



## **Cabinet Decisions Taken at the Cabinet Meeting Held on 07-07-2025**

### **01. Appointment of three-member committee to examine the activities of the Central Cultural Fund during the period from 2017 to 2020**

It has been reported that various irregularities have occurred in providing financial assistance to the religious places for various activities by the Central Cultural Fund during the period from 2017 to 2020. It was decided at the 223rd Governing Council meeting of the Central Cultural Fund held on 17-05-2025 to appoint a committee to examine the irregularities reported to have occurred. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Prime Minister to appoint a three-member committee under the chairmanship of G.M.W. Pradeep Jayathilaka, the retired Supreme Court Judge, for this purpose.

### **02. Granting permission to the Sri Lanka Navy to conduct maritime security operations.**

The International Maritime Organization declared the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Somali Sea, a high-risk zone in 2010 due to the pirate activities that had to be endured by the merchant ships engaged in international maritime traffic in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Somali Sea. As a remedial measure for these threats, merchant ships obtain the services of armed maritime guards from foreign private maritime security companies. Even though the International Maritime Organization has declared that the said high-risk zone has been removed from 01-01-2023, the commercial ships have continued the obtaining of the services of the armed maritime guards from foreign private maritime security companies. The Galle and Colombo ports are primarily used to embark armed maritime guards onto ships entering the aforementioned high-risk zone and to disembark armed maritime guards deployed to protect departing ships. On certain occasions, such maritime security operations are also carried out in the Hambantota and Trincomalee ports. When carrying out the operational activities of the aforementioned project, the Sri Lankan Navy has been entrusted with the overall responsibility for the national security. Therefore, considering the knowledge and experience of the Sri Lankan Navy in relation to maritime security operations, it has been deemed appropriate to grant approval for the Sri Lankan Navy to independently carry out these operations. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Defence, to conduct maritime security operations by the Sri Lankan Navy under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence.

**03. The progress of the large scale development projects at the end of the first quarter of the year 2025.**

The performance report on the large-scale development projects is submitted by the Department of Project Management and Monitoring after reviewing the performance data and information submitted by the relevant ministries on the financial and physical progress of the large-scale development projects implemented by the line ministries at the end of the first quarter of the year 2025. According to the aforementioned report, 205 large-scale development projects are being implemented with the newly added 21 projects. It is expected to complete 145 projects in 2025, including 74 projects due to be completed before the end of the first quarter of 2025, and 24 projects in 2026, 19 projects in 2027, and 9 projects in 2028. 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 take steps by all ministries and relevant authorities for the completion of the aforementioned projects during the target periods.

**04. Convention between Sri Lanka and Austria to prevent the double taxation and avoidance and evasion of public finance.**

A convention is proposed between Sri Lanka and Austria to expand economic relations between the two countries by establishing a necessary legal framework for the prevention of double taxation on income and capital and to prevent the avoidance and evasion of payment of taxes. Although certain revenue may be lost due to the concessions awarded by the proposed convention, the benefits that could arise from the considerable increase in foreign investment promotions and foreign exchange earnings would be comparatively advantageous to our country. 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 for the aforementioned convention.

**05. Incorporation of limited liability company to manage and operate the eastern container terminal.**

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 01-02-2021 to develop the eastern container terminal and western container terminal under the Colombo South Port Project. The Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority has decided to incorporate a limited liability company with the full right of Sri Lanka Ports Authority to operate and manage eastern container terminal. Thereby, it will be able to obtain maximum economic advantages, achieve operational efficiency, and compete with private terminal operators. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation to establish a company named "Colombo Eastern Container Terminal (Private) Limited."

**06. Transfer of lands where hostels are located to the Urban Development Authority for the development through the investors for Management and operational activities**

The management and control of the hostels established in different places in the island from the colonial period have been entrusted to the Urban Development Authority and Local Government Institutions. Even though these hostels are located at the tourism attracted areas, these are turned into collapsed situation due to improper management and control. It will be possible to transform these hostels into places that offer profitable, quality services and generate a source of income for the public through the development of these hostels to the condition appropriate to the current economic environment. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to transfer these places to the Urban Development Authority as a free grant in compliance with the Government Land Ordinance so as to develop 44 premises where the collapsed and dilapidated hostels are located by inviting the project proposals.

**07. Providing a portion of land to the Ceylon College of Physicians on long term lease basis.**

A portion of 30 perches of land located at Walikada, Rajagiriya, has been given to the Ceylon College of Physicians on a 30-year long-term lease basis effective from 13-05-1999 under a 0.5% lease rental of the market value as assessed by the chief valuer. The said lease period is due to be ended in the year 2029. A request has been made by the said Ceylon College of Physicians to obtain the said premises again on a lease basis for a long term to enable them to reconstruct the head office of the said institution, which was built in the said premises and is in a dilapidated condition at present. The approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 24-06-2024 to lease the aforementioned portion of land again for a 50-year term on the basis of annual lease rental determined by the government chief valuer. However, since this institution is not merely a profitable entity and has been established solely for the purpose of enhancing knowledge in medicine and promoting research, it has not been able to pay a large amount of lease rental. Therefore, a request has again been made to provide the relevant portion of land on a long-term lease basis under a concessionary lease rate as per the provisions of the currently effective lease agreement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to lease the aforementioned portion of land for a period of 50 years based on the currently effective lease agreement.

**08. Agreement on mutual legal cooperation in criminal matters between Sri Lanka and Maldives**

Many difficulties have to be encountered in engaging combined investigations due to lack of an agreement on mutual legal cooperation in criminal matters between Sri Lanka and Maldives. Therefore, although approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 22-09-2022 to enter into an agreement between both countries, the agreement is yet to be signed. The consensus has been provided by the Maldivian government, and the clearance from the Attorney General has been obtained for this agreement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to sign the agreement on mutual legal cooperation in criminal matters between Sri Lanka and Maldives.



**09. Memorandum of Understanding in between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Sri Lanka Police.**

It has been agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding in between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Sri Lanka Police by the two parties. It is expected to prevent international organized crimes, exchange information related to suspects and crimes, obtain assistance for consolidated operations and technical matters. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism has given their concurrence for the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to enter into the aforementioned bilateral Memorandum of Understanding.

**10. Implementation of a consolidated programme for the betterment of the Sri Lankan future youth.**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is entrusted with the responsibility of preparation, supervision and evaluation of policies, strategies and programmes related to the youth development of Sri Lanka. The Youth Services Council, Youth Force and Embilipitiya Leadership Development National Centre under the Ministry are responsible for empowering the youth. It is apparent of the vitality of existence of a holistic and cooperative among the public entities that possess the probability to mediate for uplifting the living and economic conditions of youth undergoing vocational education. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to appoint a ministerial committee for implementing a consolidated programme joined by the Ministries of Youth Affairs and Sports; Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education; Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism; as well as the Ministry of Digital Economy.

**11. The project to maintain reservoirs and water ways within the Western province properly and cleanly under the “Clean Sri Lanka – 2025” programme.**

There are many canals in Northern Colombo and highly dense Colombo city area that are not maintained by any state institution. Therefore, it has been planned to inaugurate a project under “Clean Sri Lanka” programme in order to clean and maintain those secondary channels that are not maintained and to increase the number of cleaning rounds of the main channel. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to implement the proposed project by Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation with the following objectives under the “Clean Sri Lanka Programme”:

- Flood control to prevent submerging the Colombo city with rain water and minimize public suppression.
- Maintaining a clean, favourable and hygienic environment.
- Upgrading health and living standards of public
- Increase tourist attraction to the city.
- Upgrading the water standards of inland water ways and water containing tanks

## **12. Awarding an allowance to religious school teachers.**

Religious education paves way for directing the society towards spiritual development. Therefore, it has been recognized providing teachers' allowance and uniform allowance to encourage the teachers serving in religious schools without any personal expectations to obtain their undisturbed service as well as for the progress of religious education essential for the betterment of the society. Accordingly, from the year 2026, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Buddhasashana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to pay an annual amount of Rs. 7,500/- inclusive of teachers' allowance and uniform allowance to the teacher in registered religious schools belong to Buddhist, Hindu, Islam, Christian and Catholic Religious schools.

## **13. Introducing a new act repealing the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996**

The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval at their meeting held on 30.12.2024 to introducing a new act repealing the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996, and to appoint a committee to submit a fundamental draft with necessary amendments by examining the fundamental draft prepared for that. Accordingly, the relevant Committee has prepared a revised draft including appropriate amendments. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Oceanic Resources to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare a new draft bill based on the revised fundamental draft mentioned above.

## **14. Amendment of Construction Industries Development (Registration of Adjudicators) Regulations 2019 and Construction Industry Development (Registration of Contractors) Regulations No. 1 of 2017.**

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to submit the following regulations published in the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2430/13 on 01.04.2025 prepared under the Construction Industries Development Act No. 33 of 2014, amending the Construction Industries Development (Registration of Adjudicators) Regulations 2019 published in the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2113/63 dated 08.03.2019 and Construction Industry Development (Registration of Contractors) Regulations No. 1 of 2017 published in the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2057/5 dated 05.02.2018.

- Regulations formulated under section 58 of the said act to be read with the sub section (2) of section 52 of Construction Industries Development Act No. 33 of 2014
- Regulations formulated under section 58 of the said act to be read with the sub sections (1), (2) and (4) of section 35 of Construction Industries Development Act No. 33 of 2014

**15. Regulations for Justice for Peace No. 1 of 2025.**

According to the provisions of the Judicature Act No. 2 of 1978, a request has been made by the Mediation Board Commission to provide the mediation commission members a recognition as a justice for peace by office. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to provide approval to the Justice of Peace Regulations No. 1 of 2025 published in the extraordinary gazette notification No. 2440/27 of 13.06.2025 to appoint every mediation committee member as a justice for peace during their reign subject to their powers in the office for the relevant mediation committee jurisdiction.

**16. Procurement for supplying 2.2 million of vials of Biphasic Isophane Insulin jabs (human) 30% liquid 70% Isophane**

Limited national competitive bids have been called for supply of 2.2 million vials of Biphasic Isophane Insulin jabs used for treatments for diabetes patients. Only M/s M. J. biopharma Private Limited has raised bids in this connection. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the said procurement to the said Company based on the recommendations of the bid evaluation committee and higher level standing procurement committee,

**17. Appointment to the post of Commissioner General of Excise**

Mr U.L. Udaya Kumara Perera, the special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Inland Revenue Service, who is presently serving as a Commissioner General of Excise, is due to be retired from the public service upon reaching 60 years of age as at 10-07-2025. 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 appoint Mr. M.B.N.A. Premarthne, the retired Commodore of the Sri Lanka Navy, to the vacant post of Commissioner General of Excise.

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