

Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 30-12-2024

01. Submission of the annual Appropriation bill for the year 2025 to the Parliament.

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 25-11-2024 to prepare the annual appropriation bill for the year 2025. Accordingly, clearance from the Attorney General has been received for the appropriation bill prepared for the financial year 2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to publish the said bill in the Government Gazette and submit it to the Parliament for approval.

02. Submission of the report to the Parliament on the deviation of the Headline Inflation from the inflation target specified in the proposal on the budget policy framework.

According to the agreement on the Monetary Policy framework under Section 26(1) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act No 16 of 2023, the Central Bank is responsible for maintaining the quarterly surface inflation measured by the Colombo Consumer Price Index at a level of 5%. According to section 26(5) of the said agreement, if the Central Bank of Sri Lanka fails to meet the inflation target within two consecutive quarters by a definite margin, the Monetary Policy Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka shall submit a report to the Parliament by the Minister in charge of Finance. The quarterly average of surface inflation in the second and third quarters of the year 2024 has been 1.4% and 0.8% respectively, which is below the lower margin of the inflation target. Including those facts, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to table the report on the deviation of the Headline Inflation submitted to the Minister in charge of the subject of finance in the Parliament under the provisions of the Central Bank Act.

03. Appointment of a committee of officers to take prompt strategic decisions related to the implementation of public investment projects.

According to section 44(3) of the Public Financial Management Act No. 44 of 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers should appoint a committee comprising of not less than eleven (11) chief entity members that is responsible for taking prompt strategic decisions, preparation of plans, allocation of resources, budgeting, financing, and supervision with relevance to the implementation of public investment projects based on the information supplied by the Chief Accounting Officers and Accounting Officers. During the past decade, it has been observed that it has been unable to reach the expected development targets due to a lack of anticipated results and returns commensurate with the costs incurred from public capital investment. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to establish the

“Public Investment, Supervision, and Evaluation Committee” comprising eleven (11) members, including two (2) Secretaries of Ministries appointed by the Secretary to the President and Senior Additional Secretary of the President, enabling them to overcome various issues in the implementation of development projects/programs to propose measures that should be taken relevant to the project management and supervision.

04. Submission of Sri Lanka’s First Biennial Transparency Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Sri Lanka has been a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1993 and the Paris Agreement since 2016. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is obliged to implement the decisions taken by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. As per section 13, all the stakeholders should submit the first biennial transparency report relevant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change before 31-12-2024. The first biennial transparency report of Sri Lanka has been prepared as per the guidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Environment to submit the said report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

05. Implementation of previously implemented pledge loan scheme to purchase the paddy as an annual program from 2024/25 Maha season

It was decided at the cabinet meeting held on 14-08-2023 to implement a pledge loan scheme for the small and medium scale paddy mill owners through the government banks under subsidized interest rates with the objective to strengthening the small and medium scale paddy mill owners and ensuring fair prices for paddy harvests. Since it has been observed that this program has achieved great progress in the previous seasons, it has been recognized that it is appropriate to implement this program in every season from the 2024/2025 maha season. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to implement a pledge loan scheme under subsidized interest rates up to a maximum of Rs. 50 million through the state and private banks to the small and medium scale paddy mill owners who have the maximum milling capacity of 25 metric tons daily (including the cooperative societies that run the paddy mills) subject to the several definite criteria.

06. Operation of stores with both women’s and men’s clothing with well known brands in the depart/transit area of Katunayake International Airport.

Bids have been called following international competitive procurement procedures to select the operators for the establishment of both women’s and men’s clothing shops with well-known brands for the duration of 04 to 03 years in the departure/transit area of Katunayake International Airport. Three (3) bidders have submitted their bids for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation to select M/s Odel PLC and

M/s Insomn (Pvt) Ltd respectively, as operators to carry out the shops for garments and recall the bids for the shops based on the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

07. Procurement for supply of 900,000 vials from 1 gram of Merapanam vaccine

International competitive bids have been called for the supply of 900,000 vials from 1 gram of Merapanam vaccine used for the treatment of acute bacterial infections. 05 (five) bids have been received for that purpose, and the standing procurement committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers has recommended awarding the said procurement to M/s Genix Pharma (Pvt) Ltd of Pakistan, the lowest satisfactory responsive bidder. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the said procurement for the supply of 900,000 vials from 1 gram of Merapanam vaccine.

08. Procurement for supply of 9,000 vials from 40 mg of Tenectiplase vaccine

International competitive bids have been called for the supply of 9,000 vials from 40 mg of Tenectiplase vaccine used for the prevention of deaths that occur due to heart attacks. 03 (three) bids have been received for that purpose, and the standing procurement committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers has recommended awarding the said procurement to M/s ABC Pharma Services (Pvt) Ltd, the lowest satisfactory responsive bidder. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the said procurement to M/s ABC Pharma Services (Pvt) Ltd.

09. Construction of two story steel structure warehouse for the State Pharmaceutical Corporation of Sri Lanka

National competitive bidding has been invited for the construction of a two-story steel structure warehouse at Rathmalana for the State Pharmaceutical Corporation of Sri Lanka. 10 (ten) bids have been received for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the said contract to M/s Dockyard General Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd, the lowest satisfactory responsive bidder, based on the recommendations of the standing procurement committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

10. Orders declared under the Intellectual Property Act No.36 of 2003 for the registration of Geographical indicators.

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 18-01-2022 to revise the Intellectual Property Act No.36 of 2003 by including the provisions relevant to the registration of Geographical indicators . Accordingly, the Intellectual Property Act No. 8 of 2022 (Amendment) has been legalized including the provisions required for registration of Geographical indicators. Accordingly, the orders for registration of Geographical indicators has been published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette No 2407/04 dated 22-10-2024.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Trade, Commercial, and Food Security to submit to Parliament for the approval of the said orders.

11. Amendment of Public Officers Security Ordinance

As per the Public Officers Security Ordinance, by fixing a bond for public officers, the losses that could occur by public officers in performing their duties are recovered from the security kept by them. It has been decided at the cabinet meeting held on 20-11-2023 to appoint an officers' committee to identify the necessary amendments to undergo a complete revision of the Security Ordinance of Government Officials, enabling them to carry out the process in a simple and timely manner. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to instruct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a bill for amendment of the Public Officers Security Ordinance based on the report submitted by the officers' committee.

12. Reconsideration of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act No. 36 of 2024

The provisions of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act No. 36 of 2024 have been empowered from 27-06-2024. Different parties have shown that the provisions of the said Act, proposed institutions, and roles and responsibilities of the said institutions could fail to fulfill the expected objectives, and as a consequence an extra burden will be fallen to the power industry and customers in creating a secure and immaculate power sector. Therefore, it is essential to reconsider the objectives of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act, taking into consideration the ideas of all relevant stakeholders who are anxious for the establishment of a sustainable and secure power sector. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to appoint a committee comprising main stakeholders and policy specialists in the field of power and energy for the submission of recommendations for suitable amendments after studying the Sri Lanka Electricity Act No. 36 of 2024.

13. Review of the recruitment procedure of the public service and the management of the staff

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President to appoint an officers' committee under the chairmanship of the secretary to the Prime Minister to take the necessary steps for obtaining maximum service through the reestablishment of the staff according to the exigencies of the service and to review the staff of the commissions, ministries, departments, and statutory institutions as well as the staff of the provincial councils and to make essential recruitments.

14. Appointment to the post of Government Printer

Since the service period of Mrs. G.K.D.Liyanage , who has served as a government printer of the Department of Government Printing, was ended on 24-12-2024, a suitable officer should be appointed to the said post. It has been identified that Mr. K.G.P. Pushpa Kumara, a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is serving as an additional director general of the Department of National Budget, is suitable to be appointed to the said post. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved

the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to appoint the said officer to the post of Government Printer.

15. Amendment of Anti-Corruption Act

With the anti-corruption Act No. 9 of 2023 coming into force, the Bribery or Corruption Allegation Commission has encountered significant legal interpretations and technical problems in carrying out investigations, prosecutions, and administrative and judicial activities in accordance with the Act. Therefore, the Bribery or Corruption Allegation Commission has proposed to amend certain sections and to introduce new sections to the said Act. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by his Excellency, the President, to appoint a committee comprising senior officers of the Ministry of National Integration, the Department of Attorney General, and the Department Legal Draftsman under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of the Bribery or Corruption Allegation Commission to submit a detailed report with the recommendations and the sections that should be compulsorily amended and new sections included after studying the provisions of the anti-corruption Act No. 9 of 2023.

16. Establishment of Investigation Units in Ministries to ensure the accountability of the Government institutions to the public.

At present, a large number of complaints pertaining to public service are being received daily, nominally and anonymously, by the president's office, the prime minister's office, as well as public representatives. In order to protect the public trust kept in the government, and especially in order to make prospective positive changes in the public service, an impartial and scientific investigation of such complaints should be carried out. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by his Excellency, the President, to establish investigation units under the Chief of a Grade 1 Executive Officer of an island-wide service or a Class 1 officer who has experience at ministerial level pertaining to the investigation procedures to investigate the facts pertaining to the functioning of public institutions under the previous government, public complaints, statements, and information reported from various sources regarding the functioning of the current public institutions.

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