



Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers taken at their meeting held on 17.10.2022

01. State Asset Management Bill

During the budget speech delivered by the Hon. President for amending the appropriation bill for the financial year 2022, it was suggested to introduce several new acts with the objective of strengthening the economy, enhancing the efficiency of the government service as well as productive management of government owned resources and the requirement of revising provisions of several existing acts. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal furnished by the Hon. President as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies instruct the Legal Draftsman to draft a bill in order to introduce a new act for the management of public assets including appropriate provisions so that provisions will be available to expand duties of the Comptroller General Office which is under the purview of the General Treasury and to provide legitimacy to it as well as to prepare a national assets register and to introduce a central database related to state assets.

02. Revision of the Ayurveda Act (Indigenous Medicine Act)

The Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961 has been amended from time to time on several occasions previously and it has been recognized that the act required to be amended further to cater to the requirements of the day so that sustainable development goals can be achieved. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the proposal furnished by the Minister of Health to amend the Ayurvedha act including appropriate provisions for expanding services of the Department of Ayurveda for the upliftment of the indigenous medicine sector and activities such as establishment of Osu Uyna (medicinal gardens) for research purposes.

03. The Recovery of Possession of the Premises Given on Lease (Special Provisions) Act.

The Cabinet of Ministers has given approval on 27.09.2021 to the draft bill to enact new law in place of Recovery of Possession of the Premises Given on Lease (Special Provisions) Act. Attorney general's clearance has been received for the bill prepared accordingly by the legal draftsman. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms to publish the bill in Govt. gazette and to table it in parliament for approval consequently .

04. Establishment of the National People's Council Secretariat for the formation of the People's Council to strengthen participatory democracy.

It has been revealed that due to the gap between the center of governance and the people of the periphery, the representative democratic structures that have been operating in Sri Lanka do not pay due attention to the public opinion sufficiently in the policy and decision-making process and since the people's real issues are not adequately addressed, social criticism is arising in this regard. Based on this, it has also been seen that opinions and objections against representative democracy are emerging in the society. Under that situation, the need for a strong mechanism where public officials and the public can discuss rural issues together, determine development priorities and rural people can participate in the decision-making process in an organizational structure where participatory democracy is practiced at the rural level has emerged. It will be possible to effectively and efficiently prevent public oppression that may occur due to bureaucracy and arbitrary politicization through an organized mechanism that actively find public opinions for public policy formulation and implement those policies with community participation. The National Movement for a Just Society has accordingly presented a concept paper on " People's Council System" with an independent institutional structure where public participation can be ensured for the formulation of public policies and the successful implementation of those policies. The concept paper also proposed the establishment of the "National People' Council and "Village People's Councils " to cover every Grama Niladhari Division in the Island. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to accept the proposed People's Council system as an fundamental policy and to establish the "National People's Council Secretariat" as the national level independent central institution for establishing the People's Councils system.

05. Establishment of Cabinet Sub-Committee on Reconciliation.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Hon. President to establish the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Reconciliation chaired by the President and consisting of the following members in order to promote reconciliation between the various sections of the population in Sri Lanka and to propose solutions to the problems faced by the people regarding resettlement, land and missing persons after the conflict in the North East

- Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena – Prime Minister
- Hon. Douglas Dewananda – Minister of Fisheries
- Hon. Dr. Wijayadasa Rajapaksha – Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms
- Hon. Ali Sabry – Minister of Foreign Affairs