



## **Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 09-06-2025**

### **01. Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation to be maintained as separate state enterprises with their own identity**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 27-11-2023, in principle, for the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation to merge and be established as a single state company. Accordingly, recommendations were forwarded by the State Enterprise Restructuring Unit as to how a state company should be established by merging Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation under the Company Act. However further action has not been taken in this respect so far. It has been identified that the expected results could not be achieved by merging these two institutions due to various reasons, such as the different technologies used by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, the larger space required by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation compared to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for recording, and the transmission towers being located in different places. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to continue the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation as two separate enterprises with their own identities by increasing operational efficiency and revenue status through a strategic business plan.

### **02. Ratification of Phase 1 of the agreement on Fisheries Subsidies of the World Trade Organization**

The necessity of a global agreement for the regulation of fisheries subsidies was confirmed at the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2017. Accordingly, the World Trade Organization had completed all activities relevant to the agreement on fisheries subsidies at the 12th Ministerial Conference held in the year 2022. The three main pillars (03) covered by this agreement are the prohibition of subsidies contributing to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; the prohibition of subsidies for overfished fish stocks; and the prohibition of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. The ratification of Stage 1 of the agreement on fisheries subsidies, which has been prepared by including the first two pillars (02) , was initiated by the member countries of the World Trade Organization in the year 2023. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint

proposal presented by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources, and the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Co-operative Development for ratification of Stage 1 of the agreement on fisheries subsidies that enables the strengthening of Sri Lankan leadership for the sustainability of the ocean, enhances the trade status of Sri Lanka in major markets, builds the necessary capacity to modernize the fisheries sector in Sri Lanka, and secures benefits from the special Fisheries Fund of the World Trade Organization while obtaining the required technological support.

### **03. Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Federal Police and the Sri Lanka Police on countering and preventing international crime and enhancing police cooperation.**

Sri Lanka and Australia share similar aspirations in addressing the growing challenges posed by terrorism, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, human smuggling, and other forms of organized and transnational crime. Therefore, it has been proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Federal Police and the Sri Lanka Police with the objective of facilitating cooperation in the prevention, investigation, and enforcement of transnational organized crime; promoting coordination of law enforcement activities; strengthening existing cooperation frameworks; promoting information and exchange of knowledge, capacity development, etc. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Transnational Crime and Police Cooperation between two parties.

### **04. Establishment of Faculty of Medicine in Uva Wellassa University**

The Faculty of Medicine at Uva Wellassa University has been established according to the budget proposal for 2023. Accordingly, 80 students have been enrolled using and modernizing the buildings within the university by utilizing Rs. 200 million allocated for that year, and the first and second academic years are currently being implemented. However, due to the fact that the necessary lecture halls, administrative buildings, and pre-clinical buildings have not been constructed yet, there have been obstacles to the proper functioning of the Faculty of Medicine. The cost required to construct the preclinical buildings and the essential administrative building, including the lecture halls, within the Uva-Wellassa University premises has been calculated at 2,149 million. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Professional Education to commence procurement activities this year and to provide the relevant facilities by allocating the required provisions during the budget 2026-2028 timeframe.

#### **05. Construction of Central Expressway – Phase IV (From Kurunegala to Dambulla)**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 20-03-2023 to make the payment of the remaining compensation for the plots of land acquired for the Central Expressway Project Phase IV ( Kurunegala - Dambulla) and divestiture of the plots of land for which compensation has not been paid in terms of the Land Acquisition Act. The physical progress of the Central Expressway – Phase IV Project has been 73.2%. It has been identified that the completion of the Central Expressway – Phase IV is essential to meet the requirement for a quantitative and qualitative road system to access the Northern, North Central, Eastern and Central provinces, and to achieve the full expected benefits of the entire Central Expressway. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation to resume the currently suspended and acquisition activities for the construction of relevant to the Kurunegala – Dambulla section of the Central Expressway – Phase IV.

#### **06. Preparation of the master plan for the Bandaranayake International Airport**

Proposals have been invited under the International Competitive Bidding Procedure for the selection of a consultancy firm to prepare the master plan for the Bandaranayake International Airport. After the evaluation of the proposals, the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Company has cancelled the contract and resumed the procurement process with the approval of the Cabinet due to not following the contract by the company that the contract was awarded. Only one proposal has been submitted by the M/s Haskoning DHV Netherland B.V, that operates as an airport consultant in the Netherlands. It has been recommended to award the aforementioned consultation contract to the said institution after appraisal of the proposal by the Consultation Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Port and Civil Aviation to award the aforementioned procurement to the said institution.

#### **07. Allocation of Funds for the Projects Identified in the Fields of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development**

The Small Business Development Division, the Sri Lanka Industrial Development Board, Lanka Salusala Limited, Sri Lanka Ceramic Corporation, and the Export Development Board are implementing the necessary policies and other decisions to elevate the institutions/sectors from their current status by utilizing the existing staff, natural resources, machinery, and other physical resources with the intervention of the institutions/sectors and the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development to allocate Rs. 100



million from the provisions allocated for the year 2025 for the following projects under the Sectorial Development Program of the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development.

- For the Reality Show program organized by the Small Business Development Division
- For the Industry Export Exhibition organized by the Lanka Industry Development Board
- For the Pilot Project of the Lanka Salusala Limited to establish indirect fund to provide required for local textile production at subsidized prices
- To provide working capital to the Lanka Ceramic Combined Board
- To purchase scanner machines to introduce Advanced Security Technology to the Security Checkpoint at Cargo Village maintained by the Export Development Board at the Katunayake International Airport premises.

#### **08. Enhancing and maintaining the broadcasting activities of the Independent Television Network.**

The Independent Television Network inaugurated as the first ever television channel in the country is operated as a company with the 100% share rights to the General Treasury. However, due to produce programmes utilizing age – old computer appliances and outdated software, it has been problematic to broadcast attractive programmes with high quality competitively in the field. Therefore, considering a proposal furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to allocate provisions for supplying essential appliances for the Independent Television Network on priority basis from the budget 2026 so that subscriber attraction can be enhanced and broadcasting can be continued without disruption.

#### **09. Purchase of waste transport compactor trucks to formalize waste transport activities in local government bodies.**

Waste management in Sri Lanka similarly like in most of the developing countries is confronting a number of challenges and difficulties at present. Hence, requirement for enhancing infrastructure facilities required for urban waste management has been recognized. Accordingly, transporting the urban waste that is collected in an environmental friendly manner to the stations that are treated with minimum strain to public is carried out with waste transport compactor trucks and tractors and actions have been taken in the year 2017 to purchase 100 local compactor trucks utilizing local allocations. However, it is observed that the number of those vehicles and tractors belong to local government bodies are not sufficient to manage the currently generated quantity of waste. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal submitted by

the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to purchase 16 waste transport compactor trucks to formalize collection and transport of waste in selected local government bodies utilizing an allocation of rupees 500 million from the budget allocations for the year 2025 in relation to Clean Sri Lanka programme.

**10. Construction of a new residential building for the treatment and rehabilitation for youth addicted to narcotic drugs.**

Narcotic Control National Board implements treatment and rehabilitation services for the individuals addicted to narcotic drugs under residential and non – residential models. Under this initiative, a treatment centre is being maintained at Mampitiya Watthe, Handessa, Peradeniya for children and youth below 21 years with discrepancies due to drug use. It has been recognized that treatment services and sufficient space allocated is essential for related individuals in that age category when treating them considering the psycho - social conduct of those in that age category related to drug use. Since there is only a residential capacity for 35 individuals in the relevant centre, a pending list has to be maintained for admissions. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to construct a new residential building in the Peradeniya treatment centre spending rupees 110 million from the provisions allocated under Clean Sri Lanka programme so that treatment opportunities for children and youth addicted to narcotic drugs can be expanded and accelerated.

**11. Amendment of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No. 1 of 1976**

Sri Lanka Architects' Institute, the only institute in Sri Lanka for the architects' profession, its practice and architectural education was established by the provisions of Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No. 1 of 1976 amended by Sri Lanka Architects' Institute (Amendment) Act No. 14 of 1996. In order to successfully act with the current contents of the professional uses, Sri Lanka Architects' Institute has proposed to amend the "practice of architecture and membership as well as the use of title names" and related sections of the main act. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted on 17.04.2023 to prepare a draft bill for the relevant purpose. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to obtain the policy approval of the current Cabinet of Ministers to complete the process of preparation of the draft bill of Sri Lanka Architects' Institute (Amendment) Act as per the above approval.

## **12. Formulation of an act to establish Matara Cultural and Development Board.**

Matara has been recognized as a town with historical, cultural and natural tourist probability that should be conserved for economic and employment benefits for the Sri Lankan citizens. However, it is observed that the probabilities are under – utilized state. Therefore, with the expectation of the development of Matara town, conserving its heritages in a sustainable status, and modification of the town, it has been recognized that formulation of an act related to Matara heritage and development is essential to accomplish the expectations. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution jointly furnished by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism as well as Urban Development, Construction and Housing along with Buddhadasa, Religious and Cultural Affairs to prepare a draft bill on Matara Heritage and Development for Matara town.

## **13. Preparation of the draft bill on ‘Promoting Breast Feed’**

Sri Lanka holds a higher rank in the world in relation to breast feeding indicators and, Sri Lanka has become the first ever country to receive the ‘Green Status’ from the World Breastfeeding Trends initiative (WBTi). The Cabinet of Ministers at their meeting held on 16.10.2018 has granted approval to introduce legal provisions across an act to promote breast feeding with the objective of safeguarding the health and nutrition of children securing the children from the unethical and harmful impacts aimed at the children through the milk powder companies with the commercialized objectives, to secure breast feeding as one of the major mediations which was proved scientifically, and to ensure the continuation of recognition the country has obtained as the global pioneer for breast feeding. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to provide the policy approval of the current Cabinet of Ministers for the preparation of the draft bill relevant to that.

## **14. Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Physical Punishments) Act No. 15 of 1979**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 29.04.2024 to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979 to impose provisions to ban physical punishments at any sector causing physical injuries. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to grant its policy approval of the current Cabinet of Ministers to formulate the relevant draft bill with amendments for the purpose.

**15. The act to amend Penal Code (Physical Punishments) (19<sup>th</sup> Authority)**

It has been scientifically proven that the physical and mental injury is immense that is caused to a child due to physical punishments. Therefore, approval has been granted at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 29.04.2024 to amend the penal code (19<sup>th</sup> Authority) so that provisions and be imposed to define penalties related to physical injury as well as to ban injuries from physical punishments in any sector. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to publish the draft bill of Penal Code (Amended) prepared by the Legal Draftsmen in the government gazette notification and submit the same to the Parliament although such action has not been carried out. The requirement to legalize the said draft bill with immediate effect has been recognized. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to publish the draft bill in the government gazette notification and thereafter submit the same to the Parliament.

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