

Overview and Summary of the Economic Transformation Bill

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June 2024

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Executive Summary

This document provides an in-depth review of the Economic Transformation Bill, one of four pivotal legislations under consideration in Sri Lanka. While the CBSL Act has already been enacted, this summary concentrates on the Economic Transformation Bill, outlining its framework aimed at driving economic reform and growth. Key components include institutional restructuring under the Presidential Secretariat, mechanisms for enhancing fiscal policy efficiency, and strategies for sustainable public debt management. The Bill emphasizes innovation, private sector engagement, and robust governance practices to bolster economic resilience. By fostering an enabling environment for macroeconomic stability and sustainable development, the Economic Transformation Bill seeks to position Sri Lanka on a trajectory of inclusive growth and long-term financial stability. This analysis is crucial for understanding the potential impacts and implementation challenges associated with the proposed reforms.

The **Economic Transformation Bill of 2024** is a legislative framework designed to overhaul Sri Lanka's economic landscape, promoting sustainable development, enhancing productivity, and fostering equitable opportunities. Below is an overview and summary of the bill, covering all its sub-topics and the institutions coming under the presidential secretariat.

1. Overview of the National Policy on Economic Transformation

The National Policy on Economic Transformation outlined in Part I of the Economic Transformation Bill sets the foundation for Sri Lanka's strategic economic goals. The policy's primary objectives include promoting sustainable development, ensuring economic prosperity, boosting productivity, and fostering social progress with equitable opportunities for all citizens. Below is a summary of the main components and targets of this policy:

1.1 Objectives of the National Policy

- **Adequate Standard of Living:** Ensuring all citizens can achieve an adequate standard of living, which includes sufficient food, clothing, housing, continuous improvement of living conditions, and full enjoyment of leisure and social opportunities.
- **Rapid Development:** Facilitating rapid development through both public and private economic activities, supported by appropriate laws and planning controls.
- **Economic Crisis Prevention:** Implementing measures to avoid economic crises.

1.2 Key Policy Provisions and Targets

Debt Restructuring:

- **Public Debt:** Reduce the Public Debt to GDP ratio to below 95% by 2032.
- **Financing Needs:** Limit the Central Government Annual Gross Financing Needs to GDP ratio to below 13% by 2032.
- **Debt Service:** Cap the Central Government Annual Debt Service in Foreign Currency to GDP ratio to below 4.5% by 2027.

Transformation to a Competitive Economy:

- **Export-Oriented Economy:** Transition to a highly competitive, export-oriented, digital economy.
- **Net Zero Target:** Achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050.
- **Global Integration:** Increase integration with the global economy.
- **Stable Macroeconomic Balances:** Ensure stable macroeconomic balances and sustainable debt levels.
- **Modernized Agriculture:** Boost farmer productivity, incomes, and agricultural exports through modernization.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Promote inclusive economic growth and social progress.

Economic Growth:

- **GDP Growth:** Achieve 5% annual GDP growth by 2027 and sustain above 5% growth thereafter.
- **Unemployment:** Reduce unemployment to below 5% by 2025.
- **Female Labor Participation:** Increase female labor force participation to 40% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

Trade and Investment:

- **Current Account Deficit:** Maintain the current account deficit below 1% of GDP annually.

- **Exports:** Increase exports to 25% of GDP by 2025, 40% by 2030, and 60% by 2040.
- **Foreign Direct Investment:** Achieve Net Foreign Direct Investment of at least 5% of GDP by 2030, with a significant portion focused on exports.

Poverty Reduction:

- **Poverty Headcount Ratio:** Reduce the multi-dimensional poverty headcount ratio to less than 15% by 2027 and below 10% by 2035.

1.3 Government Responsibilities

- **Policy Framework and Strategies:** The Cabinet of Ministers is tasked with preparing and presenting a policy framework and strategy report every five years, beginning in 2025, to Parliament. This report will outline the measures taken to achieve the targets of the National Policy on Economic Transformation.
- **Conformity to Policy:** All government policies, programs, regulations, and directives must conform to the National Policy on Economic Transformation.
- **Annual Reporting:** The Minister of Economic Policy is required to present an annual report to Parliament detailing the measures taken to achieve the policy targets. If targets are not met, the government must inform Parliament of remedial measures and the expected timeline for achieving the targets.

1.4 Oversight and Assistance

Parliamentary Oversight: Parliament retains oversight control over the Cabinet of Ministers in executing the powers and responsibilities under this Act.

Supporting Agencies: Several key agencies assist in achieving the rapid growth targets for national economic transformation, including:

- Economic Commission
- Investment Zones SL (Zones SL)
- Office for International Trade

- National Productivity Commission
- Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade

2. Overview of the Economic Commission of Sri Lanka

The Economic Commission of Sri Lanka, established under the Economic Transformation Bill, is tasked with fostering a robust investment climate, promoting sustainable foreign direct investment, and stimulating international trade. Its key objectives include evaluating the need for investment zones, enhancing the ease of doing business, and determining strategically important investments that bring significant benefits to the economy. The Commission will oversee the creation and management of investment zones, providing regulatory oversight and ensuring compliance with legal frameworks. It will facilitate smooth investment processes, recommend incentives, and promote policies to increase exports and diversify foreign exchange sources. The Commission will also coordinate with various government agencies to monitor foreign investments and support the establishment of industrial and commercial enterprises across Sri Lanka. This approach aims to expand and strengthen Sri Lanka's economy by attracting and facilitating investments that drive economic growth and create employment opportunities.

2.1 Establishment and Legal Status

The Economic Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) is established under Chapter III of the Economic Transformation Bill. The ECSL is constituted as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, allowing it to sue and be sued in its own name. The Commission's principal office is located in Sri Lanka, but it is empowered to establish branch offices or other representations within or outside the country.

2.2 Objectives

The ECSL is tasked with several key objectives:

- **Investment Climate:** Contributing to the creation and maintenance of a robust investment climate, promoting and facilitating sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI) to stimulate international trade by increasing exports and employment opportunities.
- **Investment Zones:** Evaluating the need for Investment Zones in Sri Lanka, providing guidance and regulatory oversight for their operation and management.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Promoting and enabling ease of doing business for investors, investments, and exporters.
- **Strategic Investments:** Identifying investments of strategic importance that bring significant inflows of foreign exchange, increase exports, create large-scale employment, and benefit the overall economy.
- **Investment Incentives:** Reviewing and recommending incentives for strategic investments to the Minister.
- **Facilitation of Investments:** Ensuring a smooth and efficient process for enabling investments.
- **Economic Expansion:** Expanding and strengthening Sri Lanka's economy by facilitating investments, formulating policies to stimulate international trade, and diversifying sources of foreign exchange.
- **Industrial and Commercial Development:** Encouraging the establishment and development of industrial and commercial enterprises within Sri Lanka.

2.3 Powers and Functions

The ECSL has a broad range of powers to fulfill its objectives:

- **Recommendation and Declaration:** Recommending the declaration of Investment Zones to the Minister.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** Identifying the necessity for appointing an independent regulator for regulatory oversight of the zones.
- **Policy Implementation:** Formulating and overseeing the implementation of reforms to improve the investment climate.
- **Legislative Review:** Reviewing policies, laws, and regulations related to investments, international trade, and exports, and advising the Minister on necessary measures.
- **Promotion of Investments:** Taking measures to promote domestic and foreign investments and international trade.
- **Agreements:** Entering into agreements with other governmental or regulatory institutions, international agencies, or organizations related to investment and trade.
- **Operational Flexibility:** Establishing or creating entities, including separate legal entities, to carry out its duties and functions.
- **Advisory Role:** Appointing advisory committees to assist in fulfilling its mandate.
- **Certification:** Recognizing certification and certifying bodies in relation to investment and international trade.
- **Financial Management:** Managing its funds, including investing its funds, opening and operating bank accounts, and making rules and issuing guidelines as necessary.

2.4 Organisational Structure

The ECSL is managed by a Board of Members, which includes both ex officio members and appointed members with expertise in various relevant fields. The ex officio members include:

- The Secretary to the Ministry of Finance or a nominee.
- The Secretary to the Ministry of Investment or a nominee.
- The Chairperson of the Office for International Trade.
- The Chairperson of the Investment Zones SL (Zones SL).

Additionally, up to six appointed members are selected based on their knowledge and expertise in fields such as Economics, Investment, International Trade, Finance, Law, Information Technology, Logistics, Manufacturing, or Business.

2.5 Administrative and Financial Provisions

The ECSL has the authority to create cadre positions and employ officers and employees necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. The financial management of the ECSL is overseen by the EC Board, which is responsible for the operation and management of the EC Fund. The Fund is composed of sums voted for by Parliament, revenues generated by the ECSL, and other sources as specified in the Act. The accounts of the ECSL are subject to audit as per the provisions of the Constitution.

2.6 Special Powers

The ECSL has special powers to expedite approvals for investments, coordinate with government agencies, and ensure compliance with national policies. It can also call upon any government agency or local authority to furnish information necessary for the discharge of its functions and has the authority to monitor the status of foreign investments in Sri Lanka.

This framework ensures that the ECSL plays a pivotal role in driving Sri Lanka's economic transformation by attracting and facilitating strategic investments, promoting international trade, and enhancing the overall business climate in the country.

3. Overview of Investment Zones Sri Lanka (Zones SL)

Investment Zones Sri Lanka (Zones SL) is a newly established entity under the Economic Transformation Bill, designed to foster economic growth through strategic investment zones. As a corporate body with perpetual succession, Zones SL will oversee the creation and management of investment zones across the country. These zones aim to attract both local and foreign investments by providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, including roads, electricity, water supply, and housing. Zones SL will conduct necessary studies, recommend the establishment of new zones, and manage these zones to ensure they meet international standards. By offering regulatory oversight, incentives, and a streamlined approval process, Zones SL is poised to enhance the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka. This initiative is expected to drive significant economic development, increase export earnings, and create employment opportunities, contributing to the overall economic transformation of Sri Lanka.

3.1 Establishment and Legal Status

Investment Zones Sri Lanka, commonly referred to as Zones SL, is established under Chapter XVI of the Economic Transformation Bill. The Zones SL is constituted as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, enabling it to sue and be sued in its name. The principal office of Zones SL is located in Sri Lanka, with the authority to establish additional offices or representations both domestically and internationally.

3.2 Objectives and Functions

Zones SL is designed to manage and regulate designated investment zones, aiming to boost economic activities in key sectors. The primary objectives include:

- **Economic Development:** Facilitating the creation and expansion of investment zones to promote economic development.
- **Investment Climate:** Enhancing the investment climate through the development of state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure within the zones.
- **Employment Generation:** Creating significant employment opportunities through the promotion of investments.
- The functions of Zones SL encompass
- **Site Selection and Establishment:** Conducting studies to determine the need for new or expanded investment zones and making recommendations to the Economic Commission.
- **Management and Operation:** Operating and managing investment zones on behalf of the government, including the creation of necessary infrastructure such as roads, power supply, and water supply.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** Supervising and regulating the management of investment zones, ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- **Environmental Impact:** Preparing environmental impact assessments for development projects within the zones.
- **Incentives:** Recommending policies, incentives, and exemptions to promote investments within the zones.

3.3 Powers and Responsibilities

Zones SL is endowed with extensive powers to facilitate its objectives, including:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Creating infrastructure with state-of-the-art facilities for investments, including utilities and housing.

- **Cooperation and Coordination:** Establishing cooperation with various government agencies and private entities to streamline the development and management of investment zones.
- **Financial Management:** Managing its funds, including those voted for by Parliament and revenues generated from services provided within the zones.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Providing mechanisms for the expeditious resolution of disputes between investors and workers within the zones.

3.4 Governance and Administration

The governance of Zones SL is vested in a Board of Members, comprising ex officio and appointed members. The ex officio members include key officials from relevant ministries and departments, while appointed members are selected based on their expertise in fields such as economics, investment, trade, finance, and law.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zones SL, appointed by the Board, is responsible for the day-to-day administration and execution of the Board's directives. The Board also has the authority to employ officers and staff necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions, ensuring proper financial management and adherence to a code of conduct.

3.5 Transparency and Accountability

Zones SL is committed to maintaining transparency by publishing all relevant laws, regulations, and administrative rules on a centralized website. It also provides investors with opportunities to make representations before decisions affecting their rights are made. The financial accounts of Zones SL are subject to audit, and the audited statements are submitted to the Minister for tabling in Parliament.

In summary, Investment Zones Sri Lanka (Zones SL) is a institution under the Economic Transformation Bill, tasked with developing and managing investment zones to stimulate economic growth, enhance the investment climate, and create employment opportunities. By leveraging its extensive powers and

ensuring robust governance, Zones SL aims to position Sri Lanka as a competitive and attractive destination for both domestic and foreign investments.

4. Overview of the Office for International Trade

The Office for International Trade (OIT) of Sri Lanka aims to enhance the country's international trade activities in alignment with government policies. The OIT is tasked with promoting and developing international trade, coordinating trade activities, and facilitating the growth of Sri Lankan exports. Its objectives include positioning Sri Lanka as a major trade and logistical hub in the Indian Ocean region. The OIT's powers encompass recommending changes to trade policies, conducting feasibility studies, assisting in trade negotiations, and appointing International Trade Officers. The OIT Board, chaired by the Ambassador for International Trade, oversees the administration and management, ensuring transparency and efficiency in achieving its goals. Through strategic initiatives and robust governance, the OIT seeks to drive economic growth and integration into the global trade network

4.1 Establishment and Legal Status

The **Office for International Trade (OIT)** is established under Chapter XXII of the Economic Transformation Bill. The OIT is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, enabling it to sue and be sued in its own name. The principal office of the OIT is located in Sri Lanka, and it has the authority to establish branch offices or other representations both within and outside the country.

4.2 Objectives

The OIT is tasked with several key objectives in alignment with government policies:

- **Promotion of International Trade:** To promote and develop Sri Lanka's international trade.
- **Coordination of Trade Activities:** To coordinate all international trade activities within Sri Lanka.
- **Export Growth:** To facilitate the growth of exports of Sri Lankan products and services.
- **Trade Hub Promotion:** To position Sri Lanka as a major trade, business, and logistical hub in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Lead Agency for Trade:** To act as the lead agency for implementing and coordinating international trade activities of Sri Lanka.

4.3 Powers, Duties, and Functions

The OIT is endowed with extensive powers, duties, and functions to fulfil its objectives, including:

Policy Recommendations:

- Recommend measures to remove or reduce market access barriers and facilitate the entry of Sri Lankan goods and services into international markets.
- Ensure equitable treatment in international markets for Sri Lankan goods and services, particularly industrial, agricultural, and fisheries products.
- Propose changes to the government's import and export policies to facilitate international trade.

Trade Negotiations:

- Conduct feasibility studies and stakeholder consultations for bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international trade negotiations.

- Assist the Ambassador for International Trade in carrying out trade negotiations approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

International Trade Officers:

Appoint International Trade Officers to various countries, subject to terms and conditions set in consultation with relevant ministry secretaries. These officers help promote bilateral trade and expand trade relationships.

Operational Functions:

- Manage movable and immovable property, enter into contracts, and engage in research and publications related to international trade.
- Collect and maintain statistics on Sri Lanka's international trade.

4.4 Governance and Administration

The administration and management of the OIT are vested in a Board of Management (OIT Board). The OIT Board consists of:

- **Ambassador for International Trade:** Appointed by the President, serving as the Chairperson of the OIT Board and Chief Executive Officer of the OIT.
- Secretary to the Treasury or Representative.
- **Appointed Members:** Five persons with knowledge and experience in international trade, appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Constitutional Council.

4.5 Ambassador for International Trade

The Ambassador for International Trade is the chief negotiator for international trade negotiations and is responsible for conducting Sri Lanka's international trade relations. The appointment, tenure, and removal of the Ambassador are governed by specific provisions, ensuring that the role is filled

by an individual with substantial knowledge and experience in international trade.

4.6 Financial Provisions

The OIT has its own Fund into which all sums voted by Parliament for its use, as well as revenues generated through its operations, are paid. The financial year of the OIT is the calendar year, and its accounts are subject to audit as per the provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution.

4.7 Reporting and Accountability

The OIT is required to submit an annual report of its activities and progress in international trade to the President, who then tables it in Parliament for consideration. This report includes audited accounts and a plan of proposed activities for the upcoming year.

4.8 Transparency and Conflict of Interest

Members of the OIT Board, including the Ambassador for International Trade, must declare any financial or other interests that might affect their duties. This ensures transparency and prevents conflicts of interest within the OIT.

In summary, the Office for International Trade plays a critical role in promoting and coordinating Sri Lanka's international trade activities, facilitating export growth, and positioning the country as a strategic trade hub. Its governance structure, operational framework, and strategic objectives are designed to enhance Sri Lanka's global trade footprint and economic prosperity.

5. Overview of the National Productivity Commission

The National Productivity Commission (NPC) is an independent body established under the Economic Transformation Bill, accountable to Parliament. The NPC's primary objective is to promote economic growth through increased productivity, enhancing the wellbeing of the people sustainably. Empowered to request information from public institutions, publish research findings, and manage its financial operations, the NPC plays a crucial role in streamlining productivity regulations, promoting competitive markets, and catalyzing structural transformation. Key functions include making policy recommendations, conducting public inquiries, and reporting annually on productivity trends. The NPC operates transparently, ensuring both public and private sector considerations, and advocates for continuous productivity improvement to drive national economic performance

5.1 Establishment and Legal Status

The **National Productivity Commission (NPC)** is established under Chapter XXVIII of the Economic Transformation Bill. The NPC is constituted as an independent body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, enabling it to sue and be sued in its own name. The NPC is accountable to Parliament and its independence is mandated to be respected at all times.

5.2 Objectives

The primary objective of the NPC is to promote economic growth through increased productivity, thereby improving the wellbeing of the people in a sustainable manner.

5.3 Powers and Functions

The NPC has broad powers to fulfil its mandate, which include:

- **Data Collection:** Requesting information, data, statistics, or documents from any public institution or person.
- **Publication and Dissemination:** Publishing and disseminating findings of inquiries or research and recommendations made to relevant authorities, subject to the Right to Information Act.
- **Financial Management:** Operating bank accounts, entering into contracts, and managing movable and immovable property.
- **General Powers:** Performing all acts necessary for the achievement of its objectives.
- The duties and functions of the NPC are comprehensive and include:
- **Regulation and Competition:** Making recommendations to streamline regulation, promote competition, catalyze structural transformation, and encourage international competitiveness.
- **National Competition Policy:** Advising the government on introducing and revising a national competition policy.
- **Public Inquiries and Research:** Conducting public inquiries and evidence-based research on productivity-related issues.
- **Monitoring and Benchmarking:** Performing monitoring, evaluation, and benchmarking of productivity.
- **Annual Reporting:** Reporting annually to Parliament on productivity trends and advocating for productivity improvement.

5.4 Organisational Structure

The NPC is governed by a Board of Members, comprising:

- **Ex Officio Member:** The Director General (Public Finance) of the Treasury.

- **Appointed Members:** Five members appointed by the President, ensuring they possess relevant knowledge, expertise, and national or international recognition in fields such as economics, social science, investment, finance, trade, law, information technology, engineering, business, or accountancy. At least two appointed members must be full-time.

5.5 Administration and Management

The NPC's operations are managed by the Chairperson and members of the Commission, with meetings held at least once a month or as required. Decisions at these meetings are made by majority vote, with the Chairperson holding a casting vote in case of a tie.

5.6 Executive Director and Staff

The NPC appoints an Executive Director, who serves as the Chief Executive Officer, overseeing the administration of the NPC's affairs and acting as the Accounting Officer. The Executive Director can delegate powers, duties, or functions to other officers or employees of the NPC, subject to the NPC's directions.

The NPC has the authority to appoint officers and employees necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties. These appointments are subject to terms and conditions set by the NPC in accordance with government guidelines.

5.7 Financial Provisions

The NPC has its own Fund, credited with sums voted by Parliament and other revenues. The financial year of the NPC is the calendar year, and its accounts are subject to audit as per the Constitution.

5.8 Reporting and Accountability

The NPC is required to submit an annual report to the Speaker within four months of the end of each financial year. This report includes audited accounts and a proposed activities report for the upcoming year, which the Speaker tables in Parliament for consideration.

5.9 Transparency and Integrity

Members of the NPC, including the Executive Director, must declare any financial or other interests that might affect their duties. They are also required to sign a declaration of secrecy, pledging to observe confidentiality regarding the NPC's affairs.

In summary, the National Productivity Commission is a key institution established to drive productivity and economic growth in Sri Lanka. Through its comprehensive mandate, independent structure, and robust governance framework, the NPC aims to enhance the country's economic performance and improve the wellbeing of its citizens sustainably.

6. Overview of the Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade

The Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade (SLIEIT) is established to drive research and policy-making in the fields of economics, international finance, and trade. As a corporate body with perpetual succession, SLIEIT aims to be a central platform for cutting-edge research, providing studies that stimulate policy concepts and effective trade integration strategies. The Institute's core functions include developing knowledge and skills among Parliamentarians and public officers, organising seminars and training sessions, and fostering dialogue among political leaders, public officers, academia, and business leaders. Additionally, SLIEIT engages with global think tanks and experts, undertakes research on behalf of Parliament and state institutions, and transforms research outcomes into actionable plans. It is empowered to manage funds, receive donations, and enter into necessary contracts to fulfil its mandate.

6.1 Establishment and Legal Status

The **Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade (the Institute)** is established under Chapter XXXIII of the Economic Transformation Bill. The Institute is constituted as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, enabling it to sue and be sued in its name. It serves as a research and training institute focused on economics, international finance, and international trade.

6.2 Objectives

The primary objectives of the Institute are:

- **Research and Policy Making:** To serve as a platform for research and policymaking relating to economics, international finance, and international trade.
- **Cutting-Edge Research:** To provide cutting-edge research and studies in these fields.
- **Policy Stimulation:** To contribute ideas to stimulate policy and concepts relating to economics, international finance, and international trade.
- **Trade Integration:** To research effective international trade and regional trade integration policies.

6.3 Powers and Functions

The Institute is endowed with several powers and functions to fulfill its objectives, including:

Knowledge Development:

- Initiating, promoting, and facilitating measures for the development of knowledge and skills in economics, international finance, and international trade among parliamentarians, public officers, and representatives of the private sector.
- Arranging seminars, lectures, training, study tours, practitioner exchanges, and peer-learning for knowledge dissemination.

Dialogue and Partnerships:

- Fostering dialogue and partnerships among political leaders, public officers, academia, business leaders, donor agencies, and members of global institutions.

- Liaising with leaders of reputed think tanks, experts, academics, and resource persons both locally and globally.

Research and Training:

- Undertaking training and research on behalf of Parliament and State institutions, transforming research outcomes into actionable plans for government stakeholders.
- Collaborating with local think tanks and other institutions for research and training purposes.

Financial Management:

- Receiving grants, gifts, or donations with prior approval from the Department of External Resources for foreign contributions.
- Managing, controlling, and administering the Institute's funds.
- Investing funds not immediately required for operational purposes.

Property and Contracts:

- Purchasing, holding, leasing, hiring, mortgaging, pledging, selling, or otherwise disposing of movable and immovable property.
- Entering into contracts or agreements necessary for the Institute's operations.

Administrative Powers:

- Making rules for the administration of the Institute's affairs.
- Levying fees or charges for services rendered by the Institute.
- Appointing, employing, remunerating, and exercising disciplinary control over officers, servants, and agents.
- Training officers and employees both within and outside Sri Lanka.

6.4 Organisational Structure

The administration, management, and control of the Institute are vested in a Board of Governors (the Institute Board). The Institute Board comprises the following ex-officio members:

- **Secretary to the Treasury:** Or a nominee not below the rank of a Director General.
- **Nominee of the Economic Commission**
- **Ambassador for International Trade**

The Institute Board is responsible for exercising the powers, duties, and functions conferred on, assigned to, or imposed on the Institute.

6.5 Financial Provisions

The Institute has its own Fund, which includes:

- **Parliamentary Appropriations:** Sums voted by Parliament for the Institute's use.
- **Generated Revenues:** Sums received through the exercise of its powers, duties, and functions.
- **Grants, Gifts, or Donations:** Subject to prior written approval for foreign contributions.

The financial year of the Institute is the calendar year. Proper books of accounts are kept, and the accounts are audited in accordance with Article 154 of the Constitution and the National Audit Act. The audited statement of accounts, along with the auditor's report, is submitted to the Minister within 150 days of the financial year's end for tabling in Parliament.

In summary, the Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade is a pivotal institution established to advance research, policymaking, and capacity-building in economics, international finance, and international trade. Its robust governance framework and comprehensive powers enable it to significantly

contribute to Sri Lanka's economic transformation and integration into the global economy.

Conclusion

The Economic Transformation Bill establishes a robust framework to drive Sri Lanka's economic growth through strategic institutions and policies. The Economic Commission of Sri Lanka spearheads investment promotion and regulatory oversight, while Investment Zones Sri Lanka (Zones SL) fosters industrial and commercial development. The Office for International Trade enhances global trade integration, and the National Productivity Commission drives economic efficiency and competitiveness. The Sri Lanka Institute of Economics and International Trade supports evidence-based policymaking and capacity-building. Together, these entities aim to transform Sri Lanka into a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive economy, positioning it as a pivotal hub in the global economic landscape.

Link to the Bill: http://documents.gov.lk/files/bill/2024/5/502-2024_E.pdf

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