

**BOARD MINUTES OF THE 90TH MEETING OF THE MAHAPOLA HIGHER
EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND**

DATE & TIME: 1ST OCTOBER 2021 AT 8.00 A.M.

VENUE: MINISTRY OF TRADE,
NO.492, DUPLICATION ROAD, COLOMBO 3.

PRESENT:

1.HON DR BANDULA GUNAWARDENA MINISTER OF TRADE	FOUNDER TRUSTEE
2 MRS. BHADRANIE JAYAWARDHANA	EX OFFICIO TRUSTEE
3 PROF.KAPILA PERERA	EX OFFICIO TRUSTEE
4 MR S.V.D.KESARALAL GUNASEKERA	APPOINTED TRUSTEE
5 DR RAVI LIYANAGE	APPOINTED TRUSTEE (VIRTUALLY)

EXCUSED

1. HIS LORDSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE HON. J. JAYASURIYA P.C.	EX. OFFICIO TRUSTEE
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BY INVITATION

- (i) Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director MTF
- (ii) Ms. R. Arulanandan, representing S S P Corporate Services (Private) Limited, Secretaries

PRELIMINARY

The Board decided to consider the Hon. Chief Justice as excused having noted the contents of his letter dated 20th June 2019.

In the absence of Hon. J, Jayasuriya, P.C., Chief Justice, Hon. Dr Bandula Gunawardena, Minister of Trade was appointed as Chairman pro tem to preside over the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 89TH MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2021

The Minutes of the 89th Meeting of the Mahapola Higher Education Trust Fund held on 16th July 2021 which had been circulated were approved by the Board subject to the following amendment:

- Minute No. 17 – Board Paper No.15 – Service Extensions of the Temporary and Casual Appointments of MTF

It was pointed out that item (3) under the above minute should be amended to read as follows:

“3. Accounts Assistant – On casual days’ pay basis. The service was extended up to 31st December 2021 as the Accounts Assistant is assigned to work at NWSL/NWCL as well.”

Thereafter proposed by Mr. S.V.D. Kesarralal Gunasekera and seconded by Mrs. Bhadrane Jayawardhana, the Chairman pro tem. signed the minutes as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2.1 Amendment of Mahapola Act No.66 of 1981

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director informed that, the Attorney General’s Department was informed of the proposed amendments to the Act, as taken up at the last Meeting of the Trustees but the Trust has not had a response to date.

2.2 APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR MAHAPOLA TRUST FUND AND APPROVAL FOR THE REMUNERATION PACKAGE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

The Board having re-considered the Board paper 13 of the 89th Meeting of the Board together with the letter dated 2nd July 2021 from Mrs. Bhadrane Jayawardhana, Secretary, Ministry of Trade with regard to the request made by the Director, Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund with regard to accepting the position of Director and placing him on a suitable salary scale, was taken up by the Board.

The Board having considered the request made by Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director and the recommendation of the Secretary, Ministry of Trade approved the following salary and allowances to Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director with effect from 3rd June 2021.

Salary and Allowances	Amount (Rs.)
Basic Salary	98,215.00
Salary increment 3 (Rs.2,700/- x 3)	8,100.00
Cost of Living Allowance	7,800.00
Monthly Mobile allowance	8,000.00
Language allowance	2,700.00
Monthly Fuel Allowance 140 L (according to the current rate)	21,980.00
Special Allowance for covering up for the Special Projects (Rs.10,000 x 5)	50,000.00

**3. BOARD PAPER NO.1
RE-LAUNCH OF THE MAHAPOLA ONLINE LOTTERY**

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director tabled Board Paper No.1 in connection with the above.

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director informed the Board that as per the discussion at the Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 16th July 2021, arrangements are being made to introduce a new online lottery called "Mahapola".

Mr. Bandara informed the Board that, since the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has to be obtained in order to launch this new online lottery, a copy of the draft Cabinet Memorandum which has been prepared seeking cabinet approval was tabled the contents of which was noted by the Board.

The Hon. Minister informed the Board that, there is a Cabinet decision that the Treasury will fund the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund although previously the Minister of Finance had indicated that the Treasury provisions for the payment of Mahapola scholarship installments will be decreased.

Mr. S.V.D. Kesrralal Gunasekera, Appointed Trustee requested Mr. Bandara to table a Paper at the next meeting, on the Mahapola Funds received from the Treasury during this year, for the information of the Board.

The Board having noted the contents of the Paper on the launching of the new online lottery approved of the following subject to receiving Cabinet approval.

- i. To appoint an experienced person on contract basis for a specific period to coordinate procurement affairs of the new lottery.
- ii. To carry out all the procurement affairs together by the MTF and the Ministry of Trade.
- iii. To appoint a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) on the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers and to prepare guidelines for conducting of the lottery.
- iv. To appoint a Procurement Committee upon receipt of the cabinet approval and to call Expressions of Interest (EOI) under its approval.

The Board was informed that Mr. Sena Suriyapperuma will prepare the necessary documentation in this connection. However, with regard to the Web security platform, it was decided to publish an advertisement and call for interested parties to quote for same.

The Chairman pro tem. requested Mr. Bandara to table a Paper on the above at the next meeting.

4. **BOARD PAPER NO.2**
TO SUBMIT BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MTF FOR THE YEAR 2022 FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director tabled Board Paper No.2 in connection with the above.

The budget estimates of MTF for the year 2022 which was circulated among the members previously was taken up for discussion.

The budget estimates covered the following:

- Income and Expenditure Estimates 2022 and notes
- Recurrent Expenditure Estimates 2022 and notes

Referring to the Income and Expenditure Estimates for 2022, the Chairman pro tem. pointed out that the Trust should plan to hold a Mahapola Fair before the 2022 New Year, between the 1st to the 13th of April 2022 and budget an income of Rs.50 Mn from the Mahapola Fair. Dr. Ravi Liyanage, Trustee suggested that the Fair be held in the premises of a School. Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Education stated that the School could be organized for this purpose. The Board noted that the Online Lottery promotion could also be carried out at this Fair. The Board that the Trust hopes that the health authorities will grant the Trust permission to hold this Fair.

Dr. Ravi Liyanage referring to the budget estimates inquired on the increase in Personal Emoluments. Mr. M.P. Bandara explaining stated that this was due to the recruitment of an Internal Auditor and an Accountant to the Trust.

Mr. Bandara, was requested to submit a revised budget for the approval of the Board.

5. **BOARD PAPER NO.3**
SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE AUDIT REPORT OF THE MAHAPOLA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND FOR THE YEAR 2020 TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director tabled Board Paper No.3 in connection with the above together with the together with the Annual Report and Auditor General's Report for the year 2020.

The Board having noted the contents approved the Annual Report and the Auditor General's Report for the year 2020 in order to submit same to the Cabinet of Ministers enabling them to table same in Parliament.

6. BOARD PAPER NO.4

SUBMISSION OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT OF MAHAPOLA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director tabled Board Paper No.4 in connection with the above.

Mr. M.P. Bandara tabled copy of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Investment Committee held on 27th January 2021 for the information of the Board.

The Board having noted the contents approved the following recommendations of the Investment Committee

- i. To call Expression of Interest (EOI) to obtain the service of an appropriate person with expertise in preparing project reports and feasibility reports for the proposed projects to be implemented under the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund and obtain the service of a suitable service supplier.
- ii. To obtain the service of Prof. P.K.S. Mahanama DVC and the Dean of the Faculty of Town and Country Planning of the University of Moratuwa for initial design of Metro-trade city project, Anuradhapura (a copy of his Curriculum Vitae was tabled).
- iii. To purchase a new accounting software (Accpac) for MTF (a copy of the proposal was tabled).
- iv. To fill the vacancies for the posts of Accountant and Internal Auditor for the MTF which are to be filled immediately.
The Board having noted the requirement to appoint an Accountant urgently approved the appointment of an Accountant on an acting basis until a permanent Accountant is appointed by the Board.

7. BOARD PAPER NO.5

PRESENT PROGRESS OF THE AFFILIATED INSTITUTES OF THE MAHAPOLA TRUST FUND

Mr. M.P. Bandara, Director tabled Board Paper No.5 in connection with the above.

The Board noted the following:

i Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT)

The final report prepared by the Chairman of COPE based on the special audit report of the Auditor General on the affairs of the SLIIT has been tabled in Parliament by the Chairman of COPE. The report consists of the replies and measures of the Hon. Minister of Trade and in-charge of the subject of Mahapola has been sent to the Secretary General of Parliament and a copy of same was tabled for the information of the Board.

