



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 06.04.2026

01. Utilization of the Old Court Complex Buildings Located in Galle Fort for a Tourism Promotion Project.

The Galle fort which has been declared as a World Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), attracts over three (3) hundred thousand of local and foreign tourists per year to visit and spend their leisure at. However, the tourists encounter various difficulties in using some roads in the Galle Fort, where located large number of buildings which use for administrative and institutional activities, due to heavy traffic congestion during the daytime and while becoming relatively deserted at night. Under the Greater Galle Development Plan (2021–2030), Galle Fort has been declared a World Heritage Tourism Zone. Further, having conserved the archaeologically valued buildings existing in the Galle Fort for the utilization of tourists, the Urban Development Authority has planned an integrated development project programme, themed as the ‘Galle Regeneration Project’. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways and Urban Development to relocate the High Court and Magistrate’s Court, which are currently functioning within Galle Fort, to the newly constructed court complex at Beligaha, Galle and to assign the existing buildings to the Urban Development Authority for the implementation of a tourism promotion project under a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) mechanism under this programme.

02. Provision of Public Sector Employment Opportunities for Athletes Demonstrating National-Level Sporting Excellence.

Although a considerable number of athletes with exceptional abilities and achievements at both national and international levels have emerged from this country, there is a noticeable tendency for them to retire prematurely from their sporting careers due to the lack of stable employment opportunities. Furthermore, this situation has exerted a negative impact on Sri Lanka’s ability to retain the talents of the relevant athletes, sustain high performance, and maintain competitiveness at the international level. The number of permanent employment opportunities available for athletes within the Tri-Forces has not been at a sufficient level, and it has been identified that the number of permanent employment opportunities existing in the sports sector within the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and affiliated institutions is also limited. Therefore, with the objective of retaining highly talented athletes within the national sports system and encouraging international achievements, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to formulate an appropriate policy framework with enabling the provision of employment opportunities in public, semi-government, and statutory institutions through a transparent, fair, and merit-based selection process, thereby ensuring long-term job security for athletes.

03. Establishment, Development, Deployment, and Maintenance of Digital Public Infrastructures and a Government Marketplace Based Thereon (GovTech App/Service Marketplace)

In the current public sector framework of Sri Lanka, a fragmented and inefficient procurement process has created due to the absence of a centralized and transparent marketplace for digital products and services. Further, various issues have also arisen due to the procurement of technical solutions by government institutions separately. As a remedial measure for that, in accordance with a decision taken by the Cabinet of Ministers on 2025-10-21, it has been planned to implement the project for the establishment, development, deployment, and maintenance of Digital Public Infrastructures and a Government marketplace based thereon (GovTech App/Service Marketplace), under the third workstream of the ‘Digital Transformation Programme – Phase 1.’

Thereby, it is expected to introduce a merit-based system for the selection of digital products and services; to reduce market entry barriers, thereby enabling a wider pool of suppliers—including small and medium-scale enterprises—to access government digital service contracts; and to provide government institutions with the opportunity to select quality and cost-effective solutions from a single point (one-stop shop). Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by Hon. the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy, to implement the said project in three phases during the period 2026–2027, at an estimated cost of Rs. 563 million.

04. Awarding of the Contract for Repairing and Maintenance Services of Honeywell Auxiliary Power Units (Honeywell APUs) of the Sri Lankan Airlines Limited.

Commercial aircraft utilize Honeywell Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) to provide essential electrical power and pneumatic support when the main engines are not operating. As Sri Lankan Airlines Limited does not possess the in-house capability to carry out the removal and maintenance of such APUs from the aircraft wings and, bids have been invited under the International Limited Competitive Bidding Procedure for the Procurement of Repair and Maintenance Services and. Six (6) bids have been received in response. Upon evaluation of the bids and taking into consideration the recommendation submitted by the Standing High Level Procurement Committee, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation to award the contract to HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC. Aerospace—the lowest substantially responsive bidder—for a period of five (05) years, at a total cost of United States Dollars 25.17 million.

05. Procurement for Obtaining of Required Surgical Gauze Required for the Medical Supplies Division for the Year 2026 from Local Manufacturers.

The Cabinet of Ministers previously decided that the annual requirement of surgical gauze—an essential consumable item for clinical and surgical procedures—should be procured from local small-scale manufacturers. It has been estimated that the total surgical gauze requirement for the Medical Supply Division is 40 million meters for the year 2026. The Surgical Gauze Ration Determination Committee has recommended that this requirement be procured from 282 registered local manufacturers. Accordingly, based on the recommendation of the Standing High Level Procurement Committee, the

Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to procure 40 million metres of surgical gauze from 282 local manufacturers at a unit price of Rs. 60.14 per metre, at a total cost of Rs. 2,405.6 million.

06. Award of Contract for Laying of Distribution Trunk Mains and Provision of Service Connections for Kahatagastidigiliya, Horowpothana, and Rambewa Divisional Secretariat Divisions under Phase II of the Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project.

The Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project - Phase II is implemented by using the funds provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Government of Sri Lanka with the objective of providing safe drinking water supply and increasing the water supply coverage. Thereby, it is expected to construct a water supply system covering 164 Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Padaviya, Kabithigollawa, Horowpothana, Kahatagasdiliya, Rabawa, and Madawachchiya in the Anuradhapuradistrict where rely on unsafe ground water. Under this project, Cabinet approval has already been granted on 30.03.2026 to award the contract for laying distribution trunk mains and providing service connections for the Padaviya and Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariat Divisions. In addition, for the Kahatagastidigiliya, Horowpothana, and Rambewa Divisional Secretariat Divisions, a contractor had been selected in 2022 under the National Competitive Bidding procedure for the laying of distribution trunk mains and provision of service connections. Based on the concurrence of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to apply price adjustment provisions in line with changes in market price levels, and the recommendation of the Standing High-Level Procurement Committee, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply to award the contract to the lowest substantially responsive bidder, M/s Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd., at a cost of Japanese Yen 628.10 million and Sri Lanka Rupees 2,660.70 million.

07. Amendment of the Water Resources Board Act, No. 29 of 1964, to Strengthen the Regulatory Framework of the Water Resources Board

The Water Resources Board has been established under the Water Resources Board Act No. 29 of 1964 to protect and conserve the water resources in Sri Lanka, to ensure the legal basis required to improve the qualitative and quantitative aspects of groundwater and the surface water bodies generated therefrom and preventing water pollution through effective management. In terms of the provisions of the said Act, regulations have been issued from time to time prescribing the procedures to be followed in utilizing natural springs or deep and shallow groundwater for commercial-scale functions and projects. However, it has been observed that there are issues in enforcing the law with regard to complaints relating to the extraction of groundwater in a manner that causes inconvenience to the public. Therefore, the need has been identified to amend the Water Resources Board Act, No. 29 of 1964, so as to expand the mandate of the Water Resources Board to effectively regulate activities such as the misuse and excessive extraction of groundwater and the surface water generated therefrom. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to instruct the Legal Draftsman to formulate a draft Bill to amend the said Act

08. Appointment to the Post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons

The post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons is currently vacant, and an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs has been assigned to perform the duties of the said post on an acting basis. Considering the day-to-day functions of the Department, its essential services, and the need to expedite the process of issuing the Sri Lanka Digital Identity Card, it has been observed that it is essential to appoint a permanent officer to the said post. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Digital Economy, to appoint Mr. H.M.J.M.Herath, a special Grade officer in Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who is currently serving as the District Secretary / Government Agent of Kegalle, to the post of Commissioner General of Registration of Persons.

09. Amendments to the Value Added Tax Act No.14 of 2002

Approval had been previously granted by the Cabinet of Ministers to amend the Value Added Tax Act No.14 of 2002 to empower the tax policy amendments proposed by the 2025 and 2025 Budget including the postponement of the effective date of imposition of Value Added Tax on the provision of services through the electronic platforms by mainly non-resident service providers until 01-07-2026. The Legal Draftsman has formulated an amendment bill for that purpose and the Attorney General has provided his clearance for that. 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 publish Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill in the Government Gazette and thereafter submit it for the concurrence of the Parliament.

10. Amendments to the Finance Act No. 35 of 2018

Under the Finance Act No. 35 of 2018 a tax has been imposed on the telecommunication towers and accordingly an annual tax amount of Rs. 200,000/- is levied from mobile network operators who possess telecommunication towers. However, it has been proposed in the Budget for 2026 that the said tax shall not be levied for a period of five (5) years in respect of telecommunication towers newly erected on or after 2026-01-01. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsman has formulated a draft bill to amend the Finance Act No. 35 of 2018 including the provisions for taking necessary actions, and the Attorney General has granted the clearance in the regard. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to publish the said draft bill in the Government Gazette Notification and thereafter submit the same to the Parliament for its concurrence.

11. Provision Relief Measures to the Affected Populations due to the War Situation in the Middle East.

Approval has been granted at the Cabinet Meeting held on 30-03-2026 to provide relief by granting up to rupees 20/- per litre of 92 Octane Petrol, and up to rupees 100/- per litre of Auto Diesel utilized for public transport to minimize the impact on the day today life of the people and entire economy as a result of escalation of the fuel prices due to the war situation in the Middle East region. Apart from that relief granted generally, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon.

President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to grant following relief for the low - income generators, electricity consumers, farmers, fisheries community, and small tea planters who have been exposed to the direct impact of the energy price hike:

(i) Provision of an additional special allowance for April 2026 to low-income generating categories registered under the 'Aswesuma' Programme, irrespective of family size:

- Providing rupees 7,500/- to a family in extremely poor category
- Providing rupees 5,000/- to a family in poor category
- Providing rupees 2,500/- to a family in transitional category

(ii) Instead of transforming the additional cost borne for engaging thermal power plants for generating electricity due to the fuel price hike and prevailing dry weather circumstances to the electricity consumers, the additional cost to be borne by the Government for 03 months period so that a relief can be provided to the electricity consumers utilizing below 90 units.

(iii) Escalating the fertilizer subsidiary of rupees 25,000/- per hectare given at present up to rupees 30,000/- for the Yala season and escalating the fertilizer subsidiary of rupees 15,000/- per hectare given for additional crops that are cultivated in the paddy fields up to rupees 18,000/- for the Yala season.

(iv) Facilitate to obtain a sack of Urea of 50 kilo grams required for the Yala season at a fixed price of rupees 10,200/- for farmers through Agrarian Services Centres.

(v) Providing a subsidiary of rupees 50/- per litre for up to 25 litres per day per one-day fishing vessels, for a maximum of 25 days per month, for a period of three (3) months.

(vi) Providing a one-time payment of rupees 150,000/- per multi-day fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities during the next three (3) months.

(vii) Providing an additional one-time fertilizer allowance of Rs. 5,000 per 50 kg bag of fertilizer to small tea cultivators, in addition to the existing Rs. 4,000 fertilizer subsidies provided by the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

12. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Science and Technology of Sri Lanka and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the Partnership Programme Initiated for Capacity Development.

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand is an international institute dedicated to higher education, research, and capacity development in the fields of engineering, science, technology, and management whereas it has been proposed to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Science and Technology and that institute with the objective of strengthening academic and research collaboration. Thereby, the intellects, research officers and scientists engaged in the fields of science and technology in this country will be bestowed with the opportunities to obtain scholarships for pursue Master of Philosophy (M.Phil), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree courses under this programme as mentioned in the memorandum of understanding. Under the provisions of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, priority will be accorded, during the period from August 2026 to

August 2031, to qualified officers to pursue structured and internationally recognized higher education opportunities and research activities in key fields such as agriculture, sustainable energy, climate change, and environmental sustainability. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Science and Technology to enter into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

13. The Programme to Construct Houses for Estate Sector Families Whose Houses were Fully or Partially Damaged Due to Cyclone Ditwah and Those Residing in High Landslide Risk Areas.

Although provisions have been made, in accordance with the circular instructions issued in relation to Cyclone “Ditwah,” to facilitate the construction and renovation of houses for families whose dwellings were damaged, specific provisions have not been included in those circulars to provide relief for damages caused to the houses of estate sector workers. Therefore, it has been planned to execute the programme to construct houses for estate workers employed in estates managed by plantation companies, whose houses have been fully damaged / identified as being at high risk of landslides / partially damaged and certified as having reached the end of their lifespan, due to floods, landslides, and other natural disasters associated with Cyclone Ditwah by providing Rs. 5 million in stages from the Government for the construction of a house of 650 square feet, in accordance with the guidelines and housing plans issued by the Ministry of Defence. The proposed programme further facilitates the provision of a plot of land measuring 10 perches in a safe location within the estate in which the worker resides, to be provided by the relevant plantation company and where the plantation company determines that the services of the worker are no longer required, the programme enables the construction of the house either on land owned by the worker or on land purchased using the financial assistance of Rs. 5 million provided. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint resolution furnished by Hon. the President and the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure to take necessary steps to implement the said programme.

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