



Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 05.10.2021

01. Utilization of geological resources for development priorities

The Presidential Task Force on Geological Resources has been established with the objective of estimating the volume of granite, sand, soil, gravel soil and clay required within the next five years for the development projects of the government, exploration of methodologies for supplying geological resources for the mentioned projects, simplifying the licensing process followed when utilizing geological resources required for the projects in the construction field and small livelihood activities, identification of lands that can be utilized for various development activities etc. The above task force by their preliminary report has released recommendations on making the process of obtaining excavation licenses much convenient to the public and other concerned customer parties when extracting granite, sand, soil/gravel and clay required for construction industries. The Cabinet of Ministers considering those recommendations has approved the proposal submitted by His Excellency the President to release a circular comprised of required orders to all the heads of institutions relevant to this process to simplify the entire process applicable to this and to issue a complete code of conduct on the methodologies to be followed by state institutions when issuing licenses to excavate minerals required for construction industry, transportation and trade on them.

02. Memorandum of Understanding between the Defence University of Sir John Kothalawala and the University of Maasi, New Zealand

A Memorandum of Understanding for 05 years has been signed in between the University of Sir John Kothalawala and the University of Maasi, New Zealand from 12th August 2012. No action has been taken to extend the said agreement after its expiration. An agreement has been entered into by the two relevant parties to extend the said memorandum of understanding once again for another five (05) years with effect from 21st August 2021. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by His Excellency the President as the Minister of Defence to sign the relevant memorandum of understanding.

03. National Project of ‘Communication to the Village’

A survey covering all the the 14,000 grama niladhari divisions within 25 districts in the island was conducted under the project ‘Communication to the Village’ by Sri Lanka Telecommunication Regulatory Commission in the year 2019 regarding the lack of high – speed internet connection. Based on the output of the above survey, the project inaugurated by Sri Lanka Telecommunication Regulatory Commission in cooperation with telecommunication service providers in the district of Ratnapura is scheduled to be completed in October 2021. The Government is planning by now to expand the said project as a national project for covering the entire island with high – speed internet facilities through improving the infrastructure facilities required for digitalization. The funds required for this project is expected to be financed from

the Telecommunication Development Fund. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution forwarded by His Excellency the President as the Minister of Technology to implement the said project.

04. Acquisition of lands to Sri Lanka Telecommunication Regulatory Commission for Lotus Tower Project Complex, Colombo

The construction activities of the Lotus Tower Project is towards its end while the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission is planning the commercialization and monitoring activities. It has been recognized that further development activities such as construction of a modern water park near Lake Berre in the proximity of the tower in order to attract and arrest the attention of local and foreign tourists, and installation of food stalls, construction of offices, accommodation and infrastructure facilities for the staff expected to be engaged in the service of the tower, further extension of the existing car park etc, closer to the tower have to be carried out for the convenience of the staffs relevant to the tower operational activities. According, the resolution tabled by His Excellency the President as the Minister of Technology to transfer the land in extent of 4 acres, 3 roods and 24.47 perches in the proximity of the tower project and belong to the Urban Development Authority to Sri Lanka Telecommunication Regulatory Commission was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

05. The project to develop software for the export market and to supply information technology related services, HCL Technologies Lanka (Pvt.) Limited – to recognized as a strategic development project.

HCL Technologies Lanka (Pvt.) Limited is a fully affiliated company of HCL Technologies in India. The said company has signed an agreement with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka on 08th January 2020 in order to implement a project for software development and supplying information technology related services with an investment of United States Dollars 10.5 million and generation of 3,500 employment opportunities for 2,450 Sri Lankans and 1,050 foreigners. Commercial operations of the project have been inaugurated on 29th October 2020. The Company has requested to consider it as a project coming under the strategic development act and the Board of Investment has given its consent in the regard. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution forwarded by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation for recognizing the above project inaugurated by the HCL Technologies Lanka (Pvt.) Limited as a venture established under the Strategy Development Project Act No. 14 of 2008

06. Construction of Smart Classrooms and Modern Computer Labs in 200 Schools in Galle District with the assistance of the Republic of India

Recognizing the urgent need to provide children with fair access to quality educational opportunities with modern technology minimizing the digital technology gaps expanding day by day, the Government of India has agreed to provide a financial assistance of SL Rs. 300 million for the construction of smart classrooms and modern computer labs for 200 schools in the Galle District in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on

'Implementation of High Impact Community Projects'. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Education to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to obtain the relevant financial grant.

07. Establishment of Mass Media Higher Education, Research and Training Institute as “the Institute of Chartered Journalists of Sri Lanka.”

The need for the establishment of a state-sponsored institution to identify the problems in the field of journalism and to promote and maintain high standards in the field of media education in accordance with local and international academic standards has been identified. Although there are a significant number of students studying journalism, especially in schools, high quality educational institutions have not yet been established to meet the requirement. There are several degree programs in mass communication in the university system, but it has been observed that these courses do not provide sufficient practical knowledge for creating a professional journalist. Accordingly, the cabinet of ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Mass Media to establish the Institute of Chartered Journalists of Sri Lanka as an Institute of Media Higher Education, Research and Training which can provide undergraduate and postgraduate level study opportunities in the subject of Mass Media. The purpose of the institute is to provide practical training to journalists, media managers who are already working in the field of journalism as well as school children who aspire to enter the field of journalism and to develop their capabilities, enhance their professionalism and create a media culture with ethical autonomy.

08. Ceylon Petroleum Corporation enters into the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP Gas) business.

The Sapugaskanda refinery that owned by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation produces 70 to 90 metric tons of LP gas per day, which is 5% of the country's demand. Also, a feasibility study is being carried out to set up a new refinery with a capacity of 10,000 barrels per day, and plans are being drawn up to expedite the implementation of these development projects. Accordingly, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has now recognized the importance of entering the gas market as the third competitor. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Energy to establish a subsidiary of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to enable it to start its Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP Gas) business utilizing refined products.

09. Amendments to the Partition Act

The Cabinet of Ministers of approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Justice to amend the existing Partition Act on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Partition Law, appointed by the Minister of Justice to make recommendations to amend the Partition Act to suit the present requirements in order to protect the relevant rights of the co-owners of a land and to avoid unnecessary delays and confusions and to advice the legal draftsman to prepare a Bill thereto.

10. The Bill on the Prohibition of Obscene Publications

Approval was given at the Cabinet meeting held on 21st September 2020 to draft a bill in order to introduce a new law to deal with obscene publications produced through Information Technology and the other media. Accordingly, the Attorney General's clearance has been received for the Bill that has been drafted by the Legal Draftsman. As per Cabinet of Ministers has given their consent to publish the said Bill in the Government Gazette and subsequently submit it to the Parliament for approval.

11. The commencement of Smart Sri Lanka - Digitization, Block chain Technology, Crypto currency Mining and providing necessary Services to Sri Lanka.

The necessity of developing an integrated system that integrates digital banking, block chain technology and crypto currency mining and other essential services has been identified to facilitate the creation of a digital business environment. Many countries in South Asia have already begun to evaluate through this sector and develop the said sector, and prior attention needs to be given to taking the necessary steps enabling to deal with these countries on a competitive basis. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Minister of Project Coordinating and Monitoring to appoint a committee consisting of skilled professionals in the public and private sectors to report to the Cabinet on the Acts, Rules and Regulations required to attract investments of the companies are being operated in these sectors, to approve crypto currency mining companies to invest in Sri Lanka and to allow the Board of Investment to take the necessary steps under the provisions of the Board of Investment Act No. 4 of 1978 and the related amendments.