



Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 25.04.2024

01. Entering into MoUs /Agreements aimed at educational cooperation

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to enter into the following MoUs/agreements between Sri Lankan universities and foreign universities/agencies for the purpose of developing higher educational cooperation.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Sabaragamuwa, Sri Lanka and the University of Salford, United Kingdom regarding the disasters resilience and to encourage the initiation of multidisciplinary research on integrated management of natural resources.
- Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between University of Jaffna, National University of Singapore and Singapore Health Services (Pvt) to establish a regional collaboration center aiming the global health efforts.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Ruhuna and the Southern Health NHS Trust of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in relation to the Marie Project on the Mental Health Impact of Menopause on Women Globally.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University and Tomorrow Technology Education Service Centre of China regarding the designation and empowerment of Tomorrow Technology Education Service Centre as the authorized agency to endorse and promote the educational programs offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka to Chinese students.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Thomas Bata University of the Czech Republic on the development of cooperation between the two parties.
- Agreement between Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and University of Naples Federico II of Italy on capacity building, research collaborations, innovations and utilization of aquaculture biosystems technology.

02. Expansion of the island-wide “Mindfulness” program for school students

Implementation of the “Introduction of "Mindfulness" for School Students” Programme was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 12.12.2022 with the aim of relieving the stress that occurs in the minds of school students and making them calm. Currently, this program has been successfully implemented in almost every school in the island for more than a year'. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to celebrate the day after the Vesak Full Moon Poya day as the National “Mindfulness Day” every year as a further step in the program, and to implement

the program "A Mindful Country through the Vesak week" annually in conjunction with the Vesak week, and to hold the International Mindfulness Conference at the beginning of May every year from 2024.

03. Taking over the land where the Eththukala Beach Park Negombo is located to the Urban Development Authority in order to develop the Negombo Eththukala Beach Park.

Eththukala Beach Park is the only public beach park within the Negombo Metropolitan Municipality area. It consists of a land area of 6 acres 1 rood 9.1 perches. It is located within the High-Density Tourism Promotion Zone of the Negombo Development Plan 2021-2030. The Negombo Municipal Council has decided to entrust the management of the beach park to the Urban Development Authority in order to make it an attractive park for local and foreign tourists. As such the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to hand over the land where the park is situated to the Urban Development Authority as a free grant as per the provisions of the Government Land Ordinance.

04. Holding the first conference of Wetland Link International -Asia Oceania at Diyasaru Park, Colombo

Wetland Link International (WLI) is an international support network for wetland education centers and it is headed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) of United Kingdom. The Network consists of 350 wetland education centers spread across 6 continents. WLI Asia (Wetland Link International Asia) has been established under the auspices of UMI to improve wetlands in Asia. It consists of 100 member wetlands. In 2022, the WLI Asia Network has formed the WLI Asia Oceania Network with wetland centers in Australia and New Zealand. It is proposed to host the WLI Asia Oceania's first conference here at Diyasaru Park, which is managed under the Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation. This will be held in Colombo from 16 to 22 June 2024 as a MICE Tourism Promotion Program with Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to hold and host the conference in Colombo with the participation of 100 foreign delegations and 75 local groups.

05. Transferring two (02) blocks of lands in Pitipana, Homagama to National School of Business Management (NSBM).

The Urban Development Authority has acquired the land called Maahenawatthe in extent of 237 acres situated at Pitipana, Homagama with the objective of allocating plots of lands required with the vision of "The Knowledge Centred City" pioneering the objective of developing science and technology sector under the Homagama Urban Development Plan. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to provide the National School of Business Management (NSBM) with a portion of land in extent of 14 acres 03 rood and 12.8 perches for construction of its phase II and another portion of 20 acres for construction of its phase III subject to the estimated value recovery of the Government Valuer, on long term lease.

06. Introduction of a new regulatory body to the power sector

Although the import, refinery, distribution and marketing of petroleum products including petrol, diesel, kerosene, aeroplane fuels, liquid petroleum gases (LPG) is implemented within the existing legal framework, there is no broad regulatory mechanism. Since several private establishments are engaged in import and distribution of petroleum products, the requirement of an independent, dynamic productive and efficient regulatory mechanism has been recognized to look for solutions to the challenges of the sector, to enhance the quality of the products and safeguard the requirements of consumers, investors and other stakeholders. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal suggested by the Minister of Electricity and Power for appointing a committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Electricity and Power to present recommendations after studying in regard to that and formulate a legal framework in the regard.

07. Activities to be performed by Sri Lanka during 2024 subsequent to receiving the chair of Indian Ocean Ring Association (IORA)

Subsequent to receiving the chair of Indian Ocean Ring Association (IORA) which is comprised of 23 member states in the ring of the Indian Ocean for 02 yers, Sri Lanka shall organize several official meetings within the year 2024. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to conduct official gatherings within Sri Lanka and hosting those gatherings as follows.

- i. Conducting the 26th assembly of the senior officials' committee of Indian Ocean Ring Association (IORA) on 30th and 31st of May 2024
- ii. Conducting the 27th annual assembly of the senior officials' committee in November 2024
- iii. 24th Ministerial level meeting to be conducted in November 2024.

08. Amendment of Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Services Authority Act No. 34 of 2002 and Civil Aviation Services Act No. 14 of 2010.

Since applications, boundaries and restriction of the Aviation Industry are daily expanding, it has been recognized that Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Services Authority Act No. 34 of 2002 and Civil Aviation Services Act No. 14 of 2010 should be amended catering the civil aviation services policy of the country, the requirement of the industry and the global trends of the civil aviation industry / service. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare the draft bill to amend the said acts based on the recommendations of the committee appointed to obtain recommendations in the regard.

09. Handing over the management of Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 09.01.2023 to call for aspirations from the parties interested in for utilizing the facilities of Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport. Accordingly, aspirations have been called and 05 institutions have submitted their aspirations. The Cabinet of Ministers expressed their consent to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to entrust M/s Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt.) Ltd of India and Airports of Regions Management Company of Russia or its affiliated entrepreneurships with the management of the Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport for a period of 30 years as per the recommendations of the negotiation committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

10. Draft bill on properties earned from a crime.

As per the agreement with the International Monetary Fund entered into for obtaining the comprehensive loan facility, the Government of Sri Lanka should introduce a complete law regarding recovery of assets by the year 2024. Accordingly, the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms has appointed a committee comprised of experts in the field of justice during the month of March 2023 in order to prepare policy and legal framework and procedure required in relation to properties earned from a crime. Based on the recommendations indicated in the report furnished by that committee, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal jointly furnished by the Hon. President and the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms instruct the Legal Draftsman to draft the bill on properties earned from a crime.

11. Submission of Annual Economic Analysis of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Financial Statements and Monitoring of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2023.

The subject Minister of Finance shall submit the Parliament with a report on the economic situation prevailed at the end of every financial year within four months from the elapse of the relevant financial year as per section 80 (3) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act No. 16 of 2023. Apart from that, as per section 99 (3) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Act the Parliament shall be presented with audited financial statements audited by the Auditor General and signed by the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Chief Accountant. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to submit the Parliament with the Annual Economic Analysis of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Financial Statements and Monitoring of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2023.

12. Appointment of Community Consultancy Committees at local government institutional level to supervise the implementation of the Government's development programmes.

The Government is implementing various programmes and projects for the betterment of the living standard of all citizens of Sri Lanka and it is apparent to be appropriate to promote transparency and accountability of the governance through getting assistance of the community for the supervision of those programmes and projects. Further to that, it will lead to ensuring the knowledge and participation of community be engaged in those programmes and projects while ensuring that the particular programmes are prepared for accomplishing precise requirements of each area. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Hon. President to entrust power to the Provincial Governors to appoint Community Consultancy Committees on honorary basis to supervise the programmes namely 'Urumaya' land ownership programme, urban house ownership programme, upcountry decade programme, agriculture modification programme and the rice distribution programme in coordination with the relevant Divisional Secretaries.

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