

COMMUNITY CANVAS



Sri Lanka's First Community News Paper

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Welcoming the New Year Together at PHDT Head Office



The New Year was welcomed at the **PHDT Head Office** with a simple yet dignified observance held in the morning of 1st January 2026, marking a grateful farewell to 2025 and a positive beginning to the year ahead. The event reflected PHDT's commitment to tradition, unity, and shared values. The programme commenced with a **New Year message delivered by the Director General**, who extended his best wishes to all staff and reflected briefly on the organization's journey over the past years.

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GEF-7 Engagement at PHDT: Shaping a Sustainable Future for Plantations on 30th December 2025



PHDT had the privilege of hosting the **Global Environment Facility** Coordinators in a forward-looking dialogue dedicated to the *long-term sustainability of Sri Lanka's plantation sector*. Chaired by the **Director General**, the meeting

reflected PHDT's unwavering commitment to protecting biodiversity while strengthening livelihoods across plantation communities.

The discussion focused on PHDT's role as a trusted bridge between policy, practice, and people. Emphasis was placed on community-focused communication,

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2026 PHDT Target

Training:

**KNOWLEDGE.
CONFIDENCE.
PROGRESS.**

"Knowledge builds confidence, confidence drives progress"

Psychosocial Support programme for Disaster -Affected Estate Communities – Badulla Region



The PHDT Badulla Regional Office successfully conducted a two-day capacity-building program on 26th and 27th December 2025 for selected Plantation Family Welfare Officers (PFWOs) and Child Development Officers (CDOs) serving estates where disaster-affected communities are currently accommodated in safety centers.

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Welcoming the New Year Together...

His address highlighted the importance of dedication, teamwork, and collective responsibility in achieving institutional goals during the coming year. The occasion was further honored by the presence of the Chairman of PHDT, **MR. B. K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi**, who addressed the gathering on the first day of 2026. In his remarks, the Chairman emphasized the significance of service, discipline, and importance of fulfilling PHDT's mandate, while encouraging staff to face the New Year with renewed confidence and purpose.

Following the formal proceedings, staff participated in the traditional sharing of 'kiribath' and sweetmeats, organized by the Human Resources Department. This customary New Year practice fostered fellowship and goodwill among staff, reinforcing a sense of togetherness within the organization. The New Year observance concluded on a note of optimism and harmony, symbolizing a respectful and auspicious start to 2026. It served as a reminder of PHDT's collective strength and commitment as the institution moves forward in fulfilling of its mission.

Article By: Madawa Gunaratna

GEF-7 Engagement at PHDT: Shaping a Sustainable Future for Plantations...

positioning PHDT as a key partner in conveying sustainability values, encouraging behavioral change, and engaging plantation communities in **pilot initiatives that demonstrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management** in action. Special attention was given to emerging opportunities such as the Pekoe Trail and the potential for eco-friendly business and livelihood development at Loolkandura Estate—the birthplace of Sri Lanka's tea industry. PHDT's contribution, particularly in stakeholder engagement, community awareness, and inclusive communication, was recognized as critical to ensuring meaningful participation and long-term impact.

This engagement marks more than a meeting—it represents a shared vision. A vision where plantations thrive in harmony with nature, where communities are empowered partners in conservation, and where innovation, heritage, and sustainability move forward together.

PHDT remains committed to walking this path with purpose, collaboration, and conviction—transforming ideas into action for a resilient and sustainable plantation future.

Article By: Madawa Gunaratna

Psychosocial Support programme for Disaster...

The programme was funded by UNICEF and implemented by the Mental Health - Badulla Region.

Health Policy (MHHP) in coordination with the PHDT Badulla Regional Office, focused on strengthening psychosocial wellbeing through key areas such as Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) in safety centers, supporting children and families affected by Cyclone Ditwah, and enhancing basic psychosocial skills and actions. A total of 50 participants actively engaged in the sessions and were elaborated on practical stress-relief techniques applicable to their routine estate work. The program was facilitated by IHP resource persons Ms. Vigitha Renganathan, Ms. S. Udayakala, and Mr. Aloka, with participation from PHDT representatives including the Manager – Health & Mobilizing, Community Development Officer, ICT Officer, Accounts Assistant, and PA – Health. Overall, the initiative significantly strengthened the capacity of frontline staff to deliver effective psychosocial support to children, families, and communities impacted by disasters.

Article By: R. M. C. D. Rathnayake

Leadership on the Ground: Management Visit to Battawatta Estate after Cyclone Ditwah



On 17th December 2025, management visits were conducted to Battawatta Estate under Madulsima Plantation, which reported the highest number of deaths within the PHDT Badulla Region following Cyclone Ditwah. The visit was of significant importance in providing direct support to the estate management, who faced considerable operational and humanitarian challenges during this difficult period. The Regional Director, Manager – Health, and Community Development Officer met with surviving members of families, including children and individuals who had lost family members in the disaster. As a key outcome of the visit, plans were initiated to implement a structured psychological support programme to assist the disaster-affected community in their recovery and well-being.

Article By: R. M. C. D. Rathnayake

Healthy Lives, Informed Choices: STD Clinic Programme under PHDT Badulla Region



The STD Clinic Programme was successfully conducted at Glennanore Estate on 08th January 2026 and Glenalpin Estate on 07th January 2026 by the STD Unit, Badulla, marking an important step in strengthening sexual health services within the plantation community. A total of 90 participants were screened, alongside targeted awareness sessions focused on prevention, early identification, and the promotion of safe and healthy practices. The programme was supported by PHDT through the active participation of the Manager – Health and the Community Development Officer (CDO), and was implemented through strong coordination with the relevant health authorities. Special appreciation is extended to the Estate Management and Welfare Staff for their valuable commitment and cooperation, which played a key role in the successful delivery of this essential public health initiative.

Article By: R. M. C. D. Rathnayake

Driving Positive Change Through the Model Estate Programme - Badulla Region



During the first two weeks of January, PHDT Badulla Region initiated a Model Estate Programme aimed at driving positive and sustainable behaviour change within plantation communities. Under Agarapatana Plantations, Glennanore Estate was selected, while Oodoowerre Estate was chosen from Hapugastenna Plantations. Initial discussions were conducted with estate management, health and welfare staff, and key community leaders among the field workers, commonly known as "Thalawars," to ensure strong local engagement and ownership.

As part of the preparatory phase, selected housing schemes were visited for detailed observation prior to the formal commencement of the programme. The initiative will be implemented using a Health Promotion Framework as its guiding approach, ensuring a structured and community-centered process. The programme was led by the Manager

– Health and the Community Development Officer, with strategic guidance and direction from the Regional Director, reinforcing PHDT's commitment to creating lasting, positive impact across the region.

Article By: R. M. C. D. Rathnayake

EWHCS Annual General Meeting Held at Mahadowa Estate under PHDT Badulla Region



The Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Society (EWHCS) successfully conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 13th January 2026 at the Cultural Hall, Mahadowa Estate. The meeting was attended by 57 participants, reflecting strong member engagement and commitment to the society's activities. Ms. N. Sarojini, Community Development Officer from the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), participated in the meeting and provided guidance on community development initiatives relevant to plantation communities. Also present was Mr. Aruna Sanjeewa, Development Officer from the Cooperative Development Department, Badulla, who played a key role in the proceedings. During the meeting, Mr. Aruna Sanjeewa presented and explained the Audit Report for the year 2024, outlining the society's financial performance, compliance status, and areas for improvement. Members discussed the audit findings, annual performance, and future development plans of the society. Constructive feedback and recommendations were shared to enhance financial discipline, transparency, and effective management within EWHCS. The Annual General Meeting concluded successfully with members appreciating the support and professional guidance provided by the invited officers. The leadership and members reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperative governance and advancing the development objectives of EWHCS at Mahadowa Estate.

Article By: N. Sarojini

Life Skills Development Awareness Programme for school children at Sorana Estate – Conducted in December 2025

An awareness programme on life skills development was successfully conducted at Sorana Estate, under Kotagala Plantations PLC, with the objective of enhancing the personal, social, and practical skills of children living in the plantation sector. This initiative was organized with a special focus on empowering children by equipping them with essential life skills required for their overall development and future well-being. The programme was facilitated by the Skill Development Officer from the Divisional Secretariat, Horana, who served as the resource person.

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Life Skills Development Awareness Programme for school children at Sorana Estate



The session emphasized the importance of life skills in shaping positive behaviour, building self-confidence, and enabling children to face daily challenges effectively.

Key areas covered during the programme included effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, teamwork, self-discipline, emotional management, and goal setting. Interactive discussions, practical examples, and participatory activities were used to ensure active engagement and better understanding among the participants. The children were encouraged to recognize their individual talents, develop positive attitudes, and strengthen interpersonal relationships. Special attention was given to guiding children towards responsible decision-making, improving social skills, and fostering a sense of self-worth and resilience. The programme also highlighted the importance of education, healthy lifestyles, and positive social values in achieving long-term personal success.

This awareness programme made a meaningful contribution to the development of children residing in the estate sector by providing them with knowledge, guidance, and motivation to build a confident and productive future. Such initiatives reflect the commitment of Kotagala Plantations PLC and relevant government institutions towards the holistic development and well-being of estate-sector communities.

Article By: B. M. Maduka

Ray Of Hope English Class Certificate Award Ceremony in Galle Region



Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the Ray of Hope English Class (2024–2025) PHDT Galle Region. The Certificate

Awarding Ceremony of the Ray of Hope English Class 2024–2025 was ceremoniously held on 10th January 2026 at the PHDT Galle Regional Office, celebrating the successful completion of the English language program by the participating children. The event marked a significant achievement in the collective efforts to uplift children through education and language empowerment. Mr Sanjaya Herath, Mr. Anil Perera of CTTCT and Mr. Madhawa Gunaratne of PHDT were present to grace this occasion.

The Ray of Hope English Class was initiated with the objective of enhancing English language proficiency among children, particularly focusing on developing their communication skills, confidence, and creativity. The program provided a supportive learning environment where students were encouraged to actively participate, express themselves freely, and improve their listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities in English. Over the course of the academic year 2024–2025, the children demonstrated remarkable progress and enthusiasm in learning the language. This valuable educational initiative was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Ceylon Tea Traders Charity Trust (CTTCT), Colombo was supported and implemented by the PHDT. Their continuous support in providing necessary resources and assistance played a crucial role in the successful implementation of the program. The commitment shown by CTTCT, RPCs and PHDT towards child education and community development was clearly reflected in the positive outcomes of the Ray of Hope English Class.

The certificate awarding ceremony was honoured by the presence of two officials from the Colombo Tea Traders Charity Trust, who attended the event to witness the achievements of the children. Additionally, an official from the PHDT Main Office was present, along with the Regional Director of PHDT Galle Region.

The event was further enriched by the participation of the staff of PHDT Galle Region, parents of the students, and well-wishers, creating an encouraging and celebratory atmosphere. A highlight of the event was the distribution of certificates to the children who successfully completed the program, symbolizing their hard work and dedication. The ceremony was further enriched by student performances, including speeches, short dramas, and songs in English, which showcased their improved language skills and growing confidence.

The event also recognized the dedication of educators and organizers, whose commitment ensured the programme's success. Active parental involvement further emphasized the importance of community participation in education. Their encouragement and cooperation significantly contributed to the consistent attendance and motivation of the children throughout the programme.

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Ray Of Hope English Class Certificate Award Ceremony in Galle Region....

In conclusion, the Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the Ray of Hope English Class 2024–2025 was a meaningful celebration of achievement, talent, and collaboration. The programme not only enhanced English language skills but also instilled confidence, discipline, and a sense of accomplishment among the children, demonstrating the positive impact of strong partnerships in shaping a brighter future for the next generation.

The support and encouragement provided by the PHDT Head office and Galle Regional staff were instrumental in maintaining a positive and structured learning environment for the children. The success of this initiative stands as a testament to the positive impact of partnerships between charitable organizations, RPCs, PHDT and community stakeholders in shaping a brighter and more hopeful future for the younger generation.

Article By: Manori Amarasinghe

Health Screening Programmes at Tillyrie Estate – 19th December 2025 - PHDT Hatton



On 19th December 2025, two key oral health clinics were conducted at Tillyrie Estate in collaboration with Kelani Valley Plantations PLC and the RDHS, Nuwara Eliya. These programmes were implemented under the guidance of Dr. Randeniya, Regional Dental Surgeon attached to the RDHS. Hemamali Paranawithana, Manager – HRD & Health, together with her team, actively contributed to the successful execution of these initiatives.

1. OPMD Screening Programme for Adults

A total of **135 adults** participated in the Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) screening programme. Among them, **2 individuals** were identified with conditions requiring further medical attention and were referred accordingly. This programme was aimed at promoting early detection & timely management of oral health conditions.

2. Oral Health Programme for Children

In the same initiative, an **oral health screening programme for children** was also conducted. A total of **26 children** were screened, and **2 children** were referred for further dental

treatment. The programme emphasized the importance of promoting oral hygiene and preventive dental care among young children, helping to build long-term health awareness.

These initiatives highlight the strong collaboration between plantation management, public health authorities, and PHDT in ensuring comprehensive oral healthcare and improving overall health outcomes for the estate community.

Article By: Anjalika

“Seeing Ability beyond Disability.” - Hatton Plantation

As part of our commitment to social responsibility and community engagement, PHDT organized a visit to a differently able Persons' Home on 23.12.2025 at **Strathdon Estate**. During the visit, members interacted warmly with the residents and staff, gaining valuable insight into their daily lives, challenges, and remarkable resilience. The primary objective of the visit was to promote awareness, compassion, and inclusivity, while offering moral support and encouragement to the residents. In reality, disability is a part of every human life. At different stages, all of us depend on others — from the time we are unable to walk or perform activities independently to moments when life demands support from those around us. Therefore, viewing persons with disabilities as separate from society is a misunderstanding and an unfair attitude. Many individuals with disabilities continue their daily lives with courage and determination, often without assistance, and they deserve respect, recognition, and equal opportunities. There are many kinds of disabilities in the world and within our own society. It is our responsibility to identify individuals who need support and to help them lead dignified, independent, and meaningful lives. During our visit, cultural interactions and friendly conversations created a warm atmosphere, making the experience both meaningful and memorable for everyone involved. The visit was deeply moving and reinforced the importance of empathy, dignity, and collective responsibility toward persons with disabilities. We sincerely appreciate the management and caregivers of the home for their warm hospitality and dedicated service.

Inspired by this experience, **PHDT plans to conduct a survey across our plantation estates** to identify persons with disabilities within our communities. Based on the findings, we aim to organize programs that will support their personal development, promote self-reliance, and help them lead lives with reduced dependency and increased confidence. Such initiatives remind us that small acts of kindness and understanding can make a significant difference, and PHDT looks forward to continuing meaningful community outreach programs in the future.

Article By: Eliyas Jenowa

Training and Awareness Programmes on Disaster Health Mitigation and STI / HIV Prevention for all RPC's



On 18th December 2025, two capacity-building training and awareness programmes were conducted to strengthen preventive health services, disaster preparedness, and community awareness within estate communities. A total of 62 participants took part in these programmes. One programme focused on health mitigation during disaster situations and was conducted by Dr. Nihal Weerasooriya, Director of the District General Hospital, Nuwara Eliya. This session was attended by Estate Medical Assistants (EMAs) and members of estate-level Disaster Committees. The training addressed common disaster scenarios affecting estate communities, immediate health risks during emergencies, prevention of communicable diseases, safe water and sanitation practices, basic first aid, and coordination with local health authorities. Special emphasis was placed on early response mechanisms, appropriate referral systems, and the roles and responsibilities of Disaster Committees in minimizing health impacts during emergencies.

On the same day, a second training and awareness session on the prevention of STI/STD, HIV, and AIDS was conducted for Estate Health and Welfare staff by Dr. Nalaka, Consultant in STI, RDHS Nuwara Eliya. The session covered modes of transmission, prevention methods, early identification of symptoms, available testing and treatment services, stigma reduction, and the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Participants were also guided on planning and implementing effective community awareness programmes using suitable communication approaches and IEC materials to reach estate populations effectively. Overall, the programmes significantly improved the knowledge, preparedness, and practical skills of the 62 participating staff members, thereby strengthening disaster readiness and preventive health education within estate communities.

Article By: Anjalika

Free Medicine Distribution for Cyclone-Affected Communities for Hellebodde & Rothschild Estates

The impact of the Dithwah Cyclone on 30th December 2025, a free medicine distribution programme was successfully carried out to support affected communities in Pussellawa Estates.

The programme was conducted at the Pussellawa Regional Office and Hellebodde Estate, with the active participation of Rain Forest Alliance members led by Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna, who played a key role in organizing and coordinating the distribution process. Essential medicines were provided to residents to address immediate health needs arising from the cyclone



The initiative was attended by the Director of Health, Regional Director, and Project Officer (Health), whose presence reinforced the importance of timely healthcare interventions during emergency situations. Their guidance and support ensured the smooth implementation of the programme. This initiative reflects the organization's continued commitment to safeguarding community health and responding promptly to emergencies, especially during natural disasters. Efforts such as this help strengthen resilience and ensure that vulnerable populations receive essential care when it is most needed.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Distribution of free Grant Drugs for Kahawatte Plantation



The distribution of free grant drugs was carried out at Queensberry Estate on 13.01.2026, with the medicines formally handed over to the Estate Medical Assistant. The programme was conducted under the supervision and participation of the Regional Director and the Project Officer (Health), ensuring proper coordination and accountability in the distribution process. The initiative aimed to support the health and wellbeing of the estate community and was successfully completed with the cooperation of all concerned.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Initiate Model Estate Concepts for Kahawatte and SLSPC Estates



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Initiate Model Estate Concepts for Kahawatte and SLSPC Estates...

The Model Estate Concept will be initiated to **improve CDC attendance and enhance the nutrition status** of children, commencing on **13.01.2026** at **Queensberry Estate** and continuing on **14.01.2026** at **Alakolla Estate**. This initiative aims to establish each estate as a model for regular CDC attendance, improved child nutrition, and strengthened community participation, with specific targets of increasing CDC attendance by 2% and reducing undernutrition and low birth weight among children by 5% in the future. Discussions will be held with the Estate Manager, Health and Welfare staff, and the CDC Mothers' Committee to clearly define roles, responsibilities, and practical actions to support child health, appropriate feeding practices, and consistent attendance. Through coordinated planning, monitoring, and close collaboration among all stakeholders, the Model Estate Concept seeks to create a sustainable and supportive environment that promotes the overall wellbeing and healthy growth of children in the estates.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Clean Sri Lanka Project – 2025 in Kandy Region

Major repairs under the Clean Sri Lanka Project have been successfully completed with the valuable support of Donor Agencies and Estate Management. These repairs, focused on enhancing infrastructure and improving living conditions, highlight a shared commitment to creating a cleaner and more sustainable estate environment through collaborative effort.



Article By: Charaka Kulathunga

Improving Living Conditions: Kellebokka Estate Housing Project Completed

The Ministry Balance Work Housing Project at Kellebokka Estate – Galahiriya Division (NLH 2021) which belongs to the SLSPC has been successfully completed, marking a significant milestone in improving living conditions for estate residents. The project focused on constructing safe and modern housing units to enhance the quality of life within the community. With the completion of this project,

residents now benefit from improved housing facilities, reflecting the government's commitment to supporting estate communities through sustainable development initiatives. The successful execution of this project underscores the importance of continued efforts to uplift living standards and provide better opportunities for all estate residents.



Article By: Charaka Kulathunga

Ministry Balance Work Housing Project – Kellebokka Estate, Upper Division (GGH 2018)



The Balance Work Housing Project, implemented by the Ministry at Kellebokka Estate in the Upper Division (GGH 2018), which belongs to the SLSPC, has been completed. The initiative has resulted in significant improvements in household safety, comfort, health, and hygiene, while also fostering stronger community bonds, greater resilience, and enhanced livelihood prospects. The successful completion of the project underscores the Government's continued commitment to sustainable social development and the upliftment of estate sector communities.

Article By: U.S. Karunaratne

Counseling Programme for Disaster-Affected Peoples (Elders) in Kalupahana Estate, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC on 17th December 2025



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Counseling Programme for Disaster-Affected Peoples (Elders)

This programme combined professional counseling sessions with game-based and interactive activities, designed to help elderly participants cope with post-disaster stress and emotional distress.

Key Objectives and Benefits:

- Reduction of stress and anxiety
- Improvement of emotional expression
- Promotion of positive thinking
- Strengthening of social interaction and community bonding

The interactive approach created a supportive environment where elders could share experiences, rebuild confidence, and gradually recover from disaster-related trauma.

Expected outcome in this programme:

This programme is to facilitate disaster affected people to reacquire the ability to think clearly and coherently and to get back to their day-to-day activities.

Total Participants of the Programme 50

Article By: Shamoora Cassiere

Counseling Programme for Disaster-Affected Children in Kalupahana Estate, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC on 17th December 2025



On the same day, the Plantation Human Development Trust conducted a Counseling Programme for Disaster-Affected Children at Kalupahana Estate, focusing on the emotional and psychological well-being of children affected by disaster situations. The programme used child-friendly counseling methods and interactive activities such as games, group exercises, and creative engagement to help children express emotions and regain a sense of safety.

Programme Focus:

- Psychological support for trauma recovery
- Encouraging emotional expression
- Rebuilding peer relationships and social connections

- Strengthening resilience and coping skills

This initiative played a vital role in helping children overcome fear and emotional distress, supporting their healthy mental development after the disaster.

Total Participants of the Programme 35 Children

Article By: Shamoora Cassiere

Re-opening of Halgolla Estate CDC After the Disaster at Kelani Valley Plantations PLC 13th January 2026



The Child Development Centre (CDC) of Halgolla Estate, Wewelthalawa Division, was successfully re-opened on 13th January 2026 under the intervention and guidance of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), following the recent disaster that affected the estate community. This important initiative was organized in collaboration with Halgolla Estate, with the objective of restoring essential early childhood services and strengthening community wellbeing. The programme included a CDC parents Meeting to re-engage parents and create awareness on child development and post-disaster care. In addition, a drug distribution programme was conducted to support the immediate health needs of the estate community.

The event was attended by officials from PHDT, including the Community Development Officer (CDO), Secretary, and Project Assistant (PA) of the Health Division, highlighting PHDT's active role in coordinating and facilitating the programme. The participation of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Officer from the Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat was further strengthened with technical support and coordination. Members of Estate Management and Estate Welfare Staff also took part in the programme, ensuring smooth implementation and community participation.

Article By: Shamoora Cassiere

Healthy Little Champs Programme - Nuwara Eliya

The Healthy Little Champs Programme was successfully conducted on 13th January 2026 at Dunsinane Estate, under the coordination of elpitiya plantations PLC. The programme was organized with the primary objective of mitigating the prevalence of undernourished children within the estate community.

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Healthy Little Champs Programme...



A total of 40 parents and guardians participated in this important programme. An initial meeting was held to engage with the parents/guardians of children identified as undernourished, providing a platform to explain the programme's objectives, planned activities, and the role of families in supporting child nutrition. During the session, participants were encouraged to actively engage in the programme, raise concerns, and share ideas to enhance the health and nutrition of their children. Guidance was provided on best practices in child feeding, care, and monitoring growth and development, ensuring that families are empowered to take an active role in improving child health outcomes.

The programme marks a vital step toward promoting healthy growth and development among children in the estate. By fostering awareness, providing support, and encouraging active parental involvement, the initiative aims to reduce undernutrition and ensure a healthier future generation within the Dunsinane Estate community.

Article By: V. Abinajah

Office Infrastructure Development in Nuwara Eliya Region

After many years, significant improvements have been made to the infrastructure of the Regional Office, marking an important milestone in enhancing the overall working environment. The refurbishment and development of the Regional Office were successfully carried out with the valuable directives of the Director General and the approval of the Board Directors, in response to requests made to improve office facilities.

Through this infrastructure development, a more organized, comfortable, and pleasant working environment has been created for the staff. Improved office facilities contribute to staff satisfaction, better coordination, and a more streamlined workflow, enabling officers to perform their duties more efficiently.

Furthermore, the development has helped to foster an organized office culture, which supports productivity and the effective achievement of institutional objectives. A well-structured and orderly environment plays a vital role

in delivering quality services and maintaining professional standards. Moving forward, it is the collective responsibility of the staff and the Regional Director to preserve these improved conditions and continue further development initiatives. Proper maintenance and commitment will ensure that the current working environment is sustained and enhanced for the benefit of both staff and service delivery.

Article By: Regional Director and Staff

Youth Empowerment Programme in Nuwara Eliya



A Youth Empowerment Programme was successfully conducted on 13th January 2026 at Nuwara Eliya Estate under the Regional Plantation Company, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, in coordination with the Plantation Human Development Trust, Nuwara Eliya. The programme was initiated with the primary objective of empowering the plantation community by promoting active youth participation and strengthening the estate-level Youth Committee. A total of 15 Youth Committee members participated in this initial session. The programme began with an introductory discussion that clearly outlined the purpose and importance of establishing and strengthening the Youth Committee. Participants were informed about the vital role of youth in community development and their potential contributions to social, health, educational, and livelihood-related initiatives within the estate. Special emphasis was placed on developing leadership skills, teamwork, and a strong sense of responsibility among youth members. The session also introduced the planned activities under the Youth Empowerment Programme, highlighting how meaningful youth engagement can foster positive change, enhance communication, and support sustainable development within the plantation community.

In addition, the programme provided a platform for youth members to share their ideas, concerns, and expectations, encouraging open dialogue and mutual understanding. This initial engagement is expected to strengthen collaboration among PHDT, estate management, and youth representatives, ensuring the effective implementation of future initiatives. Overall, the Youth Empowerment Programme represents a significant step toward nurturing confident, responsible, and actively engaged youth who can meaningfully contribute to the development and well-being of the plantation community at Nuwara Eliya Estate.

Article By: K.B. Gihani Maheshika

Driving Performance Through Collaboration: Cluster Review Meeting for Managers of Pussellawa Plantations Ltd - Ratnapura Region



A Cluster Review Meeting was held on 02nd January 2026 at Elston Estate for the Managers of Pussellawa Plantations Ltd. The meeting was attended by Managers of Avissawella Cluster coming under the purview of Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), Ratnapura Region.

The meeting focused on several important topics related to estate management, social welfare, and development projects.

- **Social and Welfare Activities:** Managers reviewed the social and welfare programs conducted across PPL estates, discussing achievements and areas for improvement.
- **Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies:** Challenges faced in managing these societies were discussed in detail, with suggestions for more effective functioning.
- **Child Development Centres:** The importance and advantages of Child Development Centres were highlighted, emphasizing their role in community development.
- **Indian Housing Project (IHP):** Criteria for land selection for housing projects were explained according to NBRO recommendations. Key aspects such as survey plans, including contour plans, perimeter surveys, blocking out plans, tenement lists, and company approvals, were also discussed.
- **Indian Housing Project Progress – Halpe Estate Waga Division:** Updates on the housing project were shared, including the successful completion of the water infrastructure project.
- **Timely Submission of Reports:** The importance of submitting reports to the PHDT promptly and accurately was emphasized.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Regional Director of PHDT Ratnapura while thanking the Government Officials, RPCs and Estate Management for the excellent support extended during 'Ditwah' cyclone period, reminded Managers of their responsibilities in the event of a disaster. Managers were made aware on measures to ensure the safety and security of both estate communities and premises during emergencies predicted or announced by the Meteorology Department or the District Secretariat.

The meeting provided an excellent platform for Estate Managers to share insights, discuss challenges, and align on strategies for welfare, development, and safety across PPL Estates.

Article By: Lankani Munasinghe

Growing Together for Stronger Outcomes: Quarterly Review Meeting of Plantation Family Welfare Officers in Pussellawa Plantations Ltd



We successfully conducted a Quarterly Review Meeting for Plantation Family Welfare Officers of Pussellawa Plantations Ltd on 02nd January 2026 at Elston Estate. The meeting was organized to review progress, identify challenges, and strengthen the implementation of welfare, health, and community development activities across the plantation sector.

The meeting served as an effective platform for discussion, knowledge sharing, and collaborative planning among officers and partner institutions working towards the well-being of plantation families. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, demonstrating strong inter-sectoral collaboration. Participants included the Estate Managers, Plantation Family Welfare Officers, Regional Director of PHDT Ratnapura, Project Officer Health, Community Development Officer, and Engineering Assistant. Their combined views contributed to meaningful discussions and practical recommendations aimed at improving service delivery at estate level.

Key Discussion Areas

- **Improving Child Development Centre (CDC) Daily Attendance**

Discussions focused on strategies to improve daily attendance at Child Development Centres. Factors such as parental awareness, quality of services, infrastructure, and monitoring mechanisms were reviewed. It was recommended to strengthen parent engagement and awareness programmes on the importance of early childhood development, enhance CDC environments to be child-friendly, safe, and attractive, and conduct follow-ups with parents of children showing irregular attendance. Emphasis was also placed on maintaining accurate daily attendance records to monitor progress effectively.

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Quarterly Review Meeting...

- **Improving Nutritional Status of Children Under Five Years**

The nutritional status of children under five years was identified as a key area requiring targeted intervention. Participants emphasized the importance of supporting children who are below age-appropriate weight to achieve normal growth levels. Strengthening growth monitoring systems, early identification of undernourished children, and promoting nutrition education for parents, particularly mothers using locally available foods were highlighted as priority actions. In addition, close coordination with health authorities and PHDT officers for timely referrals, follow-up services, and continuous monitoring and reporting was emphasized to ensure measurable and sustained improvements in child nutrition outcomes.

- **Timely Submission of Plantation Family Welfare Officer Returns**

The importance of timely submission of monthly and quarterly returns was strongly emphasized. Common delays and challenges were discussed, along with the need to improve planning and time management among officers. Ensuring accuracy and completeness of data prior to submission was highlighted as essential for effective monitoring, planning, and decision-making at regional and national levels.

- **Proper Maintenance of Line Registers**

Accurate and up-to-date maintenance of line registers was identified as a key administrative responsibility. Recommendations included maintaining clear and updated records of families residing in estate line rooms, ensuring consistency in recording births, deaths, migrations, and household changes, and regularly verifying registers to avoid errors or duplication. Officers were encouraged to follow standard guidelines and seek clarification when necessary to maintain data accuracy. Line registers were recognized as a vital source of information for welfare planning, health interventions, and community development programmes.

Article By: YM Chamodi Premarathna

Year-end Progress Review Meeting of Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCSs)

The Year-end Progress Review Meeting of the Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCSs) was successfully held on 22nd December 2025 at the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) Auditorium. The meeting brought together representatives of cooperative societies, officials, and stakeholders to review the performance of the societies over the past year and plan for the future.

During the meeting, participants examined both the achievements and the challenges faced by each cooperative



society. Special attention was given to understanding the factors behind their successes and difficulties. Through open discussions, attendees gained insights into the operational, financial, and management-related issues affecting the societies.

Cooperative societies that showed positive growth shared their experiences and best practices. Discussions focused on strengthening these successful initiatives and exploring new investment opportunities with careful planning and long-term benefits for members.

At the same time, societies that faced difficulties received guidance on corrective measures. The meeting highlighted strategies such as improved financial management, better use of resources, active member participation, and stronger governance to help these societies move toward a stable position.

The importance of member welfare was also emphasized. Participants discussed programs such as housing improvements, social support, and community services to enhance members' well-being while building trust and engagement within the societies.

Beyond individual societies, the meeting also addressed the broader goal of revitalizing estate communities. Speakers highlighted the need to improve social, economic, and living conditions in estate areas. Approaches discussed included capacity-building programs, initiatives focused on youth and women, and collaborative efforts with relevant institutions.

In conclusion, the Year-end Progress Review Meeting provided a valuable platform for reflection, learning, and strategic planning. It reinforced the commitment of the Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies to sustainable development, financial stability, and improved quality of life for members, laying the foundation for stronger and more vibrant estate communities in the years ahead.

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

Talent Corner

“Sithroo” Art Exhibition 2025 Organized By PHDT Kegalle Region - 2025



1st Place

Name: H. H. C. Hathurushighe
Age group: 11-14
Estate: Muwankanda
RPC: Lalan Rubbers (PVT) Ltd



2nd Place

Name: M. A. G. Kauyanjilee
Age group: 11-14
Estate: Muwankanda
RPC: Lalan Rubbers (PVT) Ltd



3rd Place

Name: D. G. I. S. Gunarathne
Age group: 11-14
Estate: Parambe
RPC: Kegalle Plantations PLC



**INTER PLANTATIONS CRICKET TOURNAMENT - 2025
BADULLA REGIONAL WINNERS
MALWATTE VALLEY PLANTATIONS PLC**

UPCOMMING EVENTS.....

- Be Angels Programme - Distribution of school items and gifts to children in Mathurata area
- Stakeholder Forum - 10th February 2026
- CEOs' Forum - 16th February 2026
- PHDT AGM - 27th March 2026

*Edited by: R. V. A. N. P. Wijeratne
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