



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 19-05-2025

01. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Rio Branco Training Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Although approval had been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 02-09-2024 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute, which is under the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, and Rio Branco Training Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the said agreement is yet to be signed. The Rio Branco Training Institute, as an internationally recognized academy, has contributed to training diplomatic personnel in approximately 57 countries worldwide for 8 centuries and has entered into cooperation agreements with more than 70 countries. It is expected that the diplomatic personnel will be trained and that their needs will be facilitated, including the transfer of information and experiences related to their educational and research programs, as well as information regarding tools and national and international publications relevant to electronic studies. Additionally, this Memorandum of Understanding aims to promote close cooperation, especially in areas of mutual interest. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism to sign the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

02. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Chongqing Transmission Corporation Limited. of People's Republic of China and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation

It has been proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Chongqing Transmission Corporation Limited. of the People's Republic of China and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation with the objective of promoting long-term friendship and mutual understanding, strengthening cooperation, and exchanging training opportunities in the field of media. Thereby, there will be opportunities for exchanging programs between the People's Republic of China and Sri Lanka, promoting academic and training opportunities, producing joint television programs, and obtaining necessary publicity for the tourism industry. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Chongqing Transmission Corporation Limited of the People's Republic of China and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.

03. Obtaining the service of a consultation company to upgrade infrastructure facilities of the head office of the Department of Meteorology and divisional centers

The government of Sri Lanka is implementing a multi-phase climate resilience program approach with the support of the World Bank, starting in October 2021. This has been an initiation of a 9-year program expected to be carried out until 2030. A loan amount of US \$92 million has been obtained from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and World Bank for implementation of stage one of this program (2021-2026). It has been identified that improving the infrastructure facilities of the head office of the Department of Meteorology and regional centers through flood and landslide forecasting, as well as enhancing early warning systems, has been one component of stage one of the aforementioned project for high-impact weather. For this purpose, competitive bids have been invited to select a consultation company for obtaining necessary consultations for the implementation of this component. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to award the said consultancy contract to M/s Green Tech Consultations (Pvt) Ltd based on the recommendations of the Consultancy Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the bids submitted.

04. Implementation of the project “Take Care – Surakimu Magathota” (Take Care – Let’s Ensure the Road Safety)

It has been planned to implement a project at school level to create awareness under the theme “Take Care – Surakimu Magathota” (Take Care – Let’s Ensure the Road Safety) aiming at the school students to make the road a secure place for everyone preventing traffic accidents which are on the hike. The Independent Television Network Limited has planned to implement the said project with the coordination of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, Sri Lanka Police and the Department of Motor Traffic. It is expected to implement this proposed project in 100 education zones joining the school traffic monitoring groups and school prefects. It has been planned to join 50,000 students directly to this programmes to be 500 students from each zone. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement this proposed project by the Independent Television Network Limited with the assistance of relevant institutions under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media.

05. Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code No. 15 of 1979 (Post mortem)

The Cabinet of Ministers have decided at their meeting held on 25.10.2022 to instruct the Legal Draftsmen to formulate a draft bill so that the existing legal framework and its procedures as well as rituals on conducting post mortems under the Criminal Procedure Code can be enhanced. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsmen has prepared the fundamental draft bill in the connection. As per the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to grant the policy approval of the new Cabinet of Ministers in order to complete the preparation activities of the said draft bill, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to grant policy approval for the preparation of the draft bill mentioned above.

06. Appointment to the post of Director General of Commerce.

The post of Director General of the Department of Commerce operated under the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development is vacant at present. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution submitted by the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to appoint the senior most officer holding the Post of Director of Commerce of that Department, Mrs. Ameena Shaphi Mohin with immediate effect to act full time in the post of Director General of Commerce.

07. Revisions to Inland Revenue Act No. 24 of 2017.

Legal provisions to increase the retaining tax rate from 5% to 10% have been introduced by the Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2025 with effect from 01.04.2025. due to charging retention tax even from individuals with an income not exceeding rupees 1.8 million which is the annual revenue limit to recover tax from, such depositors and low income earning individuals are apparently facing inconvenience. As a remedy to the issue, it has been proposed to introduced a methodology to present a self declaration by the individuals with a low income than the tax free margin. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by His Excellency the President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Policy Planning and Economic Development to introduce a self statement for all domestic depositors with an estimated revenue not exceeding rupees 1.8 million per annum to release them from recovering retention tax on interest and amend the Inland Revenue Act No. 24 of 2017 including appropriate amendments for making compulsory of furnishing the Tax Identification Number (TIN) for opening all sorts of bank accounts.

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