



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 02-06-2025

01. Establishment of new unit for public-private partnership

His Excellency, the President, stated at the 2025 budget speech that steps will be taken to introduce a new act in respect of public-private partnerships with the objective of facilitating investment promotion. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency the President in principle to prepare a draft to establish the said unit with a formal legal mechanism and to establish a public-private partnership unit headed by the Senior Additional Secretary to the President (Finance and Economic Affairs) in the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development until the said unit, instead of the currently operating National Agency for Public-Private Partnership,

02. Establishment of a task force for Digital Transformation.

A commendable progress has been achieved in enrolling the students in schools in high percentage and providing a quality education in Sri Lanka. However, the education sector is under severe pressure due to the ongoing shortage of more than 42,000 teachers and increasing the inequality in the rural and areas with less facilities. Under this condition, the necessity has arisen to introduce a system transformation in the education sector. Most countries are utilising digital benefits efficiently to create revolutionary differences in their education systems. Although Sri Lanka has also initiated various digital education methods, the expected results cannot be achieved due to disorganisation. Therefore, it has become essential to implement an integrated strategic digital approach that is combined with the present education reforms. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education to establish a task force on digital education transformation under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Prime Minister comprising the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education along with the Secretary to the Ministry of the Digital Economy and representatives of other relevant parties to take necessary steps in this regard.

03. Implementation of Sri Lankan Strategic plan of the World Food Program

The Sri Lankan strategic plan of the World Food Program has been prepared as a tool for the main plan covering the four-year period from 2023 to 2027, including strategic priorities and programs. The provision of US\$ 74.87 million has been allocated for Sri Lanka under this plan. This strategic programme is implemented by signing a formal and mutual memorandum of understanding. 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 sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sri Lankan Government and the World Food Programme of the United Nations with the objective of facilitating the successful implementation of the aforementioned strategic plan.

04. Memorandum of Understanding between Guatemala and Sri Lanka on establishment of political consultation mechanism

It has been proposed to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guatemala and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism in Sri Lanka on the establishment of a political consultation mechanism. It is expected to promote, strengthen and broaden the bipartisan relationships, including political, economic, consular, cultural and technological cooperation, by the proposed agreement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism to sign the proposed memorandum of understanding for the period of the initial five (5) years.

05. Establishment of Ingiriya industrial zone and implementation of second stage of Raigam Milleniya industrial zone

There are 33 industrial zones operating at present throughout the island, and out of them, 08 zones are in the Western Province. Considering the developed physical infrastructure and human resources compared to other provinces, there is a comparatively high level of requests from local and foreign industrialists for land in the Western Province to establish their industries. Taking these matters into account, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the following proposals presented by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship for implementation.

- Establishment of new industrial one by developing related infrastructure facilities on a 350 – acre land allocated from the government owned ` St. Peters Estate` land located in the Ingiriya Divisional Secretariat Division of the Kaluthara District, with the industrial zones for automobile and related spare parts manufacturing industries, rubber and rubber related industries, pharmaceutical manufacturing industries and mixed industries, with an investment of Rs. 2,500 million.
- Commencement of development activities in the second phase of the Raigama Milleniya industrial park, covering allocated 24 acres of land separated from the 200 acres of land from the ` New Wetalwaththa` land to establish the Raigama Industrial and Technological Development zone with an investment of Rs. 500 million.

06. Providing under utilized lands/properties to the suitable investors for optimal utilization.

Having identified the suitability of underutilised lands owned by the government, the provision of Rs. 250 million has been allocated from the 2025 budget for the initial work of drawing private investments, including small- and medium-scale investments. Accordingly, a joint proposal has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Land Irrigation with the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities. According to the said proposal, clear, underutilised lands/properties are expected to provide for the investment opportunities in the sectors of plantation and agricultural purposes, plantation-related tourism promotional activities, livestock development, water-based electricity generation, the freshwater fishing industry, and plantation-related economic innovation activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposals presented by the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities to implement further activities in respect of the proposed project.

07. Calling for expressions of interest for disposal of old Bogambara Prison land on 50-year lease basis

Calling for expressions of interest for disposal of old Bogambara Prison land in the old Bogambara Prison site, which has been handed over to the Urban Development Authority, is located within the utility service zone of the Kandy Municipal Council Area that has been prepared for the Kandy Municipal Council Area covering the period 2021-2030. The Bogambara Prison premises and prison building have been identified under the World Heritage Building Conservation, and due to the cultural value of these premises, there is a potential to use these premises for cultural and tourism promotional activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to call for investment proposals for disposal of Bogambara Prison land in Kandy on a 50-year lease basis. for the implementation of a development project with the financial, environmental, and social potential in accordance with the basic plan of the Urban Development Authority.

08. Declaration of part of the Nikakadupola Canal, home for the rare Bandula Pethiya fish as sanctuary

Bandula Pethiya fish, identified in the year 1991, is a rare and critically endangered fish species endemic to Sri Lanka. According to recent estimates, it is believed that numerically only 300 or less than that are currently living. It has been identified that this special type of fish species is found only in an area of about 2.5 kilometres in the canal flowing from Ram Bidigala to Hapugoda at the Galapitamada area in the Divisional Secretariat of Warakapola in Kegalle District. As there are paddy cultivations that use chemical fertilisers and agrochemicals adjacent to this canal, it has been observed that living in a canal where so many human activities are carried out, is a severe threat to the future survival of this fish species that is included in the Red Data List. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Environment to declare an area of 2.5 kilometers identified in the canal flowing from Ram Bidigala to Hapugoda in the Galapitamada area of the Divisional Secretariat of Warakapola in Kegalle District, fifteen (15) meters on each side from the centre line of the stream, as the Nikakadupola Sanctuary.

09. Establishment of Metro Bus Unit for urban transportation.

It has been proposed in the budget that a fleet of comfortable and high-tech buses be introduced as a pilot project for the modernisation of public transport services. Under this project, it is planned to deploy 100 comfortable, low-entry buses for passenger transport along several major road corridors, including Colombo, Ma Kubura (Kottawa), Kaduwela, Kadawatha and Moratuwa. Accordingly, taking this into consideration, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation to establish a subsidiary company belonging to the Sri Lanka Transport Board under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 and to implement the proposed project.

10. Sri Lanka to host 7th meeting of SAARC Inter Governmental Group on transport.

The 32nd Standing Committee Session of the SAARC Organisation held in 2006 decided to establish the SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on transport at the level of Secretaries to the Ministries. Thereby, it is expected to strengthen the diplomatic relations within the region and enhance the regional cooperation. It has been proposed to conduct the 07th meeting of that group on 20th and 21st June 2025 in Colombo. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation to host Sri Lanka for the 7th meeting of the SAARC Inter-Governmental Group on transport.

11. Development of Myliddi fishing harbour - Stage III

The I and II stages of the development of Myliddi fishing harbour have been completed. It has been planned to do the remaining development activities of that harbour under the stage III. Under this stage, it has been planned to provide the main and essential facilities, such as water, electricity, and fuel, not only to the Northern fishing community but also to the fishing boats coming from the Eastern and Southern provinces, as well as essential net preparation facilities, auction hall facilities, and radio communication exchange facilities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic, and Ocean Resources to do construction planned in the land under stage III of the development of Myliddi fishing harbour and to extend the project duration until 2027.

12. Project to set up permanent households for displaced families due to the prevailed conflict situation in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Due to the conflict situation prevailed for 30 years in northern and eastern provinces, a large number of houses belong to families lived in those areas devastated. In northern and eastern provinces, 914,722 individuals from 274,728 families have been re-settled and 150,488 households in 08 districts in northern and eastern provinces have been allocated to them by the end of 2024. The government of Sri Lanka, government of India, non-governmental organizations have financed to construct these new houses. It has been identified that 16,759 more houses should have to be constructed in 08 districts within northern and eastern provinces for the core families displaced before the year 2009. At the initiation of this project it has been decided that rupees 1,100,000/- will be spent over the construction of a house of 550 square feet while rupees 650,000/- will be spent for the construction of a house of 340 square feet. However, according to the current prices of building construction materials, the estimated cost for construction of a house of 550 square feet is rupees 1,600,000/- and for construction of a house of 340 square feet is rupees 950,000/-. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to increase the financial grant provided by the government to the beneficiary for the house construction project based on the construction as follows with effect from the year 2025:

- Increase the grant provided by the government up to rupees 1,500,000/- for construction of a house of 550 square feet.
- Increase the grant provided by the government up to rupees 900,000/- for construction of a house of 340 square feet.

13. Procurement for the supply of 270,000 vials of 1 grams of Meropenem Injection

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 30.12.2024 to award the procurement for supplying 900,000 vials of 1 grams of Meropenem Injection to M/s Genix Pharma (Pvt) Ltd of Pakistan. Considering the swelling demand for the injection, a request from the medical supplies division was raised to procure 30% of the previous order which will be an increase of 270,000 vials as an additional order. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to supply 270,000 vials of 1 gram of Meropenem Injection as an additional request from the supplier, M/s Genix Pharma (Pvt) Ltd of Pakistan.

14. Appointment of a Committee to review the draft Employees Act.

There are approximately 50 labour laws approved by the Constitution from 1923 up to date and it has been identified that the provisions in most of them should be updated to cater the current socio – economic scenario and the work world. Accordingly, a draft bill has been prepared by the Legal Draftsman for formulating an employment act by studying 13 acts already in operation. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Labour to appoint a committee representing all relevant stakeholders under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Ministry of Labour to further consider and identify the revisions to be further done through obtaining employer – employee trade unions according to the government policies.

15. Introduction of a new Apartment Ownership (Special Provisions) Act

The documents required for registering a condominium plan on condominium properties belong to the government or government related agencies have been mentioned in Apartment Ownership No. 11 of 1973 amended by Act to Amend Apartment Ownership No 39 of 2003 and No. 45 of 1982. A concessionary period has been granted to carry out registration process through a convenient and simple methodology across new laws of Apartment Ownership (Special Provisions) Acts Nos. 04, 27 and 23 of 1999, 2002, and 2018 respectively. Accordingly, the valid period of the last empowered Apartment Ownership (Special Provisions) Act No. 23 of 2018 has been ended on 14.08.2023. Therefore, policy approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 03.03.2025 to formulate a new act including provisions of that act. Therefore, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to obtain policy approval of the current Cabinet of Ministers to proceed with the formulation of the said act.

16. The agreement entered between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Latvia on transfer offenders.

The Transfer of Offenders Act No. 5 of 1995 is introduced to formulate provisions for transferring an offender citizen from another country who has been convicted within Sri Lanka and get a Sri Lankan citizen convicted in another country to be transferred to Sri Lanka. However, to make the provisions of this act effective, the two applicable countries should enter into an agreement in the connection. The Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval on 05.12.2023 to enter into an agreement between the two countries on transferring offenders as per the agreement entered according to the existing laws of the two countries; Sri Lanka and Latvia. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to grant policy approval of the present Cabinet of Ministers to sign the relevant agreement, and subsequently sign the said agreement.

17. Draft Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes) Act

The Commercial Mediation Centre Act No. 44 of 2000 specially prepared for the establishment of a commercial mediation centre had been unable to be executed due to certain technical reasons and restrictions. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval on 05.12.2022 for repealing the relevant act, including minimal standards on maintaining the commercial mediation and providing provisions required to empower mediation solutions by the judiciary subject to accomplishing relevant rules. The current Cabinet of Ministers has also given their policy approval in regard to this on 09.02.2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to publish the draft Mediation (Civil and Commercial Disputes) Bill prepared by the Legal Draftsmen in the government gazette notification and subsequently submit the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

18. Draft Bill of Sign Language

By establishing the sign language as a recognized language, the deaf persons get an access to information and would have total participation, equal opportunities without disturbance in all the activities in the society. On 08.09.2010, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted policy approval to accept the sign language as a formal way of communication. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsmen had been directed subject to decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers taken on 12.09.2017 and 18.01.2021 to prepare a draft bill to accept the sign language as a communication media. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment to obtain the policy approval of the new Cabinet of Ministers to finalize the drafting process of the relevant bill.

19. Appointment to the post of Director General of the Department of Building.

Since Mrs. K. G. Sandya Kumudini, who served as the Director General of the Building Department is to be retired with effect from 02.06.2025, it has been recognized that Mrs. W. R. N. R. Premachandra, currently serving in the post of Additional Secretary (Technical) of the Ministry of Defense is appropriate to be appointed to the said post that is vacant from that date. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to appoint Mrs. W. R. N. R. Premachandra to the post of Director General of the Building Department with immediate effect.

20. Appointment to the post of District Secretary/ Government Agent to the Matale District

Mrs. Thejani Madanayaka who is currently serving as the District Secretary (Government Agent) of the Matale Administrative District, is scheduled to retire on 02-06-2025 and it has been identified that Mr. L.P. Madanayake, a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is currently serving as the Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, Sports and Youth Affairs, Cooperatives, Trade and Industrial Development of the North Central Province, to the relevant post which is scheduled to fall vacant from that date. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Council and Local Government to appoint Mr. L.P. Madanayake to the post of District Secretary/ Government Agent to the Matale District with immediate effect.

21. Appointment of a task force to revive the pig industry which has collapsed due to African swine fever

The African swine fever, a highly pathogenic epidemic disease reported in October 2024, first started in the Western Province in Sri Lanka and has now spread to all the provinces. There is a possibility of increasing the mortality rate up to 100% in a farm infected with this disease. According to the data reported so far, the disease has been reported from 1,594 pig farms, and 61,695 pigs have died. Further, the Department of Wildlife Conservation has reported that the disease has infected wild boars in the forest, and a large number of wild boars have also died. The risk of resumption of pig farms has become very risky due to the lack of scientific information about the spread of the disease and the circulation of the pathogen virus in the environment. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to appoint a task force comprising the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation and the Senior Additional Secretary to the President (Development Administration) as the co-chairmen and representatives of other relevant parties to take necessary steps for the revival of the pig industry.

22. Importing of standardised maize required for production of Thriposha.

The Ministry of Health and Mass Media provides Thriposha as a supplementary nutritional food to all pregnant mothers, lactating mothers (up to 6 months of age) and malnourished infants above 6 months of age and less than 05 years. Maize and soya beans are the main ingredients used in producing Thriposha. The annual requirement of the maize for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited is 18,000 metric tons and the monthly requirement is 1,500 metric tonnes. Taking into consideration the difficulties in obtaining the required standard maize locally, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to issue an import licence to the said institution to import the required amount of maize each year to maintain continuous production of Thriposha.

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