



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting conducted on 20-01-2025

01. Establishment of Faculty of Medicine in the University of Moratuwa

The first batch of medical students enrolled in the University of Moratuwa based on the results of the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) 2019 is scheduled to commence hospital-based clinical training in July 2025. Approval has been granted previously to establish the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa by utilizing the existing facilities of the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine and to use the hospital facilities of Dr. Nevil Fernando Hospital for hospital-based clinical training. However, it has been shown that the utilization of Dr. Nevil Fernando Hospital for clinical professor unit training has been an issue as to the number of patients and the diversity of diseases of the patients being insufficient and the dearth of specialists. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as a Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational education and the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port and Civil Aviation, to utilize Kaluthara Teaching Hospital and Children's Hospital for Mothers and Children at Mount Lavinia to ensure the providing quality hospital-based clinical training to the medical students and to transfer two (2) portions of lands owned to the Sri Lanka Transport Board and Road Development Authority and located at Nagoda West Grama Niladhari Division of the Kaluthara Divisional Secretariat for the establishment of Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa.

02. Bi-partial Civil Aviation Agreement Between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Italy

Discussions were made between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Italy in respect of the relevant steps relevant to the bi-partial civil aviation activities, and accordingly, cabinet approval has been granted on 24-07-2018 for signing a civil aviation agreement between the two (2) countries. However, the said agreement has yet to be signed, and both parties have identified the appropriability of entering into the said agreement promptly. Under the proposed agreement, it has been able to operate up to 14 fixed scheduled air routes per week for air passenger services and up to 07 fixed scheduled air routes per week for air cargo services on agreed routes using any type of aircraft. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation to sign the said civil aviation agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Italy.

03. Resettlement of unauthorized residents in Kelaniveli Railway Reserve

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 05-08-2024 to resettle the unauthorized residents in the railway reserve from the Maligawatte Loco junction to Padukka railway station under the Colombo Suburban Railway Project. Accordingly, resettlements in 694 housing units which were purchased from housing complexes owned by the Urban Development Authority have already been completed and further, 144 housing units are due to be received from the Urban development Authority. In addition, a housing complex consisting of 120 housing units is being constructed on land in Kottawa, Malapalla area which is owned by the Railway Department for the resettlement of unauthorized residents in Maharagama, Homagama, Padukka area where there are no housing schemes of the Urban Development Authority, and the constructions of that housing scheme are being completed at present. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port, and Civil Aviation to transfer the land located in Kottawa, Marapalla, belonging to the Sri Lanka Railway Department, and the housing complex within the said land to the National Housing Development Authority as a free grant in terms of the provisions of Section 6(1) of the Government Land Ordinance and to implement the said program of providing the relevant deeds to the selected beneficiaries in such a way as not to burden them in expenses.

04. Implementation of Community Assets Management Project by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board and IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education.

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNESCO IHE Institute to commence combined research and development and capacity-building programs in the year 2022. In terms of the provisions of the said Memorandum of Understanding, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has submitted a comprehensive project proposal to the IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education Institute, drawing special attention towards water and health under the theme “Community Responsibility Management for turning stakeholders to water service shareholders.” Approval has been granted by the said institute to implement the said project proposal with the partnership of several member institutes under stage 3 (DUPC 3) of the IHE-Delft Water and Development Partnership Program. Accordingly, it has been agreed by the said institute to contribute a maximum grant of Euro 399,819 for partnership members and to allocate Euro 164,236 from that amount to the Sri Lankan Government under stage 3 (DUPC 3) of the IHE-Delft Water and Development Partnership Program. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing to enter into the relevant agreements for the implementation of the proposed project.

05. Implementation of the program to provide a pair of school shoes to the selected school children, student monks and lay students of selected Piriven and Seela Matha - 2025

The Ministry of Education has implemented a program for providing a pair of shoes for the selected student since the year 2015, and student monks and lay students of selected Piriven and Seela Matha have also been included in this program from the year 2020 to the year 2023. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. the Prime Minister, in her capacity as Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, to provide a gift voucher worth Rs. 3000/- to the selected school children, student monks, and lay students of selected Piriven and Seela Matha to purchase a pair of shoes based on the recommendation of an appointed committee of officers appointed for the year 2025 for implementation of the said program.

- For 650,000 students studying in 6,000 schools with less than 250 students
- For 140,000 students in estate schools across the island that do not belong to category of schools with less than 250 students
- For 2,300 students in 28 schools where students with special needs
- For 30,000 selected student monks and lay students

06. Implementation of Government Nutrition Program to provide food for school children in the year 2025.

At present, “the school food program” is being implemented in 8,956 schools belonging to the 100 education zones on the island, covering an overall 1.4 million students, including students in grades 1-5 in all public schools, all the students in schools with less than 100 students, students in special education in special units or schools, and lay students in selected Piriven. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. the Prime Minister, in her capacity as Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, to implement the said program in a well-planned manner from the year 2025 and to make budget allocation enabling them to provide benefits subject to the maximum of 1.5 million students.

07. The Consultancy services for monitoring the detailed plan of extending the western water break of container platform II of phase II of the Colombo Port Extension Project.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 26.06.2023 to implement the detailed plan of extending the western water break of container platform II of phase II of the Colombo Port Extension Project. The Asian Development Bank has given consent to provide technical and financial assistance for the relevant consultancy service and, thereby declaration of aspirations has been called according to criteria of the Asian Development Bank. Declaration of aspirations has been forwarded by 20 candidates and, out of which 07 have accomplished pre – requisites. Out of those 05 establishments have submitted detailed resolutions. Subsequent to evaluation of financial proposals of 03 establishments, the service contract of consultation has recommended by the consultation procurement committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers to be awarded to M/s. Dohwa Engineering Co. Ltd. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation to award the said contract.

08. Draft bill on property earned from a crime.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 09.12.2024 to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare the draft bill on property earned from a crime. Accordingly, the clearance of the Attorney General has been granted to the draft formulated by the Legal Draftsman. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to submit the Parliament for its concurrence followed by publishing the aforementioned draft in the government gazette notification.

09. Appointment of the Director General of the Department of Civil Defense

The post of Director General of the Department of Civil Defense is vacant since 01.01.2025. It has been identified appropriate to appoint retired Major General of Sri Lanka Army, Mr. K. H.P. Palitha Fernando to the post of Director General of the Department of Civil Defense. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Defense to appoint him to the post of the Director General of the Department of Civil Defense with immediate effect on contract basis for a period of one (01) year.

10. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Lands.

Mr. D. D. K. Wickramaarachchi, a special grade officer in Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS), serving in the office of Additional Secretary (Lands) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation has been appointed to the post of Land Commissioner General with effect from 12.12.2024 for acting in that post in addition to his permanent post. In par with the service requirement of that Department, there is a requirement of appointing an officer with immense experience in regional administration on permanent basis. Accordingly, Mr. R. A. Chandana Saman Ranaweera Arachchi in special grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) serving already in the office of Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Home Affairs division of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Governments has been recognized as an eligible officer for the post of Land Commissioner General. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution forwarded by the Minister Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to appoint him as the Land Commissioner General.

11. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Agriculture.

Since Mrs. K. N. S. Ranathunge serving in the post of Commissioner General of Agriculture at present is scheduled to be retired from public service from 21.01.2025 and a new officer has to be appointed to that post from there onwards. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to appoint Dr. Mrs. E. R. S. P. Edirimanne serving as a special grade officer in Sri Lanka Agriculture Service in the post of Additional Secretary (Agri Technology) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation.

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