



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 02-09-2024

01. Strategy for promotion of commercial fisheries industry in Sri Lanka

An expert committee has been appointed to submit the recommendations on the strategies to be adopted to promote the highly impactful fisheries industry and its sustainable practices within Sri Lanka. The said committee has submitted their report under the theme “The strategy to promote a sustainable and export oriented commercial fisheries industry to support Sri Lanka’s expected economic transportation”. According to the strategic framework submitted thereby, it has been proposed to convert the fisheries industry in Sri Lanka as a major contributor to generate 12% sectoral growth and export revenue of US\$600 million by the year 2030, ensuring sustainability in compliance with the blue economic principles. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by Hon. the President and Minister of Fisheries to accept the said strategy submitted by the said report as a strategic framework of the government on the fisheries industry in Sri Lanka and to implement said strategy according to the proper action plan.

02. The convention between Sri Lanka Government and Austria Government for prevention of double taxation and evasion and avoidance of public finance

The convention between Sri Lankan government and Austrian government for prevention of double taxation and evasion and avoidance of public finance in respect of tax on income and capital has been drafted and signed at the official level after discussion with the tax authorities of the two countries. According to the said convention, in terms of the convention that has been entered into by Sri Lanka recently for the prevention of double taxation, the tax amount at a rate not exceeding 10% of the gross amount will be charged for interest and goodwill. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization, and National Policy to sign for the said convention at the government level and to submit the convention and accord that will be signed, as per the provisions of the Inland Revenue Act No. 24 of 2017.

03. Program for training 7500 teachers on robotics and artificial technology

Digital transformation has been identified as a vitally important component in the national education policy framework, and it has been encouraged to obtain the support of the public and private sectors to utilize artificial intelligence and new technologies. According to the project proposal presented by the Skills College of Technology (SCOT CAMPUS), an institution experienced in conducting practical courses on information technology, mechatronics, and robotics, a pilot project has been carried out successfully. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by Hon. the President in his capacity as a Minister of Technology and Minister of Education to train 7,500 teachers selected from the schools covering all the provinces in relevant to the STEAM concept, including information technology, biotechnology, engineering technology, and mathematics, under three stages by the Skills College of Technology (SCOT CAMPUS).

04. Implementation of 8th stage of the interest free student loan scheme

In implementation of the 8th stage of the interest free loan scheme that has been started from year 2017 to follow degree programs conducted by the non-governmental higher education institutes, it has been decided at the cabinet meeting held on 24-04-2023 to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of the deputy secretary of the Treasury to submit the recommendations in respect of revising the fees payable to the non-governmental higher education institutes for the relevant courses under the said loan scheme. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Higher Education to implement the following recommendations submitted by the aforesaid committee.

- To revise the course fee from the 8th stage of the interest free student loan scheme as per the recommendations of the technological consultative committee appointed by the Ministry of Education.\
- To obtain the collaboration of the National Savings Bank in addition to the Bank of Ceylon and Peoples Bank for the above loan scheme so as to minimize the financial risk bearable to one bank.
- To Implement of the said loan scheme subject to the minimum loan interest rate of 13% and 06 months AWPLR+1% percentage having conducted annual review.
- To enroll 7000 students per stage from 8 stage of the student loan scheme.

05. The charter for upcountry plantation community in Sri Lanka

The charter for the upcountry plantation community in Sri Lanka has been drafted as a basic document in guiding government efforts, enabling the government to achieve the commitment of the government to fully integrate the upcountry plantation community into the wider social-economic structure. Through the implementation of said charter, it will be possible to address the challenges continuously encountered by the plantation community and to build an equitable society within Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to implement the said charter for the upcountry plantation community.

06. Procurement of soy beans and sweet corn for Sri Lanka Thripasha Ltd

The annual sweet corn and soy bean requirements for the production of Thripasha have been 12,000 metric tons and 6,000 metric tons, respectively. Since the scarcity of sweet corn and soy beans at present, the annual supply requirement for production of Thripasha cannot be met locally. Therefore, the sweet corn and soy bean requirements have to be fulfilled from abroad. Accordingly, bids have been invited to supply sweet corn and soy beans under the national competitive procurement procedure. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. the President in his capacity as a Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization, and National Policy to award the contract as follows to the lowest bidders who have substantially responded, under the recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers after appraisal of the received bids.

- To award the procurement to supply 6,000 metric tons of sweet corn to M/s KST (Pvt) Ltd.
- To award the procurement to supply 3,000 metric tons of soy beans to M/s SDK United Agri Ventures (Pvt) Ltd.

7. Provision of high-speed satellite technical internet connectivity for the Sri Lankan Airlines Limited's aircraft fleets.

Lankan Airlines Limited at present operates a fleet of 13 aircraft with internet facilities enabling passengers to use Wi-Fi facilities and GSM services on their mobile phones in -flight. As passengers have to use low internet speed with the outdated internet facilities existing at present, it has been identified the requirement of providing fast internet application facility. Ka and Ku bands are used for high-end connections, and due to the availability of a high frequency range, the Ka-band provides high speed data transfer. Therefore, it has been identified that Ka-band connections are more suitable for internet access, other structured services and other activities that require huge amounts of data. Accordingly, the proposal presented by the Viasat institute, the only supplier to give Ka-band connectivity providing hardware, software and internet facilities with global coverage for commercial aircraft, has been appraised by the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers and the recommendations have been forwarded. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, shipping and Aviation to award the contract to Viasat Inc. to obtain Ka-band high-speed satellite technical internet connectivity for seven (7) A330-300 model aircraft of Sri Lankan Airlines Limited for the period of 07 years under the said recommendations.

8. Awarding the aircraft fuel supply contract for Sri Lankan Airlines Limited

The existing contracts for the supply of aircraft fuel at the airports of Frankfurt (FRA), Incheon (ICN), Melbourne (MEL) and Sydney (SYD) are schedule to expire On 31-10-2024. Therefore, limited international biddings have been called to select suitable suppliers for providing aircraft fuel at the said airports, for which 08 aircraft fuel supply companies have submitted their bids. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, shipping and Aviation to award the contracts to the following companies to supply aircraft fuel based on the recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Airport	Name of the Contractor
Frankfurt (FRA)	Vitol Aviation BV
Incheon (ICN)	World Fuel Services Trading DMCC
Sydney (SYD)	Vitol Aviation BV
Melbourne (MEL)	Vitol Aviation BV

09. Installation synchronous AC on-site solar photovoltaic power plant with a total capacity of 165 MW with ranging from 1 to 5 megawatts

Competitive proposals have been invited for development of 165 MW projects for grid substations of Ampara, Anuradhapura, Athurugiriya, Beliatta, Deniyaya, Galle, Habarana, Horana, Kosgama, Kurunegala, Madampe, Mahiyanganaya, Maho, Mathara, Mathugama, Pannala, Polonnaruwa, Trincomallee, Wavunathivu and Veyangoda. After evaluating the proposals submitted by the bidders for each location, the recommendations of the negotiating consensus committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers have been submitted. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to award the relevant contracts to the following bidders who have substantially responded based on the aforesaid recommendations.

Place	Capacity(Mega Watt)	Contractor
Ampara Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Beliatta Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Global Consumer Brands (Pvt) Ltd
Habarana Grid Substation	3	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Horana Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Kosgama Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Madampe Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Matara Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	3	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	2	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Polonnaruwa Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	2	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited

Trincomalee Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Wavunathivu Grid Substation	3	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Veyangoda Grid Substation	3	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	3	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Kurunegala Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Electronics Limited
	5	Hayleys Electronics Limited
Mahiyangana Grid Substation	5	Energynet (Pvt) Limited
	5	Energynet (Pvt) Limited
Maho Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
Mathugama Grid Substation	3	Solar Forge Siyambalanduwa (Pvt) Ltd
	3	Energynet (Pvt) Limited
Pannala Grid Substation	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited
	5	Hayleys Fentons Limited

10. Bill on rescue, rehabilitation and insolvency

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 22-05-2023 to introduce a new law including required new provisions on rescue, rehabilitation and insolvency. Accordingly, clearance from the Attorney General has been received for the bill prepared by the draftsman. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by the Hon. The President and Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the said bill in the Gazette and thereafter submit it to the Parliament for approval.

11 Submission of the directives prepared under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No 11 of 2021 to the Parliament

The designated persons authorized under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No 11 of 2021 as secondary business of strategic importance and the to publish in the Gazette proposed exemptions or incentives for such designated businesses as a directive and these directives should be brought to the notice of the Parliament. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. the President in his capacity as a Minister of Investment Promotion to submit the said directives to the parliament which were published by the following Gazette

notifications under the section 53 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No 11 of 2021.

- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/06 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/09 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/10 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/11 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/12 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/13 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/14 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/15 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/16 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/17 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/07 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/08 dated 22-07-2024
- The directive published by the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No 2394/18 dated 22-07-2024

12. **Memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Badaranayaka Institute of International Diplomatic Training of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Sri Lanka and the Rio Branco Institute of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Federal Government of Brazil**

It has been proposed to sign Memorandum of understanding between the Badaranayaka Institute of International Diplomatic Training of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Sri Lanka and the Rio Branco Institute of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Federal Government of Brazil for cooperation in the areas of mutual interest such as promotion of close cooperation in training diplomats, facilitate short and medium term training programs for them, exchange of information and experiences of the education and research programs and exchange of information and ideas related to international trends. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign affairs to sign the proposed cooperation agreement between the two parties.

13. **Submission of the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill to the Parliament.**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet Meeting held on 16-11-2020 to instruct the legal draftsman to prepare a bill for amendment of Registration of Persons Act No 32 of 1968 in order to facilitate

for the implementation of the unified digital identity framework in Sri Lanka. 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 Public Security to publish the said bill in the Government Gazette and thereafter to submit it to the Parliament for approval.

14. Burial and Cremation Rights Bill.

Clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the draft bill formulated by the Legal Draftsman to award the right to an individual to decide whether that person's dead body should be disposed by burial or cremation after his death and in the cases such will was not declared by the dead person, the right to decide whether the body of the dead person should be buried or cremated to be entrusted with the deceased individual's closest relative considering the deceased individual's preferences, and religious, cultural or personal beliefs. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the accordingly formulated draft bill in the government gazette notification and to submit it to the Parliament for its concurrence.

15. Granting provisions to call nominations once again in order to secure fundamental rights of voters deprived of the right to vote and be nominated to be voted at the local government election.

It is apparent that more than 900,000 newly included voters in the electoral list revised in the year 2024 are to be deprived of their right to vote and be nominated to be voted at the upcoming local government elections due to unprecedented postponement of local government elections scheduled to be held on 09.03.2023. In par with article 4 of the Constitution, although every citizen completed 18 years and included their name in the electoral register after being eligible to be a voter should be able to cast vote, it is apparent that only the voters registered until January 2023 in which the date nominations for local government elections scheduled to be held in the future are eligible to cast votes since the nominations for that election have been called and concluded. Furthermore, followed by the passing of Local Government Elections (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 2023, a 25% youth representation should be allowed in the nominations submitted for local government elections. However, the compulsory opportunity of 25% of representation of youth community is deprived of by now due to calling nominations in the year 2023. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the consolidated proposal furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister in his capacity as the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government with the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to

- Secure the right to cast vote of the voters whose names are included in the electoral register at the local government election which is scheduled to be held in the future but deprived of casting votes;
- Secure the rights since fundamental rights of more than 900,000 youth voters whose names are included in the electoral register of 2024 are liable to be deprived of,
- Secure the rights of the youth community whose rights would be violated or discriminated due to loss of quota for youth when presenting as a candidate as per provisions of the Local Government Elections (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 2023;

To call back the nominations that have already been called for local government elections 2023, as well as to instruct the Legal Draftsman to formulate a draft bill on local government elections (special provisions) including appropriate provisions, by consulting the relevant Commission, so that necessary powers to the elections commission will be received to call nominations once again for conducting local government elections based on the electoral register of 2024.

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