



## Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 02.10.2023

### 01. Regulation of chemicals affecting national security

A large number of different chemicals are used in the country for peaceful purposes such as industrial, agricultural, medical and research activities. As observed, among those chemicals, chemicals like Nitric acid, Chlorine, Hydrogen Peroxide, Potassium Cyanide, sodium cyanide, Nitro Methane and Sodium Azide are of dual use nature which can be used for peaceful activities as well as illegal activities. It has been recognized that there is a risk that the chemicals used in many different industries such as milk, beverages, oil-related industries, water purification etc. can be used for harmful activities that threaten national security. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Defense to make arrangements to regulate such chemicals to prevent their misuse, and to transfer the said regulatory role to the National Authority for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

### 02. Establishment of a University of Education by upgrading the National Colleges of Education into university campuses.

An expert committee headed by Professor Gunapala Nanayakkara has been appointed as per the Cabinet decision dated 04.12.2019 to make recommendations on the administrative and legal procedure to be followed concerning the upgrading of the current National College of Education to the status of a university faculty with the aim of making the entire teaching community of Sri Lanka graduates. The said committee has recommended to upgrade 19 out of 20 existing National Colleges of Education as university campuses and to establish a new university named Sri Lanka University of Education. Accordingly the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to advise the legal draftsman to initiate the preparation of new bill for the imposition of relevant legal provisions.

### 03. Provision of government land on lease basis for a 100 MW solar energy project

The proposal for the acquisition of about 219.72 hectares of land in Siyambalanduwa Divisional Secretariat Division of Monaragala District to Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for a 100 MW solar energy project was taken up for discussion on 07.08.2023. It has been decided that the matter should be discussed with the Ministry of Tourism and Lands, and then the related information should be submitted to the Cabinet. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy on the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism and Lands, to lease the relevant extent of land on a long-term lease basis for a period of 25 years to the Sustainable Energy Authority, with relevant provisions to enable sub-leasing to a selected renewable energy developer.

**04. Regularization of investigations conducted in relation to consumer complaints received by the Consumer Affairs Authority**

Legal provisions have been made to the Consumer Affairs Authority under the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No. 9 of 2003 to intervene in consumer complaints. The Department of Measurement, Standards and Services established by the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Act No. 35 of 1995 conducts market raids in collaboration with the Consumer Affairs Authority for the purpose of protecting consumer rights. It was decided to grant the Cabinet approval for the program that the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security presented as one of the important steps to reduce the time and effort spent on investigating customer complaints and giving decisions on them. The program planned by the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security is consists of programs to educate consumers and producers about protecting consumer rights and fair trade practices, to decentralize the investigation system in relation to the said complaints and conduct it at the district level to enhance efficiency and establishment of a National Operations Center for the purpose of carrying out tasks related to special raids through a joint program.

**05. Provision of facilities at Oluwil Fishing Port to TES (Private) Company Limited to carry out fish processing activities**

The cabinet has previously given approval to reactivate the unused fish processing plant in the Oluwil fishing port premises and provide facilities to the TES (Private) Company Limited to run fish processing activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Fisheries to lease the fish processing unit located in the Oluwil Ports Complex to TES (Private) Company Limited for a period of 10 years subject to the relevant rent being charged monthly, as recommended by the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee.

**06. Increasing freshwater fish production by releasing fish fry into reservoirs**

The freshwater fisheries and aquaculture sector plays an important role in the rural economy of Sri Lanka, contributing greatly to increasing food security and nutrition as well as providing employment / livelihood opportunities. Around 500 million fish fry should be continuously released into the reservoirs annually for the production of economically effective fresh water fish with high growth in the reservoirs. But due to insufficient depositing of fish fry, it has not been possible to fully utilize the potential of the existing reservoirs for culture-based fisheries. In the year 2023, 230 million fish fry and 80 million shrimp fingerlings were planned to be deposited in the reservoirs. But the plan had to be changed due to the drying up of reservoirs due to the recent dry weather. Accordingly, by revising the said plan, a proposal was submitted by the Minister of Fisheries to secure the necessary fund allocation to implement the program to release 100 million fish fry and 50 million freshwater shrimp fingerlings into the reservoir during the remaining period of this year. Taking into account the proposal, the Cabinet approved the provision of additional allocation of 100 million rupees for those program.

**07. Establishment of a new Commercial High Court**

Achieving development goals requires taking necessary steps to maintain a better investment environment in the country. Considering that situation, it has been identified the need of a new Commercial High Court to ensure expeditious disposal of the existing backlog of commercial matters. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to establish the said Commercial High Court at No.80, Justice Avenue, Colombo 12 address.

**08. Construction of 1996 units of houses under a donor programme of China government for low - income generating people.**

The Government of China has given its concurrence to finance a grant of Yuan 552 million to the Government of Sri Lanka in order to construct 1,996 housing units as assistance for the urban restoration project implemented as per the decision to house the residents of low - facility housing schemes within the Western province in houses in the urban housing schemes with facilities. The Government of Sri Lanka would be responsible for land development and supply of infrastructure facilities up to the site limit. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to sign the agreement to the relevant project implementation with the Government of China.

**09. The establishment of 70 MW, AC ground mounted solar PV power plants in (1 – 5) MW, AC capacity on build, own and operate basis.**

Project proposals are called from prospective investors for the establishment of ground mounted solar PV power plants of up to 70 megawatts of generated power units linked to the national electricity system possessing a capacity of 1 – 5 megawatts, on build, own and operate basis enable to be linked to 11 grid sub stations with a monitoring time frame of 20 years. Accordingly, based on the recommendations submitted subsequent to evaluation of relevant proposals by the negotiation committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Electricity and Power for granting approval to the relevant investors to implement the projects in relation to the 08 Grid Sub – Stations in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Galle, Habarana, Kurunegala, Madampe, Mahawa, and Matara.

**10. Draft bill on Stylistic Education Foundation (Incorporation)**

Hon. Member of Parliament Dr. (Mrs.) Harini Amarasekera has furnished the draft bill on the Stylistic Education Foundation (Incorporation) as a personal proposal of a Parliamentarian. The fundamental draft bill has been formally prepared by the Legal Draftsman and the clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for the said draft bill. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Education to furnish a report to the Parliament recommending the relevant draft bill in accordance with the standing orders 52 (6) of the Parliament.

**11. Amendments to Mediation Boards Act No. 72 of 1988**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 27.02.2023 to amend the Mediation Boards Act No. 72 of 1988 revising the provisions pertaining to appointment of members to mediation boards commission, mediation board area and introducing several other revisions. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Activities and Constitutional Reforms therefore, to publish the said draft bill in the government gazette notification and thereafter, table the same in the Parliament for its concurrence.

**12. Draft bill for accepting and empowering international settlement conventions / accords that is created through mediation.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 25.10.2022 to prepare a draft bill to formulate laws applicable to empower UN convention of International Settlement Agreement (Singapore convention on mediation) locally. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Activities and Constitutional Reforms therefore, to publish the said draft bill in the government gazette notification and thereafter, table the same in the Parliament for its concurrence.

**13. Draft of Pavithra Wanniarachchi Friendship Foundation (Incorporation) Bill**

Draft of Pavithra Wanniarachchi Friendship Foundation (Incorporation) Bill has been submitted to the Parliament as a personal proposal of a Parliamentarian by Hon. Member of Parliament, Lalith Ellawala. The fundamental draft bill pertaining to it has been formally prepared by the Legal Draftsman and the clearance of the Attorney General has been granted in the regard. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to furnish a report to the Parliament recommending the relevant draft bill in accordance with the standing orders 52 (6) of the Parliament.

**14. Appointment of a Board of Consultants for the Department of Community Based Corrections.**

It has been recommended to appoint a consultancy board at the public accounts committee meeting held on 09.06.2023, since, a continuous supervision and a follow up is required to perform the activities carried out by the Department of Community Based Corrections implemented under the Ministry of Justice, Prison Activities and Constitutional Reforms more effectively. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Activities and Constitutional Reforms to appoint the proposed consultancy board chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prison Activities and Constitutional Reforms and comprised of other relevant heads of institutions and eminencies in the field.

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