

# A CABINET THAT WORKS



## 15 MODEL MINISTRIES

to minimise irrationality in government



## FINANCE & PLANNING

### Function:

- Formulating national plans and determining policy priorities of government
- Formulating annual budget and allocating resources to government agencies and projects

### Justification for ministry:

- Will ensure alignment of the budget with policy priorities.

### Current Ministries:

Ministry of Finance, Econ.  
Affairs & Policy Dvpt.  
48 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
1 Agency

Ministry of Internal Trade, Food  
Security & Consumer Welfare  
1 Agency

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the Administrative Reforms Committee's 7th Report (1988).



# JUSTICE

## Function:

- Administration of justice system and the courts
- Administration of prisons
- Introduction of legal reforms

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of the entirety of the justice system;
- Will improve the sharing of expertise between agencies implementing legal reforms

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Justice, Human Rights & Law Reforms  
17 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988). Similar ministries found in all country cabinets examined.



# AGRICULTURE

## Function:

- Development of crop-based agriculture, provision of agricultural services and fertilizer to farmers
- Development of animal husbandry and livestock production
- Implementation of irrigation projects
- Development of fisheries and aquatic resources

## Justification for ministry:

- Will improve coordination and planning across the sub-sectors in the agriculture sector
- Will enhance food security and availability

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture,  
Irrigation & Rural Development  
26 Agencies

Ministry of Fisheries &  
Aquatic Resources  
7 Agencies

Ministry of Plantation Industries  
& Export Agriculture  
28 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988). Similar ministries found in all country cabinets examined.





## DEFENCE

### Function:

- Response to domestic and external threats against the state
- Provision of immediate response to natural disasters

### Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry concerned with all aspects of the maintenance of state security to ensure better coordination between the different subjects involved

### Current Ministries:

Ministry of Defence  
18 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988). Similar ministries found in all country cabinets examined.





# EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

## Function:

- National planning and coordinating of pre school, primary, and secondary education
- Management of universities and promotion of higher education
- Managing matters related to the youth and improving future employment opportunities
- Provision of vocational training opportunities and regulating vocational training institutes
- Conducting scientific research, through coordination between agencies and universities

## Justification for ministry:

- Coordination between all education-sector ministries, including primary, secondary, tertiary, and vocational education to ensure better sector-wide planning
- Consolidating Research and Higher Education will improve coordination between the two subjects

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988), ministries with similar functions found in Singaporean, Swiss, and Japanese cabinets.





# EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Education  
8 Agencies

Ministry of Higher Education,  
Technology and Innovation  
28 Agencies

Ministry of Skills Development,  
Employment & Labour Relations  
8 Agencies

State Ministry of Education  
Services  
5 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988), ministries with similar functions found in Singaporean, Swiss, and Japanese cabinets.





# FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Function:

- Managing Sri Lankan diplomatic relations with foreign countries

## Justification for ministry:

- Centralizing all aspects of foreign relations under one ministry will allow easier creation of a unified strategy for conducting diplomatic relations.

## Current Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Relations  
3 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988). Similar ministries found in all country cabinets examined.







# HEALTH

## Function:

- Healthcare provision and development of hospitals
- Manufacture of drugs and regulation of pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Preparation for and prevention of epidemics or other health crises

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of the management of the healthcare system, including the management and oversight of hospitals and pharmaceutical production, procurement, import and distribution

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Healthcare &  
Indigenous Medical Services  
28 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
1 Agency

Reference: Similar ministry found in Singaporean, Emirati, and Taiwanese cabinets.





# LABOUR

## Function:

- Implementing labour regulations and managing labour welfare and employment levels
- Regulating foreign employment and worker welfare abroad
- Industrial bargaining and managing trade union relations

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry for all matters concerned with labour
- Distinct from ministry in charge of the subject of vocational training, which is determined more by policies in the education sector than labour policies

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Skills Development, Employment & Labour Relations  
11 Agencies

Reference: Similar to recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988), similar ministries found in Singaporean, Emirati, and Taiwanese cabinets.





# PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Function:

- Development and regulation of transport infrastructure, including railways and highways
- Development of communications infrastructure, including the postal services and telecommunications infrastructure
- Generation and distribution of power, and construction of any energy infrastructure
- Urban development planning and construction of affordable housing

## Justification for ministry:

- Will ensure better coordination in infrastructure-related sectors namely highways, energy, communications, and urban planning/housing

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988).



# PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Urban Development,  
Water Supply & Housing  
Facilities  
17 Agencies

Ministry of Power  
& Energy  
11 Agencies

Ministry of Transport  
Services Management  
6 Agencies

Ministry of Roads  
& Highways  
2 Agencies

Ministry of Information  
& Mass Media  
2 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
4 Agencies





# PORTS, SHIPPING AND CIVIL AVIATION

## Function:

- Development of ports and regulation of shipping
- Development and regulation of aviation

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of all ports of entry and transit

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Ports & Shipping  
3 Agencies

Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation  
3 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988).



# ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

## Function:

- Regulation of all domestic economic activity, including tourism
- Regulation of internal trade and commerce
- Registration and regulation of companies
- Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises
- Consumer protection and ensuring availability of affordable necessities
- Export promotion and managing trade relations

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of economic policy for industry, trade and consumer welfare

Reference: Similar ministries found in all country cabinets examined.



# ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

## Current Ministries:

Ministry of Industries & Supply  
Chain Management  
23 Agencies

Ministry of Tourism &  
Civil Aviation  
4 Agencies

Ministry of Internal Trade, Food  
Security & Consumer Welfare  
10 Agencies

Ministry of Industrial Export &  
Investment Promotion  
2 Agencies

Ministry of Small & Medium Business  
& Enterprise Development  
6 Agencies



# HOME AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## Function:

- Management of the civil service
- Coordinating the management of the police force, and managing border control
- Personnel management and provision of assistance to governing bodies at the provincial and local governmental level
- Coordination of administrative tasks at the local level with local governing bodies, including the registration of births, deaths, and marriages

- Administrating and managing state lands, managing matters relating to land settlement and the registration of land titles, and providing land for national development

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of all sectors of domestic affairs public administration will improve bureaucratic efficiency across government

Reference: Similar to recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988).





## Current Ministries

Ministry of Public Administration Home  
Affairs Provincial Councils & Local  
Government  
13 Agencies

Ministry of Lands & Land  
Development  
7 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
1 Agency

Reference: Similar to recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988).



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Function:

- Social welfare services
- Uplifting the position of women in society
- Coordinating and planning the protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable groups such as displaced persons
- National planning and coordination of childcare provision

## Justification for ministry:

- Single ministry in charge of interrelated subjects of poverty alleviation and protection of vulnerable groups

## Current Ministries

Ministry of Women & Child Affairs & Social Security  
12 Agencies

Ministry of Community Empowerment & Estate Infrastructure Development  
6 Agencies

Ministry of Justice, Human Rights & Law Reforms  
3 Agencies

Reference: Similar ministry found in Singaporean cabinet.





# ENVIRONMENT

## Function:

- Protection of the environment and conservation of native biodiversity
- Management of national parks and wildlife areas
- Conducting meteorological monitoring
- Conducting research into climate change, and proposing measures to limit its effects

## Justification for ministry:

- Separate ministry will ensure sufficient policy focus on the environment

## Current Ministries

Ministry of Environment &  
Wildlife Resources  
13 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
5 Agencies

Reference: Similar ministries found in Singaporean, Finnish, Japanese and Emirati cabinets.





# SOCIETY AND CULTURE

## Function:

- Management of state media outlets and information broadcasts
- Management of policies related to religion
- Management of policies related to culture
- Promotion and regulation of sport

## Justification for ministry:

- Will ensure state media policies are aligned with that of relevant authorities in charge of cultural, religious and sport-related activities

## Current Ministries

Ministry of Buddhasasana,  
Cultural & Religious Affairs  
23 Agencies

Ministry of Information &  
Mass Media  
13 Agencies

Ministry of Defence  
1 Agency

Ministry of Sports &  
Youth Affairs  
7 Agencies

Reference: Recommended sectoral cluster by the ARC (1988), Similar ministries found in Singaporean, Taiwanese, Japanese, Emirati, and Finnish cabinets.

