



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 25.05.2026

01. Implementation of a Project for the Joint Exchange of Genetic Resources between Sri Lanka and Vietnam and the Development of High-Yielding and Salinity-resilient Rice Varieties.

With the objective of improving the productivity of paddy cultivation, a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the agricultural sector was entered into on 2025-05-05 between the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka and the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Under the afore Memorandum of Understanding, both parties have agreed to implement a project titled “Joint Exchange of Genetic Resources and Development of High-Yielding and Salinity-resilient Rice Varieties through Hybridization between Sri Lanka and Vietnam.” The activities proposed to be carried out under the said project include the exchange of germplasm materials of rice varieties between the two countries, the conduct of joint breeding and hybridization programmes, the evaluation and selection of advanced breeding lines under local conditions, the establishment of field trials, the training of research officers, and the exchange of knowledge. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation for the implementation of the proposed project.

02. Streamlining the Testing and Food Safety Mechanism for the Export of Agricultural Food Products to Member States of the European Union.

The member states of the European Union are coordinated by a common safety regulation relating to the pesticide/residue content, namely the “Maximum Residue Levels” (MRLs), that may be contained in imported food products. At present, the Health and Food Safety Regulatory Authority, an agency of the European Commission, has reported that the agrochemical residue levels in certain fresh vegetables and fruits exported from Sri Lanka to European Union countries have exceeded the “Maximum Residue Levels” to a highly risky extent. Therefore, the need has been identified to streamline adequate testing and food safety mechanisms for export-oriented agricultural products of Sri Lanka in order to prevent the export of agricultural products to European Union countries and other importing countries from becoming challenging in the future. Accordingly, as an initial measure, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to make it mandatory that all fresh vegetables and fruits exported to the European Union be exported exclusively through farms certified in accordance with the Sri Lankan Good Agricultural Practices (SLGAP) guidelines, registered exporters, and processing and packaging facilities, in order to ensure the quality of such exports.

03. Entering into a Collaboration Agreement between Sri Lanka and Brazil for the Implementation of the “Sugarcane Project in Sri Lanka”.

At present, approximately 90% of the country’s sugar requirement is met through imports, resulting in a considerable expenditure of foreign exchange. Therefore, the necessity of obtaining international technological assistance for overcoming the loopholes and challenges existing in the local sugarcane sector has been identified. Taking that situation into consideration, the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development of Sri Lanka, the Sugarcane Research Institute, and the National Science Foundation, together with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Federal University of São Carlos, have planned to implement a project titled the “Sugarcane Project in Sri Lanka.” Through the proposed project, it is expected to obtain the expertise and experience possessed by Brazil, as a global leader in sugarcane production, for the purposes of increasing sugarcane yield and sugar production in Sri Lanka, enhancing the technical capacity of stakeholders through training and knowledge exchange, promoting value addition and the efficient utilization of by-products, and strengthening institutional capacity within the sugar production sector. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development to implement the proposed project over a period of 36 months under the framework of the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between the two countries in 2008.

04. Regulating the Engagement of Manpower Agency Services for State-Owned Enterprises and Safeguarding the Labour Rights of Manpower Employees.

A growing trend has been observed in recent years whereby certain state-owned enterprises in Sri Lanka obtain employees on a temporary basis through external manpower agencies, instead of recruiting employees directly for their core operational activities. Further, there are instances where such employees have been continuously engaged in service at the same state institution for considerably long periods of time. Consequently, a vulnerable workforce has emerged within these institutions, consisting of employees who perform duties similar to those of permanent staff, yet who lack job security, statutory benefits, and proper legal recognition. Such a situation is inconsistent with the fundamental labour principle of “Equal Pay for Equal Work” for employees engaged in similar duties. As employee rights and welfare in Sri Lanka are required to be ensured in accordance with the Private Employment Agencies Convention of the International Labour Organization, the need has been identified to amend the existing legal provisions in order to regulate the engagement of manpower agency employees and safeguard their labour rights. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Labour to appoint a committee comprising relevant officials and stakeholders to submit recommendations on the measures to be taken in respect of manpower employees who have already been engaged for long periods in the core business activities of state-owned enterprises, in a manner that does not cause prejudice to them, and on the amendment of the relevant laws and regulations.

05. Implementation of the National Energy Security Mission “Surakimu Lanka”.

Sri Lanka’s energy security has been challenged due to a range of factors, including a significant dependence on fossil fuels for energy supply, unexpected drought conditions, intermittent disruptions in fuel supply arising from and geopolitical instability, and fluctuations in global fuel prices in the international market. It has been identified that the additional pressure placed on the national economy by the rising cost of fuel imports arising from all these factors is further intensified by the irregular electricity consumption patterns of electricity consumers. Accordingly, it has been recognized that, in order to properly manage this situation, it is essential to shift electricity consumption, as far as possible, to time periods with higher renewable energy generation, and to enhance energy consumption efficiency through behavioural changes among the public. In order to achieve these objectives, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Energy to implement an integrated programme titled the “Surakimu Lanka” National Energy Security Mission, in collaboration with all government institutions, public corporations, and statutory bodies led by the Presidential Secretariat, the Ministry of Energy, the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, and the Clean Sri Lanka Secretariat, together with the private sector and the general public.

06. Sale of Paddy Stocks Held by the Paddy Marketing Board.

The Paddy Marketing Board has approximately 115,000 metric tonnes of paddy stocks purchased from farmers, which are currently stored in the Board’s warehouses, and it has been planned to retain a sufficient buffer stock from these reserves and sell the remaining quantity in order to provide the necessary storage space and financial resources for the purchase of paddy from farmers during the upcoming Yala season. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to sell the aforementioned paddy stocks following a formal tender procedure.

07. Submission of the Money or Value Transfer Service Providers Regulations No. 1 of 2025 to the Parliament for the Approval.

With the objective of ensuring compliance with Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) requirements, the Payment or Value Transfer Service Providers Regulations No. 1 of 2024 have been issued under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, No. 28 of 2005. Accordingly, only companies registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, other than companies limited by guarantee, offshore companies, or foreign companies, are eligible to obtain a certificate of registration under the aforementioned regulations. However, it has been observed that foreign money or value transfer service providers are engaged in providing services through their agents in Sri Lanka, and that such entities are not currently eligible to obtain a certificate of registration from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka under the existing regulations. Accordingly, the Money or Value Transfer Service Providers Regulations No. 1 of 2025 have been published by the Extraordinary

Gazette No. 2468/06 dated 23-12-2025 revising the Money or Value Transfer Service Providers Regulations No. 1 of 2024 providing the legal provisions to obtain a certificate of registration for the foreign money or value transfer service providers as well. 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 submit the aforementioned regulations to the Parliament for the concurrence.

08. Amendment to the Promotion of Export Agriculture Act, No. 46 of 1992

The Promotion of Export Agriculture Act, No. 46 of 1992 provides the legal provisions for regulating and promoting the export agriculture sector in this country. Taking into consideration administrative changes and sectoral developments that have taken place over time, approval was granted at the Cabinet Meetings held on 2023-09-04 and 2025-08-11 to amend the said Act, which has not been updated for over 30 years. The proposed amendments are intended to amend the designations of the Head of the Department of Export Agriculture and other officials, and to provide a clearer definition of the term “the export agricultural crop.” Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation to publish in the Government Gazette the Draft Export Agriculture Promotion (Amendment) Bill, prepared in all three languages by the Legal Draftsman to amend the Export Agriculture Promotion Act, No. 46 of 1992, and thereafter submit the same to Parliament for its concurrence.

09. Appointment to the Post of Director General of the Department of Management Services.

Following the appointment of Mr. Wimal S.K. Liyanagama, who served as the Director General of the Department of Management Services, to the post of Director General of Customs, a committee has been appointed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to make recommendations on the appointment of a suitable officer to fill the resulting vacancy in the said post. Based on the recommendations submitted by the aforementioned committee, 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 appoint Ms. M.K.D.N. Madampe, an officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service in the Special Grade who is currently serving as an Additional Director General of the Department of Management Services, to the post of Director General of the Department of Management Services with immediate effect.

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