



Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the 17.05.2021

01. Investment strategy and policy framework – Selediva Investments Limited

In pursuance of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers granted on 04th March 2020 for the establishment of a real estate development company with the government ownership, in order to realize the objective of enhancing the performance of the government owned institutions involved in hospitality trade by restructuring the investors, steps have been taken to establish Selendiva Investments Limited with the 100% ownership to the General Treasury. Kanwill Holdings Private Limited, Hotel Developers (Lanka) Limited and Hotels Colombo Limited owned by the Government have been taken over under Selendiva Investments Limited by now. An investment facilitation structure has been planned by Selendiva Investments Limited under the private – public partnership for facilitating the recognized institutions and investors under the ownership of the Government whereas three (03) investment portfolios have been recognized to be implemented as the 'Colombo Fort Heritage Square', 'Immovable Property Development', and 'The Government – Owned Hospitality Sector'. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers have granted approval to the proposal furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing for taking necessary steps in the regard.

02. Re – establishment of the Prison premises of Welikada in Millewa, Horana and utilizing the land in which Welikada Prison premises is situated for a mixed urban development project.

The prison premises of Welikada situated in an area of 42 acres is planned to be re – established in a portion of Millewa Watte land in extent of 200 acres in Horana. Considering even the future requirements, it has been planned to construct a new prison premises in the said land area while transferring the land in which Welikada prison premises is situated at present to the Urban Development Authority so that the land can be provided on long term lease to local and foreign investors formally selected for implementing development projects. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolutions included in the combined Cabinet Memorandum furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Urban Development and Housing and the Minister of Justice.

3. Insurance coverage for Migrant Sri Lankan Employees

The Foreign Employment Bureau has provided an Overseas Labor Insurance Coverage for Sri Lankan foreign employees. Under this insurance coverage foreign employees are paid compensations subject to a maximum of Rs. 600,000 / - in case of death of an employee and Rs. 400,000 / - in case of total disability. However, these employees have no coverage for various industrial and domestic accidents in the workplace, access to medical care for mental and health problems due to various illnesses and harassment by employers as well as job losses due to epidemics such as COVID 19. Taking these factors into consideration, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Labor to introduce a suitable insurance scheme for Sri Lankan foreign employees.

4. Transfer of a Land belonging to the Department of Irrigation to the Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo

The Department of Irrigation has agreed to hand over 0.1765 hectares of land located at No. 330, Dr. N.M. Perera Mawatha, Colombo 8 to the Indigenous Medical Institute. The Board of Management of the Institute of Indigenous Medicine has scheduled to construct an 8-storey multi-purpose building complex on aforesaid land including the Clinical Skills Development Laboratory and Study Hall, Sri Lanka Traditional Food Processing Training Center and Canteen. The Urban Development Authority has also given its approval for the construction. Accordingly, the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Education to transfer this land to the Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo.

5. Environmental Conservation by Green Entrepreneurship Promotion.

The Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor Government Policy Statement propose to increase the total forest cover of the island up to 30%. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment is currently implementing the "Surakimu Ganga" National Environmental Conservation Program and the "Husma Dena Thuru" Tree Planting Program throughout the country through a number of parties including government agencies, the private sector, NGOs and voluntary organizations. It is planned to set up 650 new plant nurseries throughout Sri Lanka to procure the required plants for the program and to build up green entrepreneurs with the encouragement of the rural community. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Environment to 650 low-income families under this program will be given the opportunity to become green entrepreneurs by providing formal training as nurseries.

6. Amendment of 2013 Land Acquisition (Paying Compensation) Orders

The Cabinet approval has been granted to pay compensation for 20 identified projects under the Land Acquisition and Restoration Committee Scheme (LARC) and the Restoration Special Committee Scheme (Super LARC) and the relevant orders have been issued in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act. The Cabinet approval has been granted to follow the similar procedure for paying compensation for lands acquired for the following projects.

- Colombo Capital based Urban Development Project
- Railway project from Kurunegala to Habarana via Dambulla
- Strategic Urban Development Projects
- Grid substations and Transmission Line Project under the funds of the Asian Development Bank.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Lands to submit the 2013 Land Acquisition (Paying Compensation) Orders published in the Gazette on March 18, 2021 to the Parliament for approval.

7. Introducing Guidelines for the Covid-19 Procurement Process

Due to the current Covid-19 epidemic situation, the need of simplifying current procurement procedure has been identified concerning Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense and State Ministries under those Ministries in order to procure essential materials relevant to the health sector without delay. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Prime Minister in his capacity as the Minister of Finance to issue new guidelines revising the existing procurement procedure to enable the expeditious procurement of vaccines, medical equipment, other medical necessities and essential items.