

# COMMUNITY CANVAS



Sri Lanka's First Community News Paper



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## Kirin Beverages (Japan) partnered with PHDT to protect Watersheds



In a move highlighting the growing importance of international accountability in the tea industry, representatives from Japan's Kirin Beverages conducted a high-level visit to the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting, which brought together top-level management and international stakeholders, focused on the sustainability and transparency of investments aimed at improving the lives of those at the heart of the "Ceylon Tea" brand.

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## Meeting with Badulla District Planters Highlights Industry Challenges and Development Priorities



### Introduction

A special meeting with Planters of the Badulla District was convened at the River Side Hotel, Badulla, under the patronage of the Samantha Vidyarthna, Hon. Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including Hon. MP Ravindra Bandara, Hon. MP Ambiga Samuel, the Regional Director of PHDT, the CEO of Agarapatana Plantations, as well as General Managers and Estate Managers representing estates across the district. Chaired by the Hon. Minister, the session focused on addressing the critical challenges currently faced by the tea industry in the Badulla District.

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## Director General's Visit to PHDT Galle Regional Estates Under Kotagala Plantations PLC on 13-03-2026



### Upper Division CDC of Raiygam Estate

Director General Visited Upper Division CDC of Raiygam Estate accompany with the Director Health, Regional Director PHDT Galle, Health Manager, Estate Manager and the PHDT Galle Staff. Main Objective of this visit is to get the RPC blessings further and to identify the grey areas at the CDCs which need more attention. Further he emphasis the importance of Child Development to the parents.

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## **Kirin Beverages (Japan) partnered with PHDT to protect Watersheds...**

The Japanese delegation met with the Director General (DG) and the PHDT project team to conduct a comprehensive review of ongoing social welfare initiatives. The session was coordinated by Mr. CanagaRatna, the local representative of the Rainforest Alliance (RA), signaling a unified approach toward ethical sourcing and sustainable agricultural practices.

### **A Focus on Transparency and Impact**

For global giants like Kirin Beverages, ensuring that capital is deployed effectively is a cornerstone of corporate governance. During the session, the PHDT team delivered detailed presentations outlining how investment funds are being utilized to modernize infrastructure within the plantation sector. Presentations included specific project updates from estates across key tea-growing regions with special emphasis on watershed protection, in **Sarnia Estate**, **St. James Estate** and **Adawatte Estate** in the Badulla region, and **Wattegodra Estate** and **Medakumbura Estate** in the Nuwara Eliya region in the current year

The primary objective of the visit was to ascertain that funds are being managed with the highest level of integrity. By reviewing project milestones and financial allocations, Kirin representatives were able to verify that their contributions are directly translating into tangible benefits for the estate worker community.

### **The Human Element of the Plantation Sector**

The discussions went beyond mere balance sheets, focusing heavily on the Human Development aspect of the PHDT's mission. Visual presentations during the meeting highlighted critical areas of progress, including:

- **Housing and Infrastructure:** The transition from traditional estate housing to modern, dignified living quarters across targeted estates.
- **Child Care and Education:** Enhancing the facilities available for the children of plantation workers to ensure safety and early childhood development.
- **Health and Sanitation:** Implementing clean water systems and health centers across various tea-growing regions.

The involvement of the Rainforest Alliance underscores the international standards of environmental and social responsibility that are now required in the global marketplace. As consumers in Japan and beyond become more conscious of where their tea comes from, these audits ensure that Sri Lankan tea remains a gold standard for both quality and ethics.

## **Looking Toward Future Partnerships**

The meeting concluded with a forward-looking dialogue on future investment opportunities. Both Kirin Beverages and the PHDT expressed a shared vision for a more resilient plantation industry—one where technological advancement and worker welfare go hand-in-hand.

For the Sri Lankan tea industry, such collaborations are vital. They provide not only the necessary capital for modernization but also the international validation required to maintain a competitive edge in the global market. As Kirin Beverages continues its journey from Japan to the hills of Sri Lanka, the partnership with the PHDT remains a blueprint for how corporate investment can drive meaningful social change.

*Article By: Madawa Gunaratna*

## **Meeting with Badulla District Planters...**

### **Objective of the meeting**

To address the critical challenges currently faced by the tea industry in the Badulla District.

### **Discussions centered on**

- productivity constraints,
- operational challenges,
- and the identification of sustainable strategies to enhance the resilience and growth of the sector.

### **Key areas attended,**

- Particular attention was given to expediting the implementation of housing projects allocated for plantation communities.
- The minister underscored the importance of strong coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders to ensure the timely completion of these initiatives, ultimately contributing to improved living conditions and social well-being of estate workers.

The meeting served as an important platform for dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthening the plantation sector and uplifting plantation communities

*Article By: A. M. C. P. Kumara*

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### Director General’s Visit to PHDT Galle...

Presently Early Child Education based on learning through play safety and overall development focusing the following areas.

- Physical Development.
- Cognitive Development
- Language Development.
- Social and Emotional Development

Director General has appreciated the manner in which the CDO providing the Government funded Mid day Meal Programme and reiterated the importance of nutritious meal to the children. Developing a child’s brain in childhood is very important as this is the time the brain grows fastest. The healthy meal supports brain development.

### Housing Scheme at West Division of Gikiyanakanda Estate

Director General Visited the Housing Scheme at West Division of Gikiyanakanda Estate in 2012 together with the team. All beneficiaries were workers then and at present they are living happy and peacefully in these houses with their children and grand- children.



He was very much pleased to see the improvements so far they had. We witness the improved quality of their lives, good health condition and safe living standards. At the discussion we made to understand that the housing beneficiaries make use of their leisure time for home gardening as income generation project.

### Nahalla Division CDC of Gikiyanakanda Estate

Director General visited the CDC at Nahalla Division of Gikiyanakanda Estate. This CDC was a new construction in 2016 under ECD Funds and closed down last few years and as per the decision taken by then Manager and the Regional Director this CDC was re-opened. Director General discussed with the parents on the importance of ECD Facility. He further reiterated the importance of sending children to the CDCs as Early Childhood refers to the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children from birth to around five year of age. This is the most important stage of life because the brain grows rapidly and children begin to learn basic skills that shape their future. Child development centre is important for the healthy growth and development of young children

and it provides a safe and caring environment where the children can learn, play and develop important skills. These Centres play a vital role in building strong foundation for a childrens’ future. Commitment and the dedication of the well qualified child development Officers are commendable and they always providing their fullest commitment towards better ECD Facility. As a result of this commitment of the PHDT, Estate, and the CDOs every year large number of Estate children those who are gained their pre-school education from the CDCs are selecting for Medicine, Law entrance, Engineering, Aesthetic faculties. The PHDT every year awarding them scholarships to recognize them and to support for their future.



Article By: M.D. Amarasinghe

### International Women’s Day Celebrated with Unity and Empowerment at Kotiyagalla Estate Bogawantalawa Plantations PLC



Kotiyagalla Estate marked International Women’s Day with a vibrant and inspiring celebration, bringing together women from across the estate in a spirit of unity, teamwork, and empowerment. The event was organized collaboratively by the Estate Management and the Estate Health Team. The celebration took place at the playground of St. Mary’s College, Bogawantalawa, providing an ideal setting for the day’s activities.

#### Objective

The primary objective of the event was to strengthen team building among the female workforce.

#### Main activities

The key highlight of the celebration was an energetic sports meet featuring seven teams representing seven divisions of the estate. The participants were members of the estate’s strong and active Mother Support Group, whose enthusiasm and commitment added great energy to the event. Through friendly competition and shared experiences, the women demonstrated not only their athletic abilities but also their solidarity and resilience.

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### International Women’s Day...

The event was further enriched by the generous support of the “Savings for Transformation” program by World Vision and local community leaders of Kotiyagalla Estate. Their contributions included gifts, medals, and awards, recognizing the efforts and achievements of all participants and adding a celebratory spirit to the occasion.

The competition was closely contested, with the Lower Division and Kotiyagalla New Colony Division securing third place. The Chapelton Poosary Division emerged as the runners-up, while the Middle Division team claimed the championship title as overall winners.

### Outcomes of the celebration

- The success of the event was made possible through the invaluable support of local stakeholders, including nearby school principals, midwives, the Grama Niladhari, and police officials, who extended their fullest cooperation.
- Beyond competition, the event fostered camaraderie, boosted morale, and reinforced the importance of collective strength among women in the estate community.
- This International Women’s Day celebration at Kotiyagalla Estate stands as a powerful example of collaboration and highlights the essential role women play in building resilient and supportive communities.

Article By: *Thrupthi Thirimanne | Assistant Manager – CSR Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC*

### Review of Estate Health Activities in Badulla & Monaragala Districts



A two-day review meeting on estate health activities in the Badulla and Monaragala districts was successfully held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Hotel Heritage, Badulla. The event brought together 65 participants representing key stakeholders in the estate health sector.

The meeting was attended by senior health officials including the Director of Estate & Urban Health, Consultant Community Physician and team, Provincial and Regional Directors of Health Services, & their staff, representatives from the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT),

Medical Officer Plantation, Regional Director, PHDT Badulla and Manager Health, PHDT Badulla. Medical Officers of Health (MOHs) from both districts, along with field staff such as PHNSs, SPHIs, PHIs, and PHMs, also actively participated.

### Key Activities

The programme commenced with an inaugural session organized by the PDHS Uva Province and the RDHS Badulla team. This was followed by a comprehensive overview presentation by the Consultant Community Physician, highlighting the current status of estate health services. Subsequently, MOHs from Badulla and Monaragala districts presented area-wise updates on estate health activities, enabling a detailed review of field-level implementation, challenges, and progress.

### Objectives of the Review

The review meeting was conducted with the following key objectives:

- To identify gaps and challenges in estate health service delivery
- To monitor progress in key maternal and child health indicators
- To strengthen coordination between MOHs, estate management, and relevant stakeholders to identify corrective measures related to health activities
- To generate evidence-based information for regional and national health planning
- To evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing nutrition and health interventions, particularly during and after the Ditwah cyclone period

### Key Outputs and Outcomes

The meeting resulted in several important outcomes and agreed actions:

- Identification of priority gaps in maternal and child nutrition, including maternal undernutrition, low haemoglobin levels, and low birth weight
- Identified service delivery challenges related to exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, with agreement on targeted corrective actions e, g., Brest feeding corners
- Recommendations to improve the quality of meals provided at Child Development Centres (CDCs) and to improve coverage
- Agreed strategies to enhance mother awareness on nutrition and child feeding practices
- Improved guidance on effective utilization of Thriposha, including its use for on-site feeding at CDCs

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## Review of Estate Health Activities in Badulla & Monaragala Districts...

- Renewed focus on strengthening adult screening programmes, including oral health services
- Action points to address environmental health issues, particularly water purification, sanitation and waste management in estate communities
- Assistance from the estate management in maintaining PHM quarters, maternal & child welfare clinics and other health institutions including hospitals
- Review and reinforcement of the “Happy Estate” programme to further improve living conditions and overall wellbeing

### Conclusion

The review meeting served as a valuable platform for sharing experiences, identifying priority areas, and aligning strategies among stakeholders. It reinforced the importance of coordinated, evidence-based interventions to improve the health and nutritional status of estate populations in the Uva Province.

Article By: *Dr. Paba Palihawadana*

## International Women’s Day Celebration on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Urban Council Hall, Dickoya



### Introduction

The PHDT Hatton Region, in collaboration with the Children and Women’s Bureau of the Headquarters Police Station – Hatton, successfully organized a meaningful International Women’s Day Celebration, bringing together EMAs, PFWOs, CDOs, Community Mothers’ Groups, and estate volunteers, with the participation of approximately 170 attendees.

The programme was conducted under the patronage of Mr. Pradeep Weerasekara, Senior Superintendent of Police – Hatton, who shared valuable insights on the challenges faced by women, the importance of courage in seeking assistance, and the protection mechanisms available through legal and social support systems.

The Regional Director of PHDT highlighted the strength, resilience, and invaluable contributions of plantation women, recognizing their role not only as caregivers and community builders but also as key contributors to the national economy

### Objective of the celebration

This event served as a powerful reminder that empowered women build stronger families, healthier communities, and a more progressive society.

### Key Highlights

- Strengthening awareness of women’s rights and protection
- Guidance on seeking support during social and family challenges
- Encouraging women’s empowerment and community leadership
- Building stronger support networks within plantation communities

Article By: *Anjalika*

## Indian Housing Program (IHP) 4700 (2026) Awareness Programme for Estate Managers with the Implementing Agencies (IAs)



The IHP 4700 (2026) Awareness Programme for Estate Managers with the IAs was successfully held on 26.02.2026 at the PHDT Training Center – Strathdon, Hatton Region. Participation

The programme was attended by representatives from multiple stakeholder organizations:

- RPC Participants: Estate Superintendents, Estate Managers, and Plantation Family Welfare Officers
- National Housing Development Authority (NHDA): District Manager and Management Assistant
- State Engineering Corporation (SEC): Project Head, Project Manager, and Civil Superintendent
- PHDT Head Office: Director (Engineering) and Assistant Manager – Projects
- PHDT Regional Office: Regional Director, Accountant, Coordinating Engineering Assistant, Engineering Assistant, Community Development Officer, Technical Officer, ICT Officer, Project Assistant (Engineering), and Project Assistant (Mobilization)

### Project Details

- Total number of selected housing units under the project: 172 Units

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## Indian Housing Program (IHP) 4700 (2026)...

### Key Discussion Areas

The session mainly focused on:

- Requested Details from EWHCS
- Beneficiary Selection Criteria
- Land Selection Criteria for Housing Project

### Important Points for Land Selection

The following critical factors were discussed when selecting suitable land for housing projects:

- Accessibility to the land
- Slope/steepness of the land
- Ground condition and soil stability
- Availability of water
- Availability of electricity
- Availability of common amenities (schools, health facilities, roads, etc.)

Article By: *Malshany Abewikrama*

## Morning Meal Start-up Fund Cheque Distribution and Training Programme for selected CDOs.



On 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, the Morning Meal Start-up Fund Cheque Distribution and Training Programme for selected Child Development Officers (CDO's) were successfully held at the Cooperative Training Centre, Pallekelle with the participation of the health & welfare staff.

The event was attended by the Regional Director of PHDT Kandy, Medical Officer of Plantation, Health Manager of PHDT Head Office, HR Manager of EPL, Estate Managers representing KPL, UPL, PPL, SLSPC and JEDB estates, the Assistant Accountant, Secretary, Project Officer Health, Project Assistant, and 30 Child Development Officers.

### Objective of the Programme

To enhance the capacity of Child Development Officers (CDOs) and estate management to effectively implement and sustain the Morning Meal Programme by strengthening knowledge and practical skills in early childhood nutrition, growth monitoring, and quality development of Child Development Centres (CDCs), ultimately promoting the health, nutrition, and overall well-being of children.

### The programme aimed

- To strengthen the implementation of the Morning the Meal
- To improve knowledge on nutritional related activities at Child Development Centres (CDCs).

### Key activities during the event,

- start-up fund cheques were distributed to estate managers and to the CDO's to support the implementation of this programme.
- An awareness session was conducted for this programme which included guidelines, sustainability strategies, early childhood nutrition, parental support and growth monitoring.
- The Health Manager of PHDT led a discussion on the utilization and sustainability of the start-up funds,
- The Medical Officer of Plantation conducted the training on improving CDC attendance and the importance of nutrition in early childhood.
- A session on quality development of CDCs and emerging trends in early childhood care, followed by a practical training on growth monitoring, where participants practiced measuring children's height and weight.

### Output

The programme strengthened the capacity of the Child Development Officers (CDOs) and estate management to enhance service quality and promote the health and well-being of children attending CDCs

Article By: *Hashini Wickramasinghe.*

## “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme in Kandy



### Introduction

The “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme was successfully conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Yatawatte Tamil Vidyalaya with the support of the Matale RDHS health team. The programme was attended by 10 Medical Officers and health staff from the RDHS office, along with the Estate Manager of Yatawatte Estate, the Project Officer – Health, Project Assistant, PFWO, 82 members of the estate community, and 23 CDC and school children.

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## “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme in Kandy

### Objective

The objective of the programme was to provide health screening services to estate communities, enabling the early detection of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

### Activities

The clinic offered a range of essential health services, including dental and oral cancer screening, screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), tuberculosis (TB) screening, and eye examinations.

### Output of the Screening Programme

As a result of the medical screenings:

- Five patients were referred for further dental and oral health treatment.
- Seven individuals were referred for additional medical care following NCD screening.
- Awareness sessions were conducted to educate participants on dental and oral cancer, including its symptoms and preventive measures.
- Participants were also informed about non-communicable diseases and their early warning signs, promoting early detection and healthier lifestyle practices within the estate community.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe.

## Improved Sanitation and Living Standards Through Water Project at Mountjean Estate



The Ministry Housing Water Project at Mountjean Estate Mountjean Division under the **Janatha Estates Development Board (JEDB)** has been completed successfully providing full water supply coverage to every housing unit. Residents now have dependable access to clean and functional water ensuring a steady and uninterrupted supply. This milestone has greatly enhanced sanitation and hygiene within the estate while also, improving daily life by supporting essential activities such as cooking, cleaning, and personal care. Additionally, the project has minimized reliance on external or shared water sources, delivering greater convenience and promoting sustainable living for the estate community.

Article By: Charaka Kulathunga.

## PHDT Conducts Start-Up Fund Distribution Sponsored by Ahmad Tea and Training Programme to Strengthen Early Childhood Nutrition on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) successfully organized a “Morning Meal Start-up Fund Cheque Distribution and Training Programme” on February 18, 2026, at the PHDT Kegalle Regional Office.

### Objective of the programme

- To improve nutrition status of children, to identify determinants of undernutrition
- To emphasize the importance of proper fund management to ensure continuous benefits for children
- Key highlights of the programme
- The distribution of start-up fund cheques to the Managers of 19 Estates
- Child Development Officers were given awareness to support the implementation of morning meal programmes at Child Development Centers (CDCs).
- In addition, a comprehensive discussion on the effective utilization of start-up funds and long-term sustainability strategies was conducted by the Health Manager of PHDT
- The Medical Officer - Plantation of PHDT conducted an informative training session focusing on improving CDC attendance and addressing key determinants of undernutrition in early childhood.
- The programme included training on quality development of CDCs, introducing new trends in early childhood care.
- A practical session on growth monitoring was also carried out, where participants were trained on accurately measuring children’s BMI (weight according to height) to track their development
- Participants were also educated on the importance of balanced nutrition of plantation children.
- These funds are expected to play a vital role in improving the nutritional status of children among estate communities

### Expected outcome

Through this initiative, PHDT aims to strengthen early childhood development services and promote better nutrition and health outcomes among children within the estate communities in Kegalle region.

Article By: Shamoora Cassiere

## SMART PHDT Training Programme in Kegalle Region



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) successfully conducted the SMART PHDT Training Programme on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Regional Training Center in Kegalle, with a special focus on estates managed by **Kegalle Plantations PLC**.

### Aim of the Programme

- The programme aimed to digitalize estate population data in a comprehensive and systematic manner across Kegalle Plantations PLC estates.
- The initiative focuses on establishing a centralized digital system to maintain detailed records on family profiles, housing conditions, infrastructure facilities, and the health status of estate communities.

### Participants of the Programme

The training brought together key stakeholders, including the Regional Director of PHDT Kegalle, Manager – Information Technology (PHDT), Assistant Manager ICT (PHDT) – Kandy, the CEO of Apps Technologies, as well as Community Development Officers, Project Assistant (Health), ICT Officer (ICTO), and Plantation Family Welfare Officers (PFWOs)/Child Development Officers (CDOs) representing estates under Kegalle Plantations PLC.

### Output

- Participants gained knowledge and practical skills in digital data collection, management, and reporting.
- Emphasis was placed on maintaining accurate and real-time data to support informed decision-making and improve service delivery within the estates.

### Expected Outcome

- The SMART PHDT system is expected to enhance efficiency, transparency, and planning capacity by providing reliable and well-structured data for future development initiatives.
- Through this programme, PHDT reinforces its commitment to leveraging digital innovation to improve the living standards and overall well-being of plantation communities.

Article By: *Shamoora Cassiere*

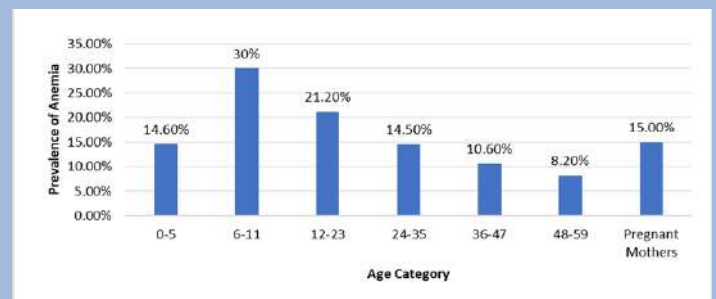
## Empowering Estate Communities Through Better Health



**Model Estate Programme – PHDT Field Initiative on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Glassaugh Estate – KVPL**

### Introduction

Anemia remains a major public health problem among the population in Sri Lanka. According to the recent National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey, the age-wise prevalence of anemia in the country highlights its widespread impact across different population groups. The findings of the survey are presented as follows:



Source:

National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey on 2022  
<https://share.google/pwt2qEYE6plfYJRS3>

### Objectives

PHDT has initiated a targeted programme under the Model Estate concept to mitigate the prevalence of anemia within the plantation sector. This initiative aims to address nutritional deficiencies, improve awareness, and promote sustainable interventions to reduce anemia among vulnerable communities.

### Activities conducted

- The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) successfully carried out an important field health awareness activity at Glassaugh Estate on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, aiming to promote healthier lifestyles and improved productivity among estate workers.
- This initiative focused on raising awareness about the importance of iron supplementation, a crucial factor in preventing Anemia, which can cause fatigue, weakness, and reduced work efficiency.

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## Empowering Estate Communities Through Better Health

Raising Awareness – Knowledge for a Healthier Workforce  
During the session, workers were educated on the vital role of iron in maintaining good health and sustaining energy for daily activities connected with routine work.

### Key areas covered during the session included:

- Preventing anemia through proper nutrition and supplementation
- Boosting energy levels and improving overall well-being
- Enhancing work productivity through better health
- Understanding the correct way to take iron supplements

### Output of the Programme

- Participants were provided with practical guidance to maximize the effectiveness of iron supplementation, including:
  - ◊ Taking iron supplements together with Vitamin C to enhance absorption
  - ◊ Avoiding tea or coffee immediately after intake, as these can inhibit iron absorption
- These recommendations help ensure that participants receive the full benefits of supplementation.
- Following the awareness session, iron supplements along with Vitamin C were distributed to female workers for a period of one month. The Estate Medical Assistant (EMA) will oversee the daily distribution, ensuring consistent usage and sustained impact.
- With the active participation of estate management, health officials, and PHDT staff, the programme demonstrated a strong collective commitment to improving the health and well-being of estate communities.

Article By: K.B.Gihani Maheshika

## Youth Empowerment Programme – Logie Estate on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - [Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC](#)



### *Empowering Youth Today for a Healthier, Brighter Tomorrow*

PHDT-NEL successfully conducted an interactive Youth Empowerment Programme at Logie Estate, aimed at equipping adolescent girls and boys with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed and responsible life choices.

The programme incorporated interactive discussions, practical demonstrations, and educational sessions, creating a supportive environment where participants could learn, share experiences, and ask questions openly.

### Programme Highlights

#### Menstrual Health and Hygiene Practices

Participants were educated on proper menstrual care and hygiene, while also addressing and breaking common taboos surrounding menstruation. The session helped build confidence among adolescent girls and encouraged open discussions on sensitive health topics.

#### Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention Education

Through engaging discussions and real-life examples, participants were made aware of the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco on health and productivity. The session emphasized the importance of making informed decisions and adopting healthy lifestyles from a young age.

#### Participation

The programme engaged 40 enthusiastic youth, fostering an active and participatory learning environment. Participants contributed to lively discussions, shared their experiences, and demonstrated strong interest and curiosity throughout the sessions.

#### Impact and Outcomes

The Youth Empowerment Programme contributed to:

- Providing practical health education for everyday life
- Increasing awareness of personal well-being and hygiene
- Strengthening knowledge for making safe and responsible decisions
- Creating a safe platform for open discussion on sensitive issues

By empowering young people with knowledge and confidence, PHDT continues to support the development of healthier, more informed, and responsible future generations within plantation communities.

*“Today’s informed youth are tomorrow’s leaders. Health, knowledge, and awareness pave the way for a brighter future.”*

Article By: K.B.Gihani Maheshika

## Indian Grant Housing Project (1300) – 2025 Infrastructure Water Project Handed Over to Dehenakande Estate Community

Total 25 families in the estate community benefited from the safe drinking water project



### Introduction

The safe drinking water project under the Indian Grant Housing Project, implemented by the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure at a total cost of Rs. 6,117,405/-, was officially handed over to the community of the Dehenakande Division of Hapugastenne Estate. A total of 25 families from the estate community have directly benefited from this project, ensuring better health, hygiene, and overall well-being.

The water project was carried out by the Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Society in collaboration with the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), Ratnapura. The official handing-over ceremony took place at the division's muster shed, marking a significant milestone in improving the living conditions of the estate community.

### Key Activities

The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Regional Director of PHDT Ratnapura Region, Mr. Narada Wijeyaratne. In his address, he emphasized the importance of protecting the water source to ensure a sustainable and continuous supply throughout the year. He also advised the community to use water responsibly and avoid wastage. Engineering Assistant Mr. Maduranga Ganehiarachchi provided a clear explanation of how the water supply system operates and offered guidance on its proper use and basic maintenance. Community Development Officer Ms. Priyanthi Jayanath highlighted the importance of maintaining good hygiene and environmental cleanliness, encouraging the community to work collectively towards long-term development.

During the event, a Water Management Committee was established to oversee the operation and maintenance of the system. Mr. Periyasami Tamilnadan was appointed as Chairperson, Mr. Sellamuthuramsundaram as Secretary, and Ms. R. Valliamma as Treasurer, along with several other committee members. Mr. Arumugam Dayanidhi was appointed as the system caretaker, and the community agreed to provide him with a monthly allowance of Rs. 2,500 in recognition of his services. The project, officially named the Dehenakande Water Supply Scheme, was formally handed over by Mr. Narada Wijeratne to the Chairperson on behalf of the community. Estate Welfare Officer Ms. Shirani Yasarathna and Field Officer Mr. S. Manimaran were also present at the occasion.

## A cluster review meeting for estate managers of Hapugastenne Plantations PLC



A Cluster Review Meeting for Estate Managers of Hapugastenne Plantations PLC was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the General Manager's Office of Hapugastenne Tea Estate.

### Objective of the Meeting

The meeting provided a platform for Estate Management to discuss ongoing social, welfare, and development initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life in estate communities.

### Key Activities

- Participants reviewed the achievements of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and identified challenges to ensure that all community members benefit from its programmes.
- PHDT presented updates on its activities within the estates, highlighting implemented initiatives, outcomes, and their impact on community welfare. Regular communication between PHDT and Estate Management ensures coordinated action, timely support, and effective responses to queries or concerns.
- Special focus was given to Child Development Centres (CDCs), emphasizing children's attendance, nutrition and meal quality, sanitation, growth monitoring, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities. Consistent monitoring and increased parental awareness were identified as critical to promoting children's healthy development.
- The role of Child Development Officers (CDOs) was discussed, recognizing their valuable contribution to families and community welfare, while exploring ways to further enhance their effectiveness.
- The Government's morning meal programme was reviewed, with Estate Managers discussing practical challenges and strategies to ensure children consistently receive nutritious meals essential for health and learning.
- Infrastructure and environmental health under the IHP 4700 project were reviewed, highlighting safe drinking water, waste management, clean surroundings, and community education on hygiene and environmental care.
- Health and preventive care programmes organized by the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) were acknowledged as vital for early disease detection and promoting healthier communities.

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## A cluster review meeting...

### Outcome of the Meeting

The Cluster Review served as an important forum for discussion, planning, and collaboration. It demonstrated the strong commitment of Estate Management and partner organizations, including PHDT, to improving living standards, supporting child development, and promoting sustainable practices. Continuous cooperation, proactive engagement, and timely information sharing were identified as essential for achieving long-term progress and ensuring the well-being of all estate communities.

Article By: Dimali Chandrasena

## Morning - Meal Start-up Fund Distribution & ECD Training Programme Strengthens Child Nutrition Initiatives



Morning meal Start-up Fund Distribution and ECD Training Programme Strengthens Child Nutrition Initiatives was successfully held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at the PHDT Badulla Region.

### Objective of the Programme

The programme aimed to strengthen the nutritional status of children attending Child Development Centres (CDCs).  
Programme Activities

- Distribution of Morning Meal Start-up Fund cheques
- Training on Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) practices
- Identification of determinants of under-nutrition among children under five years of age

### Participants

The programme brought together key stakeholders, including the Regional Director of PHDT Badulla, Medical Officer of Plantation, Health Manager from PHDT Head Office, Manager – Health & Mobilization, Estate Managers, Community Development Officers, Project Assistant – Health, and Child Development Officers.

### Key Highlights

- Morning Meal Start-up Fund cheques were distributed to Estate Managers and CDOs to strengthen nutrition

programmes at the estate level.

- The Health Manager of PHDT led detailed discussions on the effective use of funds and strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of nutrition initiatives.
- The training component focused on enhancing knowledge and practices in early childhood care. The Medical Officer of Plantation conducted sessions on CDC attendance and childhood nutrition, emphasizing the importance of consistent monitoring and timely intervention.
- Participants gained insights into improving the quality of Child Development Centres (CDCs) and were introduced to emerging trends in ECD and ECE practices, promoting better standards of care and learning environments.
- An interactive group work session enabled participants to identify ground-level causes of under-nutrition among children under five and propose practical, community-based solutions.

### Output

The programme represented a significant step forward in strengthening early childhood development initiatives and improving the nutritional well-being of children in plantation communities.

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

The PHDT Kegalle Community Development Team launched a programme to encourage children who dropped out due to the Dithwa disaster to return to school, and will continue supporting their education.

**CHILDHOOD DREAMS**

ආයේත් සමඟ ඉස්කෝලේ...  
මිණිදුම් පාලසාලාලෙකු සෙල්වොම්...

සොදුරු මල් කැකුලු.....	ආර්ථික මලර් මොද්දුකු...
මිලින වන්තව නොදී.....	වාඩුප් පොක විලාමල්...
සොදුරු හෙවත් උදෙසා.....	අර්ථකාන නාලායායකු
පාසල වෙත.....	කරුණ්තිල් කොණ්ඩු...
පියනගන්තව.....	පාලසාලාලෙකු සෙල්ව...
මංපෙත් විවර කරන්නා වූ.....	අඬු ඇදුණු වෙකුකු...
PHDT මෙහෙවර.....	පාලකයාලෙකු තීරණු
	වෙකුකුකුම...
	PHDT සෙවෙව...

Plantation Human Development Trust - Kegalle Region

# Talent Corner

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



1<sup>st</sup> Place

Name: N. Thakshila  
Age group: 15-18  
Estate: Mahaoya  
RPC: Lalan Rubber (Pvt) LTD



2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Name: P. V. D. Shanika Perera  
Age group: 15-18  
Estate: Udapola  
RPC: Kegalle Plantations PLC



3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Name: S. S. A. Muthumali  
Age group: 15-18  
Estate: Dewalakande  
RPC: Kelani Valley Plantations PLC



**INTER PLANTATIONS CRICKET TOURNAMENT - 2025  
KEGALLE REGIONAL WINNERS - KELANI VALLEY PLANTATIONS PLC**

## UPCOMING EVENTS.....

- Be Angels Programme - Distribution of school items and gifts to children in Mathurata area
- Startup Grants Programme - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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