



Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 27.05.2024

1. Development of infrastructure facilities of wildlife bungalows belonging to the Department of Wildlife Conservation

There are 52 wildlife bungalows currently managed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. For this purpose, it has been recognized that the wildlife bungalows should be improved physically and that it is advisable to take the contribution of private sector organizations and parties who are interested in contributing voluntarily to these activities, and that these activities should not contradict the provisions of the Wildlife and Flora Ordinance. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Wildlife to invite declarations of intent from the concerned parties and to enter into Memorandum of Understanding between the selected parties and the department of Wildlife accordingly.

2. Holding the 60th Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community in Sri Lanka in 2024

The 60th Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community is proposed to be held in Sri Lanka this year to achieve the objectives of increasing foreign exchange earnings, promoting the Sri Lankan coconut industry among member countries and improving cooperation between key stakeholders in the coconut sector. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries to hold the said session and ministerial meeting in Colombo in November this year using the income earned by the Coconut Development Authority and the contribution of several private institutions in the coconut sector.

3. Settlement of arrears of statutory allowances of Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Janatha Estate Development Board and Elkaduwa Plantation Company Limited

More than 2000 cases are being hearing in the courts of various provinces regarding the non-payment of statutory allowances of Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Janatha Estate Development Board and Elkaduwa Plantation Company Limited. Since the earnings of those institutions are not sufficient to pay the arrears of the statutory allowances, it has been recognized that it is appropriate to provide the necessary money as a loan by the Treasury and settle the relevant amount in installments from the earnings of those institutions. In accordance with the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund Act No.15 of 1958, the Commissioner General of Labor has the ability to reduce the amount of surcharge payable in relation to that amount. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to provide necessary funds from the Treasury to pay the respective arrears of statutory allowances of Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation, Janatha Estate Development Board and Elkaduwa Plantation Company and to instruct the Commissioner General of Labor to reduce the maximum amount that can be deducted from the surcharges to be paid by the said institutions as per the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund Act No.15 of 1958 after the payment of the arrears of statutory allowances.

4. Subjecting Samurdhi Community Based Banks and Samurdhi Community Based banking Societies to Government Audit

There are 1092 Samurdhi Community Based banks and 335 Samurdhi Community Based banking Societies functioning across the country to promote microfinance activities. As per the provisions of the Samurdhi Act, the Samurdhi Community Based banks and Samurdhi Community Based banking societies are audited annually by the Internal Audit Division of the Samurdhi Development Department. However, the Samurdhi Act does not include the provision that they should be audited by the National Audit Office. It has been recognized that auditing the Samurdhi Community Based Banks and Samurdhi Community Based banking Societies by the National Audit Office will also help maintain transparency in their operations and increase public confidence and acceptance. As such, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Women , Affairs and Social Empowerment to amend the Samurdhi Act No.1 of 2013 as amended by Divineguma (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2017 and to advise the legal draftsman to prepare the respective bill for this purpose.

5. Compulsory Retirement Scheme to be implemented in relation to amalgamation of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited.

267 employees have given consent to be retired under the Compulsory Retirement Scheme to be implemented for their employees in relation to amalgamation of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries to implement the Compulsory Retirement Scheme to be implemented in relation to amalgamation of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited and spend rupees 844 million from the funds of the two fertilizer companies for execution of the proposed Compulsory Retirement Scheme subject to the recommendations of the Officials Committee appointed with the chairing of the Secretary to the Prime Minister on retiring under the scheme of voluntary pension scheme of excess employees in state enterprises.

6. Obtaining financial allocations for construction of the Gampaha Biyagama General Hospital and the Children's Hospital

Since the requirement for health services in Gampaha district is swelling day by day, the requirement of enhancing the health services system in that district has been recognized. Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 12.02.2024 for construction of a general hospital and a children's hospital with all modern sophisticated facilities under Private – Public Partnership (PPP) and to acquire 02 blocks of land named Millagehawatte and Delgahawatthe (7 acres and 3 roods) in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Biyagama under the government value for construction of the proposed hospital system. Sontell group Hong Kong International Limited has given the consent to provide required finance for the construction of the proposed hospital. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers

granted approval to the joint resolution furnished by the Hon. President and the Minister of Health to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the said institution and the Government of Sri Lanka to obtain the funds required for the construction of that hospital.

7. Amendment of Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, No. 2 of 2018 and the Safeguard Measures Act No. 3 of 2018.

The requirement to introduce corresponding amendments to Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, No. 2 of 2018 and the Safeguard Measures Act No. 3 of 2018 has been recognized when preparing the Economic Transformation draft bill. The applicable draft bills have been prepared by the Legal Draftsmen and the clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to those draft bills. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to publish the draft bills for Anti – Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, No. 2 of 2018 and the Safeguard Measures Act No. 3 of 2018 in the government gazette notification and subsequently forward the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

8. Appointment of a Committee to act regarding salary anomalies in the government service

Considering the constant concerns furnished by the employee groups and trade unions whose having salary anomalies among various employee groups in the government service, the Cabinet of Ministers have decided to appoint a specialist committee for submitting a report so that the said anomalies can be rectified by the budget 2025 subsequent to studying those salary anomalies.

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