



**Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 16.03.2026**

**01. Providing Electrical Motorcycles to the Field Officers Engaged in the Duties in the Fisheries Sector under the Grant of the Indian Government**

The Government has drawn special attention towards providing necessary facilities to the field officers of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource and National Aquaculture Development Authority, which are under the purview of the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic, and Ocean Resources, and to the Field Research Assistants of the National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency to perform their duties more productively, efficiently, and satisfactorily. Accordingly, it has been planned to provide electric motorcycles to the 430 officers who are engaged in field-level duties in the fisheries sector in the year 2026, with the objective of providing necessary transport facilities without any obstacles. Consensus has been reached to provide the relevant cost of Sri Lankan Rs. 264.59 million to purchase the motorcycles by the Indian Government as a financial grant. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic, and Ocean Resources to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Government to obtain the aforementioned grant.

**02. Taking Legal Actions against individuals Who Utilize eZCash and mCash Money Transfer Methods to Transfer Money Related to Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes**

It has been observed that eZCash and mCash money transfer methods are widely used for anonymous money transactions related to drug trafficking and organized crime. Prior approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of the secretary to the Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to submit a report to the Cabinet of Ministers with recommendations on the steps that should be taken to bring to justice the individuals involved in such transactions. Taking into consideration the recommendations submitted by the aforementioned committee, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to prevent such illegal activities and to identify the individuals engaged in these activities through a database developed by integrating the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Police, and the Department of Registration of Persons, and to take necessary steps to pursue legal action against such individuals.

**03. Implementation of the Project to Establish a Large- scale Data System for Post-Reviewing the Aquatic Environment and Carrying out Data- Driven Policies.**

The Central Environmental Authority regulates the disposal of industrial wastewater through Environmental Protection Licenses. Accordingly, a large volume of data has been collected through the post-review program of the condition of the water of the Kelani River, and there is a possibility to use these data for review and decision-making. However, it has been a challenge to post-review the real condition of wastewater disposal and to identify specific sources of the pollutants due to the lack of an adequate number of trained officers and facilities to analyze the post-review data and

forecast it. Taking into consideration this condition, a project proposal under the theme "Establish a Large-scale of Data System for Post-Reviewing of the Aquatic Environment and carrying out Data-Driven Policies" has been submitted by the Central Environmental Authority, the University of Moratuwa, and Tohoku University in Japan to the Japan International Cooperation Agency under the Science and Technology Research Partnership Program for Sustainable Development as a partnership research project. The consensus has been given by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to provide a grant of Rs. 646 million to implement the aforementioned project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to implement the proposed project through obtaining the aforementioned grant.

**04. Development of Existing Physical and Infrastructure Facilities and Providing Equipment in Provincial Education Departments, Zonal Education Offices, and Divisional Educational Offices and providing equipment to them**

It has been observed that both teachers and students are encountering obstructions in carrying out their educational activities efficiently due to the limited the physical and infrastructural facilities available in certain Provincial Education Departments, Zonal Education Offices, and Divisional Educational Offices. In alignment with the education policies of the new government, a project has been planned to develop existing physical and infrastructure facilities and provide equipment to the Provincial Education Departments, Zonal Education Offices, and Divisional Educational Offices with the objectives to enhance the efficiency in service delivery, effectiveness and satisfaction by strengthening the physical and infrastructure facilities as well as office structures of the education system, thereby ensuring the provision of quality education to the student community and minimizing the disparity in the distribution of resources within the education system. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education to implement the proposed project with the coordination of the relevant Provincial Councils under an estimated cost of Rs. Rs.1,264 million during the period of three (3) years from 2026 to 2028.

**05. Award of Contract to Provision of Ground Handling Services for the Aircrafts of Sri Lankan Airlines at Male Airport, Maldives**

The current contract for the provision of ground handling services for the Aircrafts of Sri Lankan Airlines at Male Airport is scheduled to expire on 31-03-2026. A proposal has been obtained from the sole service provider that provides the ground handling services at the said airport for the provision of these services. Accordingly, based on the recommendations of the Higher-Level Standing Procurement Committee, which evaluated the proposal, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to award the contract for the provision of ground handling services to Maldives Airport Company Limited for a period of three (3) years from 01-04-2026 for an amount of US\$ 16.19 million.

**06. Construction of Double Circuit Transmission Line from Mannar Grid Substation to Mullikulam Collection Grid Substation**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 03-02-2025 to implement the formal procurement procedure to select a contractor for the construction of a 28 km long double circuit transmission line with the capacity of 220 kW, from Mannar Grid Substation to Mullikulam Collection Grid Substation under the Lot B of the Mullikulam Wind Power Transmission Project. Bids have been invited following the International Competitive Procurement Procedure and five (5) bids have been received. Accordingly, based on the recommendations submitted by the High-Level Standing Procurement Committee after evaluating the aforementioned bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power and Energy to award the contract to the JSL & Fentons Joint Venture – Intend (Jyoti Structure Limited, India and Hayleys Fentons Limited, Sri Lanka), substantially responsive minimum bidder, for an equal amount of Sri Lankan Rs. 2,269.18 million (without VAT).

**07. Amendment of the Colombo Port City Regulation No. 1 of the 2024 (Guidelines on Grant of Exemptions or Incentives to Businesses of Strategic Importance - Duty Free Operations)**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 22-12-2025 to amend the relevant regulations enabling to provide the opportunities to purchase goods from the duty-free shopping complex of the Colombo Port City without revising US\$ 2,000 limit of the approved annual tax entitlement to a passenger who comes from the overseas in two occasions within 4 days arrived Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to submit to the Parliament the amended regulations published by the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2475/28 dated 13-02-2026 as per the provisions of the Act of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission No 11 2021.

**08. Submission of the Transfer of Passenger Service Permits Regulation, Declared under the National Transport Commission Act No. 37 of 1991 to the Parliament**

Taking into consideration the issues encountered by the bus owners and the National Transport Commission due to the fact that passenger permits granted to a person under the provisions of the National Transport Act No. 37 of 1991 cannot be transferred to another person and such transfer is null and void, steps have been taken to amend the aforementioned provisions by the National Transport Commission (Amendment) Act No. 8 of 2025. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to submit the Transfer of Passenger Service Permits Regulation No. 1 of 2026 prepared according to the provisions of the National Transport Commission Act and published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification No. 2471/68 dated 07-01-2026, including the relevant legal criteria for the transfer of the Passenger Service Permit, for the concurrence of the Parliament.

**09. Submission of the Regulations formulated under the provisions of Motor Traffic Act (203 Authority) to the Parliament**

The regulations applicable to the fees for the reservation of special numbers the numbers up to and including 50,000 from the numbers issued of the Department of Motor Traffic have been published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification dated 05-10-2023. Amending the said regulations, the regulations have been published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification 2470/14 dated 05-01-2026 to make legal provisions to reserve special numbers beyond 50,000 and up to and including 100,000 of the numbers which will be issued for all motor vehicles other than motorcycles, motor tricycles and motor tricycle vans and enabling to be charged a fee of Rs.1,000,000 for each number. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to submit the aforementioned regulations to the concurrence of the Parliament.

**10. Amendment of Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Authority 218)**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 12.01.2026 to appoint an officers committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and National Integration to submit appropriate recommendations for introducing laws to dispose narcotics in the custody before the end of a trial subsequent to retaining only specimen sample as evidences, along with the procedure of disposing the narcotics that is taken into custody in the future as well as disposing the dangerous drugs existing in the custody. The Committee ensuring the protection of the rights of all the parties, and including the amendments recognized for section 77a of the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Authority 218) to facilitate for destroying such narcotics with immediate effect, the Legal Draftsman has drafted a bill. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to direct the Legal Draftsman to prepare the final draft of the bill for amending the said ordinance in all three languages.

**11. Formulation of regulations under the provisions of the Antiquities Ordinance (Authority 188)**

‘Archeological Reward Fund’ can be utilized for rewarding to motivate the information providers and implementation officers who contribute to regain artifacts utilized illegally or protect the venues and antiquities. Accordingly, the importance of paying a certain allowance as a percentage has been recognized utilizing the Archeological Reward Fund for further motivating and encouraging the staff members of partner institutions including the Department of Archeology. Archeological Reward Fund regulations have been drafted under the provisions of the section 46 and 47 of the Antiquities Ordinance (Authority 188) for the purpose. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Buddhasashana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to submit the said drafted regulations for the concurrence of the Parliament and subsequently to publish in a gazette notification.

**12. Amendment of Central Cultural Fund Act No. 57 of 1980**

The Central Cultural Fund established under the provisions of the Central Cultural Fund Act No. 57 of 1980 is responsible for development of cultural and religious monument in Sri Lanka, settling the expenditure borne for development, renovation and conservation of local and foreign cultural monuments, awarding financial donations for artisans as well as awarding those who served the nation in the fields of culture and religious sectors. The said act has been passed in the Parliament 45 years back and, the requirement to revise the provisions of the act according to the contemporary requirements have been recognized. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted their policy approval to amend the said act, considering the resolution furnished by the Minister of Buddhasashana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

**13. Obtaining Policy-Based Lending of the Asian Development Bank for the Year 2026**

Parallel to the Comprehensive Fund Facility Programme of the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank has given its consent to grant Policy-Based Lending for progression of the reformation agenda of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to obtain United States Dollars Million 620 from the Asian Development Bank under following 05 sub programmes

- Trade, Investment and Industries Development Programme - United States Dollars Million 100
- Programme to build a strong and inclusive financial background for micro, small and medium scale entrepreneurs - United States Dollars Million 220
- Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities Renovation Programme - United States Dollars Million 100
- Development Programme to enhance resilience and inclusive reintegration - United States Dollars Million 100
- Development Project for financing and commercialization of agricultural value chains - United States Dollars Million 100

**14. Declaration of the ‘National Namal Uyana’ as a national heritage.**

“National Namal Uyana”, spread within a land area of 602 hectares in extent, and declared as a forest reserve and considered as the largest Naa forest in Sri Lanka, has been recognized as a place of importance with historical archeological value in Sri Lanka. The Pink quartz mountain in the Namal Uyana is an important geo-natural heritage in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the Expert Sub Committee for Identifying National Heritages in Sri Lanka has recommended that it is appropriate to declare the National Namal Uyana as a national heritage owing to the fact that the pink quartz mountain possesses mineral and scientifically important facts, special dry zone forest eco system and ancient Buddhist shrines landscapes. Based on the said recommendation, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution jointly furnished by the Minister of Buddhashasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Minister of Environment, to declare the “National Namal Uyana’ as a National Heritage.

**15. Establishment of Supervisory Committees for restoring economic activities.**

Due to creating an unstable global environment caused by the war tone environment prevailing in the middle east region, Sri Lanka as a country possessing a small - scale open economy has been exposed to various impacts on its economic sector. Therefore, it is essential to take immediate and progressive measures regarding the unprecedented risks encountered by Sri Lanka, ensure the stabilizing market conditions and to mediate hastily to secure the daily life of the citizens. Therefore, combined with the Economic Monitoring Committee, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to establish four (04) Committees as follows to provide appropriate recommendations in regard to immediate actions to be taken for minimizing unfavourable impacts that influence the domestic economy and the community life due to global instability.

| <b>Committee</b>   | <b>Activities</b>   |
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| Committee of Energy – Chaired by the Minister of foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism   | Taking procurement actions required for purchase of fuel, gas and coal to stabilize supply, Recognizing new supply sources and new suppliers.   |
| Committee for maintaining the Public Service properly – chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister   | Taking hasty decisions and supply required services for public for maintaining economic activities undisturbed, efficient and systematically  |
| Committee for supervising the distribution of essential services – chaired by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development.         | Maintaining the government and private supply chains for distribution of essential goods continuously and ensure supply of goods on fair prices without market shortage to the public |
| Committee to provide welfare for various social strata – Chaired by the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment | Recognizing the problems and impacts erupt in the daily life, taking immediate actions accordingly coordinating with necessary institutions.  |

**16. Immediate procurement of supplying coal for Lakvijaya Coal Power Plant, Norochholei**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting on 26.01.2026 to supply 300,000±10% (05 shipments) metric tons of coal to Lakvijaya Coal Power Plant, Norochholei as an immediate procurement. Accordingly, bids have been called from coal suppliers registered under Lanka Coal (Private) Limited and, six (06) bids have been received in the regard. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power and Energy to award the relevant procurement to M/s. Taranjot Resources (Pvt.) Ltd., of India who is the minimum substantially responsive bidder, based on recommendations submitted by the High-Level Standing Procurement Committee subsequent to evaluation of bids received.

**17. Procurement of Petroleum and Petroleum Related Productions, Liquid Petroleum (LP Gas) Gas and Coal.**

The global energy market is confronted with extreme instability now due to the prevailing geo – political unrest developing in the middle – east region and the armed conflict in the regard. Since Sri Lanka is depending on imported petroleum and petroleum related productions, liquid petroleum (LP Gas) gas and coal, this situation has caused direct and immediate impact on the energy supply and security of the country. Accordingly, it has been essential to follow a temporary and flexible procurement framework for ensuring uninterrupted energy supply due to cancellation of shipments as a direct result of existing clashes, insurance service providers refrain to supply insurance coverage, reluctance of suppliers to enter into long term agreements and etc. Therefore, considering the future probable situations that can be erupted, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power and Energy to take required measures to procure necessary petroleum and petroleum related productions, liquid petroleum (LP Gas) gas and coal out of the standard procurement guidelines for three (03) months, inquiring the National Procurement commission.

**18. Declaring Wednesday of the week as a government holiday as a remedy to the prevailing fuel crisis.**

Attention of the Cabinet of Ministers was drawn on the appropriateness to limit the number of days government offices are opened, as a temporary remedy to the crisis of supplying fuel that has been erupted due to the prevailing war situation in the middle east region. Followed by discussions, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to declare Wednesday a holiday with immediate effect and entrust the authority to the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Governments to issue detailed circular instructions pertaining to that with immediate effect so that the existing fuel stocks can be utilized carefully / thriftily and encounter the uncertainty of supplying fuel demands.

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