Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 05.10.2026

01. Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Political Consultations Mechanism between Lithuania and Sri Lanka

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Sri Lanka has fallen in this year. Both parties have proposed the appropriateness of signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Political Consultations Mechanism, of signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing a Political Consultations Mechanism enabling the upholding of bilateral cooperation and promoting the common objectives. Through this Memorandum of Understanding, it is expected to promote, strengthen, and expand existing bilateral cooperation and relations between both parties across various sectors, including political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural fields. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism to sign the MoU to establish a political consultation mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism of Sri Lanka.

02. Provision of Official Communication Facilities to Accelerate the Digitalization Process of the Judicial System

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 15-12-2025 to execute the 'e-court' project with the objective of digitalizing all courts in Sri Lanka. As the initial phase of this project, necessary digital systems are currently being created for Magistrates' Courts, District Courts, and High Courts for case file management. A key prerequisite for the project is providing official email facilities to officers at all levels of the judicial system. Further necessity has also been identified for voice-to-text technical facilities for the transcription of oral statements into text simultaneously to address the current shortage of stenographers in the courts. The video conference facility should be provided for all the courts to conduct online trials under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, No. 7 of 2025, and the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses Act, No. 04 of 2015. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to provide 1,050 email accounts with the domain name courts.gov.lk for 350 courts at the initial stage under the state official information portal (gov.lk) and to provide hosting

facilities for the proposed 1,050 official accounts through the electronic email system used by the Ministry of Justice and National Integration, with simultaneous voice-to-text technical facilities for the transcription of oral statements into text and the video conference facility included in the email system itself.

03. Entering into an Agreement between Sri Lanka and Thailand Regarding Visa Exemption for Ordinary Passport Holders

Sri Lanka and Thailand have agreed to enter into a visa exemption agreement for ordinary passport holders to further enhance the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Thailand and to facilitate travel for citizens of both countries. Through this agreement, the citizens of both countries who hold ordinary passports will be permitted to enter, exit, and transit without a prior visa for a maximum single stay of up to 30 days and a cumulative stay of up to 90 days within a 180-day period for general tourism purposes, excluding employment, education, media, or other activities requiring prior approval. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to sign a visa exemption agreement between the government of Sri Lanka and the government of Thailand for the ordinary passport holders.

04. Procurement for Printing School Textbooks / Modules for the Year 2027 (Phase I)

The Department of Education Publication has invited bids following the National Competitive Procurement Procedure to select printing institutes for printing 421 types of textbooks/modules, including the modules required for grades 1, 2, and 6 for the free distribution of school children during the year 2027. Accordingly, 31 bids have been forwarded for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by Hon. Prime Minister in her capacity as the Minister of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education to award the contract for printing of 421 relevant textbooks/modules to 21 printing institutes at the price of Rs. 1,614.69 million (excluding VAT) based on the recommendations of the Higher Level Procurement Committee subsequent to appraisal of the above bids.

05. Procurement for the Construction of the Internal Wastewater Collection Network and Pumping System for the Textile Manufacturing Investment Zone in Punneikuda, Eravur Pattu Divisional Secretariat Division, Batticaloa District

Approval was granted at the cabinet meeting held on 02-11-2020 to develop infrastructure facilities for the Textile Manufacturing Investment Zone in Punneikuda, Eravur Pattu

Divisional Secretariat Division, Batticaloa District. Accordingly, bids have been invited following the National Competitive Procurement Procedure to select a contractor for the construction of the Internal Wastewater Collection Network and Pumping System within the said investment zone. Accordingly, 07 bids have been forwarded for that purpose. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by Hon. President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to award the aforementioned contract to the CGC_KDESH JV (China Geo Engineering Corporation & K.D. Ebert and Sons Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. JV), the substantially responsive lowest bidder, for a total sum of LKR 511.78 million (excluding Value Added Tax) based on the recommendations of the Higher Level Procurement Committee after the appraisal of the above bids.

06. Provision of Financial Subsidies for Fertilizer to Farmers Cultivating Paddy Lands for the 2026/27 Maha Season

Plans have been made to continuously implement the fertilizer financial subsidy program for the 2026/27 Maha season to support paddy farming and other field crops cultivated in paddy lands as decided during seasonal meetings and recommended by the Director General of Agriculture. The estimated cost for providing financial subsidies for fertilizer for the said season has been Rs. 16 billion. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution Furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation to pay a fertilizer financial subsidy of LKR 30,000/- per hectare up to a maximum of 2 hectares for paddy and other field crops cultivated in paddy lands during the 2026/27 Maha season.

07. Implementation of Road Infrastructure Improvement Projects

The Road Development Authority has invited bids following the National Competitive Procurement Procedure to select contractors for the implementation of several projects for implementing several road infrastructure improvement projects. Accordingly, following the evaluation of the received bids and based on the recommendations submitted by the High-Level Procurement Committees, .the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution Furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to award the relevant contracts as follows.

Serial No.	Section of the Road	No of Bids Received	Recommended Bidder	Value (Excluding VAT)
01	Blackpool - Ambewela - Pattipola - Horton Plains Road (from km 12+500 to km 18+000) (B512)	03	M/s Asset Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.	LKR 744.68 million
02	Gomburu Oya - Balapokuna Road from km 0+000 to km 8+500 (excluding sections from km 5+250 to km 5+450 and km 6+900 to km 7+150)	01	M/s Nagma Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.	LKR 645.69 million
03	Lady McCallum Drive Road (from km 0+000 to km 2+700) (B249)	03	M/s K.D.A. Weerasinghe & Co (Pvt) Ltd.	LKR 711.93 million
04	Palapathwela - Galewela Road (from km 19+000 to km 27+000) (B346)	05	M/s Senerath Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.	LKR 1,291.80 million
05	Kadawatha - Ragama - Welisara Road (from km 3+000 to km 8+050) (B168)	02	M/s Komuthi Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd	LKR 666.62 million

08. Conducting a Feasibility Study to Minimize Traffic Congestion in the surrounding area including Lotus Junction, Port Access Highway, and Marine Drive Connecting Road

The Road Development Authority has invited expressions of interest to select a consultation institute to conduct a feasibility study to minimize traffic congestion in the surrounding area, including Lotus Junction, Port Access Highway, and Marine Drive Connecting Road. After shortlisting the submitted expressions of interest, requests have been called for proposals from five institutions. Accordingly, based on the recommendations submitted by the Consultation Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers relevant to the aforementioned proposals, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to award the aforementioned consultation contract to M/s Master Hellie's Engineering Consultants (Pvt) Ltd for an amount of Rs. 91.21 million (excluding VAT),

inclusive of Rs. 52.44 million (excluding VAT) as a domestic component and US $122,859 as a foreign component.

09.Deploying a New Vessel for the Delft – Jaffna Sea Route Under the 'Prajashakthi' National Program

It has been a challenge to maintain maritime passenger transport in the Jaffna Peninsula due to the inadequate facilities to safely transport a larger number of passengers simultaneously, particularly between the mainland and outer islands such as Delf. As a solution to this issue, the appropriateness of deploying a passenger transport ferry (a sea ferry) where approximately 150 passengers could be transported simultaneously through the Delf-Jaffna marine route has been considered under the "Prajashakthi" National Programme. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic, and Ocean Resources to manufacture the relevant passenger sea ferry by the Cinor Foundation Limited and to operate the vessel through the Delf Development Society established under the Department of Samurdhi Development and to utilise all the income generated thereby for the development of the livelihood of all the low income earning people in the delf area including members of the society.

10. Awarding the Contract for Extending the Existing Platform Jetty, Constructing the Access Road, and Boundary Wall at the Valachchenai Fishing Harbour, and its Construction Supervision Consultancy Contract

Approval was granted at the Cabinet meeting held on 2025-08-04 to execute the project for extending the existing platform jetty, constructing the access road, and boundary wall at the Valachchenai Fishing Harbour. Bids have been called following the formal procurement guidelines to select a contractor for the constructions of the project, and two (02) bids have been received for that purpose. After the evaluation, the Ministry Procurement Committee recommended awarding the contract to the substantially responsive lowest bidder, M/s Senok Trade Combine (Pvt) Limited, for an amount of LKR 766.88 million (excluding VAT).

Bids have been called following formal procurement guidelines for selecting a consultancy firm for construction supervision services of the project, Accordingly, three(03) bids have been received for that purpose. After the evaluation, the Ministry Consultancy Procurement Committee recommended awarding the consultancy contract to the substantially responsive lowest bidder, M/s EML Consultant PLC, for an amount of LKR 35.54 million (excluding VAT).

Based on the recommendations of the Ministry Procurement Committee and the Ministry Consultancy Procurement Committee, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic, and Ocean Resources to award the aforementioned contracts.

11. Procurement of Essential Medicines Required for Maintaining Healthcare Services

Bids have been invited under the International Competitive Bidding procedure to procure following essential medicines required to maintain public healthcare services. After the evaluation of these bids, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to award the relevant procurements based on the recommendations of the Higher Level Procurement Committee.

Item No.	Type of Medicine	Quantity	Bids Received	Recommended Bidder	Value
01	Rabies Vaccine (Human Use)	3,400,000 inactivated doses of 0.5 ml / 1 ml	04	Gulf Pharma (Pvt) Limited, Sri Lanka (Manufacturer: Chiron Behring Vaccine (Pvt) Ltd, India)	LKR 420.41 million
02	Human Albumin Solution	187,500 bottles of 50 ml (BP / USP / Ph. Eur., 20%)	05	Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG, Switzerland (Part of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited) (Manufacturer: Takeda Manufacturing Austria AG, Local Agent: A.J. Medichem International (Pvt) Ltd. Colombo)	USD 3.71 million

12. Awarding the Special Project Status under Value Added Tax Act No. 14 of 2002 for the Kerawalapitiya – Colombo Port Second Underground Cable Project.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 13.09.2021 to implement the Second 220 Kilo Watt Underground Cable Project from Kerawalapitiya to Colombo Port under the funds of the Asian Infrastructure Facilities Development Bank Fund as per the long – term electricity transmission development plan of this country. Accordingly, the Ceylon Electricity Board has awarded the contract of executing the said project at that time to M/s Consortium of Jiangsu ETERN Co. Ltd. (China) and LS Cable & System Limited (LS Cable -Korea) who is the contractor selected by adhering to the formal procurement process. At present, the said project is entrusted with the National Transmission Network Services Provider (Private) Limited which is an affiliated company of Ceylon Electricity Board. Considering the strategic importance of the project, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Power to nominate Second 220 Kilo Watt Underground Cable Project from Kerawalapitiya to Colombo Port as a 'Special Project/ as per the provisions of the Value Added Tax Act No. 14 of 2002 in order to obtain releases of payment of value added tax, customs import tax and other relevant tariff, customs duty and recoverable.

13. Supply and Lying, Provision of Service Connections of HDPE distribution pipelines and Construction of a Water Tower / Tank with the Capacity of 250 Cubic Metres for Community Based Organizations of Madawachchiya, Rambawa Divisional Secretariat Divisions under Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project – Phase II

It has been planned by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board to provide secure drinking water to the public in Madawachchiya and Rambawa areas covering a pipeline network of 425 kilometres in length that provide 17,000 water connections as well as erecting a water tower / tank with a capacity of 250 cubic metres under Phase II of Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project which is being executed on the financial allocations of Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA). Bids have been called adhering to National Competitive Bidding scheme with the concurrence of the International Corporation Agency (JICA) in the year 2022 in order to select an eligible contractor for the purpose. However, furtherance of the procurement activities could not be continued due to the economic crisis encountered by the country. Considering the time spent for calling quotations once again, the Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA) has suggested to proceed with the already received bid documents for the procurement and to make price adjustments as per the relevant provisions. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply to award the said contract to a sum of Japanese Yen 600.11 million and Sri Lankan Rupees

1.76 billion to M/s Sierra Construction Ltd. who is the substantially responsive minimum bidder, based on the recommendations furnished by the higher level procurement committee

14. Establishment of an Institutional Framework to Inagurate Upper Hydro Catchment Areas Management Authority.

Policy approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at their meeting held on 08.06.2026 to establish Upper Hydro Catchment Areas Management Authority for identification and execution of a formal and long – lasting remedy to secure the central hills including the upper hydro catchment areas enabling them to sustain amidst extreme weather conditions due to natural calamities and human activities as well as to be used for the sustainable development of the country. Accordingly, a concept paper has been prepared including institutional structure, activities, powers, active subject area as well as administrative and coordination mechanism for the proposed authority by an expert technical committee appointed by the Secretary to the President. Based on the said concept paper, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Hon President to instruct the LEGAL Draftsman to prepare a draft bill including legal provisions required for establishment of Upper Hydro Catchment Areas Management Authority.

15. Introduction of Flora and Fauna (Regulation of Actions of the Indigenous Community within the Nomination Areas) Regulations

With the objective of securing the traditional livelihood and the eco system of indigenous community, it has been recognized the necessity of introducing a formal regulation methodology to secure their engagement in livelihood activities by being more sensitive regarding the existing laws. Thereby, Fauna and Flora (regularizing) regulations under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Authority 469) have been prepared so that nominated activities within the prescribed area to a member of the indigenous community who has been registered for securing the rights acquired from law or custom or usage or traditional stance to execute an act within a certain state land that is fundamental to the survival of the indigenous community permission can be granted Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to publish the said regulations in the government gazette notification and thereby submit to the Parliament for its concurrence.

16. Appointment to the Post of Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens on Full – Time Acting Basis

Mrs. H. C. P. Jayaweera, served as the Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens has got retired from the government service with effect from 14.09.2026 upon completion of sixty (60) years. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to appoint Mr. M. M. D. J. Senarathne, who is the senior most officer in Grade I of Sri Lanka Scientific Service serving at present in that Department for acting on full time basis with immediate effect.

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