



## Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 05.02.2024

### 01. National Disaster Management Plan – 2023-2030

In accordance with the provisions of Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005, formation and implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan is a foremost responsibility of the National Disaster Management Centre. Accordingly, 2023-2030 Sendai Action Plan has been prepared in compliance with sustainable development goals and Conventions on Climate Change, coordinating all the relevant institutions. As such the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of defense to table the National Disaster Management Plan – 2023-2030 in Parliament.

### 02. Japan Project Support for the Project to Stabilize the Power Supply of Hospitals in Sri Lanka Using Renewable Energy

The Japanese government has agreed to provide a project support JPY 1 230 million (around Rs.2.8 billion) Japanese yen through the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the provision of electricity facilities by establishing solar energy generation systems at Sri Jayawardenapura General Hospital, Kurunegala Teaching Hospital and Ratnapura Teaching Hospital. The objectives of this project are to reduce the use of non-renewable energy in the health sector, to increase the overall efficiency of the health service sector and to promote sustainable development. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal regarding the implementation of this project presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

### 03. Strategy to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Business in Sri Lanka to achieve sustainable development goals

Enterprises based on objectives with commercially viable models that create positive social and environmental impacts, including green businesses and social enterprises that empower vulnerable communities are called Inclusive and Sustainable Businesses (ISBS). The lack of access to adequate information, skills training, partnership financing and formal recognition for Inclusive and Sustainable businesses in Sri Lanka has limited the growth and positive impact of those businesses. Therefore, in supporting and facilitating the development of these businesses, the need for specific strategies has arisen to integrate measures to promote Inclusive and sustainable businesses into government policies related to national businesses, industries, and financial investments. Accordingly, the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Council has prepared the strategy to promote Inclusive and sustainable businesses in Sri Lanka to achieve the "Sustainable Development Goals" with the support of the Trade Investment and New Innovations Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific Region, taking the views of all relevant parties. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers

approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies regarding the implementation of the strategy.

**04. Project to Promote Self-Government, Literacy and Attention through Market Alliances in Sri Lanka under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture – Phase II**

In 2018, the United States Government has given a grant of 26 million US dollars to Sri Lanka through the United States Department of Agriculture and the Save the Children organization for the implementation of the project to promote self-governance, literacy and attention through market alliances. This project is scheduled to be completed by the second quarter of 2024. Government of USA has taken measures to provide a grant of USD 32.5 million through the Save the Children organization for the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project. The second phase of the project is planned to address short-term resource gaps in the School Meal Program implemented by the Government, to improve poor and poor health for schools and communities, improve school-age literacy, promote sanitation and strengthen support systems, and build capacity for sustainability. It is planned to implement the second phase of the project with the aim of improving school and community health, improving school-age children's literacy, promoting hygiene and strengthening support systems and capacity development for sustainability. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with relevant parties and to implement said project consequently.

**05. Accession to the Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and to Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended in 2003**

The government of Sri Lanka has ratified 19 maritime conventions and protocols over the past 40 year, which has greatly contributed to the development of Sri Lanka as a maritime nation. It is essential that member states act in accordance with the conventions of the International Maritime Organization. Accordingly, steps have been taken to amend the Merchant Shipping Act No. 52 of 1971 to meet that requirement and to include provisions for the Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and to Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended in 2003. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to access the said protocols by depositing the admission documents with the financial deposits related to the said protocols through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**06. Declaring 21st March as National Seafarer's Day**

It has been recognized that it is appropriate to announce a National Seafarers' Day to appreciate the contribution made by seafarers to the local economy of Sri Lanka, it will create opportunities to earn foreign exchange by attracting those interested in the maritime profession and to enhance the contribution to the national economy by improving the services of the maritime sector. Accordingly the

Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to declare the 21st March as National Seafarer's.

**07. Issuance of Light Vehicle Driving Licenses for Hearing Impaired persons**

Cabinet approval has been granted on 14.11.2022 for the implementation of a pilot project in Gampaha District to provide Light Vehicle Driving Licenses for Hearing Impaired. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport and Highways to take necessary steps based on the results of the pilot project and the recommendations of the committee headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Highways regarding the implementation of this project, to issue driver's licenses to Hearing Impaired persons covering the entire island on a bi-annual renewal basis

**08. Imports of cashew nuts in shell**

The country's annual requirement of cashew nuts in shell is around 25,000 Metric Tons. However, currently only 12,500 Tons of cashew nuts can be procured locally and the cashew industry in the country is facing a very unfortunate situation as the crop has not been harvested as expected in the last season. Therefore the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation to import a maximum of 15,000 tons of cashew nuts in shell for this year and then to import a quantity determined by a committee consisting of senior officials of the relevant ministries during the period from December to April when the local cashew harvest is not available in the next 4 years.

**09. The programme to award the sole ownership for residential housing units of 50,000 low – income families under urban housing right as per budget proposals 2024.**

In par with one of the budget proposals tabled by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, suspending the charging rental for apartments rented out for low – income families under the urban housing programmes, necessary measures should have to be taken to grant the legitimate ownership of those housing units to those resided within them themselves. Under various housing programmes, the Urban Development Authority, and the National Housing Development Authority and the Urban Civilization Development Authority have provided houses on lease, instalment – wise ownership, sole ownership and rental to low – income generating families. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to stop charging rental from all the urban housing units provided on a low monthly rental basis of Rs. 3,000/- or less to low income generators and take necessary steps to transfer the sole ownership of those housing units to those low income generators.

**10. Proposed amendments for foreign exchange orders already implemented for implementing the plan to lift the foreign exchange limitations step by step.**

Sri Lanka is bound to lift the administrative measurements taken step by step when the country's balance of payments reaches a steady stance as per the International Monetary Fund report on Sri Lanka. Adhering to that, recommendation of the governing board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to

implement the steps under the phase - wise plan of releasing foreign exchange limitations applicable to banning the conversion of Sri Lankan rupees to foreign exchange for certain mobile foreign exchange transactions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to publish the orders formulated as per the provisions of section 7 (1) of the Foreign Exchange Act No. 12 of 2017 and to forward the same to the Parliament thereafter for its concurrence.

**11. Draft bill of Sri Lanka Planning Technicians' Institute (Incorporation)**

The draft bill of Sri Lanka Planning Technicians' Institute (Incorporation) has been submitted to the Parliament as a private resolution of a Parliamentarian by the Hon. Parliamentarian Mr. Gamini Waleboda. The Minister of Education has been directed the said draft bill for obtaining a report as per the standing order 52 (6) on the said bill. Accordingly, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for that draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Education to submit a report to the Parliament recommending the aforementioned draft bill.

**12. Conducting elections during the year 2024**

The Cabinet of Ministers considered that an allocation of rupees 10 billion have been made by the budget estimated for the year 2024, within the financial stamina of the government and those provisions have to be managed for covering the expenditure of the Presidential election and general election.

Furthermore, it was observed by the Cabinet of Ministers that funds required for conducting provincial council elections and local government elections should be released from the budget for the year 2025 owing to the limited financial situation. However, subsequent to conducting those two elections in the year 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers took into account that the revisions for the applicable elections laws should be introduced subject to amendments of the Parliament, if required, based on the scheduled recommendations to be presented by the test commission to the Parliament declared by the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2354/06 dated 16.10.2023 as well as established under Test Commissions Act (Authority 393) No. 17 of 1948.

The Cabinet of Ministers decided to grant their concurrence to take necessary actions based on those facts furnished by the Hon. President.

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