



## Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 26-08-2024

### 01. Signing the Financial Agreement for the second Stage Development Policy Financing Program.

The World Bank is providing support for the comprehensive reform agenda in Sri Lanka through the development policy financing program in line with the comprehensive funding facility of the International Monetary Fund. The said program is a biennial program, and stage 1 was successfully completed during the year 2023. The World Bank has agreed to grant a special drawing right of 150.6 million (equal to the American dollar 200 million) under the second stage of the development policy financing program to support the implementation of the government reform plan. 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 enter into an agreement with the International Development Corporation of the World Bank.

### 02. Sri Lankan national strategy on artificial intelligence

Even though, Sri Lanka has already achieved considerable progress on the digital transformation route, it has been unable to make a significant impact on global artificial intelligence. There is a possibility to increase effectiveness in major sectors such as agriculture, health services, and education and upgrade public services through the utilization of artificial intelligence. Thereby, an impressive contribution will be made to acquire sustainable economic development and eradicate poverty, and the opportunity will be provided for the equitable distribution of the benefits of artificial intelligence throughout society. The national strategies on artificial intelligence in Sri Lanka have been prepared with the objective of creation of an empowered digitalized Sri Lanka through the development and utilization of artificial intelligence. Accordingly, it is expected that Sri Lanka will be turned into a regional hub for artificial intelligence and to upgrade the global competitiveness and resilience of the economy by the year 2030. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Technology to implement the national strategy on artificial intelligence in Sri Lanka, which has been prepared to achieve the said objectives.

### 03. Transfer of portion of land for the servitudes and service rights of the home buyers of the Water Front Properties (Pvt) Ltd residing in condominiums.

The Sri Lanka Board of Investment has granted a land 3.03 acres in extent to the John Keels Holding Company or its nominee for 99 years on long term lease basis to implement tourism related a mixed development project including the development of luxury condominium nature houses. Accordingly, an agreement has been entered into between the Sri Lanka Board of Investment and Water Front Properties (Pvt) Ltd, the nominee of the John Keels Holding Company. At the moment, out of 6 towers expected to be constructed, 03 towers for 425 condominiums have been completed, and commercial operational activities have been commenced and construction of the remaining 3 towers is being built at present. A portion of land 60.5 perches in extent included to the leased land outside the portion of land belonging to the condominium property has been used for the services that are benefit for the house buyers. The said portion of land has been utilized for the construction of public facilities such as supplying service lines, television, telephone/telecommunication services, rights of ways. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Investment Promotion to transfer servitude and service rights falling across the said portion of land to the benefit of house buyers, residing in the condominium houses of Water Front Properties (Pvt) Ltd.

**04. Corporation agreement between Export Development Board of Sri Lanka and International Finance Corporation to provide necessary facilities to enable the small and medium entrepreneurs to become exporters**

It has been proposed to sign a corporation agreement between the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka and the International Finance Corporation to provide the facilities under the program for the development of new exporters of the Export Development Board with the objective of turning small and medium entrepreneurs with export potential into exporters. The clearance of the Attorney General and the recommendations of the Ministry of Foreign affairs have been received for the said corporation agreement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as a Minister of Investment Promotion to sign the proposed corporation agreement between two parties.

**05. Transferring portion of land of the Polonthalawa farm belonging to the National Livestock Development Board to the Goeffrey Bawa Foundation**

The official residence of the manager of the Polonthalawa farm belonging to the National Livestock Development Board, was designed by a well-known Sri Lankan architect, Deshamanya Mr. Goeffrey Bawa. The Goeffrey Bawa Foundation has made a request to provide the said official residence and a portion of land with the extent of 05 acres to the Goeffrey Bawa Foundation on a lease basis. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture and Plantation Industries to provide the said official residence and a portion of land with the extent of 05 acres to the Goeffrey Bawa Foundation on a lease basis.

**06. Purchase of paddy by the Paddy Marketing Board - 2024 Yala**

The paddy harvest of the Yala season of the year 2024 has just commenced and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has already been given to grant pledged loans up to a maximum of Rs. 6,000 million to small and medium scale mall owners under a concessionary interest rate to purchase paddy in Yala season. Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been approved in order to act in the following manner, taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Hon. President and the Minister of Plantation Industries with the objective of increasing the competitiveness of purchasing the paddy and encouraging the paddy production in the coming Maha season.

- To grant the provision of Rs. 500 million to the Paddy Marketing Board in order to actively participate for the paddy purchasing program of the Yala season in the year 2024.
- To purchase the Nadu paddy at Rs. 105/- per kg, Samba paddy at Rs.115/- per kg and Keeri Samba Rs. 130 /- per kg
- To increase the fertilizer Susidy, Rs. 15,000/- which has been paid at present per one hectare, up to Rs. 25,000/- in order to encourage the farmers for paddy cultivation enabling them to obtain maximum paddy harvest in the coming Maha season.

**07. Entering into Memorandum of Understanding between the Training and Research Institute of the United Nations and Ministry of Foreign affairs**

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign affairs in order to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Training and Research Institute of the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign affairs for a period of 03 years with the aim of establishing of Co-operation framework necessary to provide facilities necessary for mutual benefits with relevant to the following fields.

- To provide the training and learning support n respect of implementation of agenda for year 2030 for sustainable development.
- To train diplomats for the fields such as conferences, diplomacy and multilateral discussions, communication skill development, mediation and leadership, content-based workshops and special courses on climatic changes and human rights.
- To train by the United Nations Organization for Training and Research Operational Satellite Application (UNOSAT) on the use of Geo-Information Technology (GIS) for minimization of risk in disaster occasions and management of crisis.

**08. Administrative arrangements between the representatives of the European Union who visit Sri Lanka for the observation of the Presidential Election 2024 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

The Chairman to the Elections Commission has invited the European Union to send a group of representatives for observation of the Presidential election 2024. Prior to the inauguration of election observations under the regulations of the said Union, administrative provisions have to be signed between the representatives of the European Union that arrive in Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Accordingly, the two parties have signed the administrative provisions related to the observation of the Presidential Election 2024 on the 05.08.2024 and the Cabinet of Ministers took information furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs into consideration.

**09. Printing school textbooks required for distribution free of charge during the year 2025.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 01.04.2024 to get 71 categories of school textbooks out of the 317 categories of school textbooks to be printed for the year 2025 from the State Printing Corporation. National competitive bids have been called for printing the remaining 246 categories of school textbooks required for free distribution to the school children during the year 2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Education to get the textbooks for grades excluding 1, 6, and 10 printed from 24 institutions submitted minimum quotations with substantially responsive minimum pricing as per the standing procurement committee appointed.

**10. Redesign the Kuringchakeni bridge in Kinniya – Kuringchakeni highway.**

Bids have been called under single phase single cover method for the contract of redesigning the Kuringchakeni bridge in Kinniya – Kuringchakeni highway to be carried out from the balance of the fuds of Badulla – Chenkalladi highway enhancement project under the highway network development project that is financed from the funds of Saudi funds for development. Under these 09 bids have been received. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Transport and Highways to award the said contract to ELS Construction (Pvt) Limited who was the substantially responsive minimum bidder acted as per the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**11. Colombo Port City (Condominium Property Management) Orders No. 03 of 2024.**

In terms of the major plan of the Colombo Port City, 51% of the gross land area has been allocated for residential utilization which paves way for the development of condominium property development. Accordingly, it has been a requirement to establish an institution and to impose orders to maintain general facility and features of international standards enabling to let the shareholders of condominium shares and residents of rented housing units. Colombo Port City (Condominium Property Management) Orders No. 03 of 2024 has been publicized by the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2394/68 dated 26.07.2024 in par with the provisions of Colombo Port City Economic Commission No. 11 of 2021. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Investment Promotion to forward the Parliament to its concurrence.

**12. Introduction of a new law in relation to the rights of Sri Lankan indigenous community.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 22.05.2024 to the joint proposal furnished by the then Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms and the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs in relation to introduction of a new law in relation to the rights of Sri Lankan indigenous community. At that meeting, it has been decided that it was appropriate to further analyze the concept paper furnished to prepare the draft bill with the participation of all parties concerned. Accordingly, the relevant fundamental draft bill has been further improved subsequent to several rounds of discussions with the participation of officers in the Ministries of Lands, Wildlife and Forest Conservation, Environment as well as Finance along with the officers of the Attorney General's Department, and the Department of Legal Draftsman along with the participation of stakeholders interested in the relevant sector headed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal forwarded jointly by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms and the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to instruct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a draft bill based on the aforementioned fundamental draft.

**13. Providing opportunity for the employees served attached to the Samurdhi Development Authority to be absorbed into the Department of Samurdhi Development.**

When establishing the Department of Divinaguma Development by the Divinaguma Act No. 01 of 2013, opportunities were given to the employees attached to the Samurdhi Development Authority at that time to be attached to the Department of Divinaguma Development by that time with a pension as per their preference subject to provisions of that act at several occasions. However, it has been recognized that an approximate number of 3,000 employees are still available who could not revise their preference due to various circumstances. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted concurrence to the proposal submitted by the Hon. President to provide opportunity for the said group of employees to be absorbed into the Department of Samurdhi Development within the prevailing legal framework in consultation with the Public Service Commission,

**14. Execution of the proposed skills development programme from the year 2025.**

Following proposals have been submitted for the execution of the national education policy framework by the supervisory committee on priority basis:

- (i) Awarding job oriented training scholarships as 50,000 per year across state and private sector vocational training centres with effect from the year 2025 under the student – based fund scheme.
- (ii) Awarding 60,000 vocational training courses per year aiming students engaged in secondary education.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Chairman to the Supervisory Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers for the implementation of the national education policy framework to implement those proposals, and allocate provisions for a period of 05 years ahead with effect from the year 2025 by the General Treasury so that the financial investment of rupees 100 million proposed to be implemented with the agreement of the Government and the Asian Development Bank.

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