

## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 27-01-2025**

### **01. Recommendations presented by the Finance Commission for the year 2025.**

As per the provisions of Article 154R of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Finance Commission has been assigned to make the recommendations on the principles about the resource requirements for the provincial councils and the principles of the setting aside of the grants allocated from the national budget to each provincial council. Accordingly, the Finance Commission has submitted the report including the requirement of recurrent and capital expenses recommended by the Finance Commission for the allocation of grants from the national budget for the year 2025 for each provincial council. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, to lay said recommendations before Parliament as per the provisions of the sub article 154R(7) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

### **02. Development of Sri Pali Campus affiliated to the University of Colombo**

There are about 850 students studying in the Sri Pali Campus affiliated with the University of Colombo, and the lack of a suitable playground for the students to play and hold sports events is a serious disadvantage. Therefore, discussions have been conducted with relevant parties to apportion a portion of land, 2.5 acres in extent, that is uncultivated and owned by the Sorana Plantation under the Kotagala Plantation adjacent to the Sri Pali Campus, enabling the land to be used as a public playground. The consent of the board of directors of the Kotagala Plantation (Pvt) Ltd has been received to release the said portion of land without any compensation, and the approval of the Secretary to the General Treasury as an owner of the golden shares of the land, has been received in respect of the allocation of the said land for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. the Prime Minister, in her capacity as a Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, to transfer the said portion of land, 2.5 acres in extent owned by the Sorana Plantation under the Kotagala Plantation, to the Sri Pali Campus affiliated to the University of Colombo.

### **03. Entering into Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lankan Universities and Foreign Universities.**

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposals presented by the Hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, to sign the following Memoranda of Understanding between Sri Lankan universities and foreign universities with the objective of raising Sri Lankan universities to the top of the world rankings and internationalizing higher education collaborations with foreign universities.

- Memorandum of understanding between University of Sri Jayawardenapura and University of Wuhan in People's Republic of China with the objective of conducting education programs in the fields of mutual interest, including taking necessary steps for promotion, development, and establishment of education and research training programs, organization of combined workshops, conferences
- Memorandum of understanding between University of Sri Jayawardenapura and University of Isu in Japan with the objective of promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation between two parties in respect of higher education and science and technology, and transferring the information related to higher education, scientific research, and related activities and education staff, researchers, and students, and promotion of combined research activities.
- Memorandum of understanding between University of Sri Jayawardenapura and University of Agder in Norway with the objective of development and promotion of combined research, education, and training programs, as well as conducting student and education staff transferring programs, combined workshops and training sessions, and transferring the publications.
- Memorandum of understanding between the University of Sri Jayawardenapura and the University of Deakin in Australia with the objective of identification of short-term training courses and projects.

- Memorandum of understanding between the University of Moratuwa and the University of Linyi in the People's Republic of China for participation in the conferences and academic meetings with the objective of promoting cooperation of the postgraduate programs based on the mutual requirements and benefits and transferring educational information and other information.
- Memorandum of understanding between the University of Peradeniya and the Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences & Technology, in India with the objective of transferring the relevant research and education programs and learning materials and other relevant literature information, and conducting programs such as organization of combined conferences or workshops, short term continuing education programs in the field of mutual interest.
- Memorandum of understanding between the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Shandong University of Science and Technology in China with the objective of facilitation for transferring students, educational staff and researchers for limited time period in the collaborative fields such as supervision of combined research, learning, training, research and innovations including the first graduations, postgraduates and doctorates and conducting in-service training programs for probationary lecturers.
- Memorandum of understanding between the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka and State University of New York Cortland in the United States of America with the objective of promotion of research collaborative programs, transferring faculty educational staff and students' programs, educational opportunities in foreign countries, clinical experiences, and consultation and cultural programs.
- Memorandum of understanding between the Open University of Sri Lanka and The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia with the objective of performing activities collaboratively in respect of graduate and postgraduate courses.

- Memorandum of understanding between the University of Kelaniya and National Korean Maritime and Ocean University in the Republic of Korea with the objective of promotion of education and combined research programs and organization of combined workshops and conferences.

**04. Obtaining a grant of three hundred millions of yen from the Japan to purchase Garbage Compactors used for transport of garbage.**

It is expected for conversion of Sri Lanka into a clean, sustainable, and environmentally responsible model under the Clean Sri Lanka program. It has been recognized that the lack of advanced waste management infrastructure facilities has been the main obstacle to the achievement of the above-mentioned vision. The Government of Japan has agreed to provide an aid of 300 million of yen as a grant at the request of the government of Sri Lanka, and the said grant is to be utilized for the procurement of 28 garbage compactors to increase the capacity of waste management of the local government institutions in the Western, North, and Eastern Provinces. This project is implemented under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Administration, the provincial government, and local government, and it is proposed to distribute 14 compactors for the Western province, 8 compactors for the Eastern province, and 6 compactors for the Northern province. 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 obtain the said grant under the Japan Economic and Social Development program.

**05. Implementation of the “New Sapiri Rural Credit Scheme - Sarusara” interest subsidy Scheme as an annual program from the year 2025.**

“Sarusara,” the new Sapiri Rural Credit Scheme, has been introduced to fulfill the requirement of working capital of minor and small-scale farmers who are engaged in farming short-term crops and gardening, and this program has been implemented by the Department of Rural Development of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka from the year 2020 to date. As per the provisions of the new Central Bank Act passed by the parliament, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has not been able to implement such a concessionary loan scheme. 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 implement “Sarusara,” a new Sapiri Rural Credit Scheme through the Department of Development Finance of the General Treasury as an annual program from the year 2025.

**06. Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a political consultancy mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation of the Republic of Italia.**

A proposal has been forwarded to sign a memorandum of understanding on establishing a political consultancy mechanism between Sri Lanka and Italia, with the objective of promoting, strengthening and broadening fields including political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological and cultural sectors. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments to sign the said memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation of the Republic of Italy.

**07. Conducting the fourth Ministerial level summit of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) Organization**

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) Organization is a United Nations affiliated body with a membership of more than 40 Asian, African and Pacific regional countries. The objective of the organization is to provide assistance and technological knowledge to enhance technological strategies for early warning on flood, famine, land slides, storms affecting their member countries. A request has been forwarded to hold its fourth Ministerial level summit for the year 2025 in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to conduct the fourth Ministerial level summit of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) Organization for four days either on the last week of April or the first week of May of 2025 in Colombo.

**08. Extension of project period of the project to enhance health facilities in selected hospitals.**

Health facilities are enhanced in selected hospitals by supplying medical equipment and other equipment under the project to enhance health facilities in selected hospitals with the assistance from the Chinese government. Under this actions are being taken by now to construct hospital complexes with miscellaneous special units in 13 hospitals and supply medical equipment and other equipment to them. Under this project, construction work of 08 hospitals has been concluded and, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media considering the 90% progress of four (04) hospitals but one to extend the project period up to 31.12.2025 so that project activities can be completed hastily.

**09. Drafting Land Utilization Policy Planning Department Bill**

Establishment and defining the duties/responsibilities of the Land Utilization Policy Planning Department has been performed in par with the extraordinary gazette dated 20.05.2010. It has been recognized appropriate to define the activities and powers of the said Department by a Parliamentary act to prepare a legal background for productively implementing the responsibilities of the Land Utilization Policy Planning Department. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to direct the Legal Draftsman to draft a bill for that including provisions.

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