

## **Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 19.06.2024**

### **01. Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation among Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Member States**

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Member States have decided to enter into an agreement on maritime transport cooperation. In the Cabinet meeting held on 08.01.2024, the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation presented the proposal to sign the cooperation agreement for that purpose. The Cabinet of Ministers appointed a committee of officials to study the proposal further. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers gave its consent to sign the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, which will be prepared taking into consideration the recommendations mentioned in the said official committee report presented by the Hon. President.

### **02. Entering into a Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for cooperation in promoting direct investment**

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reached an agreement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties with the aim of attracting direct investment to the country and improving the investment environment of the two countries through policy and legal reforms, provision of advanced and integrated infrastructure facilities, process redesign, etc. Accordingly, the information presented by the President that the Minister of Foreign Affairs signed the MoU during the special meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was taken into consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers

### **03. Cooperation between Virginia Ports Authority and Sri Lanka Ports Authority**

The "Port and Prosperity Expertise Development Program" is jointly implemented by the US Embassy in Sri Lanka and the Colombo Plan, under which the two sides have agreed to enter into a cooperation agreement between the Port Authority of Virginia and the Port Authority of Sri Lanka for cooperation in the mutual exchange of expertise between ports. By entering into the proposed cooperation agreement, it is mainly expected to improve the professional capabilities of the executive staff of both parties. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to sign the relevant cooperation agreement.

### **04. School Grade 1 Admissions – 2025**

The admission of children to the first grade of schools is done transparently and in a manner that minimizes irregularities, in order to ensure equal access to education consistent with the circular issued by the Ministry of Education. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to amend the current circular instructions based on the experience gained in the past years, and to admit children to the first grade for the year 2025 and the following years according to the revised circular instructions.

**05. The Colombo International Film Festival 2024**

Arrangements have been made for the Colombo International Film Festival to be held in Colombo from 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July of this year with the primary objective of popularizing global cinematography in the country by creating a revival in the Sri Lankan film industry as well as making Sri Lanka a tourist hub in South Asia by gaining high tourist attraction. This film festival will give the Sri Lankan audience the opportunity to watch award-winning films from many countries including Iran, France, India, South Korea, China, Japan and Germany. Through this, film students will have a great opportunity to gain a broad understanding and experience of global cinematography. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the combined proposal presented by the Minister of Mass Media and the Minister of Tourism and Lands to conduct the said film festival under the initiative of the National Film Corporation and the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

**06. Plantation Youth Conference**

The Ministry of Water Supply and Plantation Infrastructure Development has planned to hold a youth conference as part of the national program to mark two hundred years since the plantation community came to Sri Lanka. The summit named as Youth Aruna is scheduled to be held on 22.06.2024 at Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology's Kandy premises with the participation of young people. The Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development is the head of the conference organized by the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, university students, and AIESEC voluntary organizations with the participation of youth. The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka has agreed to conduct a job fair at the same time. In this regard, the Minister's submissions were taken into consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers

**07. Procurement for Printing and Supply of Computer Draft Lottery Tickets to the Development Lotteries Board**

National Competitive Procurement Process has been followed for printing and supply of Computer based Draw lottery tickets of Lagna Wasanawa, Ada Kotipati, Shanida, Superball, Jayoda, Kapruka and Sasiri to Development Lottery Board. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies based on the recommendation of the Cabinet Appointed Standing Procurement Committee and the recommendation of the Procurement Appeal Board, to award the lottery ticket printing and supply contract to Toppan Forms (Colombo) Ltd., DPJ Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. And Grand Export (Pvt) Ltd. for a period of one year.

**08. Metalling & Tarring project - Jaya Container Terminal – V Yard in Colombo Port**

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority has prepared the plans related to the Metalling & Tarring of Jaya Container Terminal – V Yard in Colombo Port. The cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation to select a suitable institution for this by inviting National Competitive Bids and to appoint a cabinet appointed procurement committee and a technical evaluation committee for this process.

**09. Re – execution of differentiated programmes that were implemented under the housing scheme “Samata Sevana” during the period of 2015 - 2019**

The National Housing Development Authority during the period of 2015 – 2019 has executed various housing programmes under “Samata Sevana” such as model village programme, scattered loan programme, Grama Shakthi scattered loan, scattered loan scheme, Viru Suithuru, housing loan programme for kidney patients and flood relief programme etc aiming the low income community having the requirement of a house and those initiated construction of houses but could not complete constructions. Out of 387,520 housing units that have been started construction under those programmes 229,580 housing units have been partially build due to suspension of work and non – government organizations, with various grants and beneficiaries themselves have partially built those houses. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing for supplying allocations to complete the 45,117 housing units that have been not completed so far step by step on priority basis with the mediation of the National Housing Development Authority

**10. Procurement of pre – printed Polycarbonate cards for printing national identity cards.**

Considering recommendations of the procurement committee implemented for purchase of 05 million pre – printed Polycarbonate cards required for printing identity cards for the Department of Registration of Persons and the recommendations of the procurement appeal boards in the regards, it was decided to cancel the said procurement at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 06.05.2024. Furthermore, approval was granted at the same meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to obtain only the essential quantity of pre – printed Polycarbonate cards from the previous supplier until an appropriate supplier is selected followed by implementation of a new procurement, so that undisturbed execution of the process of issuing national identity cards can be carried out. Accordingly, a negotiation committee has been appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers along with a project committee for evaluation of prices furnished by the supplier as well as to obtain recommendations applicable to the quantity of cards to be purchased by the prior supplier. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security to procure 2.3 million pre – printed Polycarbonate cards as a re order from Just in Time Technologies (Pvt) Ltd. which is the prior supplier based on the recommendations of the above committees.

**11. Implementation of a pledge loan scheme through banks subject to a concessionary loan rate in order to purchase paddy for the Yala season 2024.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 08.01.2024 to implement a pledge loan scheme through banks subject to a concessionary loan rate in order to purchase paddy for the Maha season 2023 / 24 and Yala season 2024. Accordingly, discussions have been held with Ministry, Department as well as state and private bank representatives headed by a Deputy Secretary to the Treasury in regard to the method of implementation of the pledge loan scheme for purchase of paddy during the Yala season 2024. In accordance with the agreement entered into during the discussion, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to issue pledge loans of Rs. 6,000 million across participatory banking institution subject to a concessionary loan rate for minor and medium scale owners of paddy mills during the Yala season 2024.

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