



**Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 23.03.2026**

**01. Appointment of an Expert committee on the Development of the Energy Economy**

The government has recognized the importance of exploring and implementing innovative and forecasted future approaches for the achievement and maintenance of sustainable growth in the national economy. Accordingly, although the energy economy has been identified as a priority sector, degree of reluctance to come forward with the investments in this sector has been observed due to existing weaknesses in integration among the main economic sectors. Taking these factors into consideration, the Hon. President has emphasized through the Budget for the year 2026, the necessity of establishing an integrated economic development framework for building a sustainable economy. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President to appoint an expert committee under, the chairmanship of Dr. Hans Wijesuriya, to formulate a framework for the development of the energy economy in alignment with the national policies, strategies, and result-oriented frameworks.

**02. Recommencement of the Project for Establishment of Information Technology Centers for Secondary Education**

With the objective of formalizing Information Technology (IT) education and use of IT education in school across Sri Lanka, approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 05-06-2018 to implement the "Project for the Establishment of Information Technology Centers for Secondary Education" with funding from a loan provided by the Economic Development Cooperation Fund of the Korean EXIM Bank and counterpart funding from the Government of Sri Lanka. Under this project, it was planned to construct a National-level E-Learning Center and two Provincial Information Technology Centers for the Southern Province and Eastern Province. Through the implementation of this project, is expected to facilitate the introduction of a structured E- Learning system by developing an E-Learning program covering all three sectors: general education, higher education, and professional education. Although relevant agreements were entered into in November in the year 2019 for the implementation of the project could not be implemented as planned. Based on the recommendations submitted following a fresh review conducted by an expert committee regarding the overall implementation of the project, 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 recommence and implement the said project.

**03. Appointment of National Steering Committee for Education Reforms.**

The process of new education reforms initiated in the year 2019, commenced implementing for Grade 01 in the year 2026 aligned with the policies of the current Government and the reform relevant to the Grade 6 have been planned to be implemented from the year 2027. The need has been identified to appoint a Steering Committee comprising experts in the field, in order to ensure the continuous implementation and effective regulation of the education reform process. Accordingly, taking into consideration the resolution furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the establishment of a National Steering Committee for Education Reforms comprising the relevant ministers, specialists in the field, officials, professionals, and representatives of the unions.

**04. Implementation of Loan Scheme for the Development of Young Entrepreneurs in the Agricultural and Industrial Sectors**

According to the policies of the government, steps should be taken to provide financial facilities and guidance to produce 50,000 entrepreneurs within five years. Accordingly, as a one measure to achieve this objective, an allocation of Rs. 500 million was made through the 2025 Budget Proposal to implement a concessionary loan scheme. Cabinet approval has been granted at the meeting held on 18-08-2025 to utilize the said fund for the implementation of the loan scheme for the Development of Young Entrepreneurs in the Agricultural and Industrial Sectors. Furthermore, the provision of Rs. 750 million have also been through the Budget 2026 to continue the implementation of this loan scheme. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to grant its consent to implement the aforementioned loan scheme under a 4% annual interest rate through the People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon, and Rural Development Bank and to issue relevant operational guidelines after focusing the attention of the Cabinet of Ministers by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation regarding the steps planned to be taken by his ministry.

**05. Master Plan for the Civil Aviation Services in Sri Lanka**

The International Civil Aviation Organization, established in 1944, provides guidance to create a global network assisting in the formulation of national regulations relevant to the safety, security, efficiency, capacity, and environmental protection of the aviation services of the countries. The aforementioned organisation, which has emphasized the essentiality of prevailing broad and planned access for every country to maintain the civil aviation sector effectively, has further shown that the Civil Aviation Services Master Plan should be compiled as a decisive tool for that purpose. In addition, the organization has further emphasized the necessity of a strategic development planning for the civil aviation system within the context of restoring civil aviation activities subsequent to the Covid epidemic conditions. Accordingly, the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka has formulated a National Civil Aviation Master Plan with the participation of all relevant parties, as recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to implement the aforementioned plan.

**06. Transfer (centralize) of Mahiyanganaya Base Hospital under the Ministry of Health and Mass Media for Development**

Mahiyanganaya Base Hospital, a “Type A” Base Hospital, is the third largest hospital in the Badulla District of the Uva Province. At present, this hospital is administered under the Uva Provincial Council and provides healthcare services to approximately 500,000 people across six surrounding districts. As a result of the ‘Dithva’ cyclone, the hospital buildings sustained severe damage, and the damage caused to medical and non-medical equipment has created significant disruptions in the provision of clinical services. Furthermore, the further development of infrastructure has become a challenge for the Uva Provincial Council in terms of hospital management and in meeting the increasing demand for healthcare services. Taking these matters into consideration, and with the concurrence of the Hon. Governor of the Uva Province, Cabinet of Minister approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to transfer the Mahiyanganaya Base Hospital under the Line Ministry of Health, thereby enabling the development of its facilities to provide tertiary level care.

**07. The Project for the Development of Sports Grounds in Government Schools**

Within the highly competitive education, system, the tendency towards an examination oriented education model, together with the a lack of adequate infrastructure facilities has contributed to an unsatisfactory level of student participation in sports activities in schools , and it has been observed that this situation creates challenges in promoting the physical, social, and psychological well-being of students. Further, this condition adversely affects the identification of outstanding athletes capable of demonstrating excellence at the national and international levels. Out of the 10,096 schools currently operating in the country, it has been confirmed that only 5% possess sports grounds of standard dimension and accordingly the need has been identified to establish at least one standard sports ground with a 400-meter running track within each education zone to ensure equal opportunities for students to engage in sports. Therefore, 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 implement the project for the development of sports grounds in 400 schools over 4-year period (2026-2029) covering all 25 districts, with one national school and 3 provincial schools under an estimated cost of Rs. 2010.50 million.

**08. Implementation of the Programme for the Provision of Sanitary Napkins to Schoolgirls**

With the objective of ensuring the continuous education of schoolgirls, the program to provide sanitary napkins to schoolgirls attained puberty is planned for implementation this year also, covering approximately 1.05 million schoolgirls across all government schools from Grade 6 and above, as well as schoolgirls attained puberty in government-assisted special schools. Accordingly, 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 implement this programme for the provision of sanitary napkins to schoolgirls in the year 2026 that each schoolgirl will be provided with two gift vouchers valued at Rs. 720 each, amounting to Rs. 1,440 per schoolgirl, for purchases within a year, so that either 12 packs containing 8 sanitary napkins priced at Rs. 120 per pack, or 8 packs containing 10 sanitary napkins priced at Rs. 120 per pack can be purchased based on individual preference.

**09. Awarding the Contract for the Improvement of Passenger Facilities at Colombo Fort Railway Station**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 02.06.2025 for the implementation of the project to improve passenger facilities at Colombo Fort Railway Station which includes the removal of the existing passenger footbridges at the Maradana end and the Bambalapitiya end of the station and the construction of new footbridges with access for persons with special needs, the establishment of new ticket counters integrated with the passenger bridges, and the construction of a three-story service building. Accordingly, bids have been invited following the National Competitive Bidding Procedure to select a suitable institution for the award of the relevant contract. Four institutions submitted bids, and following the evaluation of the said bids, based on the recommendation made by the High-Level Standing Procurement Committee, Cabinet approval has approved for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to award the aforementioned contract to the substantially responsive minimum bidder, M/s. MAGA Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, for a sum of Rs. 2,162.64 million (exclusive of taxes).

**10. Award of the Contract for the Improvement and Rehabilitation of the Kurikattuwan Jetty in the Jaffna District.**

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 21.10.2025 for the improvement and rehabilitation of the Kurikattuwan Jetty in the Jaffna District. Bids were invited under the National Competitive Procurement procedure for the said procurement, and five bids were received. Following the evaluation of the bids, and based on the recommendation submitted by the High-Level Standing Procurement Committee, Cabinet of Minister has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to award the contract to M/s RR Construction (Pvt) Ltd for a sum of Rs. 984.73 million (exclusive of taxes).

**11. Appointment to the post of the Government Printer**

The term of service of Mr. S.D. Pandikorala, who is currently serving in the post of Government Printer, is scheduled to be concluded on 01.04.2006. In terms of the Government Printing Service Minute dated 26.06.2013, there is no Special Grade officer in the Printing Service of the Department of Government Printing at present who has fulfilled the required qualifications. Accordingly, considering the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to appoint Mr. R.A.P. K. Jayaratne, the most senior officer of the Printing Service, currently serving as Deputy Government Printer in the Department of Government Printing and holding a Class I, Grade II position in the Printing Service, to perform the duties of the post of Government Printer on a full-time basis with effect from 02.04.2026.

**12. Revision of Bus Fare**

When the price hike of Ceylon White Diesel occurred on 22.03.2026 was adjusted to the bus fare index the current bus fare should be increased by 12.19%. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development based on the recommendations submitted by the National Transport Commission for implementing the 12.19% bus fare imposed on general services, semi – luxury services, luxury services and super luxury services buses with effect from the midnight of 23.03.2026.

**13. Accelerating the Programme to Utilize National QR Payments.**

The Government has recognized the promotion of digital economy as a national priority in order to enhance economic efficiency, financial inclusiveness and financial transparency. An excessive number of cash is utilized for day today retail transactions within the country and that has led to limitation of the transparency and digital economic growth. Although LankaQR infrastructure facility is in operation with more than 20 financial institutions and approximately 30 mobile phone apps at present, their active usage is comparatively low. A gross amount of 274,000 transactions has been reported across LankaQR during the third quarter of 2025, amounting it to a total value of rupees 1.18 billion. It is an average of only 90,000 per month and is a value of approximately 390 million rupees. Accordingly, it is observed that the value of a general transaction performed across QR code lies less than rupees 5,000/-. Considering those particulars, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy to implement a digital payment promotion programme based on the QR code without charging no additional fee for money sender as well as the receiver in regard to transactions less than rupees 5,000 adhering to the resolution furnished by Budget 2026.

**14. Obtaining Assistance of the Government of Japan to Establish an Apprentice Radio Emergency Communication Network for Responding at Emergency Situations.**

Considering the issues confronted due to suspension of emergency responsive and relief monitoring activities coordination by the emergency services and humanitarian services supply institutions due to crash of traditional communication networks during the recent disaster conditions, it has been recognized of the requirement of having an optional communication network at such instances. Accordingly, initial measures have been taken to implement a program to utilize the apprentice radio communication Program with the coordination of Sri Lanka Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, and Sri Lanka Radio Association to assist the communication at the emergency disaster situation on which traditional communication networks are inoperative. The Government of Japan has given the concurrence to release a grant of USD 181,837 through the Japanese Embassy in Sri Lanka under ‘Program to Provide Grants for Regional Humanitarian Security Projects’ for purchase of apprentice radio communication equipment required for that program. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy to sign a grant agreement with the Government of Japan for accepting the grant.

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