



Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 18.03.2024

**1. Fulfillment of national commitments consistent with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on phase down of Hydrofluorocarbon**

In 2018, Sri Lanka ratified the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol on the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbon. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is legally bound to restrict the import, export, trade and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbon on a phased basis from 01.01.2024. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Environment to adhere the legal obligation of the national obligations related to the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Alliance by limiting the importation and consumption of pure Hydrofluorocarbon and products containing Hydrofluorocarbon to Sri Lanka in a phase basis and by implementing the Hydrofluorocarbon import trade under an annual import quota system so that the hydrofluorocarbon consuming sectors such as agriculture, fishing, health, tourism, transport, industry, housing, and construction do not have adverse effects.

**2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Govt. of Hungary on Sports and Sport Education**

It has been proposed to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Hungary in order to develop and strengthen cooperation between the two sides by promoting the fields of sports and sports education. The draft MoU has received the Attorney General's clearance and as such, the Cabinet approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs to sign the MoU accordingly.

**3. An island-wide program to gather information about young entrepreneurs covering the entire island Obtaining information related to grant of freehold ownership and creating a million young entrepreneurs under the "Urumaya" program**

Almost two million families in the country have been given grants/permits for the land they enjoy. Under the Urumaya program, it is planned to give the absolute right of the government lands to the grantees and permit holders in the year 2024. It is also planned to implement a program to create one million young entrepreneurs in the entire island. The information required to implement these two programs is expected to be gathered by deploying the youth force of the National Youth Service Council covering all 14,022 Grama Niladhari Divisions in the island with the support of the Grama Niladhari in the respective divisions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Tourism and Lands to implement the Urumaya program and the program to create a million young entrepreneurs by collecting the necessary information through the existing mechanisms at the divisional secretariat level.

#### **4. Separation of Sapugaskanda Fuel Refinery from Ceylon Petroleum Statutory Corporation and establishment as a public enterprise**

Sapugaskanda Fuel Refinery, the only fuel refinery in Sri Lanka, was established in the year 1969 and around 25% of the domestic demand for refined petroleum products is supplied by the refinery. A critical investment of upgrading the relevant refinery for the operation of another twenty-five years has been identified. It has been found advisable to establish the Sapugaskanda Fuel Refinery as a separate public enterprise so that the necessary investments can be provided by local and foreign private sectors. Accordingly, the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to establish the Sapugaskanda Fuel Refinery as a separate state enterprise from the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

#### **5. Revision of the Sri Lanka Foundation Act No. 31 of 1973**

The Sri Lanka Foundation, established under the Sri Lanka Foundation Act No. 31 of 1973, acts as a center for training and awareness services on subjects related to sustainable development, social integration, socioeconomic development, good governance, entrepreneurship and democracy. At present, the Sri Lanka Foundation runs various courses ranging from certificate courses to advanced national diplomas. However, there is a need to revise not only the goals and objectives of the foundation but also the powers and functions to suit the current needs. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Media to amend the Sri Lanka Foundation Act providing scope for the Act to act accordingly.

#### **6. Preparation of a Bill to amend the Constitution**

The need of revising the current electoral system has been identified in order to meet the objectives of the Election Expenses Regulation Act No. 3 of 2023 and to achieve a fully democratic election. Accordingly, a Cabinet sub-committee has been appointed to ask the views of all party leaders and other relevant parties representing the Parliament and submit a report to the Cabinet with relevant recommendations. Suggestions have been presented to the committee to elect 160 Members of Parliament directly from the voters of the respective constituencies and the remaining 65 Members of Parliament to be elected at the national or provincial level according to the proportional voting system and the agreement of the majority has been received for this. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to advise the Legal Draftsman to draft the necessary laws taking into account the recommendations made by the committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to amend the electoral system.

#### **7. Amendments to the Primary Courts Procedure Act**

In a dispute affecting land, it is the function of a civil court to determine or give a final decision as to title or possession, and until then only preventive or remedial action is taken by a primary court. Inevitable delays occur here since the order entered by the primary court remains in effect pending a final decision by a district court in determining rights, and since district court decisions are subject to two appeals. That situation enables a trespasser or even a squatter to retain possession of the land for a considerable period of time. As such

the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to instruct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a bill to amend the Primary Court Procedure Act so as to achieve the desired objectives section 66 of the Primary Court Procedure Act No. 44 of 1979 as amended by Act No. 49 of 1980 in a more effective manner.

#### **8. Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill - Issuance and service of summons**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at the Meetings held on 11.10.2021 and 31.07.2023 for the amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure by including the necessary provisions to improve the procedure for issuing and service of summons related to civil proceedings by including the methods of delivery of summons through courier service and e-mail as normal services, as well as some other amendments to suit the current needs. The Bill drafted accordingly by the Legal Draftsman has received, the Attorney General's clearance. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the bill in the Government Gazette and then submit it to the Parliament for approval.

#### **9. Establishment of an inter-ministerial tourism committee**

It is recognized that the current revival of Sri Lanka's tourism industry will play an important role in the country's economic recovery and growth. Therefore, many measures have been proposed in the 2024 budget, including the implementation of a long-term program to promote the tourism sector and bring at least five million tourists annually. Due to the multifaceted nature of the tourism industry and its various assets, laws and responsibilities are divided among several government agencies, it is essential to maintain efficient coordination and cooperation among the relevant agencies to achieve the desired benefits. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Honorable President to establish an inter-ministerial tourism committee chaired by the Secretary to the President and with representatives from relevant government agencies.

#### **10. Provision of fertilizer subsidy to farmers for the 2024 'Yala' season**

As estimated by the National Fertilizer Secretariat, the chemical fertilizers urea, TSP and MOP, respectively, MT 110298.1, MT 27711.1 and MT. 33412.4 each is required for paddy cultivation in 2024 season. Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposals presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries, the Cabinet of Ministers decided as follows

- To import fertilizer through Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited for the 2024 'Yala' season, and sell fertilizer to farmers at concessional prices competitively with the private sector.
- provision of a Rs.15,000/-subsidy per hectare for a maximum of two hectares cultivated by a farmer during the 2024 Yala season through the Department of Agricultural Development.
- direct crediting of relevant subsidy to farmers' bank accounts

## **11. Acceleration of rural development programs**

Due to the economic crisis in the last few years, many development projects that had been commenced at the rural level had to be suspended. However, since the government has already made significant investment in those projects, those projects should be completed immediately and the expected benefits should be given to the rural people. It has been revealed that the amount of allocation allocated under the decentralized budget program is not sufficient to continue the implementation of the rural development programs that have already been suspended midway in the respective areas. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to provide another Rs. 2000 million allocation under the decentralized budget program for the re-implementation of the development projects that had to be stopped midway at the rural level, and to increase the allocation for special development initiatives implemented under the supervision of the President's Office by another 1000 million rupees.

## **12. Awarding procurement for the implementation of the Rooftop Solar Power Generation Projects for Religious Places under the funds provided by the Government of India**

On 08.01.2024, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the implementation of the Rooftop Solar Power Generation Projects in religious places subject to a limit of 17 million US dollars under the loan facility of 1000 million US dollars provided by the State Bank of India. Accordingly, bids have been invited to select a suitable institution for the implementation of the project and six bids have been received. Considering the recommendations made by the Procurement Appellate Board regarding the recommendation made by the Technical Appraisal Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to award the procurement for the implementation of Rooftop Solar Power Generation Project to M/s Premier Energies Ltd for a contract price of US\$ 17 million.

## **13. Providing relief to low income families**

In the first half of 2023, the government has taken steps to provide ten kilos of nadu rice per family for a period of two months covering 2.74 million families in the 25 districts, including Samurdhi beneficiaries. In order to help maintain the nutritional level of the identified low-income earners, it has been found that it is advisable to implement the same program this year as well. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to provide 10 kgs of rice per family per month for a period of two months covering about 2.74 million low-income families identified through district secretaries/Government Agents by involving small and medium scale mill owners.

14. **Import of eggs required for providing eggs to consumers at a reasonable price.**

In order to import eggs required until 30.04.2024 to maintain the eggs prices in the local market the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval on 18.12.2023 at their meeting. Accordingly, around 18 million eggs have been imported by now and it has been calculated approximately another 42 million eggs have to be imported for the festive season requirements. The Department of Animal Production and Health has called quotations from recommended eligible Indian establishments to import this amount of eggs and the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to award the relevant procurement as per the recommendation of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

\*\*\*\*\*

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