



## Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 30.03.2026

### 01. Issuance of New Circular Instructions on the Admission of Students to Grades 2 to 11, Excluding Grades 5 and 6, in Schools.

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 03-09-2025 to issue new circular instructions governing the admission of students to Grades 2 to 11, excluding Grades 5 and 6, in line with the new education reforms initiated in 2026. This is with the objective of maintaining the approved limits on classroom student capacity and streamlining the existing procedures for student admissions to schools. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education Circular No. 27/2025 dated 09 September 2025 has been issued. Since certain practical issues have arisen in the implementation of the said circular instructions, the necessity has been recognized to issue new circular instructions providing solutions for the said issues while ensuring that the amendments introduced by the previous circular remain unaffected. Accordingly, having considered the resolution furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to grant concurrence for the issuance of new circular instructions relating to the admission of students from Grades 2 to 11, excluding Grades 5 and 6, to be implemented with effect from 2026 onwards.

### 02. Establishment of the Sri Lanka Climate and Nature-Positive Investment Fund

With the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Sri Lanka Climate Finance Strategy for the period 2025–2030 was launched on 24-10-2025. It has been recognized the necessity of establishment of a new integrated framework with a legally empowered authority, to coordinate all relevant stakeholders and to oversee activities aimed at restoring the Central Highlands to their original condition occurred the catastrophic impacts caused by Cyclone “Ditva,” Further, it has been planned to establish a fund titled the National Climate and Nature-Positive Investment Fund to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources from both domestic and international sources for investments related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and conservation activities. In terms of the provisions of the Public Financial Management Act, No. 44 of 2024, the proposed fund should be established as a statutory fund through an Act of Parliament. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President, in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to take necessary steps to draft legislation for the establishment of the proposed authority and Nature-Positive Investment Fund

### 03. Prevention of Scrap Metal Exports Detrimental to Domestic Manufacturing Industries.

A portion of the metal requirements of domestic manufacturing industries is met through locally sourced scrap metal, while the balance is fulfilled through imported metal ingots. In order to protect local small-scale industrialists, a decision taken at the Cabinet meeting held on 09-11-2020 resulted in the prohibition of the export of scrap metal, including iron, copper, aluminum, tin, high-carbon steel, brass and cast iron, as well as

aluminum ingots, zinc ingots and copper wires. However, the certain parties have continued to export scrap metal and metal-based pseudo products by misclassifying them under different HS codes and interpreting such classifications in various ways, resulting in a shortage of metal-based raw materials that could otherwise be supplied locally for domestic industries. In view of this situation, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to impose the necessary legal provisions to prevent the export of scrap metal in a manner detrimental to domestic industries.

#### **04. Implementation of the “Diviyata Saviyak” Housing Programme**

In terms of a proposal presented in the 2025 Budget, approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 18-08-2025 to implement the ‘Programme to provide financial assistance for securing housing facilities for low-income couples transitioning from institutional care to society’. Through the 2026 Budget proposals, the said programme has been further strengthened by allocating a sum of LKR 2,000 million to provide financial assistance of up to LKR 2 million per beneficiary who have resided in child development centres at any stage of their lives and have subsequently reintegrated into society, as well as for families with children at risk for purchasing land, purchasing land and constructing a house, constructing a house on owned land, purchasing a house, or renovating an existing house. Accordingly, based on the formulated eligibility criteria and the mechanism for disbursement of financial assistance, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Women and Child Affairs to provide such financial assistance to the following beneficiary groups:

- Individuals below 45 years of age who have left institutional care upon reaching 18 years of age or earlier, and who do not have access to a stable and secure residence.
- Families with children who are in vulnerable and at-risk situations due to the lack of a proper family background or stable livelihood, resulting in the absence of adequate housing or living in unsafe housing conditions.
- Children aged between 16 and 18 years who are currently under institutional care, and young persons over 18 years of age who continue to remain in child development centres due to their inability to reintegrate into society.

#### **05. Inclusion of Children under Institutional Care or Guardianship and Children at Risk in the ‘Artha’ Programme.**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 16-06-2025 to implement a programme titled ‘Artha’, with the objective of providing a monthly living allowance of LKR 5,000 to children under institutional care or guardianship, as well as to street children.

With a view to further expanding the said ‘Artha’ programme, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Women and Child Affairs, to extend the programme by including, in addition to the children currently residing in child development centres, children belonging to the following categories as beneficiaries:

- Children who have lost both their mother and father, or either mother or father, as a result of Cyclone “Ditva” and the subsequent catastrophic floods and landslides
- Children identified by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services as being in vulnerable and at-risk situations due to economic and social deprivation, broken families, or other social factors, resulting in the absence of a safe and suitable living environment.

## **06. Issuance of Free Tourist Visas for Passport Holders of 39 Countries**

With the objective of promoting the tourism industry in Sri Lanka, approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 21-07-2025 to implement a programme to issue free tourist visas, for a period of six months, without charging fees, to passport holders of 39 selected countries. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to submit, for the concurrence of the Parliament, the draft regulations prepared by the Legal Draftsman for the issuance of free tourist visas in terms of the provisions of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act.

## **07. State Vesak Festival – 2026 (Buddhist Era 2570)**

In accordance with the guidance of the Most Venerable Mahanayake Theros and the All Ceylon Shasanarakshaka Mandalaya, it has been identified as appropriate to conduct the State Vesak Festival for the year 2026 (Buddhist Era 2570) at the historic Medillawala Purana Viharaya in Thihagoda, Matara District, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government, and the Department of Buddhist Affairs. It has been decided to conduct this year's State Vesak Festival under the theme "Abhiththaretha Kalyane" ("Let us hasten towards the common good"). Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government and the Hon. Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to: conduct the National Vesak Festival centering the Medillawala Purana Viharaya in Thihagoda, Matara District; to declare the period from 27 May to 02 June 2026 as Vesak Week; and organize and implement various Buddhist religious programmes across the island during that period.

## **08. Implementation of the Proposed Maha Oya Pumped Storage Hydropower Project**

The Ceylon Electricity Board has planned to implement the Maha Oya Pumped Storage Hydropower Project as a grid-scale energy storage solution to utilize excess energy generated from renewable sources. Through implementing proposed project, it is expected to enable the storage of energy during periods of low demand and the supply of such stored energy to the power system during periods of high demand. With a total estimated cost of LKR 243.09 billion, the project is planned to be implemented in two phases as the development phase and the construction phase. Accordingly, having considered the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Energy, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the implementation of the proposed project, in compliance with the provisions of the Public Debt Management Act, No. 33 of 2024, by securing the required financing.

## **09. Implementation of the "National Digital Communication and Collaboration Platform**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 21 October 2025 to implement Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Strategy. In line with the national policy framework and the vision for a digitally empowered economy, the need has been identified to establish a digital communication and collaboration platform—incorporating artificial intelligence tools—as a key step in modernizing the public sector and facilitating the functions of public officers. Accordingly, with the objective of establishing a secure and modern digital

platform for communication and collaboration among all public sector employees, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President, in his capacity as Minister of Digital Economy, to implement the “Digital Communication and Collaboration Platform” project in 2026, with a total estimated investment of LKR 626 million.

**10. Award of Consultancy Services Contract for the formulation of the Watershed Management Plan for the Kelani River Basin**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 16-06-2025 to procure consultancy services for the formulation of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Kelani River Basin, with a view to minimizing pollution in the catchment areas and improving the overall water quality of the river. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were called for the procurement of the said consultancy services. Out of seven EOIs received, four institutions were shortlisted and invited to submit proposals. Accordingly, based on the recommendations forwarded by the Consultant Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers, following the evaluation of the proposals received, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to award the consultancy services contract to Resource Development Consultants (Pvt) Ltd. at a total cost of LKR 206.65 million (inclusive of taxes).

**11. Payment of Compensation to the people who have lost their cultivable lands in implementing the Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 27-06-2012 to provide cultivable agricultural lands from the lower Uma Oya valley to 276 farming families in Hali-Ela, Walimada, and Uva Paranagama Divisional Secretariat Divisions who have lost their cultivable lands due to the acquisition of lands for the Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project. However, the aforementioned proposal could not be implemented due to the encroachment of a large portion of the identified lands by unauthorized persons, heavy forest cover, the threats posed by wild elephants, remoteness from their original settlements, and difficulties in adapting to other environmental conditions and social anomalies. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to pay an estimated compensation of Rs. 12 lakhs for each of these 276 farming families, based on the recommendations submitted by the Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to provide solutions for the issues arising in the implementation of the Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project.

**12. Performing a Feasibility Study on the Construction of Three Dry Dams for minimization of Floods at the Kalu Gaga River Basin**

The Kalu Gaga River Basin, which comprises 2,839 square kilometers of watershed area, is considered the highest-risk river basin prone to flooding due to the continued occurrence of flood conditions and flood-related damages. Therefore, a prior feasibility study has been performed to identify strategies for protecting the residents of the Kalu Gaga River Basin and preventing damages to infrastructure facilities caused by floods. After performing the aforementioned feasibility study, out of the recommendations on flood protection activities that could be done within the river basin, the appropriateness of giving priority to the recommendation of constructing three (3) dry dams for the retention of floodwater at Malwala, Dala II, and

Dala III has been recognized. Accordingly, it has been planned to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of the aforementioned three dams. Accordingly, it has been planned to conduct a feasibility study the construction of aforementioned three dams. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to award the consultation service contract for the aforementioned feasibility study to the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau.

**13. Procurement for the Improvement of Colombo–Galle–Hambantota–Wellawaya Road (A 002)**

National competitive bids have been invited for the improvement of four road sections of the Colombo–Galle–Hambantota–Wellawaya Road (A 002) in the Kalutara District, covering a total length of 9.91 km. Eight (08) bids were received in response to this invitation. Accordingly, based on the recommendation of the High-Level Standing Procurement Committee following the evaluation of bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to award the contract to M/s NTM Construction (Pvt) Ltd, being the substantially responsive lowest evaluated bidder, for an amount of Rs. 1,228.25 million (excluding taxes).

**14. Import of the Alternative Rice as a Measure for the Scarcity of Samba and Kiri Samba Existing in the Local Market.**

The Consumer Affairs Authority has shown that the total Samba and Kiri Samba in the 2025/26 Maha season has been insufficient to fulfil the aforementioned varieties of rice requirement and the severe scarcity of these varieties of rice could also be arisen from the month of May 2026, based on the updated information forwarded by the Department of Agriculture, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, and National Institute of Post Harvest Management. The Food Policy and Security Committee has also drawn their attention towards the necessity importing rice similar to the abovementioned varieties of rice to fulfil the demand prevailing in the market Samba and Kiri Samba with a stable price. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation and the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Cooperative Development to import a maximum quantity of 1,040 metric tons of rice variety known as GR 11, including Ponni Samba and Kiri/Pal Ponni Rice, which are considered as substitutes for Samba and Kiri Samba respectively and classified under the Harmonized System Code (HS Code) 1006.30.29 by any importer during the period 01-04-2026 to 30-04-2026, to clear the said rice stocks from Sri Lanka Customs on or before 31-05-2026, and to exempt the importers who import the said rice varieties from obtaining import control licenses.

**15. A Project for the Construction of 25 Stand-alone Battery Energy Storage Systems of 10MW/40 MWh**

In recent times, the capacity of renewable energy, especially solar energy installations, has shown rapid growth and is expected to continue increasing. It has been further observed that the solar energy capacity generated has also surpassed the solar energy integration requirements in the Long-term Power Generation Plan framework for 2023-2042. Therefore, it has been planned to construct 25 Stand-alone battery energy storage systems of 10 MW/40 MWh capacity to store energy for later use. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power and Energy to implement the project to install the said 25 energy storage systems on a Build, Own, and Operate (BOO) basis, with an operational period of 15 years.

**16. Construction of 50MW Battery Energy Storage Systems**

Although, it has been observed that there is a rapid growth in renewable energy capacity in Sri Lanka in recent times, present system observations have identified that peak night -time demand is increasing approximately 02 years earlier than expected in the Long-term Power Generation Plan. In order to improve the flexibility of the power system and increase the utilization of the renewable energy, the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka has approved the implementation of the 300MW battery energy storage system capacity initially planned for the period 2031-2032 under the Long-term Power Generation Plan, to be carried out in the period 2028-2029. Accordingly, out of the approved 300 MW battery storage system capacity, it has been decided to procure 250MW through 25 projects of 10MW/40MWh stand-alone battery energy storage systems directly connected to the medium voltage distribution network of the Ceylon Electricity Board. The remaining 50MW of battery storage system capacity is expected to be procured through the connection of battery energy storage systems with existing on-site solar power plants through a competitive bidding process. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power and Energy to implement the relevant procurement process to procure the proposed 50MW battery storage system capacity through the Renewable Energy Procurement and Operations Supervision Division of National System Operator (PREC) Limited, a successor company of the Ceylon Electricity Board.

**17. Execution of Delkanda Luxury Apartments Project Comprised of 120 Housing Units.**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting on 31-01-2022 to execute an apartment project comprised of 70 luxury housing units in Delkanda within a plot of land in extent 100 perches that belong to Ocean View Development Company (Pvt) Limited that is established with the share capital of the National Housing Development Authority and the Urban Development Authority that is under the purview of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Water Supply. However, owing to the unfavourable economic condition prevailed in the country during that period the project could not be implemented. The Board of Directors of the said company has decided to execute the proposed housing project by increasing the number of housing units from 70 to 120 households. It is expected to supply the funds required for this from the internal funds of the company, pre-sale of housing units and a bank loan. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply to select a contractor company for construction activities of the project adhering to competitive procurement methodology.

**18. Awarding the Contract of Lying Distributing Main Pipeline and Supply of Service Link of Phase II of Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project.**

The Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka supply grants for implementing phase II of the Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project with the objective of enhancing the secure drinking water supply and water supply coverage by constructing a water supply system covering 164 Grama Niladhari Divisions of the Divisional Secretariats of Padaviya, Kabithigollewa, Horowpathana, Kahatagasdigiliya, Rambawa and Madawachchiya in the district of Anuradhapura where depending on insecure ground water resources. Although a contractor had been selected following National Competitive Bidding procurement method back in 2022 in order to execute the said project, the awarding the contract could not be proceeded due to suspension of Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) grants release. The relevant grant has now been activated once again and, Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) has agreed to award the contract to the selected contractor adhering to the clauses of price escalation

as suitable to the changes of the prices. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply to award the contract to M/s Ceylex Engineering (Pvt) Ltd and Jayanthi Super Construction (Pvt) Ltd Joint venture who is the Substantially Responsive Minimum Bidder to a contracted sum of Japanese Yen Million 763.75 and Sri Lankan Rupees Billion 1.44 based on the recommendations of the High-level Standing Procurement Committee.

**19. Draft Bill of the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka.**

The policy approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 07.04.2025 to prepare a draft bill to establish the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka in order to accomplish the requirement of a training institution to carry out studies in order to create chartered media professionals and mould intelligent media personalities with skills in order to enhance the quality and standard of the media society. Clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the final draft prepared by the Legal Draftsman for the purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to publish the draft bill of Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka in the Government Gazette Notification and thereafter submit the same for the concurrence of the House.

**20. Draft Bill of the Prevention of Organized Crimes.**

Considering the increasing wave of organized crimes in Sri Lanka, a requirement has been erupted to formulate legislation to prevent organized crimes and protect citizens from such activities. It has been identified that there are shortcomings in the specific laws in force and that the existing general laws are insufficient. Therefore, the Minister of Justice and National Integration has appointed an expert committee to prepare a preliminary draft bill as a basis for the preparation of a new draft bill on the prevention of organized crime in Sri Lanka. Based on the preliminary draft prepared by the said committee, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration and the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to instruct the Legal Draftsman to prepare the new draft bill on the prevention of organized crime in Sri Lanka.

**21. Regulations Formulated under Section 156 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023**

Section 156 (1) of the Anti – Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023 has mentioned that the Minister is empowered to formulate regulations in regard to precise matters mentioned in the act by consulting the Commission. Furthermore, every individual under the purview of the section 82 (1); as per its clauses shall submit the Declarations of Assets and Liabilities in some specimen formulated by the regulation. The ‘Anti-Corruption (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Uploaded through a Centralized Electronic System) Regulations 2026’ has been formulated including the provisions so that submission of Declarations of Assets and Liabilities ordered to be submitted by the Anti-Corruption Act can be uploaded through a centralized electronic system. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to publish the said regulation in the Government Gazette Notification and subsequently to submit the same for the concurrence of the House.

**22. Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Transport, Highways and Urban Development in Sri Lanka.**

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 12-02-2024 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation and the then Ministry of Transport and Highways of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in order to enhance the cooperation between the two parties and to train transport sector personnel. However, the Memorandum of Understanding between has not yet been signed. It has been recognized that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding would provide an opportunity to acquire new knowledge in relation to concepts and management methodologies such as multimodal transport, public–private partnerships in the transport sector, development of regional and urban transport systems, management of transport infrastructure facilities, and transport security, which have already been introduced into the transport sector of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to sign the said memorandum of understanding.

**23. Amendment of Telecommunication Levy Act No. 21 of 2011**

The Telecommunication Levy Act No. 21 of 2011 has enabled provisions to impose telecommunication levy. The budget 2026 has proposed to introduce amendments for the act including changes imposed from time to time regarding the telecommunication levy. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsman has formulated a draft bill for amending the Telecommunication Levy Act No. 21 of 2011 including provisions to extend applicable to envisage all the tax amounts applicable from the year 2015 along with the telecommunication levy existing at present, applicable of taxes on unrecovered revenue (bad debts) and to extend the provisions of that act to cater the telecommunication suppliers. 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 publish the said draft bill in the Government Gazette Notification and subsequently to submit the same for the concurrence of the House.

**24. Management of State Expenditure during the Energy Crisis**

In view of the prevailing war situation in the Middle East region and its impact on the economy, the Government has already taken several immediate measures to mitigate such effects. In parallel, the need has been identified to manage state expenditure within existing fiscal constraints and approved state expenditure limits, while ensuring the continuity of essential public services. Accordingly, taking into consideration the restrictions imposed on fuel issuance and the declaration of Wednesdays as holidays for government offices providing non-essential public services, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President, in his capacity as Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to continue the payment of fuel allowances to Ministers, Members of Parliament, and public officers based on the fuel prices prevailing as at 01-03- 2026, until further notice; and similarly, continue the payment of other allowances linked to fuel prices based on the fuel prices prevailing as at 01-03-2026.

## **25. Stabilization of Fuel Prices through Government Subsidy Measures**

In view of the prevailing war situation in the Middle East region and the resulting external shocks affecting both the daily lives of the public and the overall economy, the Government has been implementing various measures to manage such impacts in a systematic manner. Under this initiative, identifying the necessity of the Government intervention to control the escalation of the prices of Octane Petrol used mostly by the public and the Auto Diesel used for public transport, 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 provide relief to the public by controlling the fuel price increases through payments to fuel import suppliers of up to Rs. 20 per litre for 92 Octane petrol and up to Rs. 100 per litre for auto diesel, where the import price exceeds the declared selling price of 92 Octane petrol and auto diesel, with effect from 22-03-2026.

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