

## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 03-02-2025**

### **01. Signing of the exchange papers between the Government of Sri Lanka and Government of Japan and amended agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) relevant to the process of restructuring of foreign debts.**

According to the bi-partial negotiations held with the Government of Japan, the Government of Sri Lanka should sign the exchange papers and amended agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to complete the debt restructuring process with the Government of Japan after the conclusion of the debt restructuring discussions with the official creditor committee by the Sri Lankan government. The consent of the Attorney General has been received for the relevant documents that should be signed. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to sign the exchange papers with the Government of Japan and the amended agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### **02. Project for integrated rural-urban development and resilience to climate changes**

It has been planned to implement the project for integrated rural-urban development and resilience to climate changes with the objective of increasing the productivity of all agricultural sectors, including food crops, plantation crops, livestock, and fisheries production, as well as the competitiveness of the domestic and foreign market, and increasing the ability for survival of weather changes based on the World Bank concessionary loan amount of \$100 million and technical assistance of the International Finance Corporation. The involvement and activities such as climate-smart agriculture and diversification, water resource management, ensuring economic equivalence, capacity building and training, and development of infrastructure facilities and supplying facilities have been included in the said project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to implement the proposed project for the period of five (5) years from June 2025.

**03. Construction of Accident and Emergency Treatment Unit of the Mannar District Hospital and supplying medical equipment.**

The consent has been provided by the Government of India to provide a maximum financial grant of 600 million Sri Lankan Rupees for the construction of an Accident and Emergency Treatment Unit and supplying medical equipment to the Mannar District Hospital, the only tertiary treatment hospital in the Mannar District. The consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism has been received for the memorandum of understanding proposed to be signed between the two parties for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to sign the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

**04. Reviewing and simplifying the existing rules and regulations in the public service**

The district and divisional administration mechanism is still implemented based on the ordinances enacted during the period of the British Colonial and the Acts and regulations imposed by the Sri Lankan Parliament from 1950 to 1970. At that time, the transport and communication sectors were not developed at the same advanced level, and some of the rules and regulations that were prepared at that time are not compatible with the present situation, and it has been found that there have been obstacles in providing an efficient and productive service to the public thereby. Therefore, necessary legal and administrative reforms should be made promptly to alleviate such obstacles existing in the rules, regulations, and procedures. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Council, and Local Government to appoint a committee under the patronage of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Council, and Local Government and comprising other relevant officers to obtain a report that includes the recommendations that should be made to the existing rules, regulations, and procedures through obtaining ideas and proposals from the relevant officers and the public.

**05. Implementation of rural development program**

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 21-03-2017 to implement the “Grama Shakthi Program” as a program for coordination of public, private, and public involvement for alleviation of poverty, and the “Grama Shakthi Bureau” was established for that purpose. It was decided at the cabinet meeting held on 01-02-2021 that the said bureau should be named as the “Prosperity Development Bureau. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security, and Community Empowerment to restructure the structure, scope, and role of the Prosperity Development Bureau and name it the Rural Development Bureau, enabling it to be implemented with broad access for strengthening the rural economy through rural entrepreneurship and livelihood development, infrastructure development, and capacity development in line with the national movement for alleviation of poverty that has been planned to implement in accordance with the “A Prosperous Country—A Beautiful Life” national policy manifesto.

**06. Completion of the construction works which were stopped in the Moratuwa, Peradeniya, Buddhist and Pali, Sabaragamuwa, Kelaniya, and Sri Jayawardenapura universities.**

Requests have been made by the universities of Moratuwa, Peradeniya, Buddhist and Pali, Sabaragamuwa, Kelaniya, and Sri Jayawardenapura to complete the projects that are stopped currently in the middle due to the COVID epidemic and the economic crisis subsequently arisen. Taking into consideration the proposals presented by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the completion of construction related to residential facilities, canteens, and other public facilities that have been identified to be implemented on a priority basis during the year 2025 following the prescribed procurement procedures and to continue the implementation of the remaining work from the year 2026, revising the scope of the constructions based on the requirements.]

**07. The contract for the repairing of CFM 56-5B engines of Si Lankan Air Line Services Limited and the contract for the maintenance, repairing and operation overhaul.**

International competitive bids have been called for the contract of the repairing of CFM 56-5B engines and the maintenance, repairing and operation overhaul of Si Lankan Air Line Services Limited. Seven (7) bids have been submitted for that purpose. 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 award the said contract to the substantially the lowest responsive bidder, the Lufthansa Technik (LHT)/ Hamburg for the period of four years (4) based on the recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers.

**08. Amendment of Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003.**

Approval has been granted at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 12.02.2020 to move forward with the actions to access the protocol relating to Madrid Agreement that administered by World Intellectual Property Organization and apply amendments required for the Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003. However, the draft bill prepared in the connection has not been submitted to the Parliament for its concurrence so far. In the meantime, it has been recognized that an additional set of revisions related to registering trade and services marks internationally is appropriate to be added to the said draft bill. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to direct the Legal Draftsman to complete the drafting of the bill for amending the Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003 immediately including those revisions as well.

**09. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Educational Publications**

Mr. T. John Quintance served in the post of Commissioner General of Educational Publications of the Department of Educational Publications got retired on 01.02.2025. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education to appoint Mrs. D. A. Subhashini Dematagoda, the special grade officer in the Sri Lanka Educational Administrative Service, serving in the post of Additional Commissioner General of Educational Publications for the vacated post for the time being with immediate effect.

**10. Appointment to the post of District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Nuwara Eliya.**

The Cabinet of Ministers granted their concurrence to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to attach Mr. G. K. G. A. R. P. K. Nandana who is serving at present as the District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Nuwara Eliya under the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments due to service requirement, so that he can be appointed to another suitable post and appoint Mrs. R. A. D. T. N. Thennakoon of special grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service serving as the Additional Director General (Administration) of the Department of Livestock Production and Health to the vacant post of District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Nuwara Eliya.

**11. Appointment to the post of District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Matara.**

It has been recognized that Mr. Ganesha Amarasinghe who is serving at present as the District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Matara under the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments due to service requirement, so that he can be appointed to another suitable post. Accordingly, The Cabinet of Ministers granted their concurrence to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to attach him under the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments, and to appoint Mr. Opatha Withana Chandana Thilakarathne of special grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service currently serving as an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media to the vacant post of District Secretary / Government Agent in the administrative district of Matara.

**12. Revision of Sub – section 8:5 of Chapter XII of Segment I of the Establishments Code.**

Chapter XII of Segment I of the Establishments Code contains provisions on government officers' leave. A government officer applying for an overseas leave without completing a continuous service period of 09 months once again after spending a vacation outside island can only be granted leave as per Sub – section 8:5 of Chapter XII of the Establishments Code only if the officer has not taken vacation leave applicable to that particular year. As per those provisions a particular officer is eligible to set off shores on personal matters for only twice per one calendar year to the maximum. Since government officers are leaving shores at present for official matters as well as personal matters on short terms, it has been

observed that various issues have been erupted when adhering to Sub – section 8:5 of Chapter XII of Segment I of the Establishments Code. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to revise Sub – section 8:5 of Chapter XII of the Establishments Code so that an officer reported for duties after a vacation spent off shores, intends to take overseas leave once again in the same year can obtain remaining vacation leave entitled for the year the officer is taking leave as such.

**13. Supplying additional staff required for accelerating the printing of passports.**

As per the recommendations of the intellects committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers to submit recommendations on the actions to be taken for circumventing the shortage of passports, the procurement process has already been started to supply 1,100,000 empty passports with “P” category chip from the supplier. Accordingly, a programme has been planned to issue 4000 passports per day by monitoring the operations of the Department of Emigration and Immigration throughout the 24 hours to eliminate the delay of issuing passports which prevails at present. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to supply the additional staff required for the purpose by engaging the officers served in that Department and got retired on contract basis with the concurrence of the Public Service Commission in addition to attaching the officers currently in government service with the consent of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments.

**14. Taking measures to secure the local coconut kernel related industries and consumers.**

The Secretaries to the Ministries of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development as well as Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities were ordered at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held of 27.01.2025 to prepare a methodology by inquiring all relevant parties regarding the possibility of immediately importing coconut kernels and other coconut related raw materials adhering to the legal provisions applicable at present so that an increased amount of local coconut harvest can be utilized for the industries utilizing coconut as a raw material temporarily as a remedy to the crisis in the market for use in the local consumption due to insufficient coconut production in the country. Accordingly, the Department of Agriculture, Coconut Research Institute, Coconut Development Authority, Plant Quarantine Service and Sri Lanka Standards Institution jointly have prepared and submitted guidelines applicable to import of chilled coconut kernel and dried coconut pieces with coconut (non – copra) husk, coconut milk / coconut milk powder and desiccated coconut. The Cabinet of Ministers has granted their concurrence to the joint proposal forwarded by the Ministers of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development as well as Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities to take measures to import a capacity equal to 200 million coconuts of coconut kernel related products and dried coconut pieces with coconut (non – copra) husks for manufacturing coconut oil adhering to the given guidelines.

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