



Decisions taken at the meeting held with the Cabinet of Ministers on 23.08.2021

1. Donation of August month's remuneration of the Cabinet of Ministers to COVID – 19 funds.

In par with a resolution furnished by the Hon. Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers unanimously decided to donate their August month's remuneration to the COVID - 19 funds with the intension of strengthening the funds to assist in controlling the COVID – 19 pandemic situations prevailing within the country.

2. Granting tourist Visa up to 180 days at one instance for tourists arrive via electronic tourist approval.

It was decided at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 04.01.2021 to issue a tourist Visa license valid for 180 days direct for the tourists visit Sri Lanka across Sri Lanka Tourist Mobile App of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority which have to be obtained via the tourist Visa application process through 'Online Electronic Tourist Visa Activation System (ETA)' implemented under the Department of Emigration and Immigration. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to grant approval to the resolution furnished by His Excellency the President as the Minister of Defence for the issuance of tourist Visa mentioned above subject to the following payments.

- Tourists from SAARC countries - 70 USD \$
- Tourists from non - SAARC countries - 85 USD \$
- Tourists from the countries of Singapore, Maldives, Seashells - 50 USD \$ (as per the bi – lateral agreement signed with those countries)

3. The number of vehicles belong to the Government

The Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation submitted a report including the following information on the vehicles belong to government establishments for the attention of the Cabinet of Ministers.

- There are 82,194 vehicles under the government institution including the Ministries, State Enterprises and Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions.
- Out of them, 76,661 vehicles are under running condition while, 5533 vehicles are not under running condition.
- Out of the vehicles under running condition there are 33,931 vehicles under the ownership of the government institutions including the Ministries, 26,395 vehicles under State Enterprises and 16,335 under the Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions.
- Whereas approximately 8,500 senior officials in State institution have been granted to use their private vehicles for official transport purposes followed by payment of a monthly allowance.

Considering the above information furnished by the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to utilize the repairable vehicles out of those not under running condition followed by immediate reparation and to discard those irreparable subject to a formal methodology with immediate effect.

4. Obtaining an additional financial grant from the Asian Development Bank under “Health System Enhancing Project”.

Sri Lanka has been supplied with US dollars 50 million comprised of of a loan of US dollars 37.5 million and a grant of US dollars 12.5 million by the Asian Development Bank with a view to implement the “Health System Enhancing Project”; with the intention of securing a healthy population with an access to a widened primary health services system. Taking into consideration of the COVID – 19 pandemic situations prevailing within the country, US dollars 15 million out of that has already been allocated for COVID – 19 pandemic situations related activities. Apart from that, the Asian Development Bank has given their consent to release an additional financing of US dollars 125 million under “Health System Enhancing Project” for facilitate accordingly for the management of swelling positive cases due to COVID – 19 circumstances. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health for conducting discussions with the Asian Development Bank for obtaining the said grant.

5. Progress of the large - scale development projects by the end of the second quarter of 2021.

The Minister of Finance tabled the following progress / information with regard to the large – scale development projects implemented islandwide to the attention of the Cabinet of Ministers:

- 319 large – scale development projects exceeding a cost of rupees 1000 million is being implemented at present under 43 Ministries.
- These projects implemented until the year 2030 have an approximate total value of rupees 7.1 trillion
- An expenditure of rupees 1.75 trillion has been spent while rupees 745 billion of provisions has been allocated for the year 2021.
- There are 88 projects that ensures the new development access of the government out of those 319 projects.
- The estimated cost for the purpose is rupees 2.5 trillion whereas, rupees 232 billion has been allocated for those projects for this year.
- Amongst those programmes are Drinking Water for All projects, the development programmes of 100,000 kilometres of highways and by – ways, Hundred Cities programme, Waari Saubhagya (Irrigation Prosperity) programme as well as the

Saubhagya Production Villages Programme along with the programmes the government has inaugurated for confronting COVID – 19 pandemic situations.

- Only 55% of the target expenditure has been occurred during the first quarter of the year, due to the COVID – 19 pandemic circumstances prevailing within the country.

The Cabinet of Ministers decided that, the projects showing less progress to be implemented on priority basis after reviewing them again so that the expected goals and objectives from these projects could be achieved by implementing those projects and take those projects under the close supervision of the Ministry of Development Coordination and Supervision so that the project activities can be finalized within the precise time frame and present to the public for their benefits.

6. Reconstructions of Samanalawewa Reservoir Dam

Constructions of 120 MW Samanalawewa Power Project commenced in 1986 and the reservoir filled for the first time in 1992. During the same year, it was revealed that there was a water leak in the reservoir. A number of studies have been conducted in this regard, but so far the leaking route has not been identified. Due to this water leak, the volume of the reservoir is limited to 288 million cubic meters. Therefore, the power generation capacity of the Samanalawewa power plant, which is expected to be 405 GWh, has been reduced by 70 GWh. A layer of highly decomposed limestone has been found in the south bank area of the reservoir. It has been found that this water leak is likely to increase further and cause a disastrous situation. Taking these factors into consideration and after conducting a study on the previous treatments, the CEB has prepared a project to completely remove the water from the reservoir and then seal the leaking areas with suitable material. Cabinet approval was granted to implement the proposed project.

7. Purchase of locally prepared organic fertilizer 2021/2022 Maha Season

In accordance with the Cabinet approval dated 08.07.2021, the National Fertilizer Secretariat has invited bids from local fertilizer manufacturers to purchase organic fertilizer required for the 2021/2022 Maha season. Accordingly, the cabinet of ministers approved the Proposal made by the Minister of Agriculture to provide procurement for organic fertilizer quantities required for Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited and Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Company Limited, to selected local organic fertilizer manufacturers as recommended by the Cabinet Appointed Negotiation Committee.

8. Submission of Orders made under National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act No. 50 of 1993 to Parliament

The demand for gems in the international gem market has dropped significantly due to the global pandemic of Coronavirus. Therefore, the industrialists have requested the Authority to provide relief for charges levied on gem exports and to facilitate online gem exports as air

services have been disturbed. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Industries to submit the Orders issued by the Gazette Notification No. 2232/36 dated 2021.06.18 under the National Gem and Jewellery Authority Act No. 50 of 1993 to the Parliament for approval providing the facility to revise the relevant charges and to the export of gems and jewellery online.

9. Submission of orders for revision of Fees in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure for the approval of Parliament.

According to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, all fees between a party or parties or a registered lawyer and client shall be determined by the Registrar of Courts. Gazette Notification No. 2234/67 dated 2nd July, 2021 has been issued to amend the fees mentioned in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 994/7 dated 24th September, 1997 to suit the present requirements which imposed the those fees before. As per the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Justice to submit the said orders to the parliament for the approval.

10. Payment of an allowance of Rs. 2000 / - to the families who have lost their livelihood due to the temporary closure of the country to control the spread of Covid-19 .

It has been identified that it is appropriate to pay an allowance of Rs.2000/- for families who have lost their livelihood due to the temporary closure of the country to control the spread of Covid-19 and do not receive any government allowance. Accordingly, the required funds will be issued to the District Secretaries and the relevant allowance will be paid to the families selected by the Divisional Secretaries. The Presidential Task Force on Economic Rehabilitation and Poverty Alleviation has issued the required guidelines for this purpose. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Minister of Finance to release the necessary provisions to the District Secretaries to pay the aforesaid allowance, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

11. Weekly Import of 300,000 liters of liquid medical oxygen required for the treatment of Covid- 19 patients.

Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting held on 24th May, 2021 to import 120,000 liters of oxygen per month to ensure the supply of liquid medical oxygen to the Covid-19 patients in critical condition. As the number of patients who are dependent on oxygen has increased due to the spread of the Covid Virus Variant, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Health to import 300,000 liters of medical oxygen weekly instead of import 120,000 liters of oxygen monthly in order to unable the adequate consignments of oxygen could be stored in the country.