

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CABINET OF MINISTERS  
AT ITS MEETING HELD ON 31-01-2017**

**01. AGREEMENT BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND VIETNAM ON  
EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION (Document No – 13)**

The agreement for cooperation in developing higher educational sector between Sri Lanka and Vietnam was in effect from 2011 to 2015. To further develop this cooperation the two parties have agreed to implement the said agreement for the period of 2016-2020 with relevant amendments. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education and Highways, to sign the new agreement between the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways in Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Education and Training in Vietnam, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**02. PROGRAMME FOR EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND  
TEACHERS OF THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL SKILLS  
BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND GERMANY (Document No – 16)**

The College of Technology (BBS III) in Mainz, Germany has agreed to implement a programme for exchange of students and teachers with the Department of Technical Education and Training which is under the purview of the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training, to sign a MoU between the Department of Technical Education and Training and College of Technology (BBS III) in Mainz, Germany in this regard, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**03. CONTINUATION OF PROJECTS RELATED TO 'SUKHITHA  
PURAWARA' TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN  
2017 AND COMMENCEMENT OF NEW PROJECTS (Document No  
– 20)**

Under the Sukhitha Purawara programme implemented by the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development 64 construction contracts have been awarded in 2016, covering the whole island. The proposal made by Hon. Patali

Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, to implement projects in the financial year 2017, which could not be completed within 2016 due to reasonable factors, and new projects which have been identified for year 2017, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**04. IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR TEA SMALL HOLDERS IN UPCOUNTRY REGION (Document No – 22)**

About 73% of tea estates in Sri Lanka belong to tea small holders and 17% of them are situated in upcountry region. In resolving social and economic issues faced by tea small holders, rehabilitation of rural roads and implementation of livelihood development projects for stabilising their income is crucial. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries, to rehabilitate 200 rural access roads in Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Matale Districts and to implement a greenhouse pilot project for enabling them to gain an additional income through vegetable, fruits and flower plantation, and a supplementary infrastructure project for tea small holdings, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**05. AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVENTION OF CRIMES ORDINANCE (Document No – 25)**

Currently finger prints could only be obtained regarding offences which are listed under the above ordinance. A bill has been drafted to amend the above ordinance making provisions for obtaining finger prints for new offences by including them in the relevant schedule and to issue an order by the courts to keep an accused person under the supervision of the Police in case a suspended sentence is imposed on a person whom previous conviction is proved until the expiry of suspended sentence. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa, Minister of Justice, to publish the said bill in the gazette and subsequently present in parliament for approval, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**06. IMPLEMENTATION OF HASALAKA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (Document No – 32)**

Above project expects to provide 12,500 new connections covering 33 Grama Niladhari Divisions and it will benefit a population of about 49,370. The proposal made by Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply, to implement the above project as recommended by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Management and Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**07. SUPPLY OF HYPODERMIC SYRINGES REQUIRED IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS (Document No – 33)**

The proposal made by Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, to award the above contract as recommended by the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee and Procurement Appeal Board, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**08. PROCUREMENT OF SURGICAL CONSUMABLES (Document No – 34)**

The proposal made by Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, to award the above contract as recommended by the Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**09. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT BUILDINGS (Document No – 37)**

Construction of new court buildings has become an essential matter as many of the buildings are very old and the space in current buildings are insufficient as the number of trials have increased in line with the population increase. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa, Minister of Justice, to construct new court buildings giving priority to courts in Gampola, Ruwanwella, Mankulam, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**10. PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL TASK FORCE TROOPS TO BE ATTACHED TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (Document No – 38)**

The proposal made by Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development, to procure required goods and equipment on the above purpose, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**11. ACCELERATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR PROVIDING HOUSES FOR LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES (Document No – 39)**

It is expected to build 620,000 houses by 2019 under the above programme. The proposal made by Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, to establish a Special Task Unit under the General Treasury and to establish a Land Bank for lands allocated to the said unit, for affirming that the above programme is implemented within the scheduled time frame, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**12. AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND ETHIOPIA (Document No – 42)**

The proposal made by Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to sign the agreement on establishment of the above commission during his upcoming official visit to Ethiopia, with the view of promoting and re-strengthening political, economic, technological and cultural cooperation based on principle of equality and mutual advantage, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**13. LANKA GOVERNMENT NETWORK 2.0 – AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR SERVICE PROVIDING (Document No – 43)**

Above project is implemented by the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) for providing high-speed and secure internet connections to public institutions for providing uninterrupted public services. The proposal made by Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure, to award the service providing contract to Sri Lanka

Telecom as recommended by the Cabinet Appointed Negotiating Committee, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

**14. FINANCING FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA (Document No – 44)**

The government has identified the Central Expressway Project as one of its priority projects for promoting economic affairs in the country through improving connectivity among various regions. Accordingly, the proposal made by Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance, to obtain funds of Rs. 23.2 billion for the RDA for construction of phase II of Central Expressway Project from the National Savings Bank and People's Bank as loan facilities, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.



**Dr. RANGA KALANSOORIYA**  
Director General of Government Information  
Department of Government Information  
Colombo - 05.