



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 07.09.2026

01. Entering into an agreement between the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH - UFZ of the Federal Republic of Germany and Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka

It has been planned to implement a research project titled 'Spatio Coexistence - Towards a Spatial Coexistence Theory for Species Rich Communities' by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH - UFZ in Germany with the objective of the development of a new spatial ecological theory which provides a deep understanding of biodiversity, plant community and ecosystem dynamics through integrating ecological modelling, mathematical approaches, and large-scale spatial datasets. The Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka has been selected as a specialist subcontractor to provide ecological datasets and carry out scientific research relevant to the aforementioned project. An agreement is proposed to be signed between both parties; thereby, Uva Wellassa University will have the opportunity to obtain up to € 50,000 in funding for a period of 5 years to execute agreed research activities. Through this agreement, it is expected to facilitate knowledge transfer, access to modern scientific methodologies, capacity development for Sri Lankan researchers, and joint scientific publications and also to ensure the ownership of both parties regarding to new research outcomes generated under the said collaboration while securing the ownership for the knowledge and information held by each party. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education to sign the agreement between the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH - UFZ and Uva Wellassa University.

02. Entering into the Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation and an Agreement on the Employment of Sri Lankan Workers in Thailand

Consensus has been reached in the negotiations conducted between Sri Lanka and Thailand to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on labor cooperation and a supplementary agreement on the employment of Sri Lankan workers in Thailand, with the objective of establishing bilateral cooperation on labor migration. Through signing the proposed agreements, it is expected to establish official cooperation between the competent authorities of the two countries in the labor sector, establish a structured mechanism for the transparent and efficient recruitment and dispatch of local workers to Thailand, ensure the legal rights, welfare, and security of the workers employed in Thailand, and prevent human trafficking. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation and on the Employment of Sri Lankan Workers in Thailand, and Agreement on the Employment of Sri Lankan Workers in Thailand for a period of five year.

03. Establishment of National Trade Negotiation Committee (NTFC) and Trade Policy Consultation Committee.

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 24-08-2026 to implement the recommendations submitted by the committee appointed to review Sri Lanka's current Free Trade Agreements and future course of Free Trade Agreements in Sri Lanka. Taking into account these recommendations, it has been recognized the necessity of establishing a National Trade Negotiation Committee and Trade Policy Consultation Committee enabling Sri Lanka to follow a more targeted, sequential, and evidence-based approach in conducting negotiations for Sri Lanka's future Free Trade Agreements and to ensure a sustainable and meaningful stakeholder consultation process. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Trade, Commercial, Food Security, and Cooperative Development to act as follows.

- Establishment of a National Trade Negotiation Committee to guide trade discussions conducted with potential bilateral or regional trade partners
- Appointment of the Secretary to the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Cooperative Development as the Chairman of the National Trade Negotiation Committee and the Chief National Trade Negotiator.
- Establishment of 12 subject specific sub- committees with the required technical working groups under the National Trade Negotiation Committee
- Appointment of Trade Policy Consultative Committee comprising of trade experts, researchers engaged in research relevant to trade field, business community, unions, civil societies and relevant public officers to instruct the National Trade Negotiation Committee on active and technical sectors, to submit the policy recommendations to the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the matters relevant to the trade agreements, to inquire sustainable ideas regarding the Free Trade Agreements, and to ensure the communication mechanism.
- The Minister in charge of the Subject international trade and the Minister in charge of the subject of Industry to serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Trade Policy Advisory Committee.

04. Implementation of the Macro-Recovery Sector Development Program to Promote Resilience and Promoting Inclusive Economic Opportunities

Approximately 56% of Sri Lanka's population encounters multi-dimensional vulnerabilities, which severely affect women, youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and rural and estate communities. Since, the aforementioned condition has further aggravated as to the climatic differences and it has been recognized the necessity to strengthen to strengthen social protection, employment and livelihood opportunities, and elderly care services. Accordingly, it is planned to implement the "Macro-Recovery Sector Development Program for Building Resilience and Promoting Inclusive Economic Opportunities" under a concessional loan of USD 100 million from the Asian Development Bank. The program is expected to be implemented from November 2026 to October 2031 across 06 districts: Kegalle, Matale, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, and Nuwara Eliya. The aforementioned program is scheduled to be implanted under 2 components of policy and investment, covering 03 areas as follows.

- **Enhancing the coverage and quality of employment and livelihood services-** Providing entrepreneurship development support, market and financial facilities and an initial capital grant of Rs. 200,000 in 2 installments after formal livelihood development and entrepreneurship training to 30,000 selected Aswesuma beneficiary families in the 06 districts where the program is expected to be implemented.
- **Improving social care infrastructure, services and standards-** Introducing regulatory systems and service standards to strengthen the regulatory and institutional environment for the provision of quality and equitable social care services for the elderly, creating a trained care workforce and establishing 05 adult day care centers to create a sustainable and quality long term adult care services.
- **Establishing inclusive and responsive social protection systems and building institutional capacity-** to strengthen the policy and institutional environment in the social protection sector, develop a Social Protection Action Plan (2025) and a Case Management Framework based on the National Social Protection Policy (2023) and a strategies , introduce cybersecurity and data protection standards, and, improve institutional capacity for coordinated and integrated service delivery, as well as establish a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Rural Development, Social Protection, and Community Empowerment to implement the Macro-Recovery Sector Development Program to Promote Resilience and Promoting Inclusive Economic Opportunities as outlined above.

05. Progress of the Implementation of the Disaster Relief Loan Schemes

Approval has been granted previously to implement the RE-MSME - Disaster Relief loan scheme to reactivate micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises affected by Cyclone Ditwa as well as the Extended Disaster Relief (EDR) loan scheme to provide financial assistance to affected businesses. An amount of Rs. 10,000 million has been allocated to implement these loan schemes in 2025 and 2026. The two loan schemes have been implemented as a joint program since 2026 with the objective of providing immediate financial relief to restart all businesses after the disaster and restore the country's economy rapidly. Accordingly, under the said loan scheme, a loan amount of Rs.8,061.4 million has been provided to 3,968 enterprises affected by the disaster with the support of 15 participatory financial institutions. After submitting the information on the progress of the implementation of aforementioned loan scheme by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of the Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, the Cabinet of Ministers took note of that information.

06. Procurement of Consulting Services for Detailed Planning and Project Implementation Support for the Sustainable Tourism Sector Development Program and provision of project implementation facilities

It is planned to improve tourism facilities in the areas of Dambulla (Seegiriya) and Trincomalee and to renovate and improve the infrastructure facilities at the selected tourists attractions under the Sustainable Tourism Sector Development Program which is implemented under the US\$ 30 million loan facility from the Asian Development Bank. The expression of interest has been invited by the Ministry of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to select a consultancy firm to formulate detailed plans and provide project implementation facilities for the program. 15 consultancy firms have submitted their expression of interest and subsequent to evaluation of these proposals, proposals have been called from 6 consultancy firms. Accordingly, five (5) proposals have been submitted. Accordingly, after evaluation these proposals, Consultancy Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers has recommended to award the aforementioned consultancy contract to M/s Resources Development Consultants (Pvt) Ltd (Sri Lanka), in association with M/s Novel Interdisciplinary Consulting Enterprise (Pvt) Ltd (Sri Lanka), for an amount of LKR 173.86 million (excluding VAT). Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to award the consultancy contract based on the committee's recommendation.

07. Procurement for Resurfacing the 400m, 200m, and 80m Synthetic Tracks under the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority

Approval was granted by the cabinet decisions dated 21-10-2025 and 03-03-2026 to execute the project for resurfacing the 400m, 200m, and 80m synthetic tracks under the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,062.543 million. In order to implement the aforementioned project, bids are invited following the International Competitive Procurement Procedure to select a contractor for this project. Three bids have been received for this purpose. The only qualified bidder submitted a bid price that was 70% higher than the estimated projected cost, according to the evaluation of the aforementioned bids. Consequently, the High-Level Procurement Committee has recommended re-inviting the bids for the procurement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to recall the bids to select a suitable contractor to implement the project for resurfacing the 400m, 200m, and 80m synthetic tracks under the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority.

08. 'Colombo Marathon - 2026' to be held in Conjunction with the 50th National Sports Festival

In conjunction with the 50th National Games, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Department of Sports Development, and other relevant institutions have jointly planned to hold an international marathon competition titled 'Colombo Marathon-2026' at the Galle Face Stadium, Colombo, on 13th September 2026. It is expected that many national and international competitors will participate in the competition, which will include a full marathon, half marathon, 10 km run, and 5 km, Fun run. The Cabinet of Ministers has taken into consideration the submissions made by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports regarding the implementation plan for the competition, the prizes to be given to the winners, and the routes on which the competition will be held.

09. Establishing Digital Transformation Units in Government Institutions to Implement the National Digital Economy Plan

Approval was granted by the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-10-21 for the National Digital Economy Plan 2025–2030. The necessity to establish a strong, standardized institutional mechanism within government entities to control sectoral digital transformation and ensure compliance with the National Digital Common infrastructure initiatives has been identified to implement this plan. Accordingly, it has been proposed to establish a dedicated unit named the 'Digital Transformation Unit' in all government institutions to guide and coordinate digital transformation. A Reference Framework containing the structure for establishing and operating these units was prepared by GovTech Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. It has been planned to appoint a Chief Digital Officer who will report directly to the Head of the Institution as the Head of the Digital Transformation Unit. Furthermore, government institutions will be able to obtain expertise from GovTech Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd for enterprise architecture, data and AI support, cybersecurity guidelines, interoperability support, and advisory functions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the President in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy to establish Digital Transformation Units in government institutions.

10. Road Safety Presidential Awards – 2026

The 'Road Safety Presidential Awards 2026', identified under the Road Safety Action Plan 2025–2026, is planned to be conducted at the national level. Through this 'Road Safety Presidential Awards 2026', it is expected to recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals, public and private institutions, organizations, and other stakeholders toward road safety, as well as to increase public awareness, responsible behavior, and public participation regarding road safety. Based on the experience and outcomes of this inaugural awards ceremony, steps will be taken to conduct the aforementioned ceremony annually in conjunction with World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims fallen on November 03. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution Furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to hold the 'Road Safety Presidential Awards - 2026' at the national level and award Merit Awards and Presidential Awards to selected recipients.

11. Organized Crime Prevention Bill

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 30-03-2026 to draft a new bill to prevent organized crime in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsman prepared the Organized Crime Prevention Bill to provide legal provisions for enforcing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, preventing and combating serious crime through effective national and international cooperation, and protecting society from threats posed by organized crime groups. The clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the aforementioned bill. Accordingly, 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 publish the bill in the Government Gazette and subsequently submit it to Parliament for approval.

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