the applications under the second round. Further, taking into consideration the present cost of living, it has also been shown that the current amount given is insufficient. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, to revise the presently effective aswasuma welfare payment scheme as follows.

- To increase the currently paid monthly beneficiary allowance paid to the poor and extremely poor category from Rs. 8500 to Rs. 10,000 and from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 17,500 respectively, and implement it from the date that the revised Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme is approved by the parliament.
- To extend the valid duration that the benefit is paid for the transitional social category up to 31-03-2025
- To extend the valid duration that the benefit is paid to the social category subjected to vulnerability up to 31-12-2025

12. Vote on Account – 2025

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 25-11-2024 to advise the legal draftsman to draft a resolution for submission of Vote on Account to parliament for the period of the first 04 months of the year 2025. Accordingly, the clearance of the Attorney General has been obtained to the resolution for the vote on account drafted by the legal draftsman. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the president, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, to submit said resolution to Parliament.

13. Providing an allowance for school children to obtain stationaries.

A survey conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics has revealed that the school children above 55% have had a significant negative impact on education due to the adverse effects of the economic crisis. It was further revealed that this percentage is higher in rural and estate areas where 53.2% of affected children have reduced or stopped purchasing school stationary while 26.1% of the school children have resorted to reusing used school stationary. Therefore, in order to minimize the negative effects caused to school children, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the president, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, to provide an allowance for purchasing stationary as mentioned below before commencement of the academic year 2025.

- To provide an allowance of Rs. 6000/- per child through Welfare Benefit Board to purchase stationary for children of families where the Aswasuma is entitled.
- To provide an allowance of Rs. 6000/- per child through the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Professional Education to purchase stationary for children who are not entitled to the Aswasuma program, children from families with disabled mother or farther, all children of school age in orphanages and children belonging to the categories who have become destitute due to special reasons.

14. Permission to import rice without obtaining import control license

The Cabinet of Ministers has considered the suitability of removing the existing restrictions on the import of rice, taking into consideration the current shortage of Nadu rice and other types of rice in the local market and the damage caused to paddy cultivation due to the heavy rains of the past few days. Accordingly, it has been decided to grant permission with immediate effect until 20-12-2024 to import rice without obtaining the import control license.

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