



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 28-04-2025

01. Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational education and the National University of Singapore for Higher Education Cooperation

It has been proposed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education and the National University of Singapore of the Republic of Singapore, which is in the leading position in the global university ranking, for higher education cooperation, including obtaining postgraduate scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankan graduates. Through signing said Memorandum of Understanding, Sri Lankan students will have the opportunity to pursue postgraduate degrees, including PhDs, at the National University of Singapore, participate in capacity development programs, and conduct joint research. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education to sign the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

02. Economic Census – 2025/26

The Department of Census and Statistics conducted its last Economic Census during the years 2013/14. The department plans to conduct an economic census in 2025 and 2026 to update the data collected in the previous census, ensuring that agricultural and non-agricultural activities are addressed separately in two stages. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, to conduct the economic census in 2025 and 2026, with agricultural activities being covered in 2025 and non-agricultural activities in 2026.

03. Establishment of a fully automatic revenue generation system for Colombo Municipal Council under the funds of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

The Colombo Municipal Council generates a significant amount of revenue from the four main sources: assessment tax, license fees, trade tax, and stamp duty. The Colombo Municipal Council, Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and Department of External Resources collaboratively submitted a concept paper to the Korea International Cooperation Agency to enhance the generation of overall revenue through the automation of the aforementioned four main sources. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has agreed to provide US\$ 8.5 million for this purpose. The clearance from the Attorney General and the agreement from the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism have been obtained for this accord. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Government to enter into an accord for the implementation of an automatic revenue generation system for the Colombo Municipal Council using the funds provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

04. Celebration of State Vesak Festival for the Buddhist Era 2569

As per the advice of the Most Venerable Mahanayaka Thero and the Old Island Shasanarakshaka Mandalaya, it has been identified that the State Vesak Festival for the Buddhist Era 2569 (2025) is appropriate to be held at the International Buddhist Center Temple in Nuwara Eliya, in collaboration with the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Government, and the Department of Buddhist Affairs. It has been decided to conduct the Vesak Festival this year under the theme "Bhajetha Miththe Kalyane-Bhajetha Purisuththame" (Let's associate with noble friends of good qualities) Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Government and the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to hold the State Vesak Festival centered on the Nuwara Eliya International Buddhist Center Temple, declare May 10 to 16 as Vesak Week in 2025, and organize and implement various Buddhist programs during that period.

05. Amendments of the Acts come under the subject of institutions implemented under the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

It has been planned to amend certain acts that come under the subject of institutions implemented under the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development this year to create a strong and suitable institutional framework to expedite economic conversion in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal presented by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to include the aforesaid amendments of the Acts to the Legal Compilation Program of the government in the year 2025 for the amendment of the following Acts.

- National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act, No. 50 of 1993.
- Technical Development Act No. 36 of 1969
- Sri Lanka institute of textile and apparel Act, no. 12 of 2009
- Sri Lanka Export. Development Act, No. 40 of 1979
- National Enterprise Development Authority Act No. 17 of 2006 and National Enterprise Development Authority Act No.18 of 2014 (Amendment)
- National Crafts Council and Allied Institutions Act No. 35 of 1982
- National Crafts Council and Allied Institutions Act No.4 of 1996 (Special Provisions)

06. Amendment of Rubber Control Act No 11 of 1956.

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 26-02-2024 to publish the draft prepared by the legal draftsman in the Government Gazette and to submit it to Parliament to amend the Rubber Control Act No. 11 of 1956. The aforementioned draft was published in the Government Gazette on 22-05-2024. However, since Parliament was dissolved on 24-09-2024, the draft could not be submitted. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities to submit the draft prepared by the legal draftsman to amend the Rubber Control Act No. 11 of 1956, republish it in the Government Gazette, and later submit it to Parliament for approval.

07. Introduction of new laws and amendment of existing acts in regard to the subject area of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities.

It has been recognized the necessity of revising the existing acts and formulation of new acts within the year of 2025 according to the priority of state policies, in regard to the subject area of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities to include introduction of following new laws and amendment of acts to the government laws formulation programme for the year 2025.

- Amendment of Tea, Rubber and Coconut Estates (Control of Fragmentation) Act No. 2 of 1958
- Amendment of Samunyamoothi Thandaman Memorial Foundation Act No. 19 of 2005
- Amendment of Tea Shakthi Fund Act No. 47 of 2000
- Amendment of Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957
- Amendment of Rubber Control Act No. 11 of 1956
- Introduction of a new act named Plantation Management Act
- Introduction of a new act to entrust the Department of Rubber Development with powers of the Thurusaviya Societies.
- Introduction of amendments to Coconut Development Act No. 46 of 1971 so that new regulations can be included to the act
- Amendments related to Tea Board Act No 14 of 1975 and regulations

08. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Official Languages

With the appointment of Mr. W. Prince Senadheera, a special grade officer in Sri Lanka Administrative Service served in the post of Commissioner General of Official Languages to the post of the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Shasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, the former post was kept vacant. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to appoint Mr. Thilak Nandana Hettiarachchi, a special grade officer in Sri Lanka Administrative Service served in the post of Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Buddha Shasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, to the post of Commissioner General of Official Languages which is vacant at present with immediate effect.

09. Memorandum of Understanding between the Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) of Sri Lanka and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

With the objective of sustaining a necessary mutual cooperation in the fields generally interested with the intention of obtaining novel opinions for bi – lateral, regional and international activities closely linked with one another in the complex contemporary world, an agreement has been entered between the Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) of Sri Lanka and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) to sustain necessary cooperation mutually in the sectors generally interested. A memorandum of understanding is proposed to be signed for that purpose and it is expected to organize and exchange the expertise applicable to distributing expertise, exchange of diplomats, intellects, officials, scientists and researchers as well as researches and experimental programmes, various courses, seminars, trainings as well as other studies in the fields. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments and Tourism to sign a memorandum of understanding valid for a period of three (03) years.

10. Renewal of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the cooperation to machinery production between the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development in Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Industries and Trade in Vietnam.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed in 2011 in between the then Ministry in – charge of Industries and the Ministry of Industries and Trade in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Both parties have agreed to renew the said memorandum of understanding t the second meeting of the subcommittee on trade held in the year 2019. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development to sign the memorandum of understanding on the machinery production cooperation which is updated including the amendments providing access for training and capacity building for local stakeholders for training and capacity building as well as facilitating the exchange of novel technology between the two parties.

11. Signing a memorandum of understanding between Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VTETRADE) and Sri Lanka Export Development Board

A memorandum of understanding between Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VTETRADE) and Sri Lanka Export Development Board is proposed to be signed between Sri Lanka and Vietnam in order to strengthen the trade cooperation. This trade cooperation enables a wide range of trade promotion opportunities including the exchange of information and market intelligence on trade, joint participation for trade exhibitions, exhibitions and promotional opportunities conducted in both countries and organizing meetings between business agent groups which is applicable to both parties. It is expected that considerable market opportunities will be generated especially for processed food, fisheries activities, garment and value added agriculture by this treaty. Concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employments and Tourism has been received for the draft memorandum of understanding. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development to sign the memorandum of understanding between Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VTETRADE) and Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

12. Procurement of 152 megawatts electricity from solar panel voltage generators erected on ground.

In accordance with the long term generation project plan 2023 – 2042, the government’s policy is to accomplish 70% of the energy requirement from renewable energy by the year 2030. Therefore, considering the gradual decline in the expected electricity demand and the accelerated growth of solar energy system capacity generated from those affixed on roof tops, a solar panel voltage capacity from ground erected panels that can generate 152 megawatt electricity possible to be allocated to 18 grid sub – stations has been recognized. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power to allocate the entire network capacity of 152 megawatts only for international competitive bidding process as well as initiate the bidding process by issuing requests for proposals to procure electricity from project developers under the basis of construction, ownership and execution.

13. Signing a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka and the Agriculture Science Academy of Vietnam for agricultural sector cooperation.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Sri Lanka and Vietnam in the year 2006 with the objective of agricultural cooperation. Accordingly, action plans have been implemented in the years 2010 – 2011, 2017 – 2019, 2022 – 2024 and 2024 – 2026 subject to the concurrence of both parties. As a feature of the action plan of 2024 -2026, there is a possibility of acting to enhance cooperation between the institutions of the two countries. Accordingly, a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture in this country and the Agricultural Science Academy of Vietnam. Concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been given for the proposed draft memorandum of understanding. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to sign the said memorandum of understanding.

14. State Commercial Enterprises Management draft bill

It has been recognized that the state enterprises should be re – structured and maintained with proper administration with the assistance of local or foreign investments without being a continuous burden to the General Treasury and the country’s economy. Therefore, it is the policy of the new government to introduce an efficient and accountable mechanism in the regard. An initial draft named “State Commercial Enterprises Management Draft Bill” has been already prepared to introduce a new legal framework required for maintaining after performing necessary restructuring and with proper management of government owned business companies. Thereon, it will be possible to totally free the state entrepreneurship establishments from political influences and appoint professionals with proficiency for its board of directors. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by His Excellency the President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to grant policy approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for the