



Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers taken at their meeting held on 03.10.2022

01. Establishment of a 'Food Policy Committee'

The Government has recently implemented a multi – sector mechanism with the objective of formulating a strategy that aligns from the grassroots level to the upper level when taking decisions on ensuring food security as well as nutrition. The said mechanism ensures the guidance as well as the supervision for the entire mechanism of essential food production and distribution and the capability of obtaining essential food rations for those liable to be discriminated within the society at various administrative levels. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the memorandum submitted by President Ranil Wickremesinghe for the establishment of the 'Food Policy Committee' with the participation of heads of the relevant institutions and chaired by the Secretary to the President in order to build trust among producers, traders as well as customers on monitoring the supply chains within the country as well as the short-term issues prevailing with regard to supply, prices and marketing with a view to implementing the mechanism formally and efficiently and to implement other long-term programmes.

02. Amendment of the Age of Retirement of employees in State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

As proposed by the Supplementary Budget 2022 passed by Parliament, the compulsory Retirement Age of employees serving in State - Owned Enterprises (SOEs) is to be revised as 60 years. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by President Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in order to issue a circular in this regard with effect from 01.01.2023.

03. Procurement of Muriate of Potash fertilizer required for Maha Season of 2022 / 23.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted at their meeting held on 20.06.2022 for the procurement of 40,000 metric tons of Muriate of Potash (MOP) for the Maha Season of 2022 / 23 utilizing funds amounting to US\$ 50 million provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Accordingly, the prescribed procurement process has been followed and, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the memorandum submitted by the Minister of Irrigation for awarding the relevant contract to Ameropa Asia Pvt. Ltd. subject to the recommendations of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

04. Revision of Customs Ordinance and Protection of Government Revenue (Special Provisions) Act No.1 of 2006.

Cabinet approval has been granted previously to amend Sections 47 and 57 of the Customs Ordinance and Section 3 of the Protection of Government Revenue (Special Provisions) Act No.1 of 2006. The State Accounts Committee has pointed out the need for revising Section 153 of the Customs Ordinance as the Government revenue from the confiscation of goods and imposition of penalties has been significantly decreased due to the provisions of the said Section of the Customs Ordinance. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to take necessary steps to further amend the Customs Ordinance by introducing appropriate provisions.

05. School lunch programme

The Government annually implements the school lunch programme aiming at 1.08 million students in 7,926 schools spending Rs. 4 billion. Under the policy of eradicating poverty, the Government expects to immediately implement programmes aimed at addressing concerns raised over nutrition. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by President Ranil Wickremesinghe for taking appropriate steps to provide a wholesome lunch to another one million school students, further extending the school lunch programme which is already being implemented based on district - level data on poverty and nutrition.

06. Submission of the draft Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year (FY) 2023 to Parliament.

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted to draft the draft of the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year (FY) 2023 at their meeting held on 22.08.2022. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers considered the draft Appropriation Bill for the Year 2023 in relation to each Expenditure Head. The total Recurrent Expenditure for the Year 2023 has been estimated as Rs. 4,634 billion while total Capital Expenditure has been estimated at Rs. 3,245 billion. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by President Ranil Wickremesinghe as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies to submit to Parliament the draft Appropriation Bill for the Year 2023, after publishing the same in the Government Gazette.