



Decisions taken by the Cabinet of Ministers at their meeting held on the

19.10.2020

01. Decisions taken subject to Formalizing the Insurance Industry Act No. 43 of 2020.

The act No. 25 of 1962 has been superseded by the Insurance Industry Formalizing Act No. 43 of 2000 for the establishment of Sri Lanka Insurance Board which alias Insurance Regulatory Commission at present as well as with the objective and responsibility to secure the rights of the insurance bond owners and prospective insurance bond owners; ensuring of the maintenance of Sri Lankan Insurance Industry with prudence and far - sightedness as well as at professionally.

The Cabinet of Ministers has given their consent to the resolution submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Finance for tabling the gazette extraordinary No. 2118/1 dated 08.04.2019 issued by virtue of the powers vested with the Minister of Finance in terms of section 112 (3) to be read with section 16 of the new act in order to revise the regulations issued by the gazette extraordinary No. 610/4 dated 15.05.1990 under the previous act for the approval of the Parliament

02. Invitation of development proposals for selecting investors for the development of lands under the purview of the Urban Development Authority.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing for implementing the following procedure considering the time spent when selecting appropriate investors for the development of lands belong to the Urban Development Authority within the limitations of the prevailing methodology followed.

- Entrusting the power to the Urban Development Authority for calling the development proposals for releasing the lands belongs to the Urban Development Authority as per the government procurement guidelines for the development activities with the total participation of the private sector as well as the partnership of the state sector according to the proposed development plans.
- Invitation of proposals from the interested prospective investors through competitive bidding for the development of lands belong to the Urban Development Authority that has been identified for the projects expected to be implemented with the joint partnership of the government and private sector.

- Appointment of a negotiation committee by the Cabinet of Ministers for evaluation of the said proposals and appointment of project committees according to the nature of each project.
- Sticking to the valuation of the Chief Evaluator of the Government in deciding the value of the lands.
- Awarding the selected plots of land to the prospective investors, depending on the recommendation of the negotiation committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers and subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.

03. Transferring / Acquisition of government and private lands to the Urban Development Authority for the proposed urban development projects.

The Urban Development Authority has planned to implement a number of urban development projects in the major cities including the city of Colombo. Embryonic activities pertaining to these projects have already been initiated while the Urban Development Authority has to acquire both State owned as well as private owned plots of lands already identified for this project. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing for the acquisition of 39 plots of land belong to the State in terms of section 6 (1) of the Land Ordinance to the Urban Development Authority as an independent grant and acquisition of 05 plots of private land in terms of the land acquisition act.

04. Entering into a memorandum of understanding between the University of Moratuwa and the University of Alto in Finland for the amalgamation of Education and Research activities.

The University of Moratuwa and the University of Alto in Finland has agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties. It is expected to initiate corporation, facilities, conduct combined researches and other activities between the institutional staff, the Departments and the Research Institutions of both parties as the objective of the agreement. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers agreed with the resolution furnished by the Minister of Education for entering the memorandum of understanding between the University of Moratuwa and the University of Alto in Finland.

05. Construction of the new building complex of National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency and National Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance Research Centre and the acquisition of the proposed land for the purpose.

Although National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency successfully performs the regulatory activities of pharmaceutical drugs, medical equipment as well as limited products, the non - existence of a laboratory with sufficient facilities and modern technology to conduct quality tests has become an obstacle to perform the Agency's regulatory activities more

productively. Morefully, there should be an extension of space since the Agency is being recruiting fresh staff due to its extension of duties. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted their consent to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health for the acquisition of 03 acres from the land in extent of 13 acres belong to Milco Private Limited situated at the Grama Niladhari division of Kirula in the Divisional Secretariat division of Thimbirigasyaya and put up the proposed new building complex and the National Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance Research Centre for the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency within the said premises.

06. Incorporation of Selacine Television Institute as a Limited Liability Company.

In terms of the decision taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on 09th September 2020, approval has been granted by the Cabinet of Ministers to attach Selacine Television Institute to Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation so that it would be operated as a respective commercial unit of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. However, the Cabinet of Ministers granted their approval for the incorporation of Selacine Television Institute as a Company with limited liability further considering the facts brought forward by the Minister of Mass Media since the commercial objectives of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation differs from those of Selacine Institute.

07. Business Promotion of Lanka Salusala Limited

Lanka Salusala Ltd. has formulated a Strategic "Five Year Project Plan" in line with the Government's New Industry and Trade Policies. It is also planned to study the demand for textiles in public sector institutions and network with local textile manufacturers performing a new business approach. Accordingly, the Cabinet drew its attention to the proposal made by the Minister of Industries to promote the marketing activities of Lanka Salusala Limited. Accordingly, it was approved by the cabinet to give 15% priority to the purchase of textiles from Salusala and government owned institutions when purchasing textiles under the competitive procurement scheme by government agencies.

08. National Policy and Strategies on Traditional Knowledge and Practices Related to Biodiversity

In 1992, Sri Lanka has signed the Biodiversity Convention aimed at conserving biodiversity, sustainable use and equitable fair distribution of its benefits. According to the provisions of the Convention, the Government is bound to deal with the cultural diversity related to biodiversity, the indigenous knowledge people with that knowledge, its products and practices and to take measures to preserve them.

Accordingly, a National Committee of Experts on Traditional Knowledge and Practices has been established under the Ministry of Environment. The cabinet of Ministers approved the National Policy and Strategies on Traditional Knowledge and Practices Related to

Biodiversity which were prepared under the guidance of that Committee with the relevant views of all parties and the public that presented by the Minister of Environment.

09. Single-Use Plastic and Polythene Waste Management

Regulations such as a ban on the production of polythene of 20 microns or less, a ban on the manufacture of polythene food wrappers, and a ban on the burning of polythene in the open environment have been enacted with effect from September 1, 2017 in order to reduce the environmental damage caused by polythene and plastics in the country. Steps have also been taken by the Central Environmental Authority, to promote an alternative to the banned polythene while those regulations are in force.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the Proposal presented by the Minister of Environment to ban the following products from date 1st January 2021 and to introduce alternatives with a view of reducing the single use plastic and polythene waste in line with the discussions held with the stakeholders in managing Polythene and Plastic waste

- Prohibition of packaging of chemicals or pesticides in Poly Ethylene Terephthalate (PET) and Vinyl Chloride (PVC) containers and use packagings made of glass or other raw materials as an alternative
- Prohibition of sachets made of polythene and plastic less than 20 ml / 20 g Use packages of 100 ml/ 100 g or more as an alternative (excluding food and medicine)
- Prohibition of various inflatable toys made of plastic (excluding balloons, balls and floating toys) and the use the toys made of eco-friendly and hygienic raw material as an alternative
- Ban plastic cotton buds (excluding hygiene products) and use cotton buds made from biodegradable materials as an alternative
- Mandating to indicate the 1-7 Codes Internationally recommended to promote the recycling of all plastic products

10. Resetting the Interest Rates of All the Loan Schemes of the Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme and Expansion of Concessions for Partners / Promotion Companies of the Development Agricultural Valuation Project

National Steering Committee of the Agribusiness Partnerships program implemented under the funds provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Sri Lanka Government has decided to further expand the existing credit facilities. The Cabinet of Ministers took into consideration the following points made by the Minister of Agriculture accordingly.

- To revise the annual interest rate for all loan schemes provided under the program to 6.5% with immediate effect

- To provide adjustment loan facility for Partners / Promotion Companies of the Development Agricultural Valuation Project subject to a maximum of USD 100,000 at an annual interest rate of 6.5%
- To increase the adjustment loan amount for Partners / Promotion Companies of the Development Agricultural Valuation Project from USD 50,000 to USD100,000

11. Reorganization of Colombo Flight Information Region

The area of Colombo Flight Information Region is nearly 25 times the total land area of Sri Lanka. Airport and aviation Services Limited is responsible for providing quality navigational services within the aviation information zone. Accordingly, in the future, Sri Lanka will have to maintain the services to meet the expected capacity demand in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the aviation procedures and related infrastructure facilities in line with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Therefore, the existing airline structure in the Colombo Flight Information Region needs to be adjusted immediately to meet the current needs in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization's concept of "uninterrupted navigational services". Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Tourism to completely reorganize the Colombo Flight Information Region subsequent to a study, and to obtain the services of an integrated specialist consultancy service for the study.

12. Amendments to the Bail Act No 30 of 1997.

since the fines mentioned in the act do not meet the present requirements Cabinet approval has been given on September 10, 2019 to amend the Bail Act No 30 of 1997 . The Attorney General has given his consent for the revised bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman. Accordingly the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Justice to gazette the bill prepared and consequently to table in the parliament for approval.

13. Contract for supplying aviation fuel to Sri Lankan Airlines at Melbourne Airport

Limited international bidding system has been adopted for purchasing aviation fuel for Sri Lankan Airlines at Melbourne Airport, Australia. In accordance with the recommendation of the cabinet appointed standing procurement committee, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Tourism to award this contract to Vitol Aviation BV, for a total estimated cost of USD 18.47 million.

14. Proposed amendments to be tabled in the committee stage of parliament on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted to publish the 20th Amendment bill to the Constitution in the Government Gazette and to table in Parliament for approval at the

cabinet meeting held on 02 September 2020. Taking into consideration the decision of the Supreme Court on the aforesaid bill, proposed amendments to be tabled in the committee stage of parliament on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution were submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers by the Minister of Justice and approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted for the aforementioned proposals.

Further, It was decided that the provisions relating to the following matters should also be included in the committee stage of parliament on the 20th amendment to the Constitution at this Cabinet meeting.

- Provisions to increase the number of Judges in the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal considering the large number of cases pending thereof.
- Provisions to submit to parliament only the acts relevant to the matters that emerge out of the National Security and Disasters Considering as the Urgent Acts.
- Provisions for the Auditor-General to delegate the authority to audit a public corporation or the companies which hold 50 percent or more of the shares by the government or a public corporation.
- Inclusion of the same provisions of the 19th Amendment into the 20th Amendment regarding the determination of the number of Cabinet Ministers , the number of Non Cabinet Ministers and the number of Deputy Ministers