

# COMMUNITY CANVAS



Sri Lanka's First Community News Paper

 [www.phdt.org](http://www.phdt.org)

## PHDT Director General Honoured with Management Leadership Excellence Award – 2025



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) is proud to announce that its Director General, Mr. L.R. Perera, was awarded the “Management Leadership Excellence Award – 2025” in the Executive Level category. The award ceremony, organized by the Chartered Institute of Professional Managers (CPM) Sri Lanka, was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

*Cont. to Page 02...*

## PHDT Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament – Grand Finale 2025



The Grand Finale of the PHDT Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament 2025 was successfully held on Saturday, 06<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at Buddhadasa Grounds, Battaramulla with the enthusiastic participation of plantation sector teams and well-wishers.

*Cont. to Page 02...*

## Empowering Change: Training on Menstrual Health & Hygiene in the Plantation Sector on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at Best Western Elyon Hotel Colombo



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), in collaboration with the Health Promotion Bureau and Estate & Urban Health Unit of Ministry of Health with the financial support of World Vision Lanka, successfully conducted a two-day **Training programme on Menstrual Health & Hygiene** in the estate sector.

*Cont. to Page 02...*

## Industrial Training for Town & Country Planning from the University of Moratuwa



Seven under graduates of Bachelor of Science Honors from the Department of Town & Country Planning from the University of Moratuwa were successfully completed their 04 months Industrial Training under the Department of Engineering at PHDT from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025. They were attached to the PHDT Head Office and Regional Offices at Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Badulla during the training period.

*Cont. to Page 03...*

*Cont. from Page 01...*

## PHDT Director General Honoured with Management Leadership Excellence Award – 2025

The recognition reflects Mr. Perera's outstanding leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to organizational development and sustainability within the plantation sector. His achievements have played a key role in driving PHDT's initiatives forward, strengthening partnerships, and creating lasting value for the plantation community.

This national-level award further underlines PHDT's contribution to advancing professional management practices in Sri Lanka, with Mr. Perera's leadership being recognized among the country's most respected executives.

*Article By: Diluk Priyantha*

## PHDT Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament – Grand Finale 2025

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Mr. Prabath Chandrakeerthi – Chairman, PHDT / Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, who commended the efforts taken to promote sportsmanship and unity among plantation communities through this annual event.

In a highly competitive final, Malwatte Valley Plantations Ltd emerged as the Champions, while Kelani Valley Plantations PLC secured the Runners-Up position. Adding further excitement to the tournament, the Plate Championship was claimed by Talawakellie Tea Estates PLC.

The tournament not only showcased exceptional cricketing talent but also strengthened the bonds of fellowship, teamwork, and community spirit across the plantation sector.

*Article By: Diluk Priyantha*

## Empowering Change: Training on Menstrual Health & Hygiene...

Held from **September 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**, this landmark program brought together over 70 key personnel working in regions and plantation communities across the Regional Plantation Companies.

### Participants and Representation

Participants included **Managers of Health and Community Development Officers of regions as well as Child Development Officers (CDOs), and Welfare Officers** of Regional Plantation Companies and officers working in the World Vision Lanka. Special emphasis was placed on regions namely **Hatton, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Badulla** where CDOs carefully selected from each Regional Plantation Company (RPC) operate in these areas.

This diverse and committed group of professionals are now equipped to act as frontline workers, helping to break the stigma and promote healthier practices surrounding menstrual health in their respective communities.

### Expert Facilitation by Leading Professionals

The training program was enriched by the involvement of esteemed resource persons from the **Health Promotion Bureau (HPB)**, the **Estate & Urban Health Unit of the Ministry of Health**, and PHDT. These experts brought in-depth knowledge and practical insights to the sessions:

### Programme Content & Interactive Learning

The two-day training was designed to be both informative and participatory, blending technical knowledge with hands-on group work and activities. The key topics covered included:

- The **importance of menstrual health and hygiene** for overall wellbeing
- **Introduction to female reproductive anatomy**, with age-appropriate and culturally sensitive communication strategies
- **Activity-based learning** sessions on good menstrual hygiene practices, use of sanitary materials, and safe disposal methods
- **Understanding menopause** and related challenges among estate women
- Development of **community-specific implementation plans** to integrate menstrual health awareness into ongoing health and welfare activities

Participants drafted **actionable plans tailored to their own estate settings**, focusing on awareness, accessibility, and sustainability. These plans were then presented to the entire group, fostering peer learning and collective accountability.

### Enthusiastic Participation & Tangible Outputs

The energy and enthusiasm displayed by participants throughout the program were commendable. Their active involvement reflected a genuine commitment for improving the quality of life for women and girls in their communities.

**A post-training assessment** revealed a **significant increase in knowledge**, with all participants demonstrating improved understanding and capacity to address menstrual health and hygiene challenges effectively. The feedback highlighted the usefulness of interactive methods and the relevance of topics covered.

### Looking Ahead

This Training program is a **crucial step toward breaking menstrual stigma**, improving hygiene practices, and creating supportive environments for women and adolescent girls in plantation communities. With their enhanced knowledge and practical tools, these trainers are now well-prepared to **cascade their learning**, advocate for change, and ensure that menstrual health is no longer a taboo but a **respected and integral part of community health**.

The PHDT and partners will continue to support follow-up activities, monitor implementation progress, and scale up similar initiatives in other regions.

*“Empowering communities starts with educating change-makers. Together, we can create a healthier, more inclusive future.”*

*Article By: Dr. Paba Palihewadana*

Cont. from Page 01...

### Industrial Training for Town & Country Planning from the University of Moratuwa

Training sessions were included practical planning, plotting of Housing and water supply projects, mobilizing of communities, procurement of Contracts, project management, BOQ preparing, administration activities and grievance handling. Final presentation session of the trainees and certificate awarding ceremony were conducted with the participation of Director General, Director Finance and Director Engineering of PHDT. Further, the final ceremony was witnessed by Senior Lecturer, Mr. Rohana Ratnayake and Lecturer Mrs. Prathibani Bandusena from the University of Moratuwa.

Article By: Dilan Senanayake

### Health Screening Programme – Tennahena Estate Under Namunukula Plantations PLC



A Health Screening Programme was successfully conducted at Tennahena Estate on 26th August 2025, in collaboration with the RDHS Office, Matara and the MOH Office, Morawaka.

#### Services Provided:

- NCD Clinic
- Oral Cancer Screening
- Eye Screening
- TB Screening
- Hemoglobin Checking

#### Screening Details:

- **NCD Screening:** 86 participants | **Referred:** 18
- **Eye Screening:** 86 participants | **Referred:** 03
- **Oral Cancer Screening:** 46 participants | **Referred:** 06
- **Hemoglobin Checking:** 75 participants

#### Participants:

- RDS – RDHS Matara
- Doctors & Staff of District Hospital Akuressa
- Estate Manager
- Staff of PHDT

Article By: M.D.Amarasighe

### Alcohol prevention programme in plantation sector technical sessions and monthly progress review meeting



- Date : 08<sup>th</sup> September 2025
- Venue: PHDT Training Centre, Strathdon
- RPC : All RPC
- Participants: 40
- Resource Personal : Mrs.Nitgarshana.S, Project Officer ADIC
- Resource Personal : Dr. Dimuthu Perios and his team – Estate and Urban Health unit – Ministry of Health
- Regional Participants : MHM and PA , ICTO and PA-Trainee

Creating an Alcohol Prevention Programme in the Plantation Sector involves understanding the unique challenges and social dynamics of plantation communities. Alcohol misuse in such areas can impact health, productivity, safety, family well-being, and the broader social fabric. Here’s a structured plan for an Alcohol Prevention Programme in the Plantation Sector:

#### Alcohol Prevention Programme in the Plantation Sector

##### Objectives

- To reduce harmful alcohol consumption among plantation workers.
- To improve health, productivity, and social well-being.
- To promote awareness about the risks of alcohol use.
- To provide support and rehabilitation for affected individuals.

Article By: Anjalika Kumary

### Health Day – Empowering Communities Through Health & Awareness on 09-09-2025 at Fettresso Estate



Health Day 2025 was successfully organized through a strong collaboration between Bogawantalawa Plantations PLC, the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT),

Cont. to Page 04...

Cont. from Page 03...

## Health Day – Empowering Communities Through Health & Awareness...

and the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) – Nuwara Eliya, with the active participation of medical teams from Dickoya Base Hospital, Bogawantalawa MOH office, and community health partners.

The initiative aimed to foster a culture of well-being by promoting physical, mental, and emotional health, while ensuring communities have access to free preventive health services, screenings, and awareness programs.

### Highlights of Health Services Provided

- Cholesterol Screening: 307 individuals tested
- Hemoglobin Screening: 43 screened
- Oral Cancer Screening: 156 adults screened – 7 suspected OPMD referred for further care; 39 referred for extractions/other treatments
- TB Screening: 29 samples collected – no suspected cases detected
- STD Screening: 261 individuals tested (confidential results)
- BMI & Counselling: 362 individuals assessed; counselling provided for underweight and high-risk cases
- Blood Pressure: 362 checked; 5 referred for immediate treatment at DBH Bogawantalawa
- Oral Health Treatment: 57 children under 5 treated on-site
- Well-Woman Clinic: 9 women received PAP smears and reproductive health services
- MR Vaccination: Provided for eligible participants

### Awareness & Capacity-Building Programs

- Adults: TB, STDs, nutrition, and NCD prevention
- School Children (Grades 8–11, 200 participants):
  - Mental health & cognitive development
  - Adolescent changes & education
  - Dengue prevention and social responsibility
- Teachers: Mental health, oral cancer, and oral hygiene awareness
- Community & Environment: Dengue prevention, public hygiene, occupational safety, and environmental health inspections conducted in line rooms and local shops.

### Community Participation

- Total screenings & awareness beneficiaries: 351
- Additional screenings (Friedland Division): 55
- School children & youth reached: 257

### Collaborative Contributions

This impactful event was made possible through:

- RDHS Office – Nuwara Eliya: Regional Director, RDHS, and medical officers
- Dickoya Base Hospital & Public Health Teams
- National Environmental Unit – Ministry of Health
- Bogawantalawa Plantations PLC: Funded cholesterol test strips
- Family Planning Association (FPA), Nuwara Eliya: Provided hemoglobin strips & ambulance support for Well-Woman Clinic

### Conclusion

Health Day 2025 stood as a powerful platform for preventive healthcare, education, and empowerment. By bringing essential services directly to the community and creating space for dialogue on health and well-being, the program highlighted the importance of collaboration in building healthier, stronger communities.

Together, through the joint efforts of PHDT, Bogawantalawa Plantations PLC, and RDHS – Nuwara Eliya, we continue moving toward a healthier and more informed future.

Article By: Anjalika Kumary

## PHDT – Kegalle Region Celebrates 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary with an Alms-giving and a Blood Donation Campaign



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Kegalle Region proudly celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary with two meaningful community-centered events, reflecting its spirit of service, compassion, and unity.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, a Blood Donation Camp was organized at the Prajashakthi Center, Moraliyoa Estate. This life-saving initiative was conducted with the support of the National Blood Bank, and received strong backing from Moraliyoa Estate of Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC. Staff, estate residents, and well-wishers who came together in large numbers, demonstrating solidarity and commitment to a noble cause. The following day, on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, a meritorious almsgiving ceremony was held at *Thapowanaya Aranya Senasanaya, Kegalle* in celebration of the PHDT anniversary. This spiritual gathering was a heartfelt occasion to reflect with gratitude on PHDT's three decades of service to the plantation community. The event brought blessings for continued strength, progress, and harmony, with the active participation of the Deputy Regional Director and all staff members.

Cont. to Page 05...

Cont. from Page 04...

## PHDT – Kegalle Region Celebrates 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary ...

Together, these events symbolized the essence of PHDT’s journey – 33 years of compassion, unity, and progress – and reaffirmed the organization’s enduring commitment to uplifting the livelihood of the plantation community while looking forward to many more years of meaningful service and success.

Article By: Sulaksha Dilshan

## From First Steps To Big Hopes: Tea Kids Begins Its Journey



Recognizing the importance of providing a strong foundation for early childhood education in plantation communities, the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), under the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure and in collaboration with collaboration of Hemas Outreach Foundation, and Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, officially launched the first-ever Hybrid Preschool at the Magastotte Lower division of Pedro Estate.

Although there has been an evolution of change from Pullai Madu to Crèches and Child Development Centers, there are some gaps. Recognizing this, the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) introduced a new concept: Tea Kids Hybrid Preschools, specially designed for the estate sector.



The Hybrid Preschool model aims to:

- Provide a dignified, safe, and high-quality learning environment for estate children.
- Strengthen early learning through an advanced curriculum and modern preschool practices.
- Prepare children for future learning while promoting holistic development.

This programme was successfully implemented with the valuable support and collaboration of Hemas Outreach Foundation, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, Regional PHDT

teams, Pedro Estate Management, and estate parents. We sincerely thank all these partners for their dedication and contribution to making the Hybrid Preschool a reality.

The official opening ceremony was held on August 22, 2025, with enthusiastic participation from estate families, local leaders, and PHDT officials. This new beginning promises brighter futures for the children of Pedro Estate and reflects PHDT’s commitment to expanding similar initiatives across other estates.

PHDT also continues to develop community awareness programmes centered on child health and early development, nutrition, further supporting the wellbeing of plantation families. PHDT expect to continue this modal settings to other few centers as model of child centered play based education and parent hub.

Article By: K.B.Gihani Maheshika

## Building Futures in the Hills: Internship Experience at PHDT for project students – Nuwara Eliya

The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), Nuwara Eliya Region, recently facilitated an internship aimed at providing hands-on experience in regional development within the plantation sector.

The internship began with an introduction to PHDT’s structure, core functions, and key responsibilities. Field exposure included visits to construction sites and housing proposals from both the Ministry and the IHP programme, and vital estate facilities such as co-operative shops, offices, child development. In addition to that there was involvement in the ongoing Clean Sri Lanka initiative.

A significant technical support was provided,

- Preparing Bills of Quantities(BOQ)
- Tender evaluations
- Project documentation
- Visit reports
- Survey

GIS mapping and a digital data access platform were developed to improve information management and planning processes.

An evaluation during this period was the first-time integration of mapping with feasibility analysis for housing and infrastructure development projects. All proposed projects were incorporated with GPS data and NBRO risk assessments.

### Key Advantages of GIS Mapping:

- Better Decision Making
  - ◊ Helps identify the best locations for development (e.g., housing, infrastructure).
  - ◊ Supports planning by showing risks (like landslides or floods) using NBRO risk data.

Cont. to Page 06...

Cont. from Page 05...

## Building Futures in the Hills: Internship Experience at PHDT for project students – Nuwara Eliya

### Key Advantages of GIS Mapping:

- Efficient Resource Allocation
  - ◊ Allows accurate tracking of ongoing and planned projects.
- Efficient Resource Allocation
  - ◊ Allows accurate tracking of ongoing and planned projects.
- Visual Representation
  - ◊ Makes complex data easy to understand through maps and visuals.
- Risk Assessment & Disaster Planning
  - ◊ Identifies high-risk areas, helping in safer housing construction.
- Project Monitoring
  - ◊ Enables real-time updates and tracking of project progress across different sites

This internship experience not only strengthened PHDT’s project planning efforts but also marked an innovative step toward data-driven development practices in the estate sector.

Article By: K.B.Gihani Maheshika

## Waltrim GGH Housing Project Moves Ahead Empowering Communities Through Collaboration



Mobilization meeting conducted by Regional Director along with Community Development Officer (CDO) and Engineering Assistant (EA) of PHDT

### Project Details

- Ministry Housing Project
- Waltrim Estate
- Factory Division
- Total Units: 15(Balance work)
- Project Value: 30.8 million

### Importance of community mobilization

Community mobilization plays a vital role in the success and sustainability of development initiatives. Through active engagement and participation, communities become empowered to contribute meaningfully. Key benefits include:

1. Encouraging Participation – Involving community members in planning and decision-making.
2. Building Ownership—Ensuring people take responsibility and pride in projects.
3. Improving Sustainability – Community-driven efforts tend to last longer.
4. Raising Awareness – Educating people on key social and development issues.
5. Strengthening Local Capacity – Developing leadership and problem-solving within the community.
6. Efficient Resource Use – Leveraging local assets and knowledge.
7. Inclusiveness – Giving a voice to all groups, including the marginalized.

### Community mobilization on project completion

In order to achieve successful results over project completion, the community mobilization played a key role in outcome of the project.

There are series of Mobilization meetings conducted by The Regional Director along with Community Development Officer (CDO) and Engineering Assistant (EA) of PHDT mainly to assess current progress and also led a beneficiary meeting, which created space for open dialogue about project developments, community needs, and future planning.

To ensure the smooth progress of the ongoing housing project, four community mobilization meetings have been successfully conducted. Two of these meetings were conducted by the Regional Director and two were conducted by the Engineering Assistant(EA). The main focus of these sessions was to gather beneficiary feedback, address any concerns, and encourage their active participation in the project completion and its sustainability.

As a result of these discussions, the beneficiaries have shown a strong willingness to support the ongoing work and have assured their continued cooperation throughout the project implementation.

Emphasis had been made with the beneficiaries to involve full as this project continue to under take the infrastructure activities followed by the completion of housing construction also necessary advice had been given to organize them self to obtain service connection to their respective house units.

Most notably, the beneficiaries expressed strong motivation and encouragement following the directives of content discussed during the community mobilization. Active engagement and support of both PHDT and community along with estate management create strong bond to carry forward the project successfully.

The value of consistent follow-up, open communication and dialog , and shared responsibility between authorities and community members - ensuring progress continues with unity and purpose.

Article By: K.B.Gihani Maheshika

**Progress Review Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Treasurers on 28-08-2025 at PHDT Regional Office.**



**Introduction**

A progress review meeting was convened to evaluate the financial and administrative performance of treasurers representing Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS). The session focused on key operational areas critical to the sustainability and transparency of cooperative-led housing initiatives.

**Matters Discussed**

**1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- Treasurers confirmed the successful conduct of AGMs across cooperatives.
- Attendance and participation levels were satisfactory, with estate members actively engaging in decision-making.
- Key resolutions included budget approvals, officer elections, and project updates.

**2. Registration of New By-Laws**

- Several cooperatives submitted revised by-laws for registration with the Department of Cooperative Development.
- Updates focused on governance structures, financial controls, and member responsibilities.
- Treasurers were advised to ensure legal compliance and timely documentation.

**3. Annual Audit**

- The status of annual audits was reviewed.
- Most cooperatives completed audits for the previous financial year, with reports submitted to relevant EWHCS.
- Common audit findings included minor discrepancies in petty cash handling and documentation gaps, which are being addressed.

**4. Monthly Return Submission**

- Treasurers were reminded of the importance of submitting monthly financial returns to the PHDT.
- Compliance levels varied, with some societies facing delays due to manual.

**5. Vanisa Development Fund**

- The Vanisa Development Fund was discussed as a strategic reserve for EWHCS development.

- Treasurers reported contributions from member savings and project surpluses.
- Proposed uses include Accounts Training programme for Vanisa Service Assistance and Treasurers, Cluster Review Meeting for EWHCS Office bearers.

**Conclusion**

The review highlighted commendable progress in financial governance and cooperative accountability. Treasurers were encouraged to continue enhancing transparency.

*Article By: N.Sarojini*

**Giving Women a Voice in Menstrual Health on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 for all RPCs**



Menstruation is a natural part of life, yet for many women, it remains a subject surrounded by silence. Recently, an awareness program and baseline survey on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) brought together 35 WANISA Development Assistants to open this conversation.

During the session, participants explored their knowledge, attitudes, and practices around menstruation. The discussions were open, honest, and eye-opening — revealing not only what is known, but also the hidden challenges women continue to face.

The most powerful outcome was clear: women need a stronger voice to speak about their requirements, especially regarding menstruation. Without that voice, their health, dignity, and daily comfort often go unnoticed.

This program was more than an awareness session. It was a step towards breaking taboos, empowering women to speak, and building a future where menstrual health is recognized as a basic right.

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

**House Hold Cash Management Programme – Tennahena Estate Under Namunukula Plantations PLC**



A programme on Household Cash Management was conducted for the estate community of Tennahena Estate, Tennahena Division, on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The session focused on guiding families to plan their income and expenses wisely, prioritize essential needs, encourage regular savings, and maintain simple records for better financial stability

*Cont. to Page 08...*

Cont. from Page 07...

### House Hold Cash Management Programme...

This initiative aimed to strengthen the financial well-being of the estate community and support them in building a more secure future.

Article By: B.M. Maduka

### TB Screening at Telbedda Estate



Following the detection of three active Tuberculosis (TB) cases at Telbedda Estate, a comprehensive screening program was organized to safeguard the health of the community. The program was conducted with the participation of Dr. Sagarika – DTCO and the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) of the TB Unit, and was coordinated by PHDT Badulla with the involvement of the Manager – Health.

The screening aimed to identify any additional cases at an early stage and to prevent further spread within the estate. Community members were provided with guidance on proper sputum collection, ensuring more accurate results and improved case detection. This initiative reflects the strong commitment of PHDT and the health authorities in strengthening TB control and promoting better health outcomes for plantation communities.

Article By: R. M. C. Rathnayake

### Quarterly Review meeting for Child Development Officers



Hapugastenne Plantations PLC, a Quarterly Review Meeting for Child Development Officers (CDOs) attached to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers was successfully conducted at

the Hapugastenne Tea Estate. The programme was organized in collaboration with Hapugastenne Plantations PLC and the Plantation Human Development Trust on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The meeting brought together 12 key participants, including the Estate Manager, Assistant Manager, Plantation Family Welfare Officer (PFWO), and all Child Development Officers from the Estate. PHDT was represented by the Regional Director, Project Officer Health, and the Community Development Officer.

The primary objective of the meeting was to assess the progress and address challenges in the implementation of

child development Programmes across the estate, with a focus on the well-being of children under five Years.

#### Key discussion areas included:

- Review of ongoing child welfare initiatives
- Updates on educational support for estate children and parental Committee’s activities
- Evaluation of health and nutrition Programmes.

Among the challenges highlighted were difficulties in reaching children living in remote parts of the estate and the need to strengthen community engagement. Participants emphasized the importance of improving communication with parents and increasing their involvement in early childhood development activities. The meeting also underscored the need for enhanced resources and support in the upcoming quarter to ensure the sustainability and continued success of child-focused initiatives and the Regional Director wish to thank the RPC, Estate Management and the participation for their active involvement.

Article By: Dimali Chandrasena

### Clean Sri Lanka National Programme Launched at Pimbura Estate



On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, the **Clean Sri Lanka National Programme** was officially inaugurated at **Pimbura Estate, Pimbura Division**, Line No. 103 (10 Units), marking a significant step forward in uplifting the living standards and infrastructure within estate communities.

The inauguration brought together key stakeholders and dignitaries, including:

- **Hon Member of Parliament Mr. Dhanushka Ranganath**
- **Chairman and officials of the Agalawatte Pradeshiya Sabha**
- **Manager – Pimbura Estate**
- **Grama Niladhari (GS) and Divisional Secretariat (DS) officers**
- **Regional Director and team from the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT)**

During the discussions, several key matters were addressed, focusing on:

- **The role of Government initiatives** in enhancing the quality of life for Estate communities
- The importance of **collaborative support for infrastructure development projects** within the Estate sector
- Strengthening partnerships between **local authorities and Estate management** to drive sustainable progress

This initiative reflects the Government’s continued commitment to creating cleaner, healthier, and more equitable living environments across Sri Lanka’s plantation Regions.

Article By: Lankani Munasinghe



## Cluster Review Meeting Report – Culloden Estate, Agalawatte Plantations PLC



A Cluster Review Meeting was convened on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 at the Chief Operating Officer's office, Culloden Estate, Agalawatte Plantations PLC (APL). The meeting brought together key stakeholders including the Deputy General Manager

of APL, Estate Managers, and the Regional Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Ratnapura Region, along with his team.

The Regional Director delivered several important updates and provided clarifications on various ongoing and upcoming initiatives, with a focus on collaborative development within the estates and emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidelines of the Clean Sri Lanka National Project.

Information was shared on forthcoming infrastructure programs under the Indian Housing Project, which will be carried out in Kiriwanaketiya, Mohamedi, and Culloden Estates. PHDT has been assigned responsibility for the infrastructure development aspects of these projects, and coordination with estate management is expected to ensure smooth execution.

The role and significance of the Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies were discussed in detail. The Regional Director highlighted the need for EWHCS to focus on generating annual surpluses and exploring avenues for diversified investments. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the importance of conducting timely audits, preparing accurate final accounts, and holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs) to approve annual plans and budgets.

The meeting also covered current health and child development initiatives. The Regional Director underscored the vital contribution of Child Development Centres in fostering both the mental and physical development of children in the estate sector. Continued support and active engagement in these programs were encouraged.

This meeting facilitated a constructive exchange of information and served to strengthen coordination between PHDT and the estate management teams for the effective delivery of ongoing and future development programs.

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

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



My name is Weerasinghe Arachchige Dona Lakshani Kavindaya Nethruwini, and I am from Kiribathgalla Estate under Agalawatte Plantation PLC. I successfully completed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examination with results of A/A/B, achieving a Z-score of 1.6891, with a District Rank of 127 and a National Rank of 407. I have been selected to the

University of Kelaniya, Faculty of Accounting Information Systems. I sincerely thank you for awarding me this scholarship, which will greatly support my education and motivate me to reach my academic and career goals.



My name is Rajarathnam Abineshan, and I am from Kiribathgalla Estate under Agalawatte Plantation PLC. I completed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examination with results of A/A/B, securing a Z-score of 1.2937, with a District Rank of 361 and a National Rank of 6416. I have been admitted to the University of Rajarata, Faculty of Management. I am truly grateful for the scholarship I have received, which eases my financial challenges and inspires me to focus fully on my education and future career.



My name is Pugalandhiran Vibishalini, and I am from Kotiyagala Estate under Bogawanthalawa Tea Estates PLC. I successfully passed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examination with results of B/B/C, achieving a Z-score of 1.2354, with a District Rank of 17 and a National Rank of 824. I have been selected to the Rajarata University, Faculty of Biosystem

Technology. I extend my heartfelt thanks for awarding me this scholarship, which provides both encouragement and much-needed support to pursue my higher education.



My name is Paramananthan Vignesh, and I am from Kandalaoya Estate under JEDB. I completed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examination with results of A/B/B, securing a District Rank of 280 and a National Rank of 6143. I have been selected to the South Eastern University, Faculty of Commerce. I am deeply thankful for this scholarship, which will

help me continue my studies with confidence and work towards becoming a valuable contributor to society.



My name is Jeyaram Dharshika, and I am from Venture Estate under Madulsima Plantations PLC. I successfully completed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examination with results of B/C/B, achieving a District Rank of 15 and a National Rank of 752. I have been offered admission to the University of Wayamba, Faculty of Biosystem Technology. I am sincerely

grateful for receiving this scholarship, which reduces my financial burden and gives me the strength to achieve my academic and career aspirations.

Article By: K.A. Nethmini P Thilakarathna

## Discussed on Maternal & Child Health Related activities in the Estate Sector.

During the discussions on Nutrition and Maternal Child Health, particular attention was given to how economic challenges affect household food security, especially in estate communities. It was noted that when families face financial difficulties, the quality of their nutrition often declines. Practical suggestions were shared to help families maintain healthy diets even during hard times.

Cont. to Page 10...

Cont. from Page 09...

**Discussed on Maternal & Child Health Related activities in the Estate Sector.**



On maternal and child care the importance of safe motherhood was highlighted. This includes timely maternal check-ups and proper support for mothers after delivery. The need for continuous care for both mothers and children throughout pregnancy and early childhood was strongly emphasized.

The Midday Meal Programme run by the Child Development Centers (CDC’s) were also reviewed. To ensure its smooth continuation CDC’s were reminded to submit all the required documents to the Divisional Secretariat (DS) without delay. Delayed submissions could disrupt this programme which is critical for children 03 to 05 years.

Support for newly married couples and teenage mothers were another key focus. Early identification of pregnancy and timely registration with the Public Health Midwife (PHM) is essential so that they can be included in family planning clinics. This ensures access to counselling, medical care, and guidance helping to prevent unplanned or early pregnancies through timely support and proper education.

S/No	Test	Total No. of Participants	Referred to the clinic
01.	NCD Screening Programme	80	15
02	Dental & Oral Cancer Screening Programme	80	6
03	TB Screening Programme	80	0
04	Eye Screening Programme	80	0

Looking ahead, several health initiatives are planned. These include mobile dental clinics and oral cancer screening with the estate communities. Dr. Nayana Dhanapala MO(MCH) emphasized the importance of early detection and prevention of cancers, particularly oral and breast cancers. She also underlined the strong link between oral health and overall well-being especially during cancer treatment, and encouraged community education on recognizing early warning signs. Finally, HPV vaccination for all girls aged 12 was strongly recommended as a preventive measure against cervical cancer. Improving vaccine coverage and ensuring proper follow-up care were highlighted as vital steps in protecting the health of future generations.

Participants: Regional Director PHDT Kandy, MO(MCH) Dr. Nayana Dhanapala, MOH Panwila, Dr. Pradeep Kumarasinghe, Project Officer Health, Community Development Officer, Project Assistant, Trainee Town & Country Planning, (PHDT Engineering), Child Development Officers 09, Plantation Family Welfare Officers 03 & 01 Estate Medical Assistant.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

**Health Screening Programme – Pitakanda Estate (EPL)**



A comprehensive Health Screening Programme was successfully conducted at Pitakanda Estate on 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2025, organized by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) Kandy Region, aimed at improving the overall well-being of the estate workers and their families. This “Health Screening Programme” was organized in collaboration with local health authorities and medical professionals, offering free checkups that included Measuring of Body Mass Index, Blood pressure, Blood Sugar, Oral Cancer Screening, Dental Treatment, Screening for Visual Defects, Chest Diseases Screening. 02 Doctors and 14 medical staff, 03 PHDT staff participated at this Health Screening Programme which also, provided guidance on nutrition, hygiene, and preventive care. The programme was very well received by the workers and the estate community. The health officials highlighted the importance of accessible healthcare services in rural estate areas. We thank Mr. Kosala Senarathna the Group Manager for the excellent arrangements made to successfully conduct this important Health Screening Programme on Pitakanda estate. Also, we extend our appreciation to the Health and Welfare Staff of Pitakanda for their support.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

**RAY OF HOPE - Parents Meeting in Kandy Region**



A meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 at Craighead Estate, Kahawatte Plantations PLC with the parents of children to discuss the upcoming continuation of the “Ray of Hope” English Class. It was decided that the new programme will commence from October 2025 and will cater to children from Grades 1,2,3 and Grades 6,7,8. In Addition to the above the progress and development of the children who attended the previous class room sessions were discussed. This year much focus will be given to improve their english speaking and writing skills as well. The parents who attended the meeting was very happy with the progress made by their children and they thanked the Estate Management, CTCT and PHDT for conducting this special english class.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

### Director General’s CDC Inspection Visit to Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation Galphella & Kellebokka Estate Visits

Galphella Raxawa - On 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2025, the Director General (DG) along with his team visited the Child Development Centre (CDC) at Galphella in Raxawa Division. During the visit, the DG appreciated the efforts taken by the staff, especially the initiative to run a pre-school within the CDC, highlighting it as a commendable practice. However, he also observed that CDC attendance needs improvement and encouraged the team to take necessary steps to increase the community engagement. The DG emphasized the importance of establishing a Growth Monitoring Tool and setting up a dedicated Breastfeeding Corner within the CDC to enhance child health and nutritional services. Furthermore, he instructed that 25 essential books and records be updated and well maintained to ensure proper documentation and tracking. As a gesture of encouragement and care, the DG also distributed yogurt and soft toys to the children attending the CDC, which brought joy to the children and was appreciated by all.



Galphella Raxawa Estate

Kellebokka Diyanilla - During his visit to the Kellebokka Diyanilla CDC the Director General (DG) checked the children’s attendance and the overall functioning of the CDC. He suggested that introducing a Hybrid Pre-School concept would be beneficial for this division and encouraged the team to discuss it further with the Health Manager (HM) and take necessary actions to implement it. The DG appreciated the current maintenance of the CDC. However, he noted that the floor plan was not satisfactory and needs improvement. He also observed that all CDC’s on the estates that have children with disabilities should be given special care. He further, emphasized the importance of maintaining individual records and monitoring tools for these special care children. He instructed the team to keep proper books for children with disabilities and to regularly monitor their progress. Additionally, he requested a detailed estate wise list of children with disabilities for better planning and support in the future. The DG also emphasized the need to update the Growth Monitoring Tool to ensure accurate tracking of child development indicators.



Kellebokka Diyanilla Estate

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

### Regional Progress Review Meeting at Regional Office Kandy. (For Kandy, Kegalle & Hatton Regions)



The Regional Progress Review Meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 at the Regional Office in Kandy. The meeting was attended by the Director General, the Director of Finance, Regional Directors from Kandy, Kegalle, and Hatton, staff members from the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and teams representing the three regions. An Engineering Assistant from the Nuwara Eliya region also participated at this meeting. The agenda included discussions on key areas such as Engineering, Health, Mobilization, and Finance. Each region presented their progress and shared updates on the implementation status of their respective work plans. The meeting provided a platform for reviewing ongoing activities, addressing issues and challenges, and planning further improvements across the regions specially with all the activities.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

### Awareness Programme on Home Gardening



An Awareness Programme on Home Gardening was conducted by the CDO of PHDT on 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 at Hellebodde Estate in Middle Division, with the participation of 15 community members. The Programme emphasized the importance of home gardening in promoting sustainable living and enhancing household nutrition. A follow-up visit was carried out to assess the impact and encourage continued application of the practices introduced. In addition, a Best House Selection activity was organized at the same location as part of a community engagement initiative, aiming to motivate and encourage active participation among residents by recognizing households that demonstrated cleanliness, proper organization, and the successful adoption of recommended home gardening practices. Both initiatives received positive feedbacks during the follow up and significantly contributed to strengthening community involvement in ongoing development Programmes.

Article By: Sisira Kumara Dishanayake.



Inter plantations cricket tournaments were held in all the PHDT regions successfully. All teams participated with enthusiasm and team spirit

**GALLE REGIONAL WINNERS**



Elpitiya Plantations PL (B Team)

**RATNAPURA REGIONAL WINNERS**



Pussellawa Plantations LTD

**BADULLA REGIONAL WINNERS**



Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC

**KEGALLE REGIONAL WINNERS**



Kelani Valley Plantations PLC

**KANDY REGIONAL WINNERS**



Pussellawa Plantations LTD

**HATTON REGIONAL WINNERS**



Horana Plantations PLC

**NUWARA ELIYA REGIONAL WINNERS**



Talawakelle Tea Estate PLC