



Decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 01.08.2022

01. Encouraging agriculture and cultivation activities

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 13.06.2022 not to open government offices during Fridays as a remedy since it has become difficult for the state sector employees to find transport facilities due to the existing fuel shortage as well as a remedy to the food scarcity to be experienced in the future. Accordingly, the Public Administration circular No. 15/2022 dated 15.06.2022 has been issued inclusive of the said instructions with a validity / effective period of 03 months. However, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution forwarded by the Hon. Prime Minister as the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to cancel the above circular with immediate effect, considering the that the public transport is being normalized by now as well as a sufficient period has been allocated to be engaged in the preliminary activities applicable to the agricultural activities.

02. Management of expenditure of state corporations, statutory boards and government owned companies

The monitoring efficiency as well as the financial discipline of the state enterprises have to be ensured strictly with a view to enable confronting the challenging situation existing within the country at present. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted their concurrence to the proposal submitted by the President as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stability and National Policies in order to issue circular instructions for the expenditure management and ensuring the sustainability of enterprises of the state corporations, statutory boards and government owned companies, parallel to the National Budget Circular No. 03/2022 dated 26.04.2022 issued in regard to the control of government expenditure.

03. Granting duty concessions on imports by local garment manufacturing equipment / appliances.

Garment industry has become one of the main sectors earning foreign exchange to Sri Lanka even amidst Covid – 19 pandemic circumstances. However, due to the price hike of raw materials and the prevailing unfavourable economic environment experienced in the country, local garment manufacturers are compelled to deal with a number of challenges when importing appliances required for garment manufacturing that are not produced locally. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the resolution furnished by the Minister of Industries for granting duty concessions in regard to appliances / items not manufactured locally and coming under 19 harmonized system (HS) codes; as a remedy to the prevailing situation.

04. Incentives to Migrant workers for remittances through official channels

Increasing the remittances made by migrant workers to Sri Lanka is a solution to the foreign exchange crisis in the country. Therefore, an officers committee has been appointed as per the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 27.06.2022 to study the facts and make recommendations regarding the relief and incentives to be given to them.

Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented in accordance with the recommendations of the committee, by the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment to provide an Additional Duty Concession Allowance for them based on the amount remitted to Sri Lanka through official channels upon the arrival of the concerned migrant workers to Sri Lanka and to facilitate the said migrant workers to purchase an electric vehicle.

05. Enactment of the Constitution of the – Sri Lanka UNESCO National Commission

The need to recognize and strengthen in Sri Lanka UNESCO National Commission has long been recognized. In accordance with the cabinet decision dated 14.06.2021, Legal Draftsman has prepared a bill for this purpose and the clearance of the Attorney General has also been received for this. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Education to publish this in the Govt. Gazette and consequently table in the parliament for approval.

06. Revision of Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act

Approval of the Cabinet of Minister has been granted on 2021.10.26 to draft a bill for repealing section II of the Kandyan Marriages and Divorce Act that requires parental consent for the marriage of a minor and to remove the existing non-conformities.

Legal Draftsman has prepared a bill for this purpose and the clearance of the Attorney General has also been received for this. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish this in the Govt. Gazette and consequently table in the parliament for approval.
