



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 23-06-2025

01. Amendment of National Water Resource Policy

The government's new policy statement has emphasised the requirement of conservation of all water resources in the country for the activation of the cluster reservoir system, the water utilisation for various uses to ensure secure water utilisation, the studying and nourishment of river basins, and various uses for the safe water consumption. Therefore, it has become a timely requirement to implement a public policy that provides the opportunity for utilisation of water resources in a safe manner for the present and future generations, protecting all the water sources in the country. Various parties have shown that the presently empowered National Water Resource Policy should be further amended. Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister to appoint a cabinet subcommittee comprising the following ministers to review the currently empowered National Water Resource Policy again in such a way consistent with the present government policy and submit the appropriate recommendations.

- Hon. K.D.Lal Kantha, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation
- Hon. Sunil Hadunhetti, the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development
- Hon. Anura Karunathilake, the Minister of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing
- Hon. Kumara Jayakody (Engineer), the Minister of Energy
- Hon. Dhammika Patabadi (Medical Officer), Minister of Environment

02. Mobile Public Service Program operated by the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing

It has been identified that the people in rural and urban areas with low facilities encounter severe difficulties in resolving the issues in respect of land utilisation, obtaining approvals for buildings, lack of housing facilities, development of infrastructure facilities, and water supply services. Therefore, the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing has planned to commence and implement a mobile public service program to enable the obtaining of such services for the public in a much easier way. Thereby, it is expected that the public directly connect with the officers of the respective institutions and resolve the issues that have arisen relevant to the subjects of the institutions: the National Community Water Supply Department, National Physical Planning Department, Urban Development Department, Urban Settlement Development Authority, National Housing Development Authority, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation, Condominium Management Authority and Construction Industry Development Authority, all of which fall under the

purview of the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing to implement the proposed mobile public service program.

03. Implementation of legal provisions strictly relevant to the children's engagement in hazardous employments, such as street begging, selling goods, and providing maid services.

As per the Children Rights Ordinance, a child has been defined as a person who is less than 18 years old. According to the present statistics, the population of the children is 30% of the total population of the country. It has been identified that the certain children are compelled to engage in various professions for different reasons, becoming "street children" as a result of human trafficking, and they often beg or sell various items in public places, either with or without their parents. According to this programme, it is strictly prohibited to involve the children under 16 years old in street begging and trading and to involve the children between 16 and 18 years old in hazardous employment, such as housemaids, starting from 01-07-2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to give its approval subsequent to the submission of the said programme by the Minister of Child and Women's Affairs, which is planned to be implemented by the relevant ministry to strictly enforce the existing legal provisions and to raise public awareness in this regard through extensive propaganda.

04. The project relevant to the project to be converted to general education digital in Sri Lanka

People's Republic of China has agreed to provide the funds US\$ 20 million to implement a project relevant to a project to be converted to general education digital in Sri Lanka. While His Excellency the president in Sri Lanka had an official tour in China in January in this year, both parties had agreed to implement this project in expeditiously. 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 Professional Education to provide all the components necessary to a smart class room for selected 500 schools under the proposed project and to establish the Network Operation Management Unit, Program Operation Room and Conference Room under the project in 'Isurupaya' premises.

05. Construction of three storey building for Thurstan College, Colombo

The building experts at the University of Moratuwa have shown in a report that an old three-storey building at Thurstan College, Colombo, is unsuitable for student usage and should be demolished. 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 Professional Education to construct a new three-storey building instead of the old building.

06. Project for renovation of Minneriya, Girithale, Galoya, Huruluwewa, and Rajanganaya irrigation schemes.

There has been severe disruption to the release of water for the cultivated lands due to damage caused to the main irrigation systems in the dry zone from floods that occurred on several occasions in the recent past. Rs. 2,000 million has been allocated by the budget proposal 2025 to renovate canal systems of the Galoya schemes in Ampara district, Minneriya and Girithale irrigation schemes in Polonnaruwa district, and Huruluwewa and Rajanganaya irrigation schemes in Anuradhapura district. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to do the following renovations in the aforementioned irrigation systems by utilization of aforesaid provisions.

- Renovation of irrigation systems and drainage canals of the Minneriya irrigation scheme – Rs. 300 million
- Renovation of irrigation systems of the Girithale irrigation scheme – Rs. 200 million
- Renovation of flood damages and broken canal systems of the Galoya scheme – Rs. 900 million
- Renovation of irrigation systems and drainage canals of the Huruluwewa irrigation scheme – Rs. 300 million
- Renovation of gravity and lift irrigation systems of the Rajanganaya irrigation scheme – Rs. 300 million

07 The proposed programme to be implemented by the Department of Export Agriculture to achieve the targets of the export agricultural crops

The Department of Export Agriculture is conducting the developments and research activities for the promotion of relevant to 14 export agricultural crops namely pepper, coffee, areca nut, cocoa, cloves, nutmeg, cardamom, vanilla, betel, lemongrass, citrus, garcinia, turmeric and ginger. At present, these crops are spread over an area of about 82,000 hectares and nearly one million stakeholders are engaged in cultivation and industries related to export agricultural crops. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to implement the following programmes by the Department of Export Agriculture from the year 2025 to encourage and promote stakeholders and to provide government benefits up to 50% maximum that are made by the cultivators and other stakeholders under these programmes.

- The programme to increase the new cultivation area of the export agricultural crops
- The programme to increase the productivity of the export agricultural crops
- The programme to promote the organic export of agricultural crops
- Activities related to organic farming certification and laboratory analysis
- Providing international Fair Trade certification.
- Providing other certificates that could be applicable for the internationally accepted organic cultivation.
- Providing facilities for the post-harvest technology programme.
- Plant nurseries development programme
- Maintenance of export crop cultivation demonstrations
- Export agricultural projects that are linked to the tourism industry.

08. Procurement of 200 new super luxury buses for expressway operation

There is an urgent need to introduce new buses to the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) bus fleet, as nearly 52% of the regular bus fleet of the Sri Lanka Transport Board and nearly 94% of the luxury bus fleet have exceeded the economic life span. As to the insufficient buses to meet the passenger demand on the expressway, the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) is currently operating 61 luxury buses belonging to the private sector on a profit-sharing basis. Therefore, the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) has decided to purchase 200 new super-luxury buses by using their own funds. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port and Civil Aviation to purchase 29 super luxury buses through the financially capable depots and to purchase the remaining buses by making a down payment using SLTB funds and the balance to be paid in monthly instalments over a period of 5 years.

09. Procurement for paving and asphaltting of yard V of Jaya Container Terminal

Sri Lanka Ports Authority has planned to extend the Jaya Container Terminal-IV to accommodate two medium-sized container ships and to develop the berthing area to increase the yard capacity. The development of Jaya Container Terminal – V has to be completed in order to be fully operationalized. the Jaya Container Terminal. Accordingly, national competitive bidding has been invited for the procurement of stone paving and asphaltting of the developed yard area filled with soil and to connect to the existing yard. 09 bids have been received for this purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port and Civil Aviation to award the relevant contract to M/S Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd based on the recommendations of the Bids Evaluation Committee and the High Level Procurement Committee.

10. Implementation of projects for management, prevention and control of HIV / AIDS and Tuberculosis under the grants provided by the global fund provided by the global fund for fighting HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project has been implemented since 2002 under the Ministry of Health and Mass Media to manage, prevent and control the three diseases of HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. From the year 2021 only the components; AIDS and Tuberculosis were implemented under the said project. It has been recognized that it is appropriate to implement grant circle for 2025 / 2027 in order to realize the aims and objectives of the national strategic plan for control of Tuberculosis and national strategic plan 2023 – 2027 for eradicating HIV / AIDS in Sri Lanka. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) has agreed to allocate a fund of USD \$ 2.97 million for Tuberculosis component and USD \$ 6.38 million for the HIV / AIDS control programme during the period of 2025 – 2027. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement the above two projects using the said grants.

11. Proposed development project for Nuwara Eliya Post Office building.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 29.04.2024 to transfer Nuwara Eliya Post Office Building to the Urban Development Authority. Objections were raised among the postal employees as well as civil organizations and public against this transfer. Later on it was decided to execute a project to prepare this building for the activities of the Department of Posts as earlier while preparing to utilize for tourism promotion activities as well. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to repeal the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers that has been taken to transfer Nuwara Eliya Post Office building and its premises to the Urban Development Authority and to modify the building and the land to increase local / foreign tourist attraction and enhance new revenue generation paths.

12. Procurement of 03 CT Scan Machines for district hospitals of Nawalapitiya, Dambulla and Kuliyaipitiya

National competitive bids are invited for supply, distribution, establishment, execution and maintenance of 03 (64 slices) CT Scan Machines for the district hospitals of Nawalapitiya, Dambulla and Kuliyaipitiya. Four (04) bids have been received in this connection. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the procurement of supplying the 03 (64 slices) CT Scan Machines for the district hospitals of Nawalapitiya, Dambulla and Kuliyaipitiya to M/s Hayleys Lifesciences (Pvt.) Ltd., based on the recommendations of the Higher Level Standing Procurement Committee and the Procurement Appeals Board.

13. Procurement to supply of 500,000 pre – filled jabs of Enoxaparin Sodium 6,000 IU, 0.6 ml syringes.

International competitive bids have been invited for the procurement for supply of 500,000 pre – filled jabs of Enoxaparin Sodium 6,000 IU, 0.6 ml syringes that are used for treatments of heart patients. Four (04) bids have been received in this connection. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the procurement to Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. the substantially responsive minimum bidder based on the recommendations of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Higher Level Standing Procurement Committee.

14. Drafting the State Procurement Law.

In view of the powers vested by the Constitution, service of one international consultant and two local consultants has been obtained to draft the state procurement law with the sponsorship of the Asian Development Bank. The fundamental draft prepared by them has been subject to enhance by obtaining opinions and proposals of all the parties including overseas agencies, Ministries and Department heads, non – government agencies by the National Procurement Commission. Accordingly, based on the aforesaid draft, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President to instruct the Legal Draftsman to draft the law for state procurement.

15. Poison, opium and narcotic drugs Ordinance and the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 to be amended (Banning narcotic drugs trade in the ocean)

The resolution submitted for amendment of Poison, Opium and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance and the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 (Banning narcotic drugs trade in the ocean) was discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 09.02.2025. At the meeting approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to prepare a fundamental draft / a concept paper by obtaining opinion of all the parties. Accordingly, the amendments to be made to revise of Poison, Opium and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance and the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 (Banning narcotic drugs trade in the ocean) have been recognized. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to direct the Legal Draftsman to take measures to prepare a draft bill for the amendment of Poison, Opium and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance and the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978 (Banning narcotic drugs trade in the ocean) based on the amendments mentioned.

16. Standard monitoring procedure for authorities executing the law revealing, identifying, investigating and litigation of organizational crimes related to child trade.

Child trade for exploitation is a serious violation of human rights and is considered as an international organized crime. Therefore, Sri Lanka is committed to strengthen her national response through a legitimate institutional and procedural mechanism adhering to the bonds under the United Nations Convention on Child Rights and other international policy framework. The Ministry of Public Security and parliamentary Affairs joined with the Women and Child Bureau, valorous units of Crimes Investigation Department of Sri Lanka Police, National Child Protection Authority, the Attorney General's Department, and other relevant stakeholders has prepared a broad standard monitoring procedure called "standard monitoring procedure for law enforcement officers on revelation of organizational crimes related to child trade, investigation, and litigation". Clearance of the Attorney General has been granted for the said standard monitoring procedure. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to publish the said standard monitoring procedure in the government gazette notification so that the standard monitoring procedure for authorities executing the law revealing, identifying, investigating and litigation of organizational crimes related to child trade can be executed formally by the relevant stakeholders for the litigation officers.

17. Further strengthening the administrative structure to enhance the tourism industry in Sri Lanka

Policy concurrence of the Cabinet of Ministers was expressed to introduce a new act instead of the Tourism Affairs Act No. 38 of 2005 at their meeting held on 20.01.2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a draft bill based on the concept paper prepared by an Intellectuals' Committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism.

18. **The situation in the Middle- East Region**

The Cabinet of Ministers has drawn its attention to the need for advance preparation regarding challenges that Sri Lanka may encounter in the future due to the ongoing heated military situation in the Middle East region. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to appoint a cabinet subcommittee with the following composition and to appoint another committee to assist the cabinet subcommittee, comprising the secretaries to the ministries, to submit appropriate recommendations, as the case may be, to the Cabinet of Ministers after closely studying the military situation in the Middle East region and all the fields that may be affected, the extent of the impact, and reviewing the expeditious actions that should be taken in this regard.

- Hon. Vijitha Herath: The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism - (Chairman)
- Hon. Samantha Vidyaratne: The Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Facilities
- Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe: The Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- Hon. Kumara Jayakody (Engineer): Minister of Power

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