



## Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 03.11.2025

### 01. Entering into Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lankan Universities and Foreign Universities with the Objective of Educational Cooperation.

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 enter into the following Memoranda of Understanding with the objective of creating educational cooperation aimed at raising the indicators of Sri Lankan universities in the world rankings of universities and internationalization.

- Memorandum of Understanding between University of Peradeniya and the Institute of Geology and Geophysics under the China Science Academy of the People's Republic of China for a valid period of five (5) years
- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Kelaniya and the Bharathidasan University of India for a valid period of five years
- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Moratuwa and the Institute of Multidisciplinary Sciences of the Yokohama National University for a valid period of five (5) years.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Moratuwa and the National Institute of Technology of the Tokuyama College in Japan for a valid period of five (5) years.

### 02. Signing of an End-User and Handover Agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the acquisition of a satellite communication interception system for the Sri Lankan Navy

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is implementing the project on " Strengthening Maritime Security and Rule of Law in the Indo-Pacific Region " under the financial and technical assistance of the Government of Japan and specialized assistance from the Japan Coast Guard since the year 2024. Under this project, it has been agreed to provide 'Congnyte S12' a satellite communication interception system for the Sri Lankan Navy. It has been expected to improve the coastal security of the Sri Lankan Navy through the prevention, suppression and obstruction of the activities such as terrorist activities, organized crimes, drug trafficking and other serious illegal activities. Furthermore, the Sri Lankan contribution to

regional and international coastal security initiatives could also be strengthened. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by His Excellency, the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Defense, to sign the aforementioned End-User and Handover Agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Ministry of Defense for the acquisition of a satellite communication interception system.

**03. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan for establishment of bilateral consultative mechanism.**

It has been proposed to enter into a memorandum of understanding between Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan for the establishment of a bilateral consultative mechanism with the objective of broadening cooperation in the fields of political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, trade, and tourism. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism to sign the relevant memorandum of understanding between both parties.

**04. The Road Protection Action Plan – (2025-2026)**

Sri Lanka is encountering a serious and recurring issue with road accidents and loss of life, and the annual death rate has been reported as 11.2 per 10,000 persons. This has exceeded the recommended and United Nations-approved protection limit for the second global action decade (2021-2030) for road safety. According to the data and reports of the Department of Police, 118,697 road accidents have been reported during the period 2020-2024; as a consequence, 12,322 people have died. Furthermore, it has been reported that about 400 accidents have occurred due to the unprotected status of railway crossings. Therefore, the necessity of improving the quality of the infrastructure of the roads has been identified, ensuring that vehicles are used in a secure manner and regulating the said vehicles in order to minimize the increasing deaths and damage and to create a secure and equal road environment for every person who uses the roads. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Acting Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to implement 'the Road Protection Action Plan - 2025-2026' which has been prepared with the aforementioned objectives.

**05. Termination of the new wind project due to be implemented in future**

Three (03) wind power projects have been planned on Mannar Island, which has been identified as an area with high wind power potential, according to the renewable energy resource project plan for the island. Out of these projects, the operational activities of the Thambapavani wind power plant, one of the aforementioned projects, commenced in the year 2021. The start of operations for the Windscape Mannar (Pvt) Ltd, 20 megawatt wind project and Hayleys Fentons, 50 megawatt wind project, is planned for December 2025 and December 2026, respectively. Taking into consideration the matters forwarded by the

public regarding the environment and social issues that have arisen due to these projects, His Excellency, the President, has informed the relevant authorities not to implement the wind projects without the consent of the people living in the Mannar island. It has been decided to provide the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers to take action accordingly after informing the Cabinet of Ministers by the Minister of Power and Energy about the notification from His Excellency, the President.

**06. Renovation and upgrading of the portion of the road from 2+000 km to 3+700 km of the Maharagama – Piliyandala road.**

A loan agreement has been entered into with the OPEC Fund for International Development to obtain US\$ 50 million for upgrading national roads with a length of 46 km in Colombo district. Maharagama - Piliyandala road, with a length of 6.7 km, has been identified as the final project under the aforementioned loan amount. One kilometer of that road has already been renovated, and the remaining amount, 5.7 km, has been decided to be upgraded under 3 packages. Accordingly, the upgrading of 4 km of the A and C parts has already commenced. It has been identified that the balance of the loan amount has been insufficient for the renovation of the remaining B Portion, 1.7 km of road. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to renovate the remaining 1.7 km of the B portion of the Maharagama - Piliyandala road from the funds of the Sri Lankan Government.

**07. Completion of the work of the ongoing and suspended District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariat buildings**

The construction of several new District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariat buildings has commenced in previous years due to the insufficient space of the District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariat, which were established with the objective of providing efficient service to the public. Out of these constructions, it has been identified that five projects have been partially constructed based on the annual allocations provided under the expenditure heads of the relevant District Secretaries, and six projects have been temporarily terminated due to the non-availability of funds. The reasons that have generally affected the construction sector in the past, as well as the increase in cost estimates related to the construction of these buildings, have delayed the completion of the works on these buildings. Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Council, and Local Government, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal to implement the projects that are carried out using the provisions of the annual estimates, their total cost estimates to be amended to complete the constructions promptly, and projects that are suspended to be included in the government investment plan and to be implemented after obtaining the necessary provisions.

**08. Purchase of 100 motor cycles and 50 Tuk – tuks for the Special Task Force.**

There are 76 main camps, 23 sub camps and 14 special units that cover the entire island under the Special Task Force. When performing the duties of the Force, constant technical faults erupt in almost 90% of the motor cycles out of the 314 motor cycles existing, due to them being more than 10 years old. This condition has been an obstacle to carry out special raids by the Special Task Force regularly and precisely. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to purchase 100 motor cycles of 125cc engine capacity and 50 Tuk – tuks for the Special Task Force so that they can perform tasks such as suppressing the drug menace and suppressing the organized underworld gangs successfully, efficiently and productively.

**09. Recruitment of female officers for the posts of Railway Engine Driver, Railway Superintendent, Station Master and Railway Supervisory Manager of the Department of Sri Lanka Railways.**

The Sri Lankan railway service, which has a history of about 165 years, is a collective endeavourers of various positions assigned to the Sri Lanka Railways Department. The posts of Railway Engine Driver, Station Master and Railway Supervisor Manager under the Department are essential for maintaining the railway service. Since the inception of the Railways Department, only male officers have been recruited for the posts of Engine Driver, Train Controller and Station Master, while female officers have been recruited for the posts of Supervisory Manager only in 2012 and 2015. In accordance with the new economic policies of the government, measures are being taken to provide opportunities for the recruitment of women for the posts in the public sector where women have not been recruited so far. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to grant approval on policy terms to recruit female officers to the posts of Railway Engine Driver, Railway Superintendent, Station Master and Railway Supervisory Manager as per the powers vested with the Cabinet of Ministers in terms of sub article (1) of the Article 55 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka, since there are no provisions to recruit female officers within the approved recruitment procedure existing at present.

**10. Submission of the Import and Export (Control) Regulations No. 08 of 2025 to the Parliament for its concurrence.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 13.10.2025 to import GR 11 / Ponni Samba rice category which is similar to Keeri Samba categorized under mixed category code 1006.30.29 without obtaining import control licenses. In order to empower the said Cabinet decision, the Import and Export (Control) Regulations No. 08 of 2025 prepared under the provisions of Import and Export (Control) Act No. 1 of 1969 has been published in extraordinary gazette No. 2458/43 dated 15.10.2025. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers have granted approval to the proposal furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to submit those regulations for the concurrence of the Parliament.

**11. Entering into loan agreements with the Asian Development Bank for implementing Sustainable Tourism Sector Development Programme (STSDP)**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at a previous meeting of them to implement Sustainable Tourism Sector Development Programme (STSDP) and conduct loan negotiation discussions for implementing them utilizing the funds scheduled to be obtained from the Asian Development Bank. Accordingly, negotiation discussions have been conducted to obtain a total of USD 100 million respectively USD 70 million from concessionary general capital resources and USD 30 million from permanent general capital resources. Clearance have been granted by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Attorney General's Department to obtain the above loan facility. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers have granted approval to the proposal furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to enter into agreements with the Asian Development Bank to obtain the said loan grant so that the activities of sustainable tourism sector development programme.

**12. Entering into an agreement with the International Finance Corporation of World Bank cluster in order to finance the Secure, Bearable and Sustainable Energy Project for Sri Lanka.**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 07.05.2025 to obtain a loan grant of USD 30 million from International Finance Corporation of World Bank cluster in order to finance the Secure, Bearable and Sustainable Energy Project for Sri Lanka. Negotiation discussions with the International Finance Corporation of World Bank cluster is being held to obtain the said loan facility. The said loan grant is expected to be provided either to the Ceylon Electricity Board or its affiliated body / bodies as a sub loan. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to enter into an agreement with the International Finance Corporation of World Bank cluster in order to obtain the loan amount of USD 30 million subject to financial rules and regulations recommended by the Public Debt Management Office.

**13. Amendment of the National Customs Policy**

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 11.06.2024 for the National Customs Policy that aimed at execution of a customs methodology that ensures transparency as Sri Lanka a trade and investment hub. The National Customs Policy Committee has been established on 15.05.2025 in order to implement the said policy. As per the later revisions made to the government policy, the national customs policy committee has recognized the requirement of revising certain provisions of the national customs policy in order to circumvent the uncertainties as well as to ensure the conformity with certain tax laws. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President in his office as the Minister of Finance, Plan Implementation and Economic Development to revise the national customs policy based on the revisions recognized

**14. Methodology to provide funds for selected project proposals under ‘Research and Development Commercialization Approach’.**

Rupees 01 billion has been allocated from the Budget 2025 to commercialize the processes of innovative thinking, methodologies, productions, services or solutions that positively impact and add a value considerably through research and development to accelerated execution of the production economic policy of the present government. Therefore, a special unit named ‘Research and Development Commercialization Approach’ has been established under the Presidential Secretariat to establish a favourable methodology for executing projects after they are being evaluated of their technological and economic probability so that they can be contributed to development of the country. By now, that unit has submitted the applications with a financial value of rupees 2.2 billion to the local researches and entrepreneurs. That Unit has taken steps to prepare a methodology named “Research and Development Commercialization Approach” to evaluate project proposals under two phases as technical evaluation and the administrative evaluation for selecting projects economically, socially and environmentally more productive. Accordingly, the proposed evaluation process may categorize the special and essential projects as well as identify the projects that highly contribute to the country’s economic growth. Following provisions will be granted based on the feasibility of the projects selected among those subject to evaluation as such:

- Maximum grant is rupees 50 million
- A maximum of rupees 10 million from the approved grant will be provided as a grant subject to the feasibility of the project
- Balance of the grant provided in addition to the loan grant should be settled as a 25% of the net profit at least annually after a concessionary period of one year.
- The relevant grants will be provided to the selected researchers and entrepreneurs by Bank of Ceylon in consolidation with the Department of Development Finance of the General Treasury.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President to implement the proposed methodology for granting allocations for selected project proposals under ‘Research and Development Commercialization Approach’.

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