



Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 15.11.2021

1. Accepting Cinema as an industry

A large number of unique films has been created within the Sri Lankan cinema industry while Sri Lanka has bestowed a number of eminent and renowned cinematographers to the global cinema. However, it's extent and development has been limited to a small local market as a result of non – declaration of the local cinema industry as an industry. Further to that, the local cinema industry confronted crises with the outbreak of the global pandemic situations of Covid – 19. It has been recognized that a number of benefits can be achieved such as generation of number of livelihoods, occurrence of a social and cultural as well as an economic modification as well as assisting in tourism and education sectors etc, through improvement and promotion of the cinema industry whereas it would assist the economy with considerable amounts. Furthermore, it has been observed that the cinema industry in most of the countries in the world has been improved with the recognition of cinema as an industry. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval to the joint proposal submitted by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Minister of Industries for registering the cinema industry as an industry so that the promotion and international recognition can be obtained to our cinema industry.

2. Presidential Media Awards Ceremony – 2022

Providing a clear and calm environment for the professionals engaged in media and its related institutions to make way for them to operate to protect the independence in speech and expression for creating a society that caters the requirements of the 21st century has been recognized by the government policy declaration of 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' as a responsibility of the Government. Accordingly, it has been planned to conduct the Presidential Media Awards Ceremony in order to encourage journalists to maintain electronic media, print media and web media contents with responsibility, independently and in a way that the objectives of their subscribers are met in order to sustain esteem standards of mass media. Therefore, the resolution tabled by the Minister of Mass Media to conduct the Presidential Media Awards Ceremony – 2022 with a view to evaluate the creators based on their creations in the year 2021 under six (06) fields of broadcasting, telecasting, print media, websites, school media and media researches has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

3. Implementation of multi – purpose projects in the lands allocated for the construction of post offices.

Department of Sri Lanka Post is comprised of a network of 654 main post offices and 3,410 sub post offices whereas 154 out of the said 654 main post offices are operated in private buildings on lease by now. Although plots of land have been allocated in several provinces for the construction of post office buildings, the proposed construction of buildings has been unable to be performed due to lack of sufficient funds whereas the Department has paid attention on minimizing the difference between the income and expenditure of the Department of Posts and has recognized the necessity of recognizing new income generation paths in par with that. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Mass Media to implement multi – purpose projects under public – private partnership (PPP) within the lands allocated for the Department in order to provide for the requirements of the Department of Posts as well as to acquire an additional income generation.

4. Agreement on Customs Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance between Sri Lanka and Russia

Following a series of bilateral discussions between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Russia, both parties agreed to sign a Bilateral Agreement to facilitate legal trade through a transparent and predictable customs system. This agreement will contribute to the reduction of trade transaction costs, the accurate calculation and collection of border taxes, the prohibition and the imposition of relevant regulations. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Finance to sign the proposed agreement between the two parties.

5. Awarding the contract for the supply of Aviation fuel for Sri Lankan Airlines Ltd. at 21 destination Airports.

Limited international bidding procedure has been followed for selecting a company to supply aviation fuel for Sri Lanka Airlines Ltd. at 21 airports (destination) worldwide. The procurement period is 12 to 24 months and 26 responsive bids have been received for the 21 airports. Accordingly cabinet of ministers approved the proposal made by the Minister of Tourism to offer the relevant procurement to the selected bidders for the above 21 destinations as recommended by the Cabinet Appointed Standing Procurement Committee

6. Implementing tourism promotion programs targeting the upcoming vacation season

All parties involved in the tourism sector, including airlines, are making a collective effort to revive the tourism industry affected by the Covid 19 epidemic attract tourists once again during the 2021/2022 tourist season. The Cabinet has previously approved the appointment of Destination Agencies and Public Relations Companies in the Major Tourism Market for a period of five years as part of the Global Communication Programs scheduled by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. Accordingly the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Hon. Minister of Tourism to implement tourism promotion programs targeting the United Kingdom, Germany, France and India, the main source market in the Asian region. As an adjunct to that Global Tourism Promotion Program, the Minister of Tourism has proposed to implement tourism promotion programs targeting the tourist markets of the United Kingdom, Germany, France and India, the main source markets in the Asian region. The proposal was approved by the cabinet

7. Private Data Security Bill

The Private Data Security bill has been drafted in order to ensure the security of the private data when using the collected data by the institutions such as government institution, banks, telecommunication facility providers and hospitals and to make provisions that are necessary for the digital economy of Sri Lanka .Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by His Excellency President as the Minister of Technology to publish the said bill in the gazette notification and subsequently submit to the parliament .

8. Amendments to the Provincial Councils (Transfer of Stamp Duty) act no. 13 of 2011.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been given on 15th February of 2012 to draft the bill to amend the provincial councils (Transfer of Stamp Duty) act by including provisions to refund a stamp duty or a penalty remitted in excess to the due amount or made by a mistake, in case of a person makes a claim for a refund of any stamp duty or penalty remitted in excess or by mistake. Accordingly, the clearance of the Attorney General has been received for the bill that drafted by the Legal Draftsman. The Cabinet of Ministers approved to publish the said bill in the gazette and submit to the parliament thereafter.

9. Appointing a committee to identify the legal provisions related to the Maritime Law in line with the International and Domestic requirements.

The need to develop legal infrastructure in line with the international conventions has been identified, taking into account the international requirements in the formulation of domestic laws and the ratification of international agreements when promoting Sri Lanka as a maritime hub considering Sri Lanka's strategic location in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Earlier, a committee to study on the said fields had been appointed with the participation of former Supreme Court Judge P.A.Rathnayaka PC and no further action has been taken on the recommendations made by the said committee. The need to introduce new laws has been confirmed in view of the recent damage caused by the MT New Diamond and the MV Express Pearl vessels in Sri Lankan waters. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution tabled by the minister of Ports and Naval and the Minister of Justice to appoint a committee consisting of representatives of the institutions under the chairmanship of Chandana Jayasundera PC to identify new laws that need to be introduced or to amend existing laws and to submit a report with recommendations in that regard based on the report submitted by the previously appointed committee that chaired by P.A Rathnayake PC.