

## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 26-05-2025**

### **01. Appointment of a Technical Appraisal Committee for the appraisal of project proposals submitted to the National Access for Research and Development.**

At present, the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and the Port City the Economic Commission are implementing measures to provide the necessary facilities for investors in Sri Lanka. However, considering the lack of investment-friendly, proper research and development mechanisms for identifying relevant projects for research and development commercialization, appraisal, and empowerment of their technical and economic potential, the National Initiative for Research & Development Commercialization (NIRDC) has been established under the Presidential Secretariat. The main objective of establishing said access is to provide facilities for investors who come forward to introduce research projects that have already been completed or are about to be completed, as well as to introduce value-added and marketable products or services. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President to appoint a technical appraisal committee comprising experts with specialized knowledge in technology, education, science, health, environment, food and sustainability, social development, and well-being, as well as other sectors, to appraise the projects which are presented to the National Access for Research and Development for commercialization and to refer them to suitable investors.

### **02. Accelerating Sri Lanka's digital transformation and establishing an institutional framework for digital economic development.**

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 27-01-2025 to liquidate the currently implemented Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) and to prepare a draft for the establishment of the Digital Economic Authority. In line with that, experiences in the implementation of existing digital strategies in Sri Lanka and other countries for establishing an institutional framework to expedite digital transformation in Sri Lanka and for digital economic development have been studied. Accordingly, it has been identified as essential to establish a stable and well-defined institutional structure in order to achieve the expected objectives of digital strategies. Taking these matters into consideration, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy, to establish a government-owned company named 'Gov Tech (Pvt) Limited' as an independent institution with the necessary powers, enabling it to implement digital transformation projects that have already commenced and are planned for the future without any obstruction.

### **03. Disposal of the shares of Canville Holdings (Private) Company**

Canville Holdings (Private) Limited was established in the year 2011 to invest in the tourism/hospitality sector. Sino Lanka Hotel and Spa (Private) Limited has been established to implement the 'Grand Height, Colombo' project, which is the investment of that company. The Cabinet of Ministers at that time had granted approval to dispose of the shares of Canville Holdings (Private) Company and to select Deloitte Touch Hamathsu PLC, and Indian Company, as the consultancy firm for this transaction. However, no further action has been taken in this regard. It has been estimated that approximately US\$ 120 million (about 36 billion) is required to complete the 'Grand Height, Colombo' project. Taking into account the difficulty of obtaining further financial requirements from the shareholders of that company or through loans, it has been recognised that the most suitable alternative to commence commercial operations is to obtain the necessary funds by selling the company's shares and completing the company's construction. 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 restart the process of disposing of shares in Canville Holdings (Private) Company and to obtain the services of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu PLC as the consultancy firm for this transaction.

### **04. The project on 'Marine Nights: Awakening Colombo'**

The requirement of structural access to uplift the local economy, to boost the tourism industry and to increase the experiences of the tourists in Colombo has been recognised; it is expected to achieve it by increasing the night-time tourism activities. Accordingly, a project for the development of Colombo Marine Drive has been planned to be implemented from Kollpetty station to Dehiwala station, about 7.4 km in length, under the theme 'Marine Nights: Awakening Colombo'. In this project, it is expected to draw more attention towards the area of 400 meters from Galle Face end to St Thomas Primary School. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism to implement the proposed project.

### **05. Incorporation of a limited liability company to manage specialized economic centers**

18 Special Economic Centers have been established to provide market infrastructure facilities for the sale, purchase, storage and distribution of agricultural products. Out of these economic centers 14 are currently operational except Vavuniya, Killinochchi, Jaffna and Batticloa. The management of these Special Economic Centers is carried out by a management trust consisting of members Ex- Officio appointed by the authority of the State institutions, Trade Associations, under the chairmanship of the District Secretary/ Government Agent of the district as per the Cabinet Decision dated 10-01-2006. The requirement to establish centralized, legally accepted and accountable institutional structure has been identified for the successful and sustainable carrying out business activities in these economic centers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to establish a limited liability company to develop, expand and manage specialized economic centers.

## **06. Establishment of multi-sectoral mechanism with an integrated approach to reduce child abuse incidents**

The protection of children from abuse and all forms of violence has been identified as a prime principle in the policy commitment of the framework known as the National Policy Framework "A Safe World for Children – A Creative Future Generation ", which was approved at the cabinet meeting held on 03-03-2025. Several parties are involved in various ways in the protection of children within the government mechanism. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Vocational Education, the Ministry of Justice and National Integration, and the Sri Lanka Police play a prime role in this respect. The National Child Protection Authority provides the facilities to lodge complaints 24 hours. However, it seems that there are so many occasions that such complaints are not received. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to take the following steps, enabling swift involvement in such occasions.

- Appointment of a Standing National Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and comprising representatives of other relevant institutions.
- Introduction of amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Code enabling the elimination of physical penalties against to the children
- In reporting all forms of violence and abuse that occur to children, the declaration of the media ethics system currently being drafted includes all appropriate provisions to prevent such victims from experiencing frequent occurrences of harassment.
- Obtaining swift intervention from the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses, the Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organisations and the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Regulation Commission to regulate the activities performed by the media institutions and social media communicators in such a way that damages the identity of child victims.

## **07. Implementation of Phase - 2 of Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 22-04-2015 to implement stage 1 of the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Programme that comprised 2 stages under the multi-staged financial facility of the Asian Development Bank. However, the relevant program could not be completed as expected due to the reasons of exceeding the estimated amount and the cost of the contract package and the COVID-19 epidemic prevailing in the country and the economic recession. Therefore, the Asian Development Bank has given its consent to continue the programme after restructuring the remaining works of the programme on a priority sequence under several stages. Accordingly, it has been planned to implement Phase 2 of the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program, which includes the completion of infrastructure facilities for the irrigation of the Maha Ela in the North Central Province, along with the establishment of a commercial agricultural development program featuring the improved distribution of water systems in areas associated with the main canal of the North Central Province. Under this stage, it is expected to achieve the objectives such as to increase cultivation capacity of the irrigation systems of Hurulu Wewa, Manankattiya, Aru Wewa, Mahakandarawa, Nachchaduwa, Nuwara Wewa, and Tisa Wewa, providing 40 million cubic m<sup>3</sup> annually for drinking water requirement of the North Central Province, improving the livelihood of the farmers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved

the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, to and Irrigation to discuss with the Asian Development Bank and co-financial institutions for obtaining required funds necessary to implement Phase- 2 of Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program.

**08. Procurement of 15,000 metric tons of urea by State Fertilizer Company Limited**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 17-07-2023 to the State Fertiliser Company Limited to import fertiliser for the 2023/24 Maha season in a competitive manner with the private sector companies and to sell the fertiliser to the farmers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to import 15,000 metric tonnes of urea by the State Fertiliser Company Limited following the international competitive bidding procedure to sell the said fertiliser as direct and mixed fertiliser in the open market for the upcoming seasons.

**09. The project for the empowerment of the dairy farmers through the improvement of the productivity of their productions and value addition of these products**

It has been proposed to implement a project on ‘The improvement of the productivity of the dairy farms and value chain of the dairy products’ by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation by utilizing US\$ 10 million allocated for the development of the agriculture sector under the Integrated Development Project financed by the World Bank. The recommendation of the Department of National Planning has been received for this purpose. It has been planned to implement the proposed project in 12 districts, i.e., Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Matale, Kandy, Nwara-Eliya, Gampaha, Ampara, Badulla, Galle and Hambanthota where there is a potential for dairy production. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to implement the project on ‘The improvement of the productivity of the dairy farms and value chain of the dairy products’ in the said districts.

**10. Awarding long term procurement for purchasing 04 shipment of Merbon type crude oil during the from 01-09-2025 to 31-12-2025.**

Bids have been invited to purchase 04 shipment of Merbon type crude oil during the from 01-09-2025 to 31-12-2025. 07 bids have been submitted for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to award BB Energy Asia Pte. Ltd in Singapore based on the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the cabinet of ministers.

**11. Introduction of a profitable legal framework for acting against foreign terrorist militants**

Sri Lanka as a member of Asia – Pacific region on money laundering, is dedicated to productively execute and empower the internationally recognized standards effectively against money laundering, financing terrorism and spread financing prepared by the financial action task force. Furthermore, Sri Lanka is subject to a mutual co review process called “mutual evaluation” once in 06 years for deciding the level of adhering to financial action task force according to member laws of it. According to the action plan

prepared for 3<sup>rd</sup> evaluation relevant to Sri Lanka, the Ministry in – charge of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense shall declare the United Nations Defense Council Resolution 2178 (2014) relevant to foreign terrorist militants and shall empower the provisions in that resolution by formulating local laws. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is entitled to formulate laws on foreign terrorist militants before March 2026. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by His Excellency the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments and Tourism to instruct the Legal Draftsmen to draft law to act against the foreign terrorist militants based on the United Nations Defense Council Resolution 2178 (2014).

**12. Submission of orders prepared under Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act No. 2 of 2018 to the concurrence of the Parliament.**

The Cabinet of Ministers, on 03.03.2025 has granted approval to publish orders relevant to the ‘Application to inaugurate an investigation on imposing Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties of 2025’ and ‘Procedures for Promissory Orders of Prices 2025’ as per the provisions of Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act No. 2 of 2018 in order to secure local industries and entrepreneurs from dumping goods imported from overseas as well as goods as relief. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to present the orders relevant to the ‘Application to inaugurate an investigation on imposing Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties of 2025’ published in the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2429 / 32 prepared under the provisions of the relevant act, to the Parliament for its concurrence.

**13. Submission of the order prepared under the Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements Act No. 49 of 2024 for the concurrence of the Parliament.**

The Reciprocal Recognition, Registration and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements Act No. 49 of 2024 has supplied provisions for accepting, registering and empowering judicial decisions of other countries within Sri Lanka. Accordingly, as per the orders published by the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2429 /51 of 28.03.2025, which were prepared by the Minister of Justice and National Integration as per the provisions of the relevant act, it has been precisely mentioned the countries of which accepting, registering and empowering such case decisions should be carried out. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to submit the said order for the concurrence of the Parliament.

**14. Submission of the order prepared under the Convention Against Doping in Sport Act No. 33 of 2013 for the concurrence of the Parliament.**

Sri Lanka Anti Doping Agency has been established under the provisions of the Convention Against Doping in Sport Act No. 33 of 2013 and is operated subject to the standards of the global anti – doping agency. The list of banned substances of that agency should be updated and kept operative by each country. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Youth Affairs for submitting the orders of banned doping agents (the banned list) No. 10 of 2024 published by the extraordinary gazette No. 2430 / 24 of 03.04.2025 prepared as per the Convention Against Doping in Sport Act No. 33 of 2013 declaring the banned substances for athletes as well as horses and their events in relation to the year 2025 to be forwarded to the Parliament for its concurrence.

**15. Appointment to the post of the Director General of Agriculture.**

Dr. Mrs. E. R. S. P. Edirimanna served in the post of the Director General of Agriculture has got retired from the post on 18.05.2025. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to appoint Dr. W. A. R. T. Wickramaarachchi, an officer in the special grade of Sri Lanka Agricultural Service serving currently in a post of Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation with immediate effect.

**16. Execution of the recommendations of the committee appointed for the review of government sector recruitment process and staff management.**

It has been recommended recruitment for 15,073 vacant posts in 02 special expenditure units under 18 line ministers and 04 provincial councils according to two (02) reports furnished by the officials' committee appointed under the chairing of the Secretary to the Prime Minister for the review of the government sector recruitment process and staff management. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to execute the recruitments recommended by those reports.

**17. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for initiating an active group to promote smooth bi – lateral trade between Sri Lanka and China.**

It has been proposed to initiate an active group to promote smooth bi – lateral trade between Sri Lanka and China. This is with the objective of uncovering the under – utilized probabilities in bi – lateral trade, confronting challenges related to trade as well as increase the trade volume between Sri Lanka and China and enhance the quality of them. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal forwarded by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Trade of the Peoples' Republic of China and the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development of Sri Lanka to establish the active group as proposed.

**18. Long term contract for procurement of 05 stocks of shipments of diesel (0.05% M. S.) during the period from 01.06.2025 to 30.11.2025.**

Quotations have been called from registered suppliers of the Petroleum Corporation to procure 05 stocks of shipments of diesel (0.05% M. S.) during the period from 01.06.2025 to 30.11.2025. Seven (07) quotations have been submitted in this regard. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Minister of Power to award the relevant procurement to M / s Trafigura Pte. Ltd. of Singapore based on the recommendation of the Special Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**19. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on strengthening economic cooperation of technical supply chains.**

It has been proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China with the objective of achieving mutual benefits such as general development, economic growth and job opportunities for strengthening among technical and supply chain entrepreneurs and facilitating them. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development to sign the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

**20. Amendment of the Online Safety Act No. 9 of 2024**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 09.02.2025 to amend the Online Safety Act No. 9 of 2024. Accordingly, considering the joint Cabinet Memorandum furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs, and the Minister of Justice and National Integration, the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to appoint a committee representing all the relevant sectors chaired by a Supreme Court Judge for submitting recommendations to amend the said act including the already identified revisions and recognized revisions subsequent to inquiring the public opinion.

**21. Establishment of Revenue Administration Reforms and Modifications Bureau.**

The prominent responsibility of state revenue collection in Sri Lanka lies with the triple entities namely the Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Sri Lanka Customs, and the Department of Sri Lanka Excise. At present these Departments encounter challenges due to having no consolidated monitoring process, discrepancies caused due to non – updated processes and legal structures, improper recovery of revenue, insufficient trend for digitalization, insufficient inter – institutional coordination and issues in the ability to carefully practicing. Under the macro economic stabilization actions mentioned in the policy declaration of “Pohosath Ratak – Lassana Jeewithayak” (A wealthy country – A beautiful life) it has been proposed to introduce a new unit for planning, and executing tax policies with a special feature to act regarding the international transactions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers gave their consent to the proposal furnished by His Excellency the President to establish a special bureau named “Revenue Administration Reforms and Modifications Bureau” by adhering to international precise uses for strengthening the state revenue administration mechanism by achieving the current challenges.

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