



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 22.06.2026

01. Appointment of a special Committee for protection of Lands in Eastern Province

A series of political, economic, and administrative problems in the Eastern Province have arisen due to the misuse of government power and political patronage, as well as illegal land grabbing, unauthorized land grabbing, and unauthorized constructions along the coastline. As a result, the natural ecosystem of the region has been severely endangered, and these informal and illegal human activities have also become a major factor in the rapid creation of severe soil erosion along the entire eastern coastal area. Furthermore, despite 16 years having passed since the end of the civil war, the lack of a formal program to permanently resettle the displaced people and the deviation from common criteria in the formation of the administrative structure have had a direct impact on the development activities of the province, as well as national security. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to implement the following proposals and find prompt and permanent solutions to the aforementioned problems, take legal action and strengthen institutional coordination.

- Appointing a committee by the name of “Protecting Eastern Province Lands’ with the chairmanship of the former Land Commissioner of the Southern Province and current Local Government Commissioner of the Southern Province, Senaka Palliyaguruge, and comprising of representatives of relevant institutions.
- Establishing of a special unit headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police and granting of full powers to the security forces to stop unauthorized land acquisitions and land reclamations carried out using political power.
- Taking over the government lands that were provided by the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority 05 years ago, to the government where no project has been implemented so far.
- Handing over the acquired lands to the Divisional Secretaries to use for the development activities of the people under a formal program.
- Preparing of a formal plan to promote the tourism industry by utilizing the high potential of the eastern coastline while protecting the coastal system.
- Formulating a mechanism to ensure that the government officials implement the law impartially and transparently when operating hotels along the eastern coastal area.

02. Admission of children to the grade 1 in the government schools

Circular instructions are issued for each year regarding the admission of children to grade 1 in government schools, and its’ objective is to provide ensure equal access to education, to provide necessary provisions and make necessary arrangements to act in a transparent manner and to minimize irregularities. The new circular has been formulated taking into the consideration the views and suggestions of the Commission to Investigate

Bribery and Corruption, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, principals and education authorities, while paying attention to the new education reforms. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution formulated by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education to issue new circular containing the relevant provisions and instructions for the admission of children to grade 1 in government schools from 2027 onwards.

03. The implementation of “National Communication Program for Promoting Child Health through Social and Behavioral Change” Island-Wide.

It has been observed that there are many unhealthy health behaviors among the children below 05 years in Sri Lanka due to poor physical and oral hygiene, high sugar and salt consumption, consumption of sweetened beverages, bakery products, lack of adequate physical exercise and sleep, addiction to digital screens, and lack of sensitivity to the environment. Based on the existing scientific data on these issues and the National Multi- Sectoral Strategic Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development 2025-2029 published by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, a program called “National Communication Program for Promoting Child Health through Social and Behavioral Change” has been implemented by the Health Promotion Bureau in the year 2025 in collaboration with the stakeholders related to early childhood health promotion with the financial support of the UNICEF as follows:

- Selecting the preschool community as a practical and appropriate setting to implement the program
- Training 277 officers selected from the health and early childhood education sectors as key trainers for the program.
- Training of the teachers from 900 health promotion preschools selected to cover all districts of Sri Lanka by the master trainers and providing each of them with the necessary communication tool packages to carry out the relevant activities in those preschools.
- Ensuring the use of the relevant communication tool packages by the Health Promotion Bureau and the feasibility of further use of package through a follow-up program.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement “National Communication Program for Promoting Child Health through Social and Behavioral Change” island-wide under the “STEP-UP” early childhood development program initiated by the “Clean Sri Lanka” program taking into account the progress achieved through the implementation of the aforesaid program in the year 2025 as mentioned above.

04. Declaration of Sri Lanka National Legal Aid Day

The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka was established under the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978 with the objective of facilitating access to justice for all citizens, including vulnerable groups and marginalized persons. The commission makes a significant contribution to the protection of fundamental rights through the provision of legal aid services promotion of legal awareness, strengthening the rule of law and promoting access to justice. It has been identified the appropriateness of declaring a National Legal Aid Day to enhance

the public awareness of legal rights and remedies, facilitate a national dialogue on law enforcement and enhance the public understanding of the importance of legal services. Accordingly, having ratified the legal Aid Act No.27 of the 1978, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to declare July 06th as the National Legal Aid Day.

05. Establishment of computer network for the Sri Lanka Examination Department

The Sri Lanka Examination Department conducts over 300 examinations annually, including national level examinations, and a computer management information system is used to manage decisive functions relevant to the data and critical operations related to these examinations. Since the main operational functions of the Department are computer networks unique to each department, and many other essential stages of the examination process have to be carried out using human resources only, and data and documents are transferred between the branches through the physical channels. As a result, it has been observed that there is a decrease in efficiency, delays, wastage of physical and human resources as well. Therefore, it has been identified the necessity of upgrading the computer network infrastructure of the Department of Examination in line with the current digitalization processes of the government services. 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 plan, establish, and implement a broad computer network covering all the branches of the Department of Examination.

06. Japan Aid Program for Human Resource Development Program

The Government of Japan has been supporting the professional development of young executive-level civil servants since 2010 under the Japan Grant in Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program. This program has made a significant contribution to strengthening the capacity of the Sri Lankan public service by providing opportunities for civil servants to acquire higher educational qualifications, professional expertise, and international experience in areas relevant to national development priorities. The program is financed under the Official Development Cooperation Framework of the Government of Japan and is implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Annually, about 15 civil servants are awarded scholarships under this program, and so far, 255 postgraduate courses and 16 doctoral courses have been provided. 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 obtain a Japan Yen 282 million grant (Rs 575 million) from the Japanese government, which has agreed to provide it in the year 2026 under the above program.

07. A program for Electrification of the Railway Line

Currently, the majority of railway operations in Sri Lanka are diesel- powered, and there is a necessity to upgrade many railway lines, signaling systems and related infrastructure to improve infrastructure facilities to improve these services. Therefore, with the aim of establishing a modern and sustainable railway transport system, the Government of Sri Lanka has initiated several; railway development programs focusing on the

construction of new railway lines, construction of double tracks, improvement of signaling systems, and electrification of railway lines. Accordingly, railway line corridors with higher passenger density have been identified for electrification with the aim of improving transport capacity, reducing travel time and supporting an environment friendly and sustainable public transport service. These development activities expected to be implemented with the support of international development institutions as part of the country's long-term transport strategy. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to take necessary steps to construct the following railway line with electrification.

- Main Line - Railway line from Maradana to Ragama, including the development of railway station buildings at Gampaha, Veyangoda, Mirigama , and Polgahawela
- Kelani Valley Railway Line from Maradana to Makumbura
- Coastal Road - Railway line from Maradana to Panadura.

08. Installation of Aeronautical Message Handling System for the Airports and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited

The Air Navigation Handling System (ANHS) serves as a critical platform for operational and safety communication between stakeholders in the aviation sector, both domestically and internationally. As the life of the existing ANHS of the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited (AASL), is approaching the end of its service life, and installation and operation a new modern system to replace the existing system has been identified. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to initiate the relevant procurement process for the replacement of Aeronautical Message Handling System at Rathmalana at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,000 million under the capital budget of Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) (Private) Limited (AASL).

09. Awarding of the contract for the provision of Air handling and ground handling services to Sri Lankan at Delhi (DEL) Airport, India

Bids have been invited Following a limited international competitive bidding procedure to select a ground handling service provider for Sri Lankan Airlines at Delhi Airport, India. 02 bids have been received for the same. After evaluation of the bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to award the contract to Bird Flight Services (India) Private Limited, the lowest responsive bidder, at Indian Rs. of 332.85 million for a period of 3 years from 01-06-2026 to 31-05-2029 based on the recommendations of the highest level Standing Procurement Committee.

10. Removal of legal provisions on marking voters using indelible ink during elections

Under the legal provisions for elections in this country since 2004, it is mandatory for voters who come to mark their votes to verify their identity through a valid identity card, and it is also mandatory for all such voters to be marked with an appropriate mark using indelible ink. The dual purpose of these two functions is

to prevent a voter from voting more than once in a single election. It has been observed that having to follow two different

methods at the same time to achieve the same objective hinders the efficiency of the duties performed at the polling stations and also incurs additional costs to the government. Therefore, it has been deemed appropriate to remove the legal provisions regarding the use of indelible ink and marking the voter with the appropriate mark from all election acts. Accordingly, the development activities of the province, as well as national security, will benefit. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to take necessary steps to remove the legal provisions.

- Section 36 of the presidential Election Act, No 15 of 1981
- Section 38 of the Parliamentary Election Act, No 01 of 1981
- Section 36 of the Provincial Council Election Act, No 02 of 1988
- Section 53 A of the Local Government Elections Ordinance (262 Authority)
- Section 21 of the Referendum Act No 7 of 1981

11. Publishing the Animal Welfare Draft Bill in the Government Gazette Notification.

A specialists committee has been appointed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation adhering to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 29.12.2025 for submitting appropriate recommendations analyzing the provisions of the draft bill formulation in regard to the Animal Welfare. Based on the recommendations of the said Committee, the Legal Draftsman has been instructed at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 18.05.2026 to prepare the final bill on the animal welfare. Wherefore, the Legal Draftsman has formulated the draft bill and the clearance of the Attorney General has been received in the connection. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation to publish the said draft bill in the Government Gazette Notification and subsequently forward the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

12. Granting No – Pay Leave for Officers Selected as Deputy Mayor / Deputy Chairman in Institutions after Winning at the Local Government Elections and Entitled for Political Rights.

The officers selected and entitled for political rights as Deputy Mayor / Deputy Chairman in the institutions after winning at the local government polls are entitled for paid leave for 06 days per month as per the provisions of Public Administration Circular No. 12.2021 dated 25.06.2021. However, if that leave is not sufficient for participating in meetings in the relevant local government institution and engage in duties relation to that, it was recommended at a discussion held with the chief participation of Director General of Establishments and the representatives of the relevant institutions that it is appropriate to provide those officers with the opportunity for no – pay leave. Accordingly, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Governments to issue circulars amending the provisions of the Establishments Code to enable granting no – pay leave for officers selected as Deputy Mayor / Deputy Chairman in institutions after winning the Local Government elections and entitled for political rights.

13. Establishment of the National Commission on Research and Development

Research and development activities are considered as a vital component for accelerating the economic growth based on a country's knowledge, promoting innovation, enhancing competitiveness and accomplishing the sustainable development goals. They contribute to enable production of value – added goods and services, strengthening human capital, introduction of novel remedies for national issues, and sustainable management of resources. Due to research and development activities of this country being centered to limited sectors, weak coordination in between the institutions and lack of sufficient policy and financial assistance, the expected benefits of the engaged resources cannot be achieved. Therefore, it has been recognized the requirement of establishment of a national Commission with the capability of accomplishing the duties of it that is same as those established in the developed countries that enable an efficient and consolidated mechanism that can link the entire process of research and development. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to establish the National Commission on Research and Development to empower the research and development process that is executed respectively in different Ministries and institutions under one framework and productively utilize the research results as well as to appoint a committee to formulate fundamental draft / concept paper for introducing legal provisions for the same.

14. Financial Strategy Statement - 2027

In par with the provisions of the Public Financial Management Act No. 44 of 2024, mid term strategies should be prepared and executed with the objective of enhancing the transparency and accountability. As per section 11 of the said act, the Minister in charge of Finance shall prepare and submit the financial strategy statement with the mid term financial framework annually. The financial strategic statement supplies the strategic base for preparation of the national budget and is comprised of the government financial objectives, targets and policies. As per the provisions of the public finance management act, the main financial risk sources that affect the achievement of financial objectives within the financial strategic statement should be precisely indicated while it also should contain an estimation on public finance impact that may affect due to them. The Financial Strategy Statement should be submitted for the concurrence of the Cabinet of Ministers and thereby the same should be submitted to the Parliament by the subject Minister on or before 30th June of the relevant year. The annual budget should be prepared based on the Financial Strategy Statement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to the Financial Strategy Statement for the year 2027 and to present it to the Parliament for its concurrence.

15. Submission of the Annual Report of the Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) for the Year 2025 to the Parliament

As per section 25 of the Public Debt Management Act No. 33 of 2024, an annual report has to be prepared by the State Credit Management Office on obtaining debts and other debt management operations, public debt balances, bonds and sub – debt providing activities and other financial provisions included in the pre financial year. In addition, as mentioned in the said act, the subject Minister may review the draft of the annual report and submit the same to the

Cabinet of Ministers for approval and within 180 days from the end of the pre – financial year, the approved annual report should be submitted to the Parliament. The report so approved by the Parliament, should be published in the official websites of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the State Credit Management Office. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the annual report for the year ended on 31.12.2025 prepared by the Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) and to submit the same annual report to the Parliament.

16. Appointment of a Special Ministerial Sub – Committee and a Officers’ Committee to Encounter the El Nino Climatic Conditions.

Sri Lanka being a country highly sensitive to climatic fluctuations, the risk of rainfall pattern changes, extreme temperature, draughts, and flood is at a higher - level owing to the El Nino impact which is a global climatic phenomenon leading to risks of threats to many economic and social sectors in the country due to that. The Government has recognized the requirement of taking necessary hasty measures to face the severity of El Nino conditions that have been confirmed by scientific forecasts to have taken place towards the end of this year with the climatic change impact as well as the impact. Therefore, in order to reduce the probable impact, it has been decided to execute national level actions strengthening the coordination in between state institutions, local government bodies, non – government organizations, private sector and Community Based Organizations. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to take following measures:

- (i) Appointment of a Cabinet Sub – Committee comprised of the following Ministers for the preparation of short – term, mid – term and annual plans to manage the water, electricity and food crisis, ensuring consolidated operations between all the state institutions and taking hasty decisions to minimize possible to be occurred due to El Nino condition:

- Hon (Dr.) Dhammika Patabendi
Minister of Environment – (Chairman)
- Hon K. D. Lankantha
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation
- Hon Samantha Vidyaratne
Minister of Plantation Community Infrastructure Facilities
- Hon. Anura Karunathilake
Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation; and the Minister of Energy
- Hon. Wasantha Samarasinghe
Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- Hon. (Dr.) Susil Ranasinghe
Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply.

(ii) Appointment of an Officers' Committee consisted of the following officers to assist the Ministerial Sub Committee mentioned above.

- Presidential Chief of Staff – (Chairman)
- Secretary, Ministry of Environment
- Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation
- Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Community Infrastructure Facilities
- Secretary, Ministry of Energy
- Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development
- Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Construction and Water Supply
- Director General of Irrigation
- Director General of Agriculture
- Director General, Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Director General, Department of Meteorology
- Director General, Disaster Management Centre
- Director General, Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority
- Director, National Disaster Relief Services Centre
- General Manager, National Water Supply and Drainage Board
- General Manager / Chief Executive Officer, Electricity Generation Lanka (Pvt.) Limited

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