



Cabinet Decisions taken at the Cabinet Meeting held on 10.08.2026

01. Implementation of Northern and Eastern Provinces Integrated Regional Development Project

The International Development Association of the World Bank Group is scheduled to provide \$1,000 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka for the period 2026-2031, of which \$100 million has been allocated to implement the Northern and Eastern Provinces Integrated Regional Development Project. Subsequent to the approval granted at the cabinet meeting held on 09-02-2026, negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the World Bank Group for obtaining the relevant credit facility have been concluded. This project aims to strengthen sectors with economic potential, promote micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises, enhance economic opportunities, expand connectivity to improve livelihood, accelerate regional economic growth, through sustainable regional development, and boost competitiveness in the Northern and Eastern provinces. 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 enter into necessary financial agreements to obtain \$100 million financial facility from the International Development Association of the World Bank Group.

02. Converting Paddy Stocks Owned by the Paddy Marketing Board into Rice and releasing the Market.

At the 34th Food Policy and Security Committee meeting held on 22-07-22, it has been recommended that the paddy stocks owned by the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) be converted into rice via the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, with the objective of facilitating the government's paddy procurement process. Based on these recommendations, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the joint proposal furnished by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, and the Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security, and Co-operative Development to take the steps as follows.

- Converting 30,000 metric tons of paddy owned to the Paddy Marketing Board to rice by Co-operative Wholesale Establishment
- The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment to solicit expressions of interest from rice mill owners registered with the Paddy Marketing Board for the supply of rice, processed from 30,000 metric tons of paddy, in packages of 5kg, 10kg, 25kg, and 50kg.
- A price committee comprising members from the Paddy Marketing Board, the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, Lanka Sathosa Ltd, the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management, and the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute to determine the conversion ratio and appropriate price for the rice.
- The rice so processed to be issued to the market through Lanka Sathosa Ltd, the Co-operative Network, and other private sectors.

03. Hosting the ‘World CIO 200 Awards & Roadshow 2026’ conducting in Sri Lanka

The 'World CIO 200 Awards & Roadshow 2026' program is considered a leading platform for chief information officers, experienced officers, leaders in digital conversion, inventors, investors, and business executives. The next phase of this program has been suggested to be conducted in Sri Lanka in September. The aforementioned program is globally organized by the GEC Media Group, and the program conducted in this country will be managed and financed by HTP Global Technologies LLC , covering all associated expenses. This program has been planned as a four-day event comprising an international conference, leadership forums, sessions for building business relationships, investment promotion activities, exhibitions, and an award ceremony. More than 400 senior executives from over 50 countries are set to participate in this program. Furthermore, an international 'Tech Marathon' program has also been included to encourage innovations, youth participation, sports and tourism businesses, and community involvement. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Science and Technology to host the "World CIO 200 Awards & Roadshow 2026" program and the "Tech Marathon" program in September, taking into account the economic, tourism, and strategic benefits of carrying out the aforementioned program.

04. Implementation of ‘Post Ditva Cyclone Rehabilitation and Livelihood Assistance Program’

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 15-06-2026 to have negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for obtaining a debt facilities for implementation of ‘Post Ditva Cyclone Rehabilitation and Livelihood Assistance Program’. Accordingly, based on the discussions conducted, it is scheduled to obtain US\$ 100 million from the Concessional Ordinary Capital Resources and US\$ 100 million from the Regular Ordinary Capital Resources. The debt facility is planned to be utilized for three main components: the rehabilitation and reconstruction of road infrastructure damaged by the cyclone, the restoration of damaged irrigation systems, and the recovery of livelihoods and housing affected by the cyclone. 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 entering into respective financial agreements to obtain the aforementioned debt facility from the Asian Development Bank.

05. Providing Equity Capital to Lanka Metro Transit (Pvt) Ltd

The Lanka Metro Transit (Pvt) Ltd was incorporated on 03-10-2025 as a subsidiary company of the Sri Lanka Transport Board under the provisions of Company Act No.7 of 2007 with the objective of modernizing the public transport. Considering the current progress of the of the Colombo Urban Transport Pilot Operational activities commenced by using low floor 10 buses purchased by the said company with the funds allocated under the Clean Sri Lanka Program, the commercial feasibility and the public

acceptance have been confirmed. Accordingly, the said company has planned to deploy an additional 112 low-floor buses in September. In order to ensure relevant operations formally and efficiently, an urgent need has been recognized for infrastructure facilities such as construction of a fully -equipped central workshop in the Ekala area, construction of new modern bus depots in Thalangama, Kadawatha, Rathmalana and Homagama, development of internal roads and bus yards. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to provide equity capital of Rs. 800 million for the utilization of the aforementioned development of infrastructure and to provide a further Rs. 267.5 million in the year 2027 for operational activities Lanka Metro Transit (Pvt) Ltd.

06. Procurement of Vehicles and Machinery for the Operations and Maintenance of Expressway

The expressway spanning 312 km has been used in Sri Lanka for about 10 years. Furthermore, approximately 92 km of expressways comprising Port Access Highway, section I of the Central Expressway (from Kadawatha to Meerigama), and section III of the Central Expressway (Pothuhara to Galagedara) are scheduled to be opened to the public during the period 2027-2028. Since the vehicles and machinery currently used by the Road Development Authority are outdated, the necessity of purchasing vehicles and machinery for the Road Development Authority has been recognized for the operation and maintenance of the newly constructed expressways to replace outdated vehicles and machinery. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution submitted by the Minister of Transport, Highways, and Urban Development to procure 21 vehicles and machinery at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,200 million funded from the earnings of the expressway as follows.

Serial No..	Vehicle/ Machinery Type	Quantity
01	Double Cabin Pickup Trucks (Road Management Vehicles -02, Charges Collection Vehicles-01, Police Vehicle – 01)	04
02	Expressway Ambulance	02
03	Aerial Work Platform Trucks	02
04	Telescope Boom Trucks	02
05	Pedestrian Plkatform Cleaning Vehicles	02
06	Expressway Water Jetting Truck	02
07	Firefighting Trucks	02
08	Towing/Crash Recovery Trucks	03
09	Expressway Boom Movers	02

07. Programme to Provide State-Owned Under - Utilized Plantation Lands to Investors/Entrepreneurs on Long Term Lease

Approval has been granted at the cabinet meeting held on 12-01-2026 to formulate a suitable program to lease underutilized plantation lands on long-term basis to youth entrepreneurs engaged in foreign employment who remit foreign exchange to the country, allowing them to invest in the plantation sector. The Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure has formulated a procedure in consultation with the relevant stakeholders to implement this scheme. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure to dispose 247 hectares of underutilized plantation lands i.e 117 hectares owned by the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation, 88 hectares owned by Janatha Estates Development Board, and 42 hectares owned by Elkaduwa Plantations Ltd for the identified suitable investors under the following criteria.

- The age of the investor is considered as 50 years
- Investment opportunities will be provided for the plantation/Agri businesses, promotion based on plantation, hydro power generation, solar power generation, factory based manufacturing, freshwater fisheries, and other plantation related economic innovations.
- An investor selected through formal procurement procedure, will be provided maximum 1-4 hectares of underutilized portion of land.
- Priority will be given to individuals employed abroad for at least 3 years over past 10 years, or migrant workers who have served abroad for more than 3 years under this programme.

08. Special Program for Coconut Land Rehabilitation

A need has been identified to increase the productivity of coconut lands and promote sustainable cultivation methods to meet the demand for coconuts in the country and to protect coconut cultivation from the " El Nino" conditions predicted to occur in the coming months. For this purpose, a special coconut land rehabilitation program has been planned for implementation with the objective of encouraging small-scale coconut landowners. Under this program, it is expected to cover about 85,000 acres of coconut land by the year 2026 and to implement the program for a period of three consecutive years. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister to provide incentives to Plantation and Community Infrastructure small-scale coconut growers who own five acres or less of coconut land, subject to a maximum of 65% of the amount spent on the following activities.

Serial No.	The Task	The maximum amount paid
01	Mulching coconut plantations with fertilizer and dolomite	Rs. 700/- per coconut tree
02	Mulching coconut plantations with dolomite	Rs. 200/- per coconut tree
03	Water supply to the coconut lands	Rs. 50,000 per one acres

09. Implementation of the Maternal and Early Childhood Nutrition Services Project

It has been reported that the nutritional status of vulnerable groups has declined due to certain factors related to the economic crisis in the country following the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation has become a serious problem, especially in the districts of Nuwara Eliya, Rathnapura, Polonnaruwa, and Trincomalee. Therefore, a project has been planned to be implemented to increase access to selected community-based nutrition interventions for pregnant and lactating mothers and children below the age of 5 years in those districts. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to implement the Maternal and Early Childhood Nutrition Services Project in the aforementioned districts for a period of 03 years under the grant of US\$ 2.73 million from the Japan Social Development Fund of the World Bank Group.

10. Construction of a Correctional Center for the Department of Community Based Corrections

Under the Community-Based Corrections Act No. 46 of 1999, the Tourist Magistrate's Court issues Community-Based Corrections Orders to minor offenders. The majority of them are convicted of drug or alcohol addiction, and they are directed to the Community-Based Corrections process to be freed from these offenses and socialized as good citizens, paying special attention to their social and economic upliftment. However, the Community-Based Corrections Department does not have a sufficient number of suitable residential centers to provide residential treatment to convicted persons who are heavily addicted to drugs. Further, the Department does not have any residential/non-residential correctional centers. Therefore, taking that situation into consideration, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Justice and National Integration to implement a project at an estimated cost of Rs. 635 million to construct a correctional center for the drug offenders referred by the court, on 1.33 hectares of land identified in the Kekirawa area.

11. Reconstruction program for religious places affected by the 'Ditwa' disaster

It has been reported that 758 Buddhist temples, 272 Hindu religious places, 199 Muslim religious places, and 99 Christian religious places have been affected by various disasters due to the 'Ditwa' disaster. Steps have been taken to carry out renovation work on 256 of these places of worship using funds of Rs. 929.69 million allocated by the Buddha Sasana Fund, Central Cultural Fund, and Anagarika Dharmapala Foundation, including Rs. 329.62 million allocated as per the cabinet decisions dated 27-04-2026 and 15-06-2026. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the resolution furnished by the Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to renovate another 144 religious places of worship from the remaining places of worship that have been damaged using the provisions of Rs. 232.07 million.

12. Procurement of Coal to Lakwijaya Power Plant of Norochhole

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was given at their meeting held on 30.03.2026 to procure 2.28 ($\pm 10\%$) million metric tons of coal required for Lakwijaya Power Plant of Norochhole for the period 2026 / 2027. In addition to that, avoiding the risk of interruption to the supply, the National Procurement Commission has given their consent to select two coal suppliers per time of supply ensuring the powersecurity within the country. Accordingly, bids have been called following the international competitive bidding procedure and, 09 bids have been received in the connection. Based on the recommendations submitted by the Higher – Level Standing Procurement Committee subsequent to evaluation of those bids, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Energy to award the said procurement as follows:

Bidder	Quantity of Coal	
Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	70%	1.596 ($\pm 10\%$) million metric tons
Mohit Minerals Limited (India)	30%	0.684 ($\pm 10\%$) million metric tons

13. Construction of three (03) new fuel storage tanks in Muthurajawela terminal.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 02.06.2025 to construct two fuel storage tanks of 15,000 cubic metres and one fuel storage tank of 10,000 cubic metres at the Muthurajawela terminal utilizing the funds of Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited. In addition, at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on 20.07.2026, it was decided to request the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Environment to enter into decisions on the methodologies to be followed for accomplishment of environmental, legal and other requirements subsequent to discussions with the relevant parties when executing the said project. Accordingly, the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Environment informed the Cabinet of Ministers that the project will be executed in concurrence with the provisions of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance whereas recommendations and conditions depicted by the Central Environment Authority has been included in the contract agreement of the procurement. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Energy to award the said contract to M/s Indo – East Engineering and Construction (Lanka) (Private) Limited and Ceylex Engineering (Private) Limited Joint Venture who is the minimum substantially responsive bidder from the bidders submitted bids according to the International Competitive Bidding Procedure recommended by the Higher - Level Procurement Committee for United States Dollars 3.04 million (without value added tax) and Sri Lanka Rupees 2,796.14 million (without value added tax)

14. Procurement of Petrol, Murban Category Crude Oil and Diesel

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has invited bids following Limited International Competitive Procurement Scheme from the registered suppliers of the Corporation in order to purchase Petrol 92 Unl, Murban Category Crude Oil and Diesel (0.05% M.S.) on long term contract basis. Subsequent to the evaluation of received bids, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the to award the said procurements as follows to the minimum substantially responsive bidders based on the recommendations furnished by the Higher - Level Standing Procurement Committee:

	Production and quantity of petroleum	No. of bids received	Recommended bidder	Contract period
01.	Petrol 92 Unl – 1.2 ±5% million barrels	4	M/s. Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore	From 01.09.2026 to 28.02.2027
02.	Murban category crude oil – 2.8 ±5% million barrels	4	M/s. Aditya Birla Global Trading (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore	From 01.11.2026 to 28.02.2027
03.	Diesel (0.05% M. S.) - 1.12 ±5% million barrels	6	M/s Vitol Asia Pte. Ltd., Singapore	From 01.09.2026 to 28.02.2027

15. Amendment of Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme Act No. 23 of 1990

The necessity amending the provisions and regulations of the Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme Act No. 23 of 1990 has been identified to cater the contemporary requirements and the fisher community. The Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources has appointed a committee comprised of officials to propose appropriate revisions that should be done to that act. The Committee has submitted resolutions to revise the Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme in order to enhance the benefits that is gained by contributing the fishermen's pension and to ensure social security when fishermen are aged. Accordingly, based on the said proposals the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources to direct the Legal Draftsman to to prepare a draft bill to amend the Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme Act No. 23 of 1990.

16. Immigration Act Draft Bill

While the draft bill prepared for introducing a new act in place of Immigrants and Emigrants Act No. 20 of 1948, further actions could not be taken in regard to the said draft bill due to dissolution of the ninth Parliament on 24.09.2024. Thereafter, considering also the decision given by the Supreme Court in regard to the said draft bill, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was given at their meeting held on 18.08.2025 to draft a new bill. Furthermore, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted at the meeting held on 10.12.2025 for including appropriate provisions to the said new draft bill nominating the Secretary to the Ministry that is responsible for the subject of Immigration and Emigration as the Country Signing Certification Authority who executes the methodology of including biometric data to the chip of the electronic passport scheduled to be issued in the future. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to publish the draft Immigration bill prepared by the Legal Draftsman including the said provisions in the government gazette notification and thereby submit the same to the concurrence of the Parliament.

17. Facilitating for clearance of immigration when the individuals who set off – shores without using an approved port and a formal passport during the period of the war, sought refuge in India but proved the nationality as Sri Lankan and returning to their motherland voluntarily.

The individuals displaced after migrating to India from this country without using an approved port and a valid formal passport due to the instability occurred during the era of war within the country and were registered as refugees under the Indian government thereafter are looking forward to return to this country voluntarily through United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Instructions from the Attorney General has been obtained on providing them necessary immigration clearance facilities. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs to necessarily facilitate the Sri Lankans that have gone to India as mentioned above taking actions mentioned below by the Attorney General.

- Obtaining a clearance report from State Intelligent Service on the individuals whose identity is confirmed as a Sri Lankan through Sri Lanka foreign diplomatic missions offices in India after been displaced there when left the country without using an approved port and a formal passport prior to 01.08.2006.
- Confirming the precise individual has not committed no murders, treason and not committed any offences prescribed in special provisions by law.
- Issuing a temporary passport for the relevant individuals, making an opportunity to access the country through a recognized port without taking any legal actions as per the Immigration and Emigration Act No. 20 of 1948.

- Providing an opportunity to access the country through a recognized port without taking any legal actions as per the powers vested with the Immigration and Emigration Comptroller General by Immigration and Emigration Act No. 20 of 1948 to the Sri Lankans who have left shores to India informally without using an approved port and a formal passport from 01.08.2006 to 19.05.2009 on which the war ended and obtained a clearance report from the State Intelligent Service after confirming the identity as mentioned above.
- In case of any individuals committed crimes, treason, having special provisions under law and proved guilty for offences, should be retained at the port and directed to relevant institutions for further legal actions.

18. Appointment to the Post of the Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens

Having granted the approval at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers at their meeting held on 30.12.2024, Mrs. H.C. P. Jayaweera who was an officer in Grade I of Sri Lanka Scientific Service was appointed to the post of Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens on full - time acting basis and she is serving in the post until now. She has been promoted to the Special Grade of Sri Lanka Scientific Service by the Public Service Commission with effect from 31.01.2026. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment to appoint Mrs. H.C. P. Jayaweera to the post of the Director General of the Department of National Botanical Gardens on permanent basis to be effective from that date.

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