



Decisions taken at the meeting of the cabinet of ministers held on the 07.02.2022

1. Entering in to agreements between La Jolla Institute, USA and General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University for the implementation of a research project.

The La Jolla Institute for Immunology in the United States of America and General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University have been conducting academic collaborations since 2017. The University has so far received US \$ 505,840 in funding for the collaboration to implement research projects. The two parties has reached an agreement to further enhance existing academic collaborations aimed at promoting research work on early detection, understanding and mitigation of tuberculosis and exchanging student and academic staff. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the President, in his capacity as the Minister of Defense, to sign agreements on the implementation of the relevant project.

2. Implementation of the Unitary Digital Identity Framework for Sri Lanka

The Government has decided to prioritize the implementation of a Unitary Digital Identity Framework for Sri Lanka as a national level program. Under the proposed Unitary Digital Identity Framework, it is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices. During the bilateral talks between H.E. the President and the Prime Minister of India in December 2019, the Government of India agreed to provide a grant to implement the Unitary Digital Identity framework. Accordingly, Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by the President in his capacity as the Minister of Technology, to work towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to obtain the said grant and to implement the proposed project under that grant.

3. Construction of an organic fertilizer manufacturing platform for Mahaveli Knuckles Organic Agricultural Zone.

Subject to provisions of Sri Lanka Mahaveli Authority Act Moragahakanda, Kalu Ganga Mahaveli 'F' zone has been declared to be a sustainable development zone that carries out organic agricultural production by a gazette notification. It is expected to escalate the income of the farmer community by the production of agricultural crops utilizing organic input and void of poisonous chemicals as well as to realize the national organic agricultural crops production

targets through the participation of a farmer community equipped with enhanced skills on organic agriculture. With the objective of producing organic fertilizer required for crop cultivation, in the long run, it has been planned to establish two organic fertilizer production centres with laboratory facilities in Wellewela and Guruwela Mahaveli zones. Wellewela organic fertilizer production centre is planned to be established as the first step of the programme and has been forecast of the annual production of 2,000 metric tons of fertilizer. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Minister of Irrigation for entrusting the contract of construction of the said organic fertilizer centre to the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau as a direct contract.

4. Investment Disputes High Court Act

The Minister of Justice has instructed the Commercial Law Reform Subcommittee appointed under the Special Unit of the Ministry of Justice to make recommendations on the legal reforms that need to be made to create a legal environment conducive to investment in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the Committee has proposed to set up an Investment Disputes Tribunal with the power to hear and decide the cases related to disputes within the financial limit of Rs. 50 million arising out of an initial investment of Rs. 100 million or more.

5. Introduction of a new Arbitration Act

The Commercial Law Reform Sub-Committee appointed under the Special Unit of the Ministry of Justice has identified the need to study the facts regarding the field of arbitration in Sri Lanka and introduce a new Act. The Committee further recommended the need to impose provisions in the proposed Act to address existing barriers at the arbitration stage as well as at the enforcement stage of arbitration decisions to enable large scale domestic and foreign investment in Sri Lanka. Accordingly Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice to advice the legal draftsman to prepare a arbitration bill accordingly.

6. Applying the cabinet decision regarding the elimination of salary anomalies in teacher principal services to Piriven teachers and Government Approved Assisted Special Private School Teachers as well

Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by Minister of Education to apply provisions of the Public Administration Circular No. 03/2016 (iv) issued in line with the Cabinet decision on elimination of salary anomalies in teacher and principal services, to Piriven teachers and Government Approved Assisted Special Private School Teachers.