



## Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 26-05-2025

### 01. Appointment of a Technical Appraisal Committee for the appraisal of project proposals submitted to the National Access for Research and Development.

At present, the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and the Port City the Economic Commission are implementing measures to provide the necessary facilities for investors in Sri Lanka. However, considering the lack of investment-friendly, proper research and development mechanisms for identifying relevant projects for research and development commercialization, appraisal, and empowerment of their technical and economic potential, the National Initiative for Research & Development Commercialization (NIRDC) has been established under the Presidential Secretariat. The main objective of establishing said access is to provide facilities for investors who come forward to introduce research projects that have already been completed or are about to be completed, as well as to introduce value-added and marketable products or services. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President to appoint a technical appraisal committee comprising experts with specialized knowledge in technology, education, science, health, environment, food and sustainability, social development, and well-being, as well as other sectors, to appraise the projects which are presented to the National Access for Research and Development for commercialization and to refer them to suitable investors.

### 02. Accelerating Sri Lanka's digital transformation and establishing an institutional framework for digital economic development.

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 27-01-2025 to liquidate the currently implemented Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) and to prepare a draft for the establishment of the Digital Economic Authority. In line with that, experiences in the implementation of existing digital strategies in Sri Lanka and other countries for establishing an institutional framework to expedite digital transformation in Sri Lanka and for digital economic development have been studied. Accordingly, it has been identified as essential to establish a stable and well-defined institutional structure in order to achieve the expected objectives of digital strategies. Taking these matters into consideration, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy, to establish a government-owned company named 'Gov Tech (Pvt) Limited' as an independent institution with the necessary powers, enabling it to implement digital transformation projects that have already commenced and are planned for the future without any obstruction.

### **03. Disposal of the shares of Canville Holdings (Private) Company**

Canville Holdings (Private) Limited was established in the year 2011 to invest in the tourism/hospitality sector. Sino Lanka Hotel and Spa (Private) Limited has been established to implement the 'Grand Height, Colombo' project, which is the investment of that company. The Cabinet of Ministers at that time had granted approval to dispose of the shares of Canville Holdings (Private) Company and to select Deloitte Touch Hamathsu PLC, and Indian Company, as the consultancy firm for this transaction. However, no further action has been taken in this regard. It has been estimated that approximately US\$ 120 million (about 36 billion) is required to complete the 'Grand Height, Colombo' project. Taking into account the difficulty of obtaining further financial requirements from the shareholders of that company or through loans, it has been recognised that the most suitable alternative to commence commercial operations is to obtain the necessary funds by selling the company's shares and completing the company's construction. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, to restart the process of disposing of shares in Canville Holdings (Private) Company and to obtain the services of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu PLC as the consultancy firm for this transaction.

### **04. The project on 'Marine Nights: Awakening Colombo'**

The requirement of structural access to uplift the local economy, to boost the tourism industry and to increase the experiences of the tourists in Colombo has been recognised; it is expected to achieve it by increasing the night-time tourism activities. Accordingly, a project for the development of Colombo Marine Drive has been planned to be implemented from Kollpetty station to Dehiwala station, about 7.4 km in length, under the theme 'Marine Nights: Awakening Colombo'. In this project, it is expected to draw more attention towards the area of 400 meters from Galle Face end to St Thomas Primary School. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism to implement the proposed project.

### **05. Incorporation of a limited liability company to manage specialized economic centers**

18 Special Economic Centers have been established to provide market infrastructure facilities for the sale, purchase, storage and distribution of agricultural products. Out of these economic centers 14 are currently operational except Vavuniya, Killinochchi, Jaffna and Batticloa. The management of these Special Economic Centers is carried out by a management trust consisting of members Ex- Officio appointed by the authority of the State institutions, Trade Associations, under the chairmanship of the District Secretary/ Government Agent of the district as per the Cabinet Decision dated 10-01-2006. The requirement to establish centralized, legally accepted and accountable institutional structure has been identified for the successful and sustainable carrying out business activities in these economic centers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to establish a limited liability company to develop, expand and manage specialized economic centers.



## **06. Establishment of multi-sectoral mechanism with an integrated approach to reduce child abuse incidents**

The protection of children from abuse and all forms of violence has been identified as a prime principle in the policy commitment of the framework known as the National Policy Framework "A Safe World for Children – A Creative Future Generation ", which was approved at the cabinet meeting held on 03-03-2025. Several parties are involved in various ways in the protection of children within the government mechanism. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Vocational Education, the Ministry of Justice and National Integration, and the Sri Lanka Police play a prime role in this respect. The National Child Protection Authority provides the facilities to lodge complaints 24 hours. However, it seems that there are so many occasions that such complaints are not received. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs to take the following steps, enabling swift involvement in such occasions.

- Appointment of a Standing National Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and comprising representatives of other relevant institutions.
- Introduction of amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Code enabling the elimination of physical penalties against to the children
- In reporting all forms of violence and abuse that occur to children, the declaration of the media ethics system currently being drafted includes all appropriate provisions to prevent such victims from experiencing frequent occurrences of harassment.
- Obtaining swift intervention from the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses, the Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organisations and the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Regulation Commission to regulate the activities performed by the media institutions and social media communicators in such a way that damages the identity of child victims.

## **07. Implementation of Phase - 2 of Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 22-04-2015 to implement stage 1 of the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Programme that comprised 2 stages under the multi-staged financial facility of the Asian Development Bank. However, the relevant program could not be completed as expected due to the reasons of exceeding the estimated amount and the cost of the contract package and the COVID-19 epidemic prevailing in the country and the economic recession. Therefore, the Asian Development Bank has given its consent to continue the programme after restructuring the remaining works of the programme on a priority sequence under several stages. Accordingly, it has been planned to implement Phase 2 of the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program, which includes the completion of infrastructure facilities for the irrigation of the Maha Ela in the North Central Province, along with the establishment of a commercial agricultural development program featuring the improved distribution of water systems in areas associated with the main canal of the North Central Province. Under this stage, it is expected to achieve the objectives such as to increase cultivation capacity of the irrigation systems of Hurulu Wewa, Manankattiya, Aru Wewa, Mahakandarawa, Nachchaduwa, Nuwara Wewa, and Tisa Wewa, providing 40 million cubic m<sup>3</sup> annually for drinking water requirement of the North Central Province, improving the livelihood of the farmers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved