



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 18.05.2026

01. The Collaboration Agreement for the Joining of the University of Jaffna in the Global Health Research Group Project on Violence against Women and Children.

A project of the Global Health Research Group on Violence against Women and Children will be implemented with financial assistance amounting to Rs. 173.92 million provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Research of the United Kingdom. For the implementation of the said project, it is proposed to enter into a Collaboration Agreement among the University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka, the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and 11 other foreign institutions. Through the said project, sustainable and better-trained community engagement and Survivor Panels will be integrated into the local health system. Thereby, it is expected to strengthen responses to violence against women and children, assess health-related issues associated with violence against women and children, evaluate its economic and social impacts, identify effective and intervention strategies for the prevention of violence, and facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity development among institutions. 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 enable the University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka to enter into the relevant Collaboration Agreement with the other associated parties for the implementation of the aforementioned project for a period of four (04) years.

02. Obtaining the Membership in the AIA Group Supervisory Board by the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.

As one of the measures under the action plan aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of Sri Lanka's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism requirements, steps are required to be taken by the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka to establish a mechanism for the exchange of information with foreign stakeholders. Accordingly, the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka has planned to obtain the membership in the AIA Group Supervisory Board, which has been established under the leadership of the Hong Kong Insurance Authority to ensure effective cooperation and coordination among insurance supervisory authorities within the Asian region. In order to obtain such membership, it is necessary for the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka to enter into a coordination agreement with the Hong Kong Insurance Authority. Through the aforementioned agreement, the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka will be afforded the opportunity to effectively exchange supervisory information with other insurance regulatory/supervisory institutions that have obtained membership in the AIA Group Supervisory Board. 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 enable the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka to enter into the AIA Group Coordination Agreement with the Hong Kong Insurance Authority for the purpose of obtaining membership in the AIA Group Supervisory Board.

03. Implementation of the Technical Cooperation Project for Enhancing Milk Production in the Dry Zone.

It has been planned to implement a Technical Cooperation Project for Enhancing Milk Production in the Dry Zone for a period of three (03) years under a financial grant of Rs. 300 million provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Through the aforementioned project, it is expected to achieve the objectives of designing training and educational programmes for dairy farming entrepreneurs producing between 20 and 100 litres of milk per day in the Northern, Eastern, North Central and Northwestern Provinces, introducing appropriate technological methods, strengthening grass production and supply, and promoting hygienic milk production as well as increasing milk consumption. Under the project, two (02) districts from each of the relevant four (04) provinces will be selected and three (03) veterinary divisions within each selected district will be identified, and three (03) model farms will be established within each such veterinary division, thereby establishing a total of twenty-four (24) model farms within the said four provinces. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to implement the proposed Technical Cooperation Project for Enhancing Milk Production in the Dry Zone.

04. Establishment of the National Regulatory Reform Council for Strengthening Regulatory Governance in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

The regulatory environment in Sri Lanka plays a decisive role in shaping the growth of the private sector, influencing investment decisions, and improving overall business competitiveness. Although the fundamental elements of the country's economy remain strong, it has been observed that the existing regulatory constraints disproportionately affect small and medium-sized enterprises and also adversely impact the attractiveness of Sri Lanka as an investment destination. Taking those matters into consideration, the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, has carried out a comprehensive assessment of the regulatory framework in Sri Lanka, and following extensive discussions held with the relevant stakeholders, the National Regulatory Reform Action Plan and its operational mechanism have been formulated. The aforementioned Action Plan has presented a number of practical and actionable recommendations, and such recommendations have been prioritized and sequenced across short-term, medium-term, and long-term timeframes. Further, it has been proposed to establish a National Regulatory Reform Council as the central institutional mechanism for the implementation, direction, and supervision of the aforementioned Action Plan. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to establish the aforementioned Council under the chairmanship of the Hon. President and to designate his Ministry as its Secretariat of that council.

05. Formulation of an Inbound Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka.

Although the primary focus of the country thus far has been on managing the deployment of Sri Lankans for foreign employment, requests are currently being made for the recruitment of foreign workers possessing skilled, semi-skilled, and specialist expertise for certain sectors of the country's economy. At present, the regulation of inbound labour migration in the country is carried out through multiple administrative procedures implemented by several institutions. The need has been identified to carry out systematic regulation by incorporating information relating to inbound labour migration into a centralized information system. Taking those matters into consideration, it has been proposed to formulate an Inbound Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka. Through the aforementioned policy, a coordinated, transparent, and systematic national framework will be established for the admission, employment, supervision, protection, and regulation of foreign workers entering Sri Lanka for employment purposes. Further, it will ensure the protection of opportunities available to Sri Lankan workers. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Labour to introduce an Inbound Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka and to appoint a Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Labour for the purpose of preparing the draft policy therefor.

06. Formulation of a Comprehensive National Intellectual Property Policy for Sri Lanka.

At present, a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of intellectual property is provided under the Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003. However, it has been observed that there are certain structural and operational challenges within the intellectual property system in the country. Furthermore, although several ministries and public institutions, in addition to the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka, perform complementary roles within the intellectual property system, it has been observed that there is a lack of effective coordination among these institutions. Therefore, the need for a national intellectual property policy has been identified in order to provide a clear strategic direction and to ensure the effective development and utilization of intellectual property in Sri Lanka. Such a policy is expected to facilitate the achievement of domestic priorities, including due consideration of international best practices, safeguarding national interests, preserving appropriate policy space, and promoting innovation, knowledge dissemination, and public welfare. Taking into consideration of the aforementioned matters, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to formulate a Comprehensive National Intellectual Property Policy for Sri Lanka.

07. Formulation of a space policy for Sri Lanka.

Space technology and its applications have now become an essential factor in national development, delivering significant benefits across critical sectors such as disaster management, communication, security, environmental monitoring, and economic innovation. Considering the growing strategic importance of space technology, the need for an integrated national framework in this regard within the country has been identified. Therefore, the Ministry of Science and Technology has planned to formulate a National Space Policy. The proposed policy will enable the formalization and facilitation of international cooperation, enhance Sri Lanka's effectiveness within global space governance mechanisms, and ensure that all national space activities are carried out in compliance with international obligations, agreements, and standards. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Science and Technology to appoint an expert committee with technical special expertise for the formulation of the National Space Policy.

08. Non-Revision of Water Tariffs for the First Half of 2026.

In accordance with the water tariff formula approved at the Cabinet meeting held on 2024-07-15, the unit cost of water sales is required to be reviewed on a half-yearly basis, taking into consideration changes in major cost factors. Based on the analysis carried out on the financial statements of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board for the year 2025, it has been confirmed that the prevailing water tariffs are sufficient to cover the full operating costs. Therefore, the Board of Directors of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has decided to maintain the unit cost of water sales for the first six (06) months of 2026 without any increase. Accordingly, the consent of the Cabinet of Ministers has been given for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Housing, Construction, and Water Supply to maintain the prevailing water tariff without any revision during the first 6 months of the year 2026.

09. Purchasing of 15,000 Metric Tons of Urea Fertilizer Required for the 2026 Yala Season through the Agrarian Service Committees of the Department of Agrarian Development.

Although it had initially been estimated that 550,000 hectares of paddy lands would be cultivated during the 2026 Yala season, it is now estimated that the extent cultivated would be approximately between 450,000-500,000 hectares. It has been calculated that approximately 75,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer would be required for that purpose. Out of the fertilizer stocks available in the country, 48,297.87 metric tons have so far been procured and are being distributed by the Agrarian Service Committees. Approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2026-04-06 to provide a 50-kilogram bag of urea fertilizer to farmers at a fixed price of Rs. 10,200/- through Agrarian Service Centres in order to ensure the supply of fertilizer at a stable price for the 2026 Yala season. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Land and Irrigation to purchase 15,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer by the agrarian services committees, further required for the Yala season 2026 and distributed to the farmers.

10. Payment of Compensation for Crop Damage Caused to Paddy Cultivation in the Area Due to the Construction of a Salinity Barrier Across the Nilwala River in Matara.

Approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-07-07 to allocate provisions through the Budget and pay compensation for the crop damage caused to paddy cultivation in the Matara District during seven consecutive cultivation seasons from the 2019 Yala season up to the 2022 Yala season, due to flood conditions caused by the obstruction of the Nilwala River during the period of construction of the salinity barrier across the river, following a proper assessment of the relevant damages.

Accordingly, compensation amounts have been calculated in accordance with the compensation payment methodologies of the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board, taking into consideration costs and paddy prices, and an allocation of Rs. 1,200 million has been made through the 2026 Budget for the payment of the relevant compensation. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Land and Irrigation to pay the compensation to the farmers who are eligible for compensation as follows.

Season Proposed amount of compensation per one acre (Rupees)

Season	Proposed amount of compensation per one acre (Rupees)
2019 Yala	40,000/-
2019/20 Maha	46,860/-
2020 Yala	40,000/-
2020/21 Maha	42,150/-
2021 Yala	49,901/-
2021/22 Maha	58,272/-
2022 Yala	64,102/-

11. Upgrading the Malabe- Kaduwela Road (B 263)

Bids had been invited following the National Competitive Procurement procedure for the improvement of the 5.56-kilometre stretch of the Malabe–Kaduwela Road (B 263) utilizing funds allocated under the National Highways Widening and Improvement Programme, and eight (08) bids had been received therefor. Accordingly, based on the recommendation submitted by the High-Level Procurement Committee following the evaluation of the said bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to award the relevant contract to M/s Senarath Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, the substantially responsive lowest bidder, at a cost of Rs. 819 million (exclusive of Value Added Tax).

12. Award of Contract for Renewal of Microsoft Licenses of SriLankan Airlines Limited.

Bids have been invited following the Limited National Competitive Procurement Procedure to identify an appropriate license holder service supplier that has proficiency in providing Microsoft licenses and related services for SriLankan Airlines (Pvt.) Company Limited. Two (02) bids had been received therefor. Accordingly, based on the recommendations submitted by the Standing High-Level Procurement Committee following the evaluation of the aforesaid bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to award the relevant contract to Crayon Software Lanka (Private) Limited, the substantially responsive lowest bidder, for a period of two (02) years at a cost of USD 1.816 million.

13. Implementation of the “Take Care – Surakemu Magathota” Project during the Period 2026–2028

Approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-05-19 for the implementation of the “Take Care – Surakemu Magathota” project by Independent Television Network Limited, covering 60 schools island-wide, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, utilizing funds of the “Clean Sri Lanka” Programme. In accordance with the aforesaid approval, the project was initiated in 2025 and is further planned to be continued during the period 2026–2028. Accordingly, it is expected to expand the implementation of the project by covering 100 schools per year, in coordination with the Traffic Management and Road Safety Division of the Sri Lanka Police and the Co-curricular Branch of the Ministry of Education. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement the aforementioned project by the Independent Television Network Limited as proposed in the years 2026, 2027, and 2028 by obtaining an amount of Rs. 833 million from the provisions allocated under the programme “Clean Sri Lanka” under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media.

14. Implementation of the “Healthy Food – Happy Life (Suwadayī Diviyakata Sākhya/Surakṣitha Āhāra)” National Media Project”

With the objective of promoting a food safety model for a healthy lifestyle, approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-08-11 for the implementation of the project titled “Healthy Food – Happy Life (Suwadayī Diviyakata Sākhya/Surakṣitha Āhāra)” by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation in 2025, utilizing funds of the “Clean Sri Lanka” Programme. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement the “Healthy Food - Happy Life” (Suwadayī Diviyakata Sākhya/Surakṣitha Āhāra) National Media Project with the objective of ensuring nutritional security through nutrition, disease prevention, mental well-being, and clean food consumption from the early stages of child development to adulthood by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation in the years 2026, 2027, and 2028 by obtaining an amount of Rs. 600 million from the provisions allocated under the program “Clean Sri Lanka”

15. Direct Purchase of Potatoes from Local Farmers by the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and Sale to Consumers through Lanka Sathosa Limited.

In order to protect local potato farmers by ensuring a fair market price, the Government has currently imposed a Special Commodity Levy of Rs. 80/- per kilogram on imported potatoes. At the commencement of the harvesting season in the Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts, intermediaries and wholesale traders have fixed farm-gate selling prices ranging from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 220/- per kilogram of potatoes, and there is a possibility of fluctuations in those prices with the increase in harvest volumes in the coming days. Taking into consideration the need to protect and promote the domestic supply of essential food items in the country to the maximum extent possible and in an appropriate manner, it has been planned to directly purchase potatoes from local potato farmers by the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment and to sell such stocks to Lanka Sathosa Limited for release to the market through the retail outlet network of the said company. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation and the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to execute the proposed methodology, subject to the purchase of a maximum of approximately 1,000 kilograms from each potato farmer.

16. Procurement of 181 Motorcycles for Range Offices and Beat Offices Established Island-wide under the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-08-18 to procure the vehicles required for the range offices and beat offices belonging to the Department of Wildlife Conservation for use in wild elephant management duties and other field operational requirements. Accordingly, approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2026-05-04 to award the relevant procurements for the purchase of 16 double cabs, 84 single cabs, and 09 tractors. As part of the said procurement, bids had been invited under the National Competitive Procurement procedure for the purchase of 181 motorcycles, and four (04) bids had been received therefor. Accordingly, based on the recommendations submitted by the Standard High-Level Procurement Committee following the evaluation of the said bids, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to award the relevant procurement to David Pieris Motor Company, the substantially responsive lowest bidder, at a cost of Rs. 91.26 million (exclusive of taxes).

17. Permanent Appointment of Directors General Who Have Been Appointed to those Posts on Acting Basis.

Approval had been granted by the Cabinet decision dated 2020-01-02 to appoint Mr. M.K.C. Senanayake, who was then an officer in Grade I of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, on a full-time acting basis to the post of Director General of the Department of Fiscal Policy of the General Treasury, and by the Cabinet decision dated 2024-12-09 to appoint Mr. P.M.K. Hettiarachchi, who was then an officer in Grade I of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, on a full-time acting basis to the post of Director General of the Department of Development Finance. In accordance with the provisions of the Service Minute of the Sri Lanka Planning Service, the said two officers have been promoted by the Public Service Commission to the Special Grade of the Sri Lanka Planning Service on the basis of seniority with effect from 2026-01-01. 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 appoint Mr. M.K.C. Senanayake to the post of Director General of the Department of Fiscal Policy and Mr. P.M.K. Hettiarachchi to the post of Director General of the Department of Development Finance on a permanent basis with effect from 2026-01-01.

18. Appointment to the Post of District Secretary/Government Agent of the Ratnapura Administrative District.

As Mr. K.G.S. Nishantha, who served as the District Secretary/Government Agent of the Ratnapura Administrative District, has been appointed to the post of District Secretary/Government Agent of the Kegalle District with effect from 2026-04-27, the post of District Secretary/Government Agent of Ratnapura is currently vacant. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government to appoint Mr. M.G. Lalith Ananda, an officer in the Special Grade of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, to the post of District Secretary/Government Agent of Ratnapura with immediate effect.

19. Completion of the Process of Identifying and Providing Relief to the Officers of the Sri Lanka Police (Including the Special Task Force) and the Tri-Forces Who are Dead or Disabled Due to Terrorist Activities and Related Incidents During the Period of Armed Conflict Situation.

Approval had been granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-07-14 to appoint an Officials' Committee to submit a report containing recommendations on the steps to be taken to complete the process of identifying officers of the Sri Lanka Police (including the Special Task Force) and the Tri-Forces who were killed or disabled due to terrorist activities and related incidents during the period of armed conflict, as well as on the completion of relief measures to such persons, including the issuance of a single common circular in place of all circulars issued from time to time for the provision of such relief. The said Committee has submitted its detailed report containing observations and recommendations dated 2026-05-12. Accordingly, without prejudice to the allowances being paid to the categories of persons already identified up to now, 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 issue circular instructions for the provision of relief, in accordance with the recommendations of the aforementioned Committee, to newly identified categories of beneficiaries belonging to the Tri-Forces, Sri Lanka Police, and the Special Task Force.

20. Submission to Parliament of Orders relating to the Imposition of a 50% Surcharge on the Customs Import Duty Charged on the Importation of Motor Vehicles.

Due to the armed conflict prevailing in the Middle Eastern region, all import costs have significantly increased, and immediate measures are required to mitigate the negative impact on the national economy because of that. Accordingly, with effect from 2026-05-16, without restricting vehicle imports, an Order has been issued through Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2488/56 dated 2026-05-15, imposing a 50% surcharge on the existing 30% Customs Import Duty levied under the provisions of the Customs Ordinance on the importation of motor vehicles, valid only for a period of only three (03) months. Accordingly, the said Order dated 2026-05-15 shall apply only to Letters of Credit opened for the importation of motor vehicles after 2026-05-16 and shall not have any effect on Letters of Credit opened prior to that date. Furthermore, through Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 2488/69 dated 2026-05-17, it has been stipulated that where, in respect of Letters of Credit opened on or before 2026-05-15, any amendment is made after 2026-05-15 to any one or more of the following: the number of vehicles, vehicle identification number, vehicle description, or technical specifications, an Order has been issued providing that the aforesaid surcharge shall be applicable to such vehicles. 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 present to Parliament the above-mentioned Orders relating to the imposition of the surcharge and the regulation of motor vehicle imports, which have been issued in order to ensure that the prices of vehicles already imported into Sri Lanka are not affected and that vehicle imports are regulated during the said three (03) month period.

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