

Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 03-03-2025

01. Appointment of a committee for supervision of implementation of proposed recommendations to control the floods in Kolonnawa

It has been decided at the cabinet meeting held on 03.06.2024 to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of District Secretary Colombo to study the action that should be taken in respect of losses that occurred in the Divisional Secretariat division of Kolonnawa due to the floods prevailing at the end of June 2024, to submit a report inclusive of the necessary recommendations for prevention of reoccurrence of such conditions through finding out the basic reasons for flooding in that area, and to prepare a broad development plan for reorganization of Kolonnawa town. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister and the membership of ministers in charge of the relevant subjects and with the participation of other authorities for necessary guidance and the supervision for swift implementation of the recommendations provided in the committee report.

02. Conducting International Water Conference (IWC) and 9th Research Conference and Commemoration of World Water Day

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board conducted its first research conference in the year 2015, drawing special attention to water pollution and human health services. Subsequently, the respective conference has been conducted continuously up to the year 2022 in collaboration with the local institutions and people. The Centre of Excellence for Water and Sanitation was established by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board in the year 2022, and the Water Conference - 2022 and the 7th Research Conference were conducted with the participation of local and foreign invitees. Nine (9) countries participated in the International Water Conference and the 8th Research Conference conducted in the year 2023. It has been planned to conduct the International Water Conference (IWC) – 2025 and the 9th Research Conference on March 19th and 20th 2025, under the theme” sustainable water and wastewater management through innovation, research, digitalization, and resilience for the future” at the Centre of Excellence for Water and Sanitation. Further, a program has also been planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board on 21st March and commemorate the World Water Day, which will fall on March 22 in line with the International Water Conference. It is expected that about 100 research papers will be launched at the research conference and more than 600 persons to be participated representing local and foreign institutions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to implement said program.

03. Project to strengthen cancer surveillance through population-based cancer registry program in selected districts.

The Data for Health (D4H) Initiative Program, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the government of Australia, provides the technical support to the more than 20 low- and medium-income countries for strengthening the collection and the utilization of decisive public health information. The Institute of Vital Strategies, which acts collaboratively with that program, has implemented 03 programs so far, acting as a prioritized technical partner in data initiatives in the health sector in Sri Lanka. The Institute of Vital Strategies has agreed to provide technical support for strengthening population-based cancer registry program in several selected districts. Under the proposed project, it is expected to spend about Rs. 19.50 million on the identified activities through the Sri Lanka Health Information Society, which is the financial agency of that institute. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Vital Strategies and the Ministry of Health and Mass Media to implement the proposed project.

04. Development of twenty-four (24) tanks at the Upper Tank Yard in Trincomalee

The Sri Lanka Government, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Indian Oil Company, and Trincomalee Petroleum Terminal Company signed an agreement on 06-01-2022 for the ownership, development, and utilization of the China Port Oil Tank. As per the provisions of that agreement, twenty-four (24) tanks at the Upper Tank Yard in Trincomalee had been leased to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for a period of 50 years from the date of commencement of the agreement. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has planned a three-year project and conducted initial project activities, inclusive of a feasibility study with the objective of completion of the development of the said oil tanks within three (03) years. The approval of the relevant parties, including the Road Development Authority, Sri Lanka Railways, and the Marine Environment Protection Authority, had already been taken for that project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to implement the proposed project by the fund of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation without burden to the General Treasury.

05. Providing the necessary lands to the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority as a grant for the implementation of 100MW solar power project at Siyabalanduwa.

The Sri Lanka government expects to fulfill 70% of the electricity demand of the country from renewable power sources by the year 2030. According to the said policy, the 100 MW solar power garden project facility at Siyabalanduwa has been identified as one of the main projects. A portion of land with an extent of 219.7233 hectares, where farming or other cultivation is not conducted, has been identified for the implementation of that project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power and Energy to provide the said land extent of 219.7233 hectares to the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority as a grant, taking into consideration the strategic importance of the proposed project, enabling the swift commencement of the said project.

06. Extending the valid period of the loan and grant from the Asian Development Bank for Health Sector Enhancement Project.

The Health Sector Enhancement project has been executed under two stages utilizing the Asian Development Bank allocations with the objective of enhancing the efficiency, equality and responsiveness of the primary health services system in the central, north central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces. The initial financing for the purpose is a loan of United States dollars 37.50 million and another United States dollars 12.50 million. Apart from that, another loan of United States dollars 110 million and a grant of United States dollars 3 million has been obtained as additional financing of the project. The requirement to extend the valid period of the loan and grant that have been obtained under the initial financing for the project has been recognized for fully utilization of the finance for another year. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to extend the valid period of the initial loan and grant of the Health Sector Enhancement Project until 30.11.2025 and the date of settling the loan amount as 31.05.2026.

07. Government law formulation programme.

The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing to include the following laws and amendments expected to be newly introduced and currently empowered by the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction and Housing within the year 2025 to the government law formulation programme - 2025:

New laws expected to be introduced:

- National drinking community water development act.
- Sri Lanka actual property professional institutions act.
- Act to legalize the China – Sri Lanka Consolidated Research and Model Centre.
- The new act to facilitate for condominium properties including provisions of Apartment Ownership (Special Provisions) Act No. 23 of 2018 as well.

Already existing and amendments to be introduced acts.

- Construction Industries Development Act No. 33 of 2014
- National Water Supply and Drainage Board Act No. 2 of 1974
- Town and Country Planning Ordinance No. 13 of 1946
- National Housing Development Authority Act No. 17 of 1979
- Urban Settlement Development Authority Act No. 36 of 2008
- Urban Development Authority Act No. 41 of 1978
- Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2021
- Apartment Ownership Act No. 11 of 1973
- Common Amenities Board Law No. 10 of 1973

08. Acceptance of the UNESCO convention (2005) on safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultural declarations by Sri Lanka

The UNESCO has seconded a convention on 20.10.2005 with the objective of safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultural declarations designed in member countries and the convention of is in effect from 10.03.2007. The convention has already been accepted by 156 member countries. Although approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been rendered at their meeting held on 09.09.2024 to accept the said convention by Sri Lanka, so far the Convention has not yet been accepted. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal submitted by the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs with the intention obtaining policy approval to accept UNESCO (2005) Convention which is on safeguarding and promoting the diversity of cultural declarations by Sri Lanka.

09. Appointment to the post of Director General of the Disaster Management Centre of the Ministry of Defense.

The contract period of service of the retired Major General, Mr. H. M. U. Herath, serving at present in the post of Director General of the Disaster Management Centre will be ended on 07.03.2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Defense to appoint the retired Major General Mr. Sampath Kotuwegoda to the post of Director General of the Disaster Management Centre which will be vacant with effect from that date for a year (01).

10. Policy declaration “Pohosath Ratak - Lassana Jeewithayak” (A wealthy country - A beautiful life) to be accepted as the government’s national policy framework.

The policy declaration “Pohosath Ratak - Lassana Jeewithayak” (A wealthy country - A beautiful life) has been furnished with the aim of a sustainable economic growth and a development with the aim of a gross domestic product of United States dollars 120 billion face value in 2030 through a strong production economy. It is grouped under the following 04 main sectors representing all the sectors including economic, social, environmental and political strata.

- A holistic life – comfortable country
- A respectable life – secure country
- A modern life – wealthy country
- A dignified life – steady country

Under those 04 areas, 40 sub sectors have been recognized and have identified policies, concepts and actions to be taken in relation to those sectors. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to accept the policy declaration “Pohosath Ratak - Lassana Jeewithayak” (A wealthy country - A beautiful life) as the government’s national policy framework, as well as plan and implement all activities accordingly by all the Ministries, Departments, state institutions, provincial councils and local government institutions.

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