

Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 10-03-2025

01. Legal condition in respect of changing the design and modification of the buses.

Changing the design and modification of the buses could be made with the prior approval of the Commissioner General of Motor Traffic in compliance with the orders issued as per the provisions of the Motor Traffic Act. Accordingly, the Motor Vehicles (Construction) Orders published in the year 1983 have been amended from time to time, and the regulations relevant to the manner in which modifications could be made have been published in the Gazette Notifications. However, in the recent past, in addition to fixing the vehicle components and changing the construction declared by such orders, the Department of Motor Traffic has prepared a code of guidelines for the decoration of buses and modification of components through the internal procedure and issued an internal circular. However, the relevant orders have not been published as per the provisions of the Motor Traffic Act. Therefore, taking into consideration all these conditions, having studied the impact caused to the security of the passengers traveling by buses due to the decoration of the buses and components, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to give its consent to the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation to appoint a committee representing all relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation, to submit a report with the recommendations for taking proper action in this respect.

02. Construction of lawyers' office complex in the land acquired adjacent to the Galle new court complex.

The proposal presented regarding the construction of a lawyers' office complex at the expense of Galle Bar Association on the land extent of 130 perches adjacent to the Galle new court complex, which had been acquired for the use of the Ministry in charge of the justice, was discussed at the cabinet meeting held on 03-02-2025. A committee has been appointed under the patronage of the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and National Integration comprising the officers representing the relevant institutions including the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and, Economic Development, Land Commissioner General's Department of Sri Lanka, to study the legal and other matters in respect of implementation of the said proposal. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Justice, and National Integration and Galle Bar Association to act in the following manner based on the recommendations submitted by the said officers' committee.

- Construction of the lawyers' office complex with the fund of Galle Bar Association on the said portion of 130 perches of land remaining the ownership to the Government.
- Providing the use of the said building to the Galle Bar Association and the maintenance and use of the said building for a period of 30 years in such a

manner, the total amount of investment incurred by the Bar Association will be covered by the rental.

- The building should not be used for any commercial purpose other than providing service to the public relevant to the legal profession.
- Handing over the enjoyment of the building to the Ministry in -charge of the subject justice after a period of 30 years.
- After that, if the service is further required, the utilization of the said building is to be allowed to the Galle Bar Association by entering into a new memorandum of understanding on the assessment of the Chief Valuer of the Government on a rent basis.

03. Payment of annual subscription to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and signing of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between Sri Lanka and the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The International Solar Alliance has been established with the objective of supporting the measures taken by the member countries to promote the use of solar energy. So far, 75 countries, including Sri Lanka, have taken the membership of the Alliance, and 54 countries have ratified the Partnership Framework Agreement. According to the category that includes Sri Lanka, US\$ 25,000 should be paid as an annual subscription. As a member country, Sri Lanka has the potential to acquire benefits from the International Solar Alliance relevant to the field of solar power, such as capacity building through the Solar Technology Application Resource Centers (STAR-C), policy development, access to funds, global networking, and sharing of knowledge. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the following proposals presented by the Minister of Power and Energy.

- To pay US\$ 25,000 as an annual subscription continuously from 2024/25 financial year
- To establish Solar Technology Application Resource Center (STAR-C) in Sri Lanka.
- To sign the Country Partnership Framework between Sri Lanka and the International Solar Alliance

04. Amendment of Industry Promotion Act No 46 of 1990

It has been noted that the provisions of the Industry Promotion Act No. 46 of 1990 existing at present are not sufficient to compile industry policies that enable fulfilling the contemporary requirements in the fields of technical, trade, skills, and environment in the industry sector. Therefore, approval has been granted to amend the said Act at the cabinet meeting held on 08-03-2021. At present, the legal draftsman is in the process of amending the said Act, and the legal draftsman has shown the necessity of obtaining the policy consent of the present cabinet of ministers for the function of amending the Act. Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to grant the policy consent for the expeditious completion of the function of preparation of the said draft.

05. Amendment of Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 11.01.2021 to amend the Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957 including the following particulars:

- An introduction of a definition as “Reclaimable Tea” to the disposed portion of tea after categorizing at the process of production in tea factories.
- Naming the portion remaining as Refuse Tea after further extracting processed tea from the reclaimable tea.
- Registration of tea processors, issuance of licenses for them and administration of them. And including other legal provisions affecting them.

The Legal Draftsman is proceeding with the amendments to this act by now and has pointed out the requirement of obtaining the approval of the present Cabinet of Ministers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to complete the bill drafting process as soon as possible, considering the proposal furnished by the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities.

06. Implementing the recommendations of the committee appointed for reviewing the recruitment procedure of the government service and manage the staffs.

Approval has been given at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 30.12.2024 to appoint an officers’ committee headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister to take necessary actions on the quantities to be recruited essentially related fields by identifying the requirements, priorities and time frame by reviewing the recruitment process of the government service. Considering the requests made by the departments and other affiliated bodies of the Ministries from those Ministries to fill the post vacancies, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution forwarded by the Hon. Prime Minister to grant approval to the relevant Ministries and the institutions to make the following recruitments recommended by the committee.

No.	Ministry / Provincial	No. of vacant posts recommend by the Committee for recruitment
1.	Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation	909
2.	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	109
3.	Ministry of Environment	144
4.	Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs	2,500
5.	Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education	22
6.	Ministry of Science and Technology	03
7.	Ministry of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development	185

8.	Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Marine Resources	20
9.	Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments	1,615
10.	Central Provincial Council	72
11.	Uva Provincial Council	303
	Total	5,882

07. Appointment to the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kegalle

the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kegalle has been vacant since, Mr. J. M. R. P. Jayasinghe who served in the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kegalle has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the North Central Provincial Council with effect from 01.02.2025. It has been identified that Mr. H. M. J. M. Herath, an officer in the Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service currently serving in a post of the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments is suitable for the said post. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to appoint Mr. H. M. J. M. Herath, the officer in the Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service to be appointed to the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kegalle with immediate effect.

08. Appointment to the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kurunegala

the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kurunegala has been vacant since, Mr. R. M. R. Rathnayake who served in the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kurunegala has got retired from public service with effect from 03.03.2025. It has been identified that Mr. D. M. K. C. Dissanayake, an officer in the Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service currently serving as the Secretary to the Chief Ministry of North Central Province is appropriate for the post. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to appoint Mr. D. M. K. C. Dissanayake, to be appointed to the Post of District Secretary / Government Agent of the administrative district of Kurunegala with immediate effect.

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