



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

Name of publication: Daily News (17July 2015, Sri Lanka)

Page: <http://www.dailynews.lk/?q=political/cabinet-decisions-17072015>

[Cabinet Decisions]-17.07.2015



Establishment of a general procedure to award "Prashansaneeya Seva Padakkama"

The proposal made by President Maithripala Sirisena in his capacity as the Defence Minister, to establish a general procedure to award the "Prashansaneeya Seva Padakkama" to officers and other ranks in the tri forces as a gratitude towards the long, admirable, preferential and invaluable service, according to the recommendations made by board consisted of senior officials of three forces, was approved by the Cabinet.

Formalization of the export of Gyrinopswalla plant

The proposal made by President Maithripala Sirisena in his capacity as the Mahaweli Development and Environment Minister, to implement the method prepared with the agreement of respective parties which are the officials of the Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity Secretariat to enforce necessary action for the conservation of Gyrinopswalla plant which was included in the Red List prepared in 2012 while allowing the possession and transportation of the plant on commercial basis based on a permit issued by the respective authority, was approved by the Cabinet.

Japan Human Resource Development Scholarship Programme - 2015

This programme was introduced to Sri Lanka by the Japanese government 2010 for the skills development of the executive officers in the public sector by providing opportunities to follow postgraduate courses in recognised universities in Japan. It was implemented in 2013 and 2014 and 90 officers were benefited by the programme. The batch for 2015 has already been selected and their studies will commence in this September. Accordingly, the Japan International Cooperation Agency has agreed to

provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 226 million (Rs. 245 million) and the proposal made by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, as the Policy Planning, Economic Affairs, Child, Youth, and Cultural Affairs Minister, to enter into an agreement with JICA, was approved by the Cabinet.

Project for construction of Flyovers at Rajagiriya, Ganemulla and Polgahawela

The government expects to implement various development programmes for the development of road network throughout the country, including the construction of steel flyovers to ease the traffic congestion in the Colombo city and suburbs.

Accordingly, the proposal made by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, as the Policy Planning, Economic Affairs, Child, Youth, and Cultural Affairs Minister, to enter into agreements with the government of Spain and BBVA Bank of Spain for the construction of a four lane flyover at Rajagiriya junction, and two lane flyovers at Ganemulla and Polgahawela railway crossings to ease the traffic congestion due to the frequent closure of railway gates, was approved by the Cabinet.

Purchase of paddy during the Yala season - 2015

The Paddy Marketing Board expects to purchase paddy directly from farmers in the Yala season and relevant coordination will be done by District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, and officers in the village level.

The proposal made by Food Security Minister Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, to take necessary action to purchase a kilogram of 'Keeri Samba' and 'Samba' for Rs. 50 and a kilogram of 'Nadu' for Rs. 45, was approved by the Cabinet.

Moreover, the proposal made by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, to appoint a committee consisted with senior officials and chaired by the Secretary to the Finance Ministry to affirm that the programme is being duly implemented and for supervision of the above programme, was approved by the Cabinet.

Establishment of a National Data Centre for the government

Institutions that closely render services to the public such as the Department of Registration of Persons, Department of Immigration and Emigration, Department of Elections, and Department of Pensions, are maintaining a vast collection of data and at the same time spend a large amount of money in this purpose. The proposal made by Foreign Affairs Minister Mangala Samaraweera to establish a national data centre to maintain secure data currently maintained by various institutions for facilitating a more expeditious and efficient service to the public through automating the activities and establishing e-services, was approved by the Cabinet.

Maintaining a guaranteed price of Rs. 80 per a Kilogram of Green Leaf

Maintaining a guaranteed price of Rs. 80 per a kilogram of green leaf produced by tea smallholders which was implemented under the 100 day programme of the government is being successfully implemented and the proposal made by Plantation Industries Minister Lakshman Kiriella, to extend the programme until this August, was approved by the Cabinet.

Additional funds requirement for restructure of Jaffna-Kilinochchi water supply and sanitation project

Implementation of the above project under its initial plan has failed due to the difficulties faced in obtaining the required amount of water from the Iranamadu Tank. The proposal made by Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage Minister Rauff Hakeem to discuss with Asian Development Board on funding the above project to be implemented utilising the available ground water and desalinated sea water, and to discuss with the AFD institution of France regarding the sanitation project to be implemented in the said area, was approved by the Cabinet.

Allocation of land at Battaramulla to the Road Development Authority

The proposal made by Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage Minister Rauff Hakeem to allocate a land of about 1 1/2 acres, which is possessed by the Urban Development Authority and situated in Denzil Keppetipola Mawatha, Battaramulla to the RDA for a 50 year lease basis as the land where the RDA was established in the Independence Square premises was acquired for development activities of the area, was approved by the Cabinet.

Taking over of the 60MW Barge Mounted Power Plant in Colombo Port owned by the Colombo Power (Pvt.) Ltd.

The agreement on purchasing of electricity from the above power plant has expired on 30-06-2015. The proposal made by Power and Energy Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka, to take over the said power plant to the Ceylon Electricity Board by paying Japanese Yen 571 million (Rs. 641 million) in terms of the provisions stipulated in the said agreement, was approved by the Cabinet.

National Blood Transfusion Service Act

National Blood Transfusion Service is recognised as a wide field and Stem Cell production, donation and transplantation are recognised as its growing aspects. Accordingly, the proposal made by Health and Indigenous Medicine Minister Rajitha Senarathne, to amend the National Blood Transfusion Service Act to suit the current requirements, was approved by the Cabinet.

Provision of Medical Equipment and Furniture for the 200-Bedd Ward Complex at District General Hospital - Vavuniya

The Vavuniya District General Hospital is the only hospital that renders tertiary services to patients in Vavuniya and surrounding districts. It is under the administration of Northern Province and is being developed since 2009. New units have been established such as Orthopedic, CT scanner, and Oral Maxillo and Facial. A 200-bed Ward Complex has been constructed in this hospital with the assistance from the Indian Government and they have further agreed to provide necessary medical equipment and furniture amounting to approximately Rs. 109.5 million as a grant. The proposal made by Health and Indigenous Medicine Minister Rajitha Senarathne, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Government to obtain the said grant, was approved by the Cabinet.

International Training Workshop to be held in Sri Lanka in 2015 with the Asian Productivity Organization

The Asian Productivity Organization was established in 1961 to increase the productivity in the fields of industry and agriculture of its member states and 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region including Sri Lanka have obtained the membership of the organization. Sri Lanka has also signed its conventions. At the last APO Heads' meeting held in Manila, Philippines from November 21-27 it was decided to hold an agricultural training workshop in Sri Lanka under the theme "Value Addition to Agricultural Products for increasing productivity from September 7-13. The proposal made by Agriculture Minister Duminda Disanayake, to host the above workshop, was approved by the Cabinet.

Holding 6th conference of the International Organization on Tropical Fruits

The "International Network for Tropical Fruits" is a regional development body formed under the patronage of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Currently, 13 countries have obtained its membership. As fruit consumption level is less than the recommended level of the World Health Organization, special attention has been paid on the promotion of fruit cultivation. This network is in operation for promotion production, productivity, processing, marketing, quality, consumption and international trade of fruits. The proposal made by Agriculture Minister Duminda Disanayake, to hold the 06th conference of the above organization in Colombo from August 3 to 6, was approved by the Cabinet .

15. Construction of a multipurpose building in the premises of the Department of Examinations,

The proposal made by Education Minister Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, to construct the proposed multipurpose building in the premises of the Department of Examinations to conduct examinations in weekdays without obstructing school affairs, and to render efficient services at a cost of Rs. 615 million as estimated by the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, was approved by the Cabinet.

Memorandum of Understanding for sending workers between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea

The proposal made by Foreign Employment Minister Thalatha Athukorala to sign the above agreement with the Employment and Labour Ministry of the Republic of Korea to implement an employment permit system for maintaining a programme to improve the visibility of the employment programme of the Korean government and the cooperation between the two countries, was approved by the Cabinet.

Amendment to the Article 20, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and Sri Lanka has ratified the convention in 1981. The convention provides the basis for realising equality between women and men and to eliminate of all forms of discrimination against women. The information furnished by Women's Affairs Minister Chandrani Bandara on the amendment made to Article 20(1) of the convention which enables the committee to meet annually for a period necessary as per the request made by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, was taken into account by the Cabinet.

Current progress on the plan in operation for the lifting of the EU sanctions on fish export

Sri Lanka has become a prominent fisheries product exporter to the countries of the European Union. In 2014 Sri Lanka has exported 5,552 MT of fisheries products and made an income of Rs. 9,103 million. On illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing practice, EU has issued special directives to fish exporting countries including Sri Lanka in 2010 and has imposed a sanction on Sri Lanka in their fish export to EU countries on January 15. An action plan has been prepared to solve this issue.

It includes major 57 tasks with 21 issues to be solved and 36 aims. Sri Lanka has fulfilled 30 out of 36 aims and the rest will be fulfilled soon. A satisfactory progress has been achieved regarding the resolving of issues and it is being reported to the EU monthly.

A comprehensive report in this regard has been furnished to the EU on May 15 and June 30. Considering this information presented by Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, the Cabinet has noted that as Sri Lanka has dealt satisfactorily in this issue. The sanction could be lifted in 2016.

Procurement of Lubricating Oil for 2015/2016 for the Sapugaskande Power Station

Sapugaskande Power Station of the Ceylon Electricity Board is consisted of four Diesel generating sets of 18 MW capacity and 8 Diesel generating sets of 10 Mega Watts capacity. The diesel generating sets are operated on base load as this is the least cost Thermal Power Station in the Ceylon Electricity Board. It has been estimated that the 2015/2016 requirement of lubricating oil for the Sapugaskande Power Station is 1.1 million liters. Bids have been called for the suppliers of lubricating oil registered in Sri Lanka. The Cabinet approved a proposal made by Power and Energy Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka to award the contract of supplying the lubricating oil for 2015/2016 in accordance with the recommendation of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC).

Building a new nursing hostel for the Jaffna Teaching Hospital

Jaffna Teaching Hospital which is under the Health Ministry is the main Hospital in the Northern Province that supplies all kinds of health services to the people in the Northern Province. A Staff of 1,750 members provides services at this hospital. 407 of them are nursing officers and they have to face a number of difficulties due to non-availability of adequate residential facilities for them at present. The Cabinet approved a proposal made by Health and Indigenous Medicine Minister Dr. Rajitha Senaratne as a solution to this problem to convert a portion of the three storied building built in the hospital premises as a hostel for the nursing staff.

Extension of Clinic Building (Stage II) - General Hospital - Kalutara.

Kalutara Hospital is one of the main hospitals in the country that provide services daily to a large number of people.

However, it has become a great obstacle for the hospital to provide treatment services due to lack of sufficient space. The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by the Hon. Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine Dr. Rajitha Senaratne to award the contract of extending the clinic building of the hospital as per recommendation of the Technical Evaluation Committee and the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC).

Nagamu Purawara - Modernization of Multi storied housing schemes and infrastructure facilities

A provision of Rs. 80 million has been provided by the Treasury to the Condominium Management Authority for the modernisation of multi storied housing schemes and infrastructure facilities under the Nagamu Purawara programme for 2015. Using this provision the Condominium Management Authority proposes to undertake renovation activities of three housing schemes.

These housing schemes are: Samudra Shakthi multi-storied housing scheme in Moratuwa, Hilda multi-storied housing scheme in Dehiwala.

Alokapura multi-storied housing scheme in Hambantota.

Around 296 families resident in these three housing schemes will benefit from the proposed renovation activities.

It has become necessary to carry out these renovation activities when the residents are staying at their residences.

The Cabinet approved a proposal made by Housing and Samurdhi Minister Sajith Premadasa to award the contract of carrying out these renovation activities under the supervision of the Condominium Management Authority.

Restructuring of Tea Shakthi Fund

The Tea Shakthi Fund which comes under the purview of the Plantation Industries Ministry has been incorporated under the Act No. 47 of 2000 with the primary objective of strengthening the bargaining power of the Tea Smallholders.

Four projects - namely the Factory Project, Fertiliser Project, Local Tea Sales Project and Tea Smallholder Welfare Insurance Project are being implemented by the Tea Shakthi Fund.

It has been identified that if the Tea Shakthi Fund could provide sufficient working capital, and fulfil the tea smallholders' requirement of upgrading the manufacturing machinery and working practices the Tea Shakthi Fund factories can be made profit making institutions. At present, action have been initiated by the Tea Shakthi Fund to restructure the institution with the objective of reducing its losses. The Cabinet approved a proposal made by Plantation Industries Minister Lakshman Kiriella to allocate Rs. 200 million from the General Treasury to the Tea Shakthi Fund with the purpose of functioning the Tea Shakthi Fund at profit after meeting the requirements such as modernisation of factories and supply of future working capital.

24. Holding the Cremation ceremony of the most Venerable Sri Dhammarakkitha Wansalankara Anuwajjaka Maldeniya Jinalankara Thera, Venerable Incumbent of Sri Dhammarakshita Chapter of Amrapura Chapter, Chief Sanghanayaka of North - East and Thamankaduwa provinces, Senasanadhipathi of Dimbulagala Aranya and Venerable Chairman of Sasanarakshaka Balanamdalaya under State sponsorship.

The Cabinet approved a proposal made by Home Affairs Minister Joseph Michael Perera to hold at state sponsorship the cremation ceremony of the most Venerable Sri Dhammarakkitha Wansalankara Anuwajjaka Maldeniya Jinalankara Thera, Venerable Incumbent of Sri Dhammarakshita Chapter of Amrapura Chapter, Chief Sanghanayaka of North - East and Thamankaruwa provinces, Senasanadhipathi of Dimbulagala Aranya and Venerable Chairman of Sasanarakshaka Balanamdalaya

General Parliamentary Election - 2015

Use of Vehicles by the Prime Minister and other ministers for the promotion of their Party/Candidature

At a meeting held between the Elections Commissioner and the General Secretaries of political parties it has been agreed that if the Prime Minister, the ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and the officials for whom official vehicles have been allocated use the official vehicle for the promotion of their Party/Candidature the relevant fees for the use of such vehicles should be paid to the relevant ministries.

The Elections Commissioner proposed that the Cabinet should decide on the amounts to be charged in connection with the use of vehicles in this regard.

Accordingly, the Cabinet approved the undermentioned recommendations made by Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake.

Payment of Rs. 100,000 per month for each vehicle used by the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Ministers of the Provinces, the Deputy Speaker of the House, the Ministers, State Ministers, Deputy Ministers and those who use vehicles provided by the government or by the provincial councils as a privilege to the posts being held by them for the promotion of their Party/Candidature.

The cost of fuel should also be borne by them personally when the vehicles allocated to them are being used for the promotion of their Party/Candidature.

All costs relating to the use of aircraft or helicopters should also be borne by them personally when the aircraft or helicopters are being used for the promotion of their Party/Candidature.

Payments for the use of vehicles should be made to their relevant Ministries/Provincial Councils and relevant authorities. Payments relating to the use of aircraft or helicopters should be made to the relevant institutions.