



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 12-08-2024

01. Entering into Memorandum of Understanding/Cooperation agreements between Sri Lankan Universities and Foreign Universities with the objective of educational cooperation.

It has been proposed to entering into agreements between local universities and foreign universities with the objective of raising Sri Lankan universities to the top of the world ranking indices and developing higher education cooperation. These Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation Agreements have been prepared according to the observations and recommendations of the Ministry of foreign affairs, Department of National Planning and Department of External Resources. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Minister of Education to obtain the covering approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Peradeniya and Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois in United States of America for mutual participation in the field of education and research sectors and for signing the following Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation Agreements.

- ❖ Cooperation Agreement between University of Jaffna and Oxford University of United Kingdom with the objective of capacity building, training programs and conducting research.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Peradeniya and University of John Hopkins in United States of America with the aim of conducting joint research in the field of Nursing, educational student transfers between two countries and / or development of educational programs relevant to the field.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Hunan Chinese Medical Faculty of Peoples Republic of China with relevant to the exchange of student-academic staff with the objective of strengthening the cooperation in the field of education.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Moratuwa and University of Maryland in United States of America to entering into joint agreements on mutual agreements with the objective of exchanging scientific knowledge and cultural tradition in global level.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Sri Jayewardenepura and University of Meiji in Japan with the objective of exchange academic staff for the progress of education and research sector.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Peradeniya and Association of Commonwealth Universities of the United Kingdom for the higher education scholarship program implemented under the Maritime States Cooperation Program.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between University of Kelaniya and Nalanda University in India with the objective of developing academic cooperation and strengthening the historical, cultural and intellectual relationship between two parties.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between Buddhist Pali University and Vietnam Buddhist Academy with the objective of developing cooperation in the field of academic research.

02. Production of Local Ginger and Price Regulation

Instructions have been given at the Cabinet Meeting held on 15-07-2024 to the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industry and to the Secretary to the Ministry of Trade, Commercial, and Food Security to submit a report with the appropriate recommendations finding out the possibility of reducing the retail price of ginger to an affordable price for customers in the local market, facilitating the production of ginger. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industry and the Minister of Trade, Commercial, and Food Security to import the 3,000 metric tons of ginger by the State Trading Corporation of Sri Lanka stage wise during the next 03 months period based on the recommendations in the report.

03. Providing Hosing Units on the rehabilitation basis for the informally located Plantation worker houses within the land of Horana, Millawawatte Urban Development Project.

Steps are being taken by the Urban Development Authority to grant portions of land from Horana, Millawawatte land for the development projects of the establishment of a medicinal drug manufacturing village, Walikda prison rehabilitation project, small and medium scale industries project, and establishment of a university village under the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund. In order to implement the aforesaid projects, the informally located old plantation worker housing units should be removed promptly. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to remove 54 housing units, which is the obstacle to the implementation of proposed projects on Millawawatte Land, and to provide a house with 10 perches of land to each family residing in the said houses without charging money on freehold basis under 02 stages.

04. Implementation of “Costal Zone and Coastal Resource Management Plan 2024-2029”

As per the provisions of Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981, Coastal Zone and Coastal Resource Management Plan should be prepared and implemented for the management of coastal zones in Sri Lanka, and the said plan should be updated once every five (5) years. Accordingly, “Sri Lanka Costal Zone and Coastal Resource Management Plan-2024-2029” has been prepared, amending the plan that was prepared and implemented in the year 2018. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to implement aforesaid plan.

05. Protection of archeologically valued Miocene Limestone Deposit at Puttalam Aruvakkalu.

It has been confirmed by the Geological and Archeological Research that there is a sedimentary rock deposit containing archeological evidence belonging to a very distant era between 26-195 million years, located in the Aruvakkalu area of the Vanathawilluwa Divisional Secretariat Division in Puttalam District. Fossils of more than 40 species of extinct and currently living animals belonging to the Miocene era have been found in the limestone deposit located in the area. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs, to designate an area of 10 hectares as an archeological reserve as per the provisions of Antiquities Ordinance No. 9 of 1940 and Antiquities (Amendment) Act No. 24 of 1998.

06. Criteria Framework for Selection of Investors in the drinking water Division in Sri Lanka.

A framework for Selection of Investors in the drinking water Division in Sri Lanka has been prepared by the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Facilities Development under the supervision of monitoring committee comprising of experts in the field, stakeholder agencies and the academics. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Facilities Development to implement the aforesaid criteria framework.

07. Construction and repairing of houses damaged by the disasters, including Floods, and strong Winds, occurred due to the activation of the south-west monsoon.

2024.05.15 of people in 120,215 families have been affected by the disasters, including floods, strong winds, that occurred due to the activation of the south-west monsoon, and it has been reported that about 172 houses were fully damaged while 20,075 houses were partly damaged. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Defense to construct houses for the 172 families in the same location or any other secure place and to grant compensation for the partly damaged houses.

08. Fixing and Maintenance of Solar Panels on the Roof of the Stations and Buildings Owned by the Sri Lanka Railway.

There are more than 300 stations owned by the Sri Lanka Railway, and it has been identified that it is appropriate to initiate a project for the generation of electricity by the solar panels fixing on the roofs of the stations. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport and Highways to take the necessary steps to implement the said projects as a public-private partnership project.

09. Awarding the contracts for the IR and IS contract packages of the part 03 of the Central Highway Project.

Construction packages of the part 3 of the central highway project have been divided into 19 packages and out of them, 17 packages from 1A to 1Q have already been awarded. Competitive bids have been called from the local construction institutions for the IR and IS contract packages under the recommendations of standing procurement committees appointed by the cabinet of ministers. Accordingly, The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport and Highways to award the IR and IS contract packages to the Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, who is the substantially responsive lowest bidder as per the recommendations of standing procurement committees appointed by the cabinet of ministers.

10 Ratification of Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement

The Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement between Sri Lanka and Thailand has been signed by the Minister of Trade, Commercial and Food Security of Sri Lanka and Minister of Commercial of Thailand on 03-02-2024 and the said agreement has been tabled in the Parliament on 12-07-2024. In terms of the section 14.10 of the said agreement will be effective from the thirtieth day of the following the final notification of first party to the second party that the internal legal requirements and the procedure has been completed. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to ratify the Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement based on the said matters.

11. Submission of the import and Export (Control) regulation No.10 of 2024 issued under the import and Export (Control) Act No. 01 of 1969 for the approval of the Parliament. (Import of the spices by the approved entrepreneurs for Processing and Re-export)

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Presented in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to submit the import and Export (Control) regulation No.10 of the 2024 formulated under the provisions of the import and Export (Control) Act No. 01 of 1969 and published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette No. 2393/36 dated 18-07-2024 for the approval of the Parliament.

12. Rules for Repatriation of Export Earnings under No. 01 of 2024 to Sri Lanka in terms of the Sri Lanka Central Bank Act No. 16 of 2023.

Exporters, representatives of exporters and certain government agencies have submitted propositions to the Sri Lanka Central Bank to relax “Rules for Repatriation of Export Earnings under the export earning No. 01 of 2022 to Sri Lanka (Amendment)” presently empowered rules in respect of export earnings. In order to fulfil the requests of the stakeholders, with the empowerment of Sri Lanka Central Bank Act No 16 of 2023, the new rules should be issued. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to submit the rules 01 Of 2024 which were prepared as per the provisions of Sri Lanka Central Bank Act No 16 of 2023 and published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette No 2391/02 dated 01-07.2024 for repatriation of the export earnings to Sri Lanka for the approval of the Parliament.

13. The proposed framework to lease the lands within the Port City Sri Lanka for projects for the development of internationally recognized schools, universities and hospitals \.

As per the section 6(1) (C) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No.11 of 2021, the powers have been vested to the Commission to lease the marketable government lands located within the jurisdiction of Colombo Port City which are entrusted to the Commission. Accordingly, proposals have been called by the Colombo Port City Economic Commission to select the investors for the development of schools, universities and hospitals. Accordingly, proposals have been submitted by the Asiri Port City Hospital (Pvt) Ltd and the Gateway International University (Pvt) Ltd to invest approximately American US\$ 100 million for the hospital and American US\$ 25 million for the school and American US\$ 25 million for the university. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Investment Promotion to enter into agreements to lease the portion of land for the hospitals, schools and universities as per the provisions of section 6(1) (C) of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No.11 of 2021.

14. Development of Pinnawala – Kithulgala Tourism Zone

Provisions of Rs.750 have been allocated to the Ministry of Tourism and Land in a 2024 budget proposal for the development of the Pinnawala – Kithulgala Tourism Zone. Recommendations have been made by the Department of National Planning to implement several infrastructure development projects which were identified thereunder. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to implement the projects identified relevant to the program for the development of Pinnawala – Kithulgala tourism zone.

15. Publishing of the Bill for National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) in the Gazette.

Approval has been granted to amend the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Act at the cabinet meeting held on 02-05-2022. Accordingly, the clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the Bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Accordingly, the Cabinet of ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Water Supply and Infrastructure facilities Development to publish the said bill in the Gazette and thereafter table in the Parliament for approval.

16. Draft bill on the property earned from a crime.

In accordance with the committee report for development of policies and legal framework as well as legal provisions drafts on the property earned from a crime, approval was granted at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 25.04.2024 to prepare the bill on the property earned from a crime. Therefore, clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the draft bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to publish the gazette notification relevant to the said draft bill and subsequently submit the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

17. Nominating Colombo Marina Development (Private) Limited as a primary venture with a strategic development.

Four plots of lands within the Colombo Port City area has been given on rent to Colombo Marina Development (Private) Limited which is the company with the sole authority of the Browns Investment Private Company for the “Recreation Port” (MARINA) development project. This project has created a capitulary with a full capacity of harbouring facility for 243 marine vessels, clubs for guests, food, retail outlets, recreation areas, space for ceremonies / parties and parking space. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his office as the Minister of Investment Promotion to nominate Colombo Marina Development (Private) Limited as a primary venture with a strategic development as per provisions of Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No. 11 of 2021 and to award releases or encouragement relevant to the venture.

18. Revision of Water Bills

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board is to implementing the existing water billing system since 08.01.2023 and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 15.07.2024 to implement the charges policy and matrix to review those charges. Since the Ceylon Electricity Board has deducted their electricity charges since 16.07.2024 and considering that the cost of fuel, chemicals and interest cost have been declined, the water charges can be deducted for some percentage. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Facilities to revise water charges as mentioned below.

No.	Charges Category	Proposed deduction average
01.	Residential category excluding Samurdhi holders and urban estate colonies	7
02.	Government hospitals	4.5
03.	Schools and religious institutions	6.3
Average of total deduction		5.94

19. Proposals for revision of salaries in the public sector.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 27.05.2024 to appoint a specialist committee to submit a report comprised of recommendations for implementing proposals for revision of salaries in all sectors of the public service from the budget 2025, subsequent to reviewing salaries, wages and other remunerations of the State sector. Accordingly, the specialist committee appointed headed by former Secretary to the President, Mr. Udaya Senevirathne has held discussions with public officers and major trade unions in the public sector and has submitted an interim report subsequent to analyzing the relevant information. The Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to grant policy approval to the following proposals recommended in the said report, and implement the relevant proposals by including them in the budget of 2025.

- Categorization of all designations in the entire public service into 04 levels, and grouping them into sub – categories of recruitment, based on Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) and the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) as well as the relevant role, responsibility of the employment and the considering the ability to attract and sustain especially skilled employees in special employments.
- Following appropriate selection methodologies based on Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework, national vocational qualification as fundamental recruitment qualification even for primary service categories as per service requirement
- Recruitments to be made to all other service categories through formal competitive examinations and interviewing methods.
- Accordingly, revising the existing approved service minutes appropriately soon
- Payment of a monthly cost of living allowance of rupees 25,000/- for all the government employees (subject to revising once in every 03 years) considering the year 2025 as the base year, consolidate various adjustments and allowances already added.
- The minimum initial monthly salary of the government service to be escalated from a minimum percentage of 24%, while taking the gross salary as rupees 55,000/- with cost of living allowance and adjust and calculate the initial salary of all other designations accordingly.
- Implementation of this new salary and allowance methodology for all government institutions excluding trading state companies and banks
- Taking measures to limit the total staff of the public sector by 2030 as one million (1,000,000) or lesser.
- Introduction of e – governance from the electronic systems accordingly in every sector in the entire public service within 03 years through digitalization and automation and pioneering the public investment for that
- Implementation of a medical insurance scheme that awards a more attractive benefits with a monthly minimum contribution of rupees 1,000/- including for all employees and pensioners of the government sector with effect from January 2025.

- Obtaining services following precise methodologies to maximize the efficiency to minimize the government cost through methods such as outsourcing as far as possible.
- Implementation of the restructuring programme for state departments / corporations / statutory institutions by initializing them as Public Liability Companies listed in the stock market.
- Performing a precise work study, taking actions in the year 2025 to scientifically study on the entire state sector staffs and services.
- Accordingly, all public employees should be furnished with performance indicators and the salary increments should be awarded based on their progress.
- Awarding the claimed salary increments for government officers retired prior to the year 2020 and clearing their relevant salary anomalies by revising their pension
- From January 2025, pensioners to be given 50% of the cost of living allowance given to the public employees engaged in active service.
- Subject to management of this expenditure within the existing tax policy itself, implementation of this method of salary and implementation of the proposed method of salary with effect from 01.01.2025 considering the state finance space as well.

20. Make the criteria of “Aswasuma” welfare benefits applicable for families of estate employees resided in line rooms.

The welfare benefits board implement the ‘Aswasuma’ welfare beneficiary scheme at present and the selection of beneficiaries is carried out as per orders of welfare benefit payment (selection of eligible individuals to make payments) No. 1 of 2002 prepared according to provisions of welfare benefits act No. 24 of 2022. Either individuals or families accomplish the qualifications defined under the said orders are entitled for obtaining ‘Aswasuma’ benefits. Due to lack of respective houses within estates in the plantation sector, estate employees mostly live jointly in line rooms in extensive families. According to the present context, all individuals living in line rooms are considered as one family, irrespective of mutually separated number of families within those spaces and it is apparent that the situation is disadvantages to those families. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Hon. President to order the welfare benefit board to act considering the actual amounts of the estate employee families living in line rooms when defining qualifications for ‘Aswasuma’ scheme, under the welfare payment orders No. 1 of 2022 (selection of eligible individuals to make payments)

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