



Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 11.10.2021

01. Presenting an appropriate methodology to precisely decide and identify the national heritages in Sri Lanka.

The Cabinet of Ministers during their meeting on 16th November 2021 has granted approval for the appointment of a Committee comprised of eminencies / intellects in the subject field relevant to the preparation of a methodology followed by public opinion as well for identification of tangible and intangible national heritages that ensure the Sri Lankan cultural identity after considering the issues that have erupted as a result of non - availability of criteria or a methodology for precise identification of national heritages in Sri Lanka. The Committee appointed thereby has furnished their report and the same has pointed out the necessity of establishing a centralized independent institutional structure for identification, scheduling, publishing, conservation, regulation, acquisition, conducting researches etc. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Buddha Shasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to perform future activities as per the recommendations of the said committee.

02. Formulation of laws on cyber security.

(a) Drafting a bill called Defense Cyber Commands Act -

With the development of the electronic communication, terrorist groups and criminals have tended to use the cyber space and electronic communication for terrorist activities, organized crimes and anti – social activities. The electronic communication across cyber space has been recognized as a crucial factor that can directly affect the national security. Therefore, it has been vital to formulate new laws today, covering all sectors for ensuring the national security across including the required provisions so that the operations performed by cyber protection units which are established at institutional level at present by the three - armed forces, Police and other agencies.

(b) Formulation of a draft bill for imposing cyber protection laws –

Cyber security and preparation of an institutional structure in the connection is coming under the scope of the Ministry of Technology. Accordingly, followed by

discussions held with the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Technology and other related parties, it has been decided appropriate to formulate a respective draft bill as mentioned in (a) above including cyber protection provisions in relation to defense sector. Requirement of formulation of new laws is with the intention of creating a regulatory framework for implementing national information apart from those applicable to national defense and cyber protection strategy, formulation of provisions to establish Sri Lanka Cyber Protection Agency to act with other cooperating agencies for fulfilment of the purpose, introduction of legal provisions required for protecting infrastructure facilities related to decisive and essential information within the country, prevention of risk activities that affect the cyber security as well as creating a formal cyber protected environment within the country.

Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposals furnished by His Excellency the President as the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Technology.

03. Legalization of the minimum retirement age for private sector employees

The Cabinet approval was granted on 23.03.2021 to prepare a Bill to amend the existing minimum age limit for retirement of private sector employees. The bill prepared accordingly has been further discussed with the participation of all relevant parties in the Committee on Study on Policy or Legal Matters Affecting the Business Sector chaired by the Prime Minister. The bill has been prepared by including provisions to extend the retirement age to 60 years with respect to employees who have not attained the age of 52 years on the effective date of the proposed Act. and in the case of employees aged 52 years or above on the effective date of the proposed Act. to employ them under 3 age groups up to a maximum age of 59 years. The cabinet of ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of labour to present the minimum retirement age for private sector employees Act prepared by the legal draftsman in parliament for approval.

04 . Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101)

The Committee on Civil Law Reforms appointed by the Minister of Justice has recommended the necessity of amending the prevailing provisions on the issuance and the service of summons and has paid the attention towards the necessity of using communication methods such as mobile phone messages and emails that use in the present frequently for the process of serve to the parties

of a lawsuit. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal tabled by the Minister of Justice to draft an amended bill in order to amend the Civil Procedure Code (Chapter 101) a per the recommendations of the said committee.

05. The schedule for the budget debate of the financial year 2022.

The Cabinet of Ministers took into consideration of the submissions made by the Hon. Prime Minister that the arrangements have been made to conduct the Budget Debate Programme for the financial year 2022 as follows.

- Subsequently to the presentation of the Budget Proposals on 12th November of 2021, the budget debate will be opened and the said debate will be continued till 22nd November, 2021.
- The Committee Stage Debate will be opened on 23rd November, 2021 and will continue till 10th December 2021.
- The Third Reading Division of the Appropriation Bill will be held on 10th December, 2021 at 5.00 PM.