



## Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on the 21.12.2020

### 01. Project to assist the legislature of Sri Lanka

The European Union has agreed upon a grant of Euro 18 million for the implementation of a project named "Project to Assist the Legislature of Sri Lanka" with the objective of the establishment of an improved responsive justice administration system within Sri Lanka through enhancing the access for obtaining service supply quality and service receipt. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Justice while the total estimated cost will be Euro 19.27 million. Apart from the provisions allocated by the European Union, UNICEF and UNDP too have agreed upon financing for the remaining amount. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution tabled by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Finance for entering into an agreement of donations with the European Union for obtaining the aforesaid funding.

### 02. Transferring a plot of land in the New Town, Ratnapura to Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council for an office complex.

The Urban Development Authority has acquired Farm Garden land situated in Ratnapura and in extent of 348 acres for the New Town Development Project of Ratnapura. The Urban development Authority has been requested by the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa province to allocate a plot of land for Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council Office Complex. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal forwarded by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing for furnishing a plot of land in extent of 04 acres and 02 roods from Farm Garden land to Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council for a period of 50 years on long term lease basis subject to the payment of an estimated value imposed by government chief valuer.

### 03. Publishing Kolawenigama Raja Maha Viharaya Sacred Area in the gazette.

Kolawenigama Raja Maha Viharaya situated in Kotapola Divisional Secretariat division in Matara consists of numerous factors reflecting historical values along with a Stupa and an ancient Bo tree older than 400 years. The sacred area situated and controlled within a land in extent of 05 acres under section 4(11) of Buddhist Temporalities Ordinance No. 19 of 1931 reserves a requirement to be further unearthed the unidentified historical values. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers considered the information furnished by the

Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing about the actions taken to publish a gazette for 'Kolawenigama Raja Maha Viiharaya Sacred Area as per the provisions formulated in the Town and Country Planning Ordinance No. 13 of 1946 since a development plan is being designed by the Department of National Physical Planning in relation to the conservation of the Raja Maha Viharaya.

**04. Publishing Dewagiri Raja Maha Viharaya Sacred Area in Bingiriya in the gazette.**

The historical background of Dewagiri Raja Maha Viharaya in Bingiriya within the purview of the Divisional Secretariat Division of Bingiriya in the district of Kurunegala runs back to 204 - 207 BC and a number of artefacts have been recognized within the sacred area. The Department of National Physical Planning has inaugurated to prepare a development plan for this sacred area parallel to the national Vesak festival in the year 2018, and some of the renovation activities have been initiated to be implemented by the provisions of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana subject to consultation of the above Department. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers considered the information furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing about the actions taken to publish a gazette for 'Dewagiri Raja Maha Viiharaya Sacred Area in Bingiriya' as per the provisions formulated in the Town and Country Planning Ordinance No. 13 of 1946 so that a development plan can be designed by the Department of National Physical Planning in relation to the conservation of the Raja Maha Viharaya.

**05. Providing a secure overall kit for the students under vocational training in the workshops.**

A considerable portion of provisions have been allocated by the budget 2021 for expanding the vocational education field by escalating the number of students annually enrolled from 100,000 to 200,000 rendering priority to the sectors with a blooming market demand. Already 09 institutions are being operated for the provision of training related to the workshops and construction sites implemented under the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovations. Approximately 30,000 apprentices are undergoing the training at present under the purview of these institutions whereas it is expected to have a swelling number of 40,000 with the recruitment in the year 2021. It has been planned to provide an overall kit per head for

the trainees so that their security during the training is ensured while can be engaged in the relevant training as a novel vocational technician better than a traditional mechanic. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Education for providing a secure overall kit to those students enrolled to the vocational education institutes from the month of January 2021 and going under training in the workshops while the said overall kit to be manufactured and ordered from "Ranaviru Apparel Institute" in Sri Lanka Army.

#### **06. National Psychological / Mental Health Policy - 2020 - 2030**

A mental health policy formulates the strategic framework for the prevention of mental illnesses, healing, rehabilitation and mental health promotion within the community. The previous psychological health policy in Sri Lanka has been formulated in the year 2005 whereas the need of its updating has been recognized for the coordination and supervision of strategic progress according to the current requirements although it has already been implemented for 10 whole years. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers rendered their consent to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health for implementing the National Mental Health Policy during 2020 - 2030 under the major sectors of strengthening leadership and research activities, provision of extended mental health services, human resource development and empowering the community.

#### **07. Updating the partnership agreement of the pilot project conducted using 'Wolbachia' bacteria for suppression of Dengue in Colombo district.**

An international research corporation programme named "Global Mosquito Programme" is being implemented by the University of Monish to control the deceases spread by mosquitoes with the objective of protecting global population from the deceases such as Dengue, Sitka, Chickengunya and Hepatitis through new biological control systems. 'Wolbachia' bacteria have been introduced under this programme to minimize the dengue virus spread through minimizing the reproduction of the virus within the Ides mosquito that spread Dengue. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted on the 09<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to use the bacteria within the areas under Nugegora Medical Officer of Health and within a specified division of Colombo Urban Council area. An agreement of corporation has been signed between the Ministry of Health and the University of Monish to implement the said pilot project and its valid

period has already been ended. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers rendered their consent to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health for amending the agreement of corporation so that the supervision and evaluation activities of that programme can be operated up to 2021.

**08. Enforcement of trade remedy laws**

Anti - dumping and countervailing duties act NO. 2 of 2018 and Safeguard Measures Act, No. 3 of 2018 have been enforced to act against the unfair trade uses that can be implemented affecting and damaging the local industries. The relevant gazette notification has been published informing that the said acts are effective from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 since acts coming into effect should be declared by the subject Minister. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers have taken into the account the information brought forward by the Minister of Industries indicating that the Director General of Commerce is eligible for acting to avoid any unfavourable circumstances caused to the local industries under the said two acts as the proper authority.

**09. Amendment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996**

Approvals of the Cabinet of Ministers have been granted respectively on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and 07<sup>th</sup> July 2019 for the amendment of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996 so that the penalties for interruption of duties of the authorized officers when implementing the provisions of the act can be increased and for the amendment of the act including the provisions for the regulation of the illegal activities. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution submitted by the Minister of Fisheries for instructing the Legal Draftsman to formulate one draft bill for the proposed amendments.

**10. Development of Coconut Related Industry System, Protection of Local Coconut Oil Producers and Protection of Sri Lankan Coconut Oil Brand Name**

Industrials and experts in the field of coconut industry have pointed out that if more attention is paid to the coconut industry in Sri Lanka, production can be increased by 50%. Investigations carried out by the Consumer Affairs Authority have confirmed that the coconut oil imported into the country contains nearly 70% of non-coconut oils. Due to the insufficient coconut production in the country, it has become a problem for about 500 coconut and allied factories to continue their production activities. As the export income of Sri Lankan coconut

oil and coconut related products have increased by 16.6% in 2019 compared to 2018, it seems that there is a possibility of creating a new trend in the coconut industry with the Government sponsorship.

Accordingly, the following combined proposals presented by the Minister of Plantation and the Minister of Industry for the development of the coconut based industrial system were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers

- In order to encourage local coconut oil producers, importation of sliced dry coconut required for a period of three months Instead of importing coconut oil.
  
- Making the above dried coconut slices by B.C.C., a government owned institution
- Complete prohibition on the sale of coconut oil mixed with palm oil or other oils in order to protect consumer rights and brand name of the Sri Lankan coconut oil.
- Recognition of the discouragement of palm oil consumption in the country and promotion of coconut oil as a basic policy of the government and Permission to import only refined palm oil, concerning consumer rights and public health reasons
- Providing relief to repay the loans obtained by the coconut industrials
- Introduction of relief packages to increase the productivity of coconut plantations such as intercropping, dairy farming and irrigation to encourage coconut cultivation.
- Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Task Force representing the relevant Ministries and Institutions to implement and monitor this program

**11. Conducting feasibility study to commence a urea fertilizer production project.**

Annual Fertilizer Requirement in Sri Lanka is about 340,000. The entire quantity is currently being imported. In 2019, Rs.26 billion spent on urea fertilizer imports and the production of urea fertilizer in Sri Lanka will save foreign exchange for this purpose. Paranthan Chemicals Ltd., which is operated under the Ministry of Industries, has focused on this. Accordingly, considering the proposal made by the Minister of Industry to conduct a feasibility study for the production of urea fertilizer in Sri Lanka, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to assign the feasibility study to the Ceylon Institute of Nanotechnology.

**12. Establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Sustainable Environment Management**

According to the policy statement, "Vision for Prosperity that Build the Country" the implementation of a sustainable environmental policy in the country is the primary responsibility of the Ministries and Institutions related to the subject of Environment, including the Ministry of Environment. All institutions related to the subject of environment should work together performing these functions as well as in educating the public providing accurate information on issues presented in print, electronic and social media

### **13. Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and South Africa on Tourism Cooperation**

Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka and South Africa on Tourism Cooperation expired in 2017. At the Sixth Session of the Partnership Forum between Sri Lanka and South Africa in 2018, it was proposed to enter in to a new Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation between the two parties. Accordingly the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Tourism to sign a new MOU between the two countries.

### **14. Expansion of Industrial Park Kandy**

The Industrial Park in Kandy, owned by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, was established in 1994 and covers an area of 195 acres. Out of this about 120 acres of land which can be utilized for setting up industries has been allotted for 26 industries. It has been proposed to expand the industrial park using the nearby 5.65 hectares of government owned land and accordingly the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the minister of tourism to hand over this land to the Board of Investment as a free grant..

### **15. Entering in to MoUs on Bilateral Youth Development Programs**

The proposal made by the Minister of Youth and Sports, to enter into the following MOU s on Youth Development to develop mutually beneficial and long lasting cooperation in the formulation of policies aimed at the development of the youth community was approved by the Cabinet

- Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Development between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Ceylon and the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Development between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Ceylon and the Russian Federation.

### **16. Adhikarana Piyasa Project**

Provisions have been allocated in the Budget 2021 for the implementation of the project. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Justice to proceed with the project as follows, enabling the project to begin at the beginning of 2021,:

- To award the Consultancy Services Contract for this project to the Central Consultancy Bureau on Engineering Works
  - Implementing the project as 4 sub projects. Awarding of the contract for the construction of the Magistrate's Court Complex as the first sub-project to the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, subject to the price recommendation of the Standing Technical Evaluation Committee of the Ministry of Housing
  - Awarding of Contracts for the remaining 3 sub-projects of the project following the competitive bidding system.

**17. Procurement of food items for the three Armed Forces for the year 2021**

National competitive bids have been invited for the procurement of food items for the three Armed Forces for the year 2021. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by H.E. the president in his capacity as the Minister of Defense, to award contracts for the supply of food items required by the three Armed Forces for the year 2021 to the responding companies as per the recommendation of the Committee.

**18. Attracting airlines to Rajapaksha International Airport, Mattala and Colombo International Airport, Rathmalana**

Measures have been taken to open the airports in the island from December 26,2020 to January 19,2021 as per the health recommendations as a pilot project in the plans to open the airports in the island for foreign tourists. Accordingly, international airlines will operate according to specific schedules prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka. The international aviation sector is currently facing a crisis and the Minister of Tourism presented a proposal to waive the landing and parking fees for the period from 26.12.2020 to 19.11.2021 in order to encourage the international airlines to operate flights to Sri Lanka. The cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal.