

COMMUNITY CANVAS



Sri Lanka's First Community News Paper



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Leading the change – Residential In-Service Training for Regional Office Staff (MHs & CDOs) on Community Health Development



The Residential In-Service Training programme for Regional Office staff, including Managers of Health (MHs) and Community Development Officers (CDOs), was conducted from 4th to 6th August 2025 at the National Institute of Plantation Management (NIPM), with the participation of 19 staff members. This initiative focused on enhancing the capacity of regional level health personnel to strengthen the implementation and impact of health initiatives in plantation communities.

The training employed a participatory approach and featured sessions led by both internal and external resource persons. Key thematic areas included community empowerment, data visualization, problem identification, action planning, supportive supervision, and stakeholder engagement. As a result, participants gained practical knowledge and hands-on skills critical for improving community health outcomes.

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Clean Sri Lanka National Programme Inaugurated at Rasagalla Estate



The Clean Sri Lanka National Programme, launched as part of a Islandwide initiative, officially commenced its activities at selected estates across the island. On 14th August 2025, the programme commenced at Rasagalla Estate's No. 01 Division, Line No. 40 (24 Units), under Balangoda Plantations PLC.

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Launch of the publication of "Administrative Law and Public Service"



The book on Administrative Law and Public Service" authored by Mr. Prabhath Chandrakeerthi, Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, was launched on the 15th August 2025 at the Development Administrative Institute of Sri Lanka (SLIDA). This book is aimed at providing an insight on the applicability of administrative law in the public service. Supreme Court Judge Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, Presidential Secretary Dr. Nandika Kumaranayake, Prime Ministerial Secretary Pradeep Saputhanthri, and a group of top officials from the public administration were present at the event.

Roots to Wings: A Scholarship Programme Uplifting Plantation Children towards a Brighter Future



I am Krishna Bavan Abinash from Cecilton Estate of Balangoda Plantations PLC, achieved A/L results A/B/B, with a District Rank of 89 and a Z-Score of 1.6975, and have been selected to the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna. This scholarship from PHDT is a blessing for me and my family. It not only eases the financial challenges of higher education but also inspires me to pursue my academic goals with dedication. I am deeply grateful to PHDT for investing in students of the plantation community.



My name is Vijeyakumar Hasini Sewwandi from Calsay Maha Eliya Estate of Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC, who obtained A/L results A/A/B, with a District Rank of 67 and a Z-Score of 1.4947, have been selected to the Faculty of Management, Eastern University. Receiving the PHDT scholarship is a great encouragement and has lessened the financial difficulties of my higher studies. I wholeheartedly thank the Plantation Human Development Trust for their continuous support to plantation students like me in achieving our dreams.



I am Balakrishnan Sadhees from Venture Upper Division of Madulsima Plantations PLC, obtained A/L results A/A/B, with a District Rank of 141 and a Z-Score of 1.3463, and I am pursuing my higher education at the Faculty of Arts, University of Sabaragamuwa. The PHDT scholarship is a valuable recognition of my commitment to education and a great support to continue my studies without financial stress. I am sincerely thankful to PHDT for providing this opportunity and motivating me to contribute positively to my community.



My name is Sivaraja Enal Rosalin from St. Clair Estate of Maskeliya Plantations PLC, with A/L results B/B/B, a District Rank of 266, and a Z-Score of 1.158, have been selected to the Faculty of Arts, Eastern University. I sincerely appreciate the Plantation Human Development Trust for encouraging plantation students to pursue their dreams through this generous programme.



I am Kuganeshan Sulokshana Madhushani from Meddekanda Estate of Balangoda Plantations PLC, who obtained A/L results A/A/A, with a District Rank of 42 and a Z-Score of 1.877. I am privileged to have gained admission to the Faculty of Law, University of Peradeniya. Receiving the PHDT scholarship is an immense honor that reduces my financial burden and motivates me to work even harder. I sincerely thank the Plantation Human Development Trust for recognizing my efforts and for granting me this valuable support.

Article By: K.A. Nethmini P Thilakarathna

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Clean Sri Lanka National Programme...

This significant event was held under the esteemed patronage of Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure. The inauguration ceremony was graced by several key dignitaries and stakeholders, including:

- Hon. Wasantha Pushpakumara, Member of Parliament,
- Estate Manager – Rasagalla Estate
- Estate Manager – Walaboda Estate
- Officer-in-Charge, Balangoda Police
- Members and officials of the Pradeshiya Sabha
- Community beneficiaries

As part of the programme's initial phase, roofing sheets, paint, and painting materials provided by the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure Development were distributed to selected Estates. The distribution was coordinated and completed by the Plantation Human Development Trust – Ratnapura Region.



This initiative marks a vital step toward uplifting living standards and enhancing the environment within plantation communities, reinforcing the Government's commitment to sustainable development and community well-being.

Article By: Lankani Munasinghe

Leading the change – Residential In-Service Training for Regional Office Staff...

Key outputs of the programme included:

- Enhanced capacity of 19 regional staff in key community health strategies.
- Development of initial community action plans tailored to specific estate-level contexts.
- Strengthened skills in data analysis and visualization to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Improved understanding of stakeholder coordination and supportive supervision practices.
- Introduction of post-training assignments to reinforce learning through real-world application.

Participants responded positively to the training, emphasizing its practical relevance and immediate applicability in their fieldwork. To ensure the sustainability and real-life impact of the training, participants were tasked with post-training assignments focused on community-based interventions and data-driven monitoring. These activities will be tracked over a 3–6 months period, with certificates of successful participation awarded based on implementation and reporting. Overall, the programme was well-received and is expected to significantly contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of plantation communities through more capable and empowered field staff.

Article By: Dr. Paba Pali Hewadana

THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON



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2nd May 2025

Mr L R Perera
Director General
PHDT
No.427/14, Robert Gunawardene Mawatha
Battaramulla

Dear Sir,

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO TEA DIALOGUE PUBLISH BY PHDT

We refer to your letter dated 10th April 2025 addressed to the undersigned on the captioned subject, and as requested therein give below our comments;

The Planters' Association of Ceylon (PA) has proudly served as a key facilitator of the Corporate Sector within the Plantation Industry, particularly in supporting the Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs).

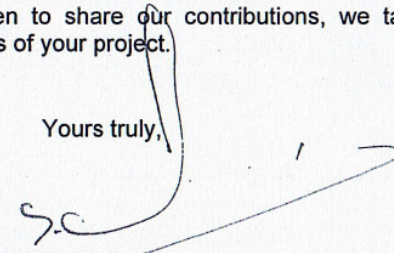
Since privatization of RPCs in 1992, the PA was actively involved in the establishment of the Plantation Housing Social Welfare Trust (PHSWT), an organization initiated at the time of the formation of the RPCs by the Government of Sri Lanka, with an intention to safeguard and promote the health and welfare of the Plantation Community.

It has been a privilege for the undersigned to serve as a founding Member of the Board of Governors of the PHSWT, and to witness the significant strides made under its' leadership towards the development and upliftment of the livelihood of Plantation workers and their families and the relaunch of the PHSWT into the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) to serve the needs and aspirations of the Plantation Community evolved over time.

The PHDT plays an instrumental role in shaping initiatives that benefit the Plantation Community. Throughout this journey, the PA has contributed immensely to the formation, development, and continued progress of the Organization and remains steadfast in its' commitment to supporting its' efforts well into the future.

Whilst appreciating the opportunity given to share our contributions, we take this opportunity of extending our best wishes for the success of your project.

Yours truly,


Lalith Obeyesekere
SECRETARY GENERAL

THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON

Awareness Programme for Early Detection of Oral Cancer & Self Mouth Examination under Elpitiya Plantations PLC & Watawala Plantations PLC



Awareness Programme held at PHDT Galle on 01st August 2025. The Programme was organized by PHDT Galle Region in collaboration with the RDHS office Galle, aiming to educate the estate Volunteers for Early Detection of Oral Cancer & Self Mouth Examination. The session was conducted by Dr. Prasanna Jayasekara Consultant in Dental Public Health at National Cancer Control Programme

Dr. Prasanna Jayasekara emphasises that early detection is a crucial point, as oral cancer, when detected early, can be treated more effectively, offering patients a much better prognosis.

Article By: M.D. Amarasinghe

Opening Ceremony of the Renovated Child Development Centre – Tillicoultry Division, Tillicoultry Estate at Horana Plantations PLC



We are proud to announce the successful opening of the newly renovated Child Development Centre (CDC) at Tillicoultry Division, Tillicoultry Estate, which took place on 5th August 2025.

This remarkable milestone was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests:

- Dr. Niranan Nugara – Sri Lankan Association of New York
- Mr. Jehan Canagaretne – Country Representative, RA Sri Lanka
- Director – Tea Plantations (Upcountry), Horana Plantations PLC
- Regional Director – PHDT, Hatton Region
- Estate Manager, dedicated estate staff, and the vibrant Tillicoultry community

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the generous

sponsors, partners, and supporters whose contributions made this transformation possible. Your unwavering commitment to early childhood development is creating lasting impact and brighter futures for our children.

The newly renovated CDC now stands as a safe, nurturing, and child-friendly space, designed to support quality learning and holistic development for the youngest members of our estate community.

Here's to building a better tomorrow — one child at a time.

Article By: Anjalika Kumary

Registration of CDCs under the ECD Unit – Central Province for all RPCs in Hatton Region at Strathdon Training Centre - Hatton



A one-day service program was successfully conducted at the PHDT Training Centre, Strathdon, to facilitate the registration of Child Development Centers (CDCs) under the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Unit – Central Province.

A total of 63 estates participated in the program, submitting applications for permanent or temporary registration. For CDCs with incomplete documentation, a grace period has been granted until the first week of September to submit the required materials.

The program was jointly supported by:

- Mr. Gunathilaka, Director – ECD Unit, Central Province
- ECD Unit staff
- Regional Director – PHDT Hatton Region
- PHDT Hatton regional staff team

The session also included a comprehensive awareness program on registration procedures, documentation requirements, and compliance guidelines, ensuring all participants are well-informed and equipped to complete the process.

Article By: Anjalika Kumary

Health Screening Programme – Kandaloya Estate - Janatha Estates Development Board



Test	Total No. of Participants	Referred to the clinic
Measuring of Body Mass Index	121	19
Blood pressure	121	25
Blood Sugar Checkup	121	4
Cholesterol checkup	121	5
Oral Cancer screening	102	4
Dental treatment	53	0
Screening for visual defects	128	67
Chest disease screening	37	0
Sexual transmitting infection screening	66	0
Well women Clinic	10	1
Malaria parasite identification test	35	0
Dental treatment of school children	10	0

A comprehensive health screening programme was successfully conducted at Kandaloya Estate on 22nd July 2025, organized by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Kandy Region, aimed at improving the overall well-being of estate workers and their families. The programme was supported by the PHDT – Kegalle Region, the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) Office – Kegalle, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) Yatiyanthota, Chest clinic – Kegalle, and the Estate Management Kandaloya & Nagasthenna Estates. The initiative was organized in collaboration with local health authorities and medical professionals, offering free check-ups that included Measuring of Body Mass Index, Blood pressure, Blood Sugar Checkup, cholesterol checkup, oral Cancer screening, dental treatment, Screening for visual defects, chest disease screening, Sexual transmitting infection screening, well women clinic, malaerai parasite identification test, dental treatment of school children. Over 286 residents and 38 medical staff and doctors, 8 PHDT staff were participated in the event, which also provided guidance on nutrition, hygiene, and preventive care. The programme was well-received by the community and highlighted the importance of accessible healthcare services in rural estate areas.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Cluster Review Meeting for Estate Superintendents and Health & Welfare Staff



A cluster Review Meeting was held on 23rd July 2025, at

Lower Kothmale Club in Imboolpitiya Estate for Estate Superintendents, Health & Welfare Staff of the Kahawatte Plantation PLC (KPL). The meeting focused on three main areas; Engineering. Health & Mobilization. Review Included:

- Indian Housing Projects (IHP)
- Clean Sri Lanka
- MJF Project Progress
- Review of CDC attendance & MSWR receivals
- Progress of nutrition & weighing status
- Status of onsite Thripasha feeding
- Monthly Reports of PFWOs & CDOs
- EWHCS status (Audits, AGM, By low Registration)
- EWHCS monthly Reports

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Official Visit of Director Health – Kandy Region



The Director Health (DH) of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) made an official visit to the Kandy Region on 12th August 2025, to inspect ongoing health activities and assess the effectiveness of current programmes. The visit served as an important opportunity to provide guidance, identify challenges, and strengthen the coordination between regional staff and local stakeholders. The inspection emphasized the commitment of PHDT to ensure high-quality and accessible healthcare services to the estate communities.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Health Steering Committee Meeting, Kandy



The Health Steering committee meeting was held on 12th August 2025, at the Regional Director of Health Services in Kandy. Participants included officials from the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) Kandy, Director Health of PHDT, Regional Director Kandy,

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Health Steering Committee Meeting, Kandy...

Secretary of the Planters Association Kandy region, MO(NCD), MO(MCH), MO Planning, Regional Dental Surgeon from RDHS Kandy. The meeting focused on health activities in the estate sector. As part of the ongoing efforts to uplift healthcare services on the plantation sector. We mainly focused the health programmes to be conducted for the next 04 months through RDHS Kandy. Primary objective of this meeting was to strengthen the collaboration among Government Health Authorities, Regional Plantation Companies, and the Plantation Human Development Trust. This initiative aims to ensure the effective implementation of health-related programmes within the estate communities, addressing both preventive and curative health care needs.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Awareness Programme to Reduce Alcohol Addiction Held at Beaumont Estate - Pussellawa Plantations Limited



An awareness programme aimed at reducing alcohol addiction among the estate community was successfully conducted on 22nd July 2025 at Beaumont Estate. The event focused on identifying and

supporting individuals struggling with alcohol addiction within the community. During the programme, several individuals who were addicted to alcohol were identified for further support and follow-up. A key highlight of the event was the participation of the Development Officer, who addressed the gathering and shared valuable advice on the dangers of alcohol abuse. He also encouraged participants to adopt healthier lifestyles and seek help when needed. The programme aimed not only to raise awareness but also to create a path towards recovery and better living conditions for affected individuals and their families. By promoting healthy habits and providing guidance, the initiative marked an important step in building a stronger, more resilient estate community.

Article By: Sisira Dishanayaka

Clean Sri Lanka Opening Ceremony - Kandy Region



The official launch of the Clean Sri Lanka Program took place on **31st July at Nicholoya Estate** under the supervision of SLSPC. **Hon. Deepthi Waasalage**, Member of Parliament, participated as the chief guest, joined by estate management and estate residents. As part of the inauguration, project materials were distributed to beneficiaries, symbolizing the start of implementation work on the estate.

The opening ceremony of the Clean Sri Lanka Program was held on **13th August at Hope Estate** under the guidance of JEDB. **Hon. Ranjith Wijerathna**, Member of Parliament, graced the event as the chief guest, joined by estate officials and community members. The ceremony included the distribution of project materials to beneficiaries, officially marking the commencement of project activities at the estate.

Article By: Sisira Dishanayaka

Building GIS Capacity at PHDT Kandy Regional Office



On 1st of August 2025, the Kandy Regional Office of PHDT conducted a GIS orientation session to strengthen spatial data management skills and better support project implementation. The session was chaired by the Regional Director and attended by all office staff, including members of the engineering, health, mobilization, and finance divisions. The training was facilitated by A. M. K. A. M. Abeywickrama and T. M. I. U. Dayananda, two final-year undergraduate trainees pursuing the BSc (Hons) in Town & Country Planning Degree, currently following their internship attached to the Kandy regional office. The focus of the session was on QGIS software, where participants learned how to mark project sites and prepare professional map layouts with legends, scale bars, and titles for reporting purposes. Additionally, the trainees introduced staff to the u Map on-line database, developed using Open Street Map tools, which contains spatial data and updated layers of all projects in the Kandy region. This initiative not only enhanced the team's technical capacity but also ensured that staff can independently continue mapping and data visualization beyond the trainees' training period. With its open access and user-friendly design, the GIS database is expected to serve as a valuable tool for transparent reporting, monitoring, and planning of regional projects.

Article By: M. K. A. M. Abeywickrama &
T. M. I. U. Dayananda

Inter Plantation Softball Cricket Tournament for Plantation Executives 2025 – A Celebration of Team Spirit



August 2, 2025 – The Public Ground of Ruwanwella came alive with excitement, energy, and camaraderie as the much-anticipated Inter Plantation Softball Cricket Tournament 2025 unfolded. The tournament brought together some of the finest teams from across plantations, showcasing not only sporting talent but also the unity and friendly spirit among the plantation executives.

This year's competition saw strong participation from leading plantations, with teams from Kelani Valley Plantations PLC (KVPL), Kurunegala Plantations Ltd. (KUPL), Kegalle Plantations PLC (KGPL), Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC (MVPL), and Lalan Rubbers (Pvt) Ltd. (LALAN) taking the field. Alongside them, representatives from PHDT – including DE, DRD, Manager (Admin & HR), and all members of Team Kegalle – added enthusiasm and support, reflecting the collaborative effort behind the event.

One of the highlights of this year's tournament was the revamped league structure. To give teams more opportunities to showcase their skills, organizers introduced a schedule allowing two league-stage matches per team before the knockouts. This ensured more balanced competition and provided every side with a fair chance to progress. The new format was warmly welcomed by players and spectators alike, making the league stages more engaging and competitive.

The league stages were full of thrilling encounters, with all teams putting up spirited performances. However, it was KVPL and KUPL who rose above the rest, reaching the final unbeaten. Their journey to the decisive match was marked by determination, discipline, and some spectacular cricket, setting the stage for a high-voltage finale.

The final match lived up to every expectation, keeping the crowd on the edge of their seats. Both KVPL and KUPL played with passion and grit, reflecting the essence of the tournament. After a gripping contest, it was KVPL who emerged as champions, defeating KUPL in style. The victory was celebrated with cheers, applause, and a true spirit of sportsmanship from both sides.

Beyond the competition, the tournament highlighted the unity, discipline, and teamwork that define within the plantation executives. With the active participation of PHDT

officials and the enthusiastic support from all teams, the event stood as a testament to the power of sports in bringing people together.

The Inter Plantation Softball Cricket Tournament 2025 was not just about crowning champions – it was about celebrating friendship, teamwork, and the love for the game. KVPL may have lifted the trophy, but the real winner was the spirit of unity that shone through every match played at the Ruwanwella Public Ground.

Article By: K. Dharmaraja

“Wewili Praja Suwa Diviya” – A Step Towards Healthier Communities



July 17, 2025 – The “Wewili Praja Suwa Diviya” combined health clinics program was successfully conducted at Hathbawa Estate, under the Regional Plantation Company (RPC) of Kegalle Plantations

PLC (KGPL). The program served as a beacon of health and wellness for estate residents, emphasizing preventive care, early detection, and holistic well-being.

The clinic offered a comprehensive range of medical and wellness services designed to meet the community's needs. Residents benefited from specialized care through:

- Dental & Eye Clinics – addressing oral and vision health.
- BMI checks and random/fasting blood sugar tests – vital for monitoring lifestyle-related conditions.
- Blood pressure and cholesterol screenings – supporting early detection of cardiovascular risks.
- Nutrition and medical counselling sessions – guiding families towards healthier living.
- Oral cancer and tuberculosis screenings – ensuring vigilance against critical health issues.
- Health education programs – raising awareness about preventive practices.
- Sexually transmitted infection screenings – promoting safe and responsible health habits.
- Well-women and Ayurveda clinics – catering to women's health and alternative holistic treatments.

This comprehensive coverage highlighted the clinic's mission: to combine modern medical care with traditional healing, ensuring inclusive healthcare access for everyone.

The program was made possible with the collaboration among several institutions and healthcare service providers, including:

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“Wewili Praja Suwa Diviya”...

- RDHS Kegalle Health Team
- MOH – Rambukkana
- Chest Clinic – Kegalle
- Ayurveda Hospital – Pinnawala
- Bolagama Hospital

Their expertise and dedication ensured that estate residents received high-quality care across various specialties. The event saw wide participation from both officials and the local community. Among those present were:

- Deputy Regional Director – PHDT
- Project Assistant – PHDT
- Estate Manager
- Doctors, PHIs, PHMs, and hospital staff
- Other office staff and field staff
- Community – 122 participants

The high turnout highlighted the critical need for accessible healthcare within plantation communities, where workers and their families often face barriers to mainstream medical services.

The program was valued at approximately Rs. 2,440,000.00, reflecting the significant investment made towards the wellbeing of the estate population. Beyond its monetary value, the initiative represents a long-term commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles, building stronger communities, and enhancing productivity within the plantation sector.

The General Manager of Kegalle Plantations PLC expressed great appreciation for this invaluable health service, noting the convenience of providing free clinical care to the community in a single day and venue. He also urged the expansion of the program to the other estates of KGPL.

Article By: Sammani Perera

Child Development Assessment at We-Oya Estate



July 25, 2025 – A special child assessment programme was conducted under KGPL RPC, focusing on the overall development of children aged 4 and 5 years. The initiative, organized with the participation of the Community

Development Officer and Project Assistant from PHDT, marked an important step in supporting early childhood care and education within plantation communities. The assessment was designed to evaluate the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of children. By carefully observing growth indicators, learning abilities, and social-emotional skills, the program aimed to identify each child’s strengths while also recognizing areas where additional support may be required.

One of the key outcomes of the program is the ability to provide targeted support to children who need special attention. Whether it is physical health, learning readiness, or emotional wellbeing, the findings from these assessments will help guide parents, teachers, and caregivers in nurturing children more effectively. Such assessments play a vital role in early childhood development, ensuring that children in plantation communities receive equal opportunities to grow and thrive. By addressing challenges at an early stage, the program contributes to building a stronger foundation for future education and wellbeing.

Article By: Sammani Perera

Health Awareness Programme at Pussella Estate: Preventing the Serious Dangers of Betel Chewing



On 18th July 2025, an important Health Awareness Programme was conducted by the PHDT Ratnapura Region at Pussella Estate, aiming to educate the estate community on the harmful effects of betel chewing.

The session was attended by 14 community members, along with the Community Secretary from the estate and the Community Development Officer from the PHDT Ratnapura Region.

The awareness session highlighted how regular betel chewing can seriously harm one’s health, affect family life, reduce earning capacity, and damage a person’s appearance and self-confidence. Participants learned that addiction to this habit not only affects individuals but also has a broader social impact on their families and communities. In addition, the programme emphasized the growing concern of oral cancer in the estate sector. According to health data, the estate community in Sri Lanka shows a higher vulnerability to oral cancer, largely due to the widespread use of betel. The Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS) continues to carry out regular health screenings to detect oral cancer early and help prevent further spread.

This initiative by PHDT Ratnapura marks a positive step toward building a healthier and more informed community in the estate sector.

Article By: Dimali Chandrasena

Empowering Estate Families Through Household Cash Management and Home Gardening

A Community Mobilization Session at Eheliyagoda Estate of Pussellawa Plantations Ltd

A special awareness programme on Household Cash Management was successfully conducted for the estate community at Eheliyagoda Estate, managed by Pussellawa Plantations PLC, on 18th July 2025. This programme was organized under the guidance of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Ratnapura Region, as part of their ongoing mobilization sessions aimed at uplifting plantation communities.

Held at No.02 division, the session saw the active participation of 21 community members along with the estate Child Development Officer.



The main focus of the session was to educate and encourage families on how to manage their household income wisely while also improving food security through home gardening. Key topics discussed included:

- **Home Gardening with Limited Space**

Techniques were shared on how to grow crops even in small spaces, helping families make the most of their surroundings.

- **Using Disposed Items to Grow Plants**

Participants learned creative ways to recycle containers and other discarded items as pots for planting, promoting sustainability.

- **Nutritional Benefits for Children**

The importance of home-grown fruits and vegetables in improving child nutrition was emphasized.

- **Saving Income and Budgeting**

The group explored how to distinguish between essential and non-essential expenses, helping them plan their finances better and avoid unnecessary spending.

This practical and interactive session aimed to strengthen financial discipline and promote healthier living among estate families. It was warmly received by the attendees, who appreciated the valuable knowledge shared to help improve both their economic and nutritional well-being. The Plantation Human Development Trust continues to work closely with communities to ensure a better quality of life across the plantation sector

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

Strengthening Early Childhood Development: PHDT Joins National Capacity Building Programme to all RPCs on 16-07-2025



A capacity-building program was recently held for Early Childhood Development (ECD) officers and officers managing Child Development Centres (CDCs) under the National Preschool Health Promotion Setting Development Program in Sri Lanka. Representing the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), an accountant participated in the program, along with a Plantation Field Welfare Officer (PFWO) from Spring Valley Estate. The event brought together 50 participants from across the country.

The ECD authority provided an opportunity for PHDT to implement the newly discussed procedures within estate-based Child Development Centres. This initiative marks a significant step forward in enhancing health promotion and development practices in early childhood care settings.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Empowering Frontline Childcare: First Aid Training for CDOs in Soranathota Division on 18-07-2025



A one-day First Aid Training Program was successfully conducted for Child Development Officers (CDOs) in the Soranathota division, organized by the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Authority and generously funded by Korean Friends of Hope International (KFHI). The training took place at Alora Rest Hotel, Badulla, and was attended by six CDOs, all of whom received free first aid boxes to support emergency response preparedness in their respective Child Development Centres (CDCs).

The session was honored by the presence of the Regional Manager – Health, representing the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), whose participation highlighted the commitment of the organization toward strengthening health and safety standards in estate-based early childhood services. First aid plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children, especially in early learning environments where accidents can occur unexpectedly.

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First Aid Training for CDOs ...

By equipping CDOs with practical knowledge and the necessary tools, this initiative significantly improves their capacity to respond promptly and effectively to minor injuries and emergencies, thereby enhancing the overall care environment in CDCs.

This training not only empowered participants with essential life-saving skills but also reinforced the value of preparedness and professional development in the childcare sector.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Clean Sri Lanka National Programme – Badulla Region



In line with the government's concept, the Clean Sri Lanka Program was successfully implemented in the plantation sector through the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT).

Out of the 11 identified projects, the inauguration ceremony in Badulla was successfully held with the participation of the political authorities, estate management, and beneficiaries. This initiative marks an important step towards uplifting the living standards of plantation communities while ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment.

Article By: C P Kumara

Certificate of Excellence – 103rd International Cooperative Day 2025



In commemoration of the 103rd International Cooperative Day in 2025, at the UVA COOP Performance Competition held in the spirit of unity, the Bibile Estate Workers' Cooperative Society secured First Place in the Estate Workers' Cooperative Society category and was honored with a Gold Award in recognition of this outstanding achievement. This certificate is hereby presented as a testament to that honor.

Article By: N. Sarojani

Director General of PHDT Conducts Regional Visit to Badulla Region



The Director General (DG) of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) conducted an official visit to the Badulla Region on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th of August 2025. This multi-day visit aimed to assess ongoing programs, monitor field-level activities, and engage with key stakeholders to strengthen the implementation of community development initiatives.

During the visit, the DG engaged in Comprehensive Child Development Centre (CDC) evaluations, cooperative shop inspections, and site visits for locations proposed for future housing projects. These housing project sites had already undergone feasibility assessments by the PHDT Regional Office.



A key highlight of the visit was the inspection of both high-performing and underperforming CDCs, covering estates under Malwatte valley Plantations PLC (MVPL) and Hapugastenna Plantations PLC (HPL). This approach offered a balanced perspective and clearly demonstrated the varying levels of commitment by RPCs (Regional Plantation Companies), estate management, and Child Development Officers (CDOs) toward improving child care standards. The DG commended the notable improvements in several centers while also personally identifying critical gaps that require attention.

Recognizing the need for further capacity building, the DG recommended organizing an in-service training program for CDOs under MVPL, aimed at enhancing service delivery and ensuring consistency in child care practices across the region.

The DG was accompanied by the Regional Director and Coordinating Engineering Assistant, ensuring a multidisciplinary perspective during site evaluations and stakeholder discussions.

In addition to field visits, a full day was dedicated to a comprehensive regional progress review, where all divisions presented their ongoing activities, challenges, and strategic initiatives. This session facilitated constructive dialogue, highlighted success stories, and identified areas for further improvement.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Targeted TB Screening Conducted at Rosette Estate - Horana Plantations PLC on 29-07-2025



Recognizing the urgent need for early detection and prevention of Tuberculosis (TB), a targeted screening program was conducted at Rosette Estate, recently identified as a hotspot for TB cases. The initiative was led by the

District Tuberculosis Control Officer (DTCO) and Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) from the TB Unit, Badulla, with facilitation and logistical support provided by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT).

A total of 50 community members, particularly those aged 65 years and above, were screened during the program. This age group remains especially vulnerable to TB due to weakened immunity and potential co-morbidities. The Manager – Health from PHDT also participated in the event, demonstrating strong inter-agency collaboration and commitment to community health.

Such community-based screening programs are vital in the fight against TB, particularly in high-risk areas. They enable early diagnosis, timely treatment, and reduction in transmission, ultimately helping to safeguard public health and reduce the burden on the healthcare system. By identifying asymptomatic or undiagnosed cases, these screenings play a crucial role in interrupting the chain of infection within estate populations.

This initiative not only reinforces the importance of proactive healthcare but also exemplifies the impact of collaborative efforts in reaching vulnerable communities.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Advancing Social Protection: PHDT Participates in National Empowerment Programme for all RPCs on 22-07-2025



The National Empowerment Program under the Social Protection Project was recently held at the District Secretariat with the participation of World Bank delegates, Samurdhi officers, and key stakeholders from across sectors. The initiative, supported by the Government of Sri Lanka, aims to uplift communities benefiting from the

“Aswesuma” program by providing targeted empowerment opportunities and long-term development support.

During the strategic discussions, plans were made to empower 900 community members, including those from the plantation sector. Recognizing the unique needs of estate communities, the presence of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) was crucial in shaping a focused approach to ensure that the plantation population is meaningfully included in the program.

PHDT’s Regional Director, Manager – Health, and a Community Development Officer participated in the discussions, offering key insights and recommendations on how to effectively direct resources and strategies toward estate communities. Their contributions helped ensure that the plantation sector’s voice was represented, laying the groundwork for more inclusive and impactful outcomes.

This collaborative effort marks a significant step forward in ensuring that vulnerable communities, especially in the plantation sector, receive the support and tools necessary to build more resilient and empowered futures.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Raising Awareness on Household Cash Management at Delta Estate - Pussellawa Plantations Limited



An informative awareness programme on household cash management was held on 24th July 2025 at Delta Estate, aiming to educate families on effective financial planning and responsible money handling. The event focused on helping estate families make informed financial decisions, improve budgeting habits, and adopt good financial practices in their daily lives.

Key Highlights:

- **Importance of Budgeting:** Families were encouraged to prepare monthly budgets to track income and expenses.
- **Smart Spending Tips:** Practical advice was shared on avoiding unnecessary expenses and prioritizing essential needs.
- **Saving for the Future:** The session emphasized the value of saving for emergencies, education, and long-term goals.

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Raising Awareness on Household Cash Management at Delta Estate...

- **Debt Management:** Participants learned about responsible borrowing and ways to avoid falling into debt traps.
- **Community Support:** Local leaders and financial advisors were present to offer guidance and answer questions.

The programme encouraged a culture of financial discipline and aimed to empower the community with the knowledge to make better economic choices, ultimately contributing to improved household stability and well-being at Delta Estate.

Article By: Sisira Dishanayaka

Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD)



Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) remain a serious public health issue, especially in underserved communities such as the estate sector. Limited healthcare access, low literacy, cultural taboos, and migrant labor patterns increase vulnerability to infections, while women face added risks due to gender inequality and lack of reproductive health services.

Unaddressed STDs can cause infertility, miscarriage, chronic illness, and heighten HIV risk. To respond, **PHDT–Nuwara Eliya, with support from the STD Unit of the District General Hospital, Nuwara Eliya, conducts screening, awareness programmes, and staff training.**

Early detection is crucial, as many STDs are asymptomatic but still harmful and transmissible. Regular screening, education, and community awareness help reduce transmission, ensure timely treatment, and build a healthier estate population. In the month of August 2025, A screening programme was conducted Glassaugh estate where 56 estate workers were screened by Dr.Chathurika, Venerology consultant and Dr.Geeth, Venerologist from STD unit, Nuwara Eliya. Along with the screening, all the participants were given awareness on sexual transmitted diseases and reproductive health.

Article By: V. Abinaya

Clean Sri Lanka Awareness Programme

As part of the Clean Sri Lanka Project – 2025, an awareness programme was conducted at **Ratwatta Estate and Pitakanda Estate** to discuss the re-roofing and minor repair work planned for selected line rooms. The sessions highlighted the importance of active beneficiary participation to ensure the project's success. Estate Managers and Project Coordinators were assigned to arrange labour and carry out the work, while PHDT is responsible for coordinating all stakeholders, supplying materials, ensuring quality and proper usage, and overseeing timely completion.



Ratwatte Estate (EPL) at 30th July 2025



Pitakanda Estate (EPL) at 30th July 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

- Clean Sri Lanka Ministry project
- Continuation of free distribution of cook stove project (NIL Carbon)
- Conservation of watersheds with Rainforest Alliance
- Best CDC Competition
- Inter RPC Cricket Tournament

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