

COMMUNITY CANVAS



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Foundation Laying Ceremonies for Beauvais and Cannavarella Estate Housing Projects



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of India, successfully conducted the Foundation Laying Ceremonies for two major housing projects under the Indian Housing Project (IHP) for disaster-affected estate families.

The Foundation Laying Ceremony for the Beauvais Estate Housing Project was held on 04th July 2026. The event was graced by the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industries as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished participants included the Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries, the District Secretary, the Chairman of the Local Government Authority, government officials, the Regional Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), the Estate Manager, and representatives of the local community.

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



I am Nageshwaran Praveen, hailing from Gampaha Estate, Kegalle Plantations PLC, a community that has deeply shaped who I am today. It is with great joy and gratitude that I share the news of my selection to the University of Colombo, Faculty of Arts.

This milestone would not have been possible without the immense love and sacrifice of my parents, to whom I owe everything. I look forward to making the most of this opportunity and hope to one day give back to my estate community and the nation that has given me so much.

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Management Leadership Excellence Awards



A meeting on the **Management Leadership Excellence Awards** was held on 07th August 2026 with the CEO/CPM and chaired by the Director General, with the participation of the Director Finance, Director Health, and the management team.

During the meeting, the CEO highlighted that PHDT has earned recognition through numerous prestigious awards at both national and international levels. He further stated that the **Management Leadership Excellence Awards** have now been expanded beyond the CEO category to recognize the outstanding contributions of executive and field-level managers.

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Roots to Wings: A Startup Grant Programme...



I am Thilagamuthu Yamunadevi from St. Coombs Estate, TRI, a place that has been the foundation of my values and aspirations. I am truly honored to have been selected to the University of Kelaniya to pursue a degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences. I am deeply grateful to my parents and teachers, whose unwavering belief in

me has carried me this far. As I step into this new phase of life, I am committed to excelling in my studies and using my knowledge to serve both my community and society at large.



I am Mahendren Kobika, Proud to call Rookatenne Estate, Hapugastenne Plantations PLC, my home, a place that instilled in me the strength and perseverance that have guided my journey. Today, I am filled with immense pride and humility as I share that I have earned a place at the University

of Jaffna to study Medicine. Growing up in the estate, I witnessed firsthand the need for quality healthcare in our communities, and this has fueled my dream of becoming a doctor. I am sincerely thankful to my parents, who worked tirelessly so that I could reach this moment. This is only the beginning, and I dedicate this achievement to every child in our estate who dares to dream big.



My name is Yogarathnam Dashika, and I come from Kahagalla Estate, Agarapatana Plantations PLC, a community whose warmth and resilience have been my greatest inspiration. I am overjoyed to announce that I have been selected to the University of Peradeniya, Faculty of

Arts, a place I have long admired for its academic excellence. The road here was not always easy, but the encouragement of my family, especially my parents, never let me give up. I believe that education is the most powerful tool we have, and I intend to wield it wisely not just for my own growth, but to uplift the community that raised me.

Article By: Rackshana Jayasekaran

Management Leadership Excellence Awards...

The awards will be presented under the following categories:

- **C-Suite Leadership Award** – For managers with more than **15 years** of experience.
- **Executive Decision-Making Leadership Award** – For senior management executives with more than **10 years** of leadership experience.

- **Emerging Managerial Leadership Award** – For managers and senior managers with more than **5 years** of managerial experience.

The CEO also explained the application process, including the application template that must be completed by each candidate. Applicants from the regions and estates are required to submit a video presentation as part of their application. In addition, the evaluation criteria and marking scheme for the awards were presented and discussed.

The leadership competencies to be assessed include:

- Demonstrating visionary leadership.
- Driving innovation and creativity.
- Inspiring strategic leadership and capitalizing on emerging trends.
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to community service and corporate social responsibility.
- Exhibiting exemplary management and leadership capabilities.

The CEO emphasized the importance of submitting high-quality applications that clearly showcase each candidate's leadership achievements, contributions, and organizational impact.

Article By: Paba Pali Hewadana

Foundation Laying Ceremonies for Beauvais and Cannavarella Estate...

A total of 27 housing units were initially allocated under the Indian Housing Project (IHP) for disaster-affected families. Following the beneficiary verification process, 19 beneficiaries were found to be ineligible as they did not satisfy the prescribed IHP selection criteria.

Consequently, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) approved and funded the construction of 19 housing units for those families, while the Indian Housing Project (IHP) proceeded with the construction of the remaining 8 housing units at the same project site.

The Foundation Laying Ceremony for the Cannavarella Estate Housing Project was held on 05th July 2026. The event was graced by the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka and the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industries as the Chief Guests.

Other distinguished participants included the Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries, the District Secretary, the Chairman of the Local Government Authority, government officials, the Regional Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), the Estate Manager, and representatives of the local community.

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Foundation Laying Ceremonies for Beauvais and Cannavarella Estate...

A total of 69 housing units were initially allocated under the Indian Housing Project (IHP) for disaster-affected families. Following the beneficiary verification process, 12 beneficiaries were found to be ineligible as they did not satisfy the prescribed IHP selection criteria. Consequently, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) approved and funded the construction of 12 housing units for those families, while the Indian Housing Project (IHP) proceeded with the construction of the remaining 57 housing units at the same project site.

The commencement of these two housing projects marks another significant milestone in the ongoing efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government of India, and the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) to provide safe, permanent housing for disaster-affected estate families. These initiatives will significantly improve the living conditions and well-being of plantation communities while strengthening the longstanding partnership between the two governments in supporting sustainable development within the plantation sector.

Article By: A M C P Kumara

Children and families at Ketandola Estate gained practical knowledge on preparing nutritious, low-cost meals through a cooking demonstration organized by PHDT Galle on 15-07-2026



Introduction

A cooking demonstration was conducted for the parents of children attending the Ketandola Division Child Development Centre (CDC) with the objective of promoting healthy eating habits and improving the nutritional status of children. The programme emphasized the preparation of nutritious, balanced, and affordable meals using locally available ingredients, while encouraging parents to adopt healthier feeding practices at home.

Objective

- To improve the nutritional status of children through healthy and balanced diets.
- To educate parents on preparing nutritious meals using locally available and low-cost ingredients.

- To increase awareness of the importance of balanced nutrition for children's growth and development.
- To promote hygienic food preparation and safe food handling practices.
- To encourage the use of home-grown vegetables and locally available food items to enhance family nutrition.

Activity Implemented

The cooking demonstration included both practical and awareness sessions for parents. During the programme, participants were educated on:

- The importance of a balanced diet for children's physical and mental growth.
- The different food groups and appropriate portion sizes for children.
- Hygienic food preparation and safe food handling practices.
- Cooking methods that preserve the nutritional value of food.
- The effective use of home-grown vegetables and locally available ingredients in preparing nutritious meals.

Parents actively participated in preparing the selected recipes, tasting the prepared meals, and engaging in discussions on how to replicate these meals at home. They were encouraged to provide their children with a variety of nutritious foods while minimizing the consumption of sugary and processed foods.

Outputs

- Parents received practical training on preparing nutritious and affordable meals.
- Increased awareness among parents regarding balanced diets, food hygiene, and appropriate child feeding practices.
- Demonstration of healthy recipes using locally available and low-cost ingredients.
- Active participation of parents throughout the practical cooking session.

Outcomes

- Improved knowledge and practical skills of parents in child nutrition and healthy meal preparation.
- Increased confidence among parents to prepare nutritious meals using locally available resources.
- Promotion of healthier feeding practices within households.
- Expected improvement in the nutritional status and overall well-being of children attending the CDC.
- Enhanced awareness among families regarding the importance of healthy eating habits and food safety.

Article By: M. D. Amarasinghe

Community Dialogue to Promote Early Childhood Development and Support Low Birth Weight Children



Objective

To strengthen parental awareness on Early Childhood Development (ECD), improve Child Development Centre (CDC) attendance, and promote healthy growth and nutrition among young children through family-based counselling and support.

Activities

- Home visits were conducted to families of identified children within the estate community. Discussions with mothers focused on the importance of Early Childhood Development (ECD), regular Child Development Centre (CDC) attendance, and active parental involvement in supporting children's learning and development.
- Individual visits were also carried out for caregivers of low birth weight children to provide nutrition education on appropriate feeding practices, balanced diets, growth monitoring, and the benefits of the CDC morning meal programme.
- Caregivers were encouraged to ensure regular preschool attendance to support their children's health and development.

Output

Parents and caregivers gained improved knowledge of Early Childhood Development, child nutrition, and positive childcare practices. Awareness of the importance of regular CDC attendance and the morning meal programme was strengthened, leading to greater parental commitment to supporting children's education, nutrition, healthy growth, and overall well-being.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Awareness Session on Microfinance and Household Cash Management for strengthening Financial Literacy PHDT Kandy



Awareness Session on Microfinance and Household Cash Management

The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) Kandy Region conducted an **Awareness Session on Microfinance and Household Cash Management on 23rd June 2026** at the Hulankanda Division of Kellebokka Estate. The programme was organized to strengthen financial literacy among estate families by promoting responsible household financial management and encouraging sustainable financial practices.

Participants: Regional Director, Project Officer – Health, Community Development Officer, and 10 community participants.

Objective

The programme aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge on household budgeting, financial planning, and the responsible management of financial resources. It also sought to reduce dependence on unnecessary borrowing by encouraging effective income management, regular savings, and informed financial decision-making to improve household economic well-being.

Activities

- The session commenced with an interactive discussion that explored the financial challenges faced by participants in managing their household income and expenditure.
- Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of household budgeting and financial planning, with practical guidance on preparing monthly budgets, prioritizing essential household expenses, and controlling unnecessary spending.
- The discussion emphasized the importance of distinguishing between essential needs and non-essential wants to ensure the efficient use of available financial resources.
- The programme also highlighted responsible financial practices, encouraging participants to avoid unnecessary borrowing, maintain regular savings, and make sound financial decisions that contribute to the long-term financial security of their families.

Outcomes

- It was observed that many families experienced difficulties in budgeting and planning their monthly finances, highlighting the need for greater awareness of effective cash management practices.
- Participants gained practical knowledge on budgeting, saving, and managing household income more effectively, while recognizing the importance of minimizing unnecessary expenditure and reducing reliance on debt.
- By promoting responsible financial behaviour and sustainable cash management practices, the programme is expected to contribute to improved financial stability and the overall economic well-being of participating estate families.

Article By: Ravi Sasireka

Community Dialogue and Dengue Prevention Programme Conducted at Udabage Estate



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Kegalle Region conducted a Community Dialogue and Dengue Prevention Programme on 7th July 2026 at Udabage Estate, Middle Division, with the participation of community representatives and PHDT officials.

Objective

The programme was organized to raise awareness on key health and social issues affecting the plantation community while encouraging active community participation in finding sustainable solutions.

Areas concerned

Discussions focused on

- Dengue prevention, school dropout prevention,
- Improving the nutritional status of children under five years of age,
- Enhancing Child Development Centre (CDC) attendance,
- Strengthening waste management practices within the estate.

The programme was attended by the Regional Director, Community Development Officer, Project Officer – Health, Community Development Officer (CDO), and Plantation Field Welfare Officer (PFWO), who engaged with the community to promote healthier living conditions and improve the overall wellbeing of state families.

Output

Through initiatives such as these, PHDT continues to work closely with plantation communities and stakeholders to promote public health, child development, and community empowerment across the Kegalle Region.

Article By: Dileesha Jayarathna

Personal Safety Awareness Programme Conducted for Children at Panawaththa Estate CDC - PHDT Kegalle



The above ECE activity was conducted for the children at the Child Development Centre of Panawaththa Estate, Lower Division by the CDO, Ms. Shashikala on 15th July 2026.

The main objective of this programme is to develop children's basic understanding of personal safety, encourage safe habits, and help them learn to seek assistance from trusted adults when needed.

Furthermore, by educating children about personal safety, the programme aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To develop a basic understanding of safe and unsafe environment.
2. To provide simple knowledge about road safety and home safety.
3. To help children understand the importance of not going with strangers.
4. To encourage children to seek help from parents, teachers, or other trusted adults in emergency situations.
5. To promote the practice of safe behaviours in their daily lives.

Output of the training

- During the session, children were also taught that their body belongs only to them. It was explained that only their mother, father, or another trusted caregiver may touch them, when necessary, such as for their care or hygiene.
- Children were taught that if anyone touches their body in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable or is inappropriate, they should understand that this is not acceptable and it is a child abuse.
- They were encouraged to tell their mother, father, or the teacher at the Child Development Centre immediately if such an incident occurs.
- During the session, children were further educated about "Good Touch" and "Bad Touch" in a simple and age-appropriate manner to help them understand the difference between safe and unsafe touches.
- The concept was explained clearly so that children could recognize uncomfortable situations and understand the importance of informing their parents, teachers, or trusted adults when necessary.

Article By: W.A.N.Sammani Perera

PHDT and Hatton Plantations Strengthen Development Partnerships through Cluster Review Meeting

Strengthening partnerships remains a key driver in advancing sustainable development across plantation communities. In line with this commitment, the PHDT - Nuwara Eliya Region convened the Cluster Review Meeting with the management of Hatton Plantations PLC on 30 June 2026 at the Henfold Estate Meeting Hall

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PHDT and Hatton Plantations Strengthen Development Partnerships through Cluster Review Meeting...



The meeting brought together the DGM, Estate Managers, and Assistant Managers of the Hatton Plantations PLC, alongside PHDT's Regional Director, Manager – Health, Community Development Officer, Engineering Assistant, and ICT Officer. The forum provided an opportunity to assess ongoing initiatives, address implementation challenges, and identify priorities for the months ahead.

Areas of concern

A major focus of the discussion was the progress of the 2025/2026 development portfolio, particularly the Indian Housing Programme, including the construction of 4,700 housing units, disaster-related housing interventions, and land clearance activities.

- Evaluating performance of CDCs, with special attention to children's attendance, nutritional status, and the implementation of the Start-up Fund for the Mid-Day Meal Programme.
- creating healthier environments for young children.
- updates on the audit process and AGM
- To enhance the operational efficiency of Water Laboratory initiative and service delivery within the plantation sector.

Output

- The participants reviewed the status of these projects and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring their successful implementation.
- Recognizing that child well-being is central to community development
- updates on the audit process and AGM was discussed.
- participants were introduced to the latest developments in SMART PHDT, the upcoming IT Training Programme,
- Measures to be taken to enhance operational efficiency of Water Laboratory and service delivery within the plantation sector.

The Cluster Review Meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to collaborative action, reinforcing the strong partnership between PHDT and Hatton Plantations in delivering impactful development programmes that improve the quality of life of plantation communities. These discussions highlighted the collective responsibility of PHDT and estate management in creating healthier environments for young children.

Article By: V.Abinajah

Promoting Healthy Smiles Through Oral Cancer Screening and Child Dental Care - PHDT Nuwara Eliya



Good oral health is an essential component of overall well-being, while the early detection of oral diseases plays a crucial role in preventing serious health complications. By facilitating early detection of oral health conditions and providing timely dental care for children, the programme contributed to improving awareness of oral hygiene and encouraging preventive healthcare practices within the plantation community. Such initiatives reflect PHDT's continued commitment to enhancing access to quality health services and promoting healthier lives among plantation families. The programme was supported by the MH & M and Community Development Officer representing PHDT, together with the Estate Manager, PFWO, and CDO representing **Kelani Valley Plantations PLC**.

Their coordinated efforts contributed to the smooth implementation of the programme and reinforced the importance of collaborative action in promoting community health.

Objective

For early detection of oral diseases to prevent serious health complications

Activities

- The PHDT Nuwara Eliya Region organized an Oral Cancer Screening
- Child Dental Care Programme on 09 July 2026 at Oliphant Estate under Kelani Valley Plantations PLC

Outcome

- The programme provided comprehensive oral health services for both adults and children living in the estate community.
- A total of 121 adults underwent oral cancer screening, with six individuals identified for referral for further assessment and follow-up.
- In addition, 49 school children received dental examinations, and 16 children were provided with the necessary dental treatment during the programme.

Human resources

The screening and dental services were conducted by the Regional Dental Surgeon, Nuwara Eliya, Dental Surgeon, Udapussellawa, and the School Dental Therapist, ensuring participants received professional oral health assessments and appropriate care.

Article By: V.Abinajah & K.B.Gihani Maheshika

Galatura Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Society (EWHCS) Holds Successful **Annual General Meeting**



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Galatura Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Society was successfully held on 18th June 2026, at 3.00 p.m. at the EWHCS's Auditorium, with the participation of 72 qualified members entitled to represent the AGM.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the EWHCS together with the Audit Officer of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Cooperative Development Department.

Objectives of the meeting

- To appoint the Chairman and the Management Committee for the forthcoming year.
- To conduct an election process in accordance with the Society's by-laws and legal procedures, with the active participation of the members.
- To present the development plan & budget estimates by the EWHCS's Community Secretary for the coming year.
- To present the final audit report for the financial year 2025 by the Audit Officer of the Department of Cooperative Development

Output

- Following discussion, the proposals received the unanimous approval of the members present.
- After reviewing the report, the Annual General Meeting approved the audited accounts with the unanimous consent of the members.
- In recognition of the EWHCS's annual profits, the Annual General Meeting also resolved to provide an umbrella to every member who had qualified to participate in the AGM, in accordance with Article No.6.2.2 of the EWHCS by-laws.

The meeting concluded successfully, with members expressing their continued commitment to the Society's development and future progress.

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

Indian Grant Housing Project - 2025 - PHDT Ratnapura



The Indian Grant Housing Project, comprising 29 housing units, is being implemented at Keragala Estate, Upper Division, at a total project cost of Rs. 78.3 million. The housing construction is funded by the Government of India, while the infrastructure facilities are financed by the Government of Sri Lanka through the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

Objective

The primary objective of the project is to relocate families affected by landslides to a safer location by providing them with secure and permanent housing, improving their living conditions, and supporting their long-term livelihoods.

Output

The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) has played a key role in facilitating the project by supporting the land release process in collaboration with the Regional Plantation Company (RPC) and the National Building Research Institute (NBRI). PHDT also worked closely with the estate management in identifying and selecting suitable land on 15th July 2026 for the implementation of the housing project.

Article By: M A C L Munasinghe

Cluster Review Meeting at Kahawatte Plantations PLC



The Plantation Human Development Trust, Ratnapura Region conducted a Cluster Review Meeting with the Estate Managers of Kahawatte

Plantations PLC at Pelmadulla Estate on 18.06.2026. The meeting was attended by the Director/CEO, Chief Operating Officer, Estate Managers, Assistant Managers and the Regional Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust with the regional team.

Objective of the meeting

The meeting focused on reviewing development work, estate progress and community welfare programmes.

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Cluster Review Meeting...

Areas of concerned

- The progress of the Indian Housing Project 4700 Programme and its current status was reviewed
- The need to open new bank accounts for better financial management was discussed. The ongoing audit of the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Society was also observed.
- The team reviewed the nutrition and growth of children and the attendance at Child Development Centres.
- The Plantation Human Development Trust health team presented plans to improve meals, monitor growth and educate parents, especially for children under five years.
- The importance of health screening programmes for Non-Communicable Diseases conducted with the Regional Director of Health Services

Finally, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to work together for the wellbeing of estate communities.

Article By: Madushika Chamodi

Model Estate Battalgalla - Home Gardening Programme on 14th July 2026 - PHDT Hatton



Improves Family Livelihoods

The Model Estate Battalgalla Home Gardening Programme has brought positive changes to the lives of many families in the estate community. After receiving training and awareness sessions, the volunteers of Model Estate Battalgalla successfully established home gardens

Objectives

- To provide fresh vegetables and fruits for family consumption while allowing families to earn extra income by selling surplus produce.
- To introduce simple household cash management practices.

Activities conducted

Volunteers were encouraged to record their daily income and expenses in a notebook. This has helped families understand their spending habits, reduce unnecessary expenses, and manage their household finances more effectively.

Out come

- The home gardening programme has improved food security, promoted healthy eating, and encouraged families to become more self-reliant.
- The volunteers have shown great dedication by applying the knowledge they received and sharing their experiences with others in the community.
- The success of the programme demonstrates that training, awareness, and community participation can make a meaningful difference in improving the economic and social well-being of estate families.
- Model Estate Battalgalla continues to be an example of sustainable community development and responsible household management.

Article By: Jenowa

Successful Handover of Green Gold Housing Project Units at Kandaloya Estate, PHDT Kandy



The Kandaloya Estate Housing Project at Memale (Lower) Division (GGH 2018) under the Janatha Estate Development Board (JEDB) was officially handed over on 2 July 2026 at Kandaloya Estate following a final inspection of the completed houses by the beneficiaries. The Rs. 21.5 million project, comprising 25 newly constructed housing units, was formally handed over to the estate management for occupation by the beneficiary families, marking the successful completion of the initiative. The event was attended by the Regional Director, Assistant Manager, Coordinating Engineering Assistant, Community Development Officer, PFWO, the Contractor, and 19 beneficiary families, highlighting the collaborative efforts that contributed to the successful completion of the project.

Article By: Charaka Kulathunga

“Root of Wellness” Screening Programme, PHDT Kandy



Objective

The objective of the “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme was to improve access to preventive healthcare services among estate communities and school children through early detection of health conditions, health education, and timely referral for appropriate treatment and follow-up care.

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“Root of Wellness” Screening Programme...

Activities

The “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme was successfully conducted on 19 June 2026 at the Dispensary & Outlying Division, Black Forest, Rothschild Estate. The programme was carried out with the participation of 16 doctors and health staff from Kandy RDHS, together with the Regional Director, Secretary, Project Officer – Health, Community Development Officer, Account Assistant, six Estate Health Staff, **115 estate residents, and 39 school children**. A comprehensive range of health screening services was provided, including dental and oral cancer screening, non-communicable disease (NCD) screening, and eye screening. During the programme, **five patients were referred to Peradeniya Hospital** following dental and oral cancer screening, while **five patients were referred to the clinic** for further management after NCD screening. The initiative focused on promoting early detection of diseases, increasing health awareness, and encouraging healthy lifestyle practices within the estate community.

Output

A total of **154 beneficiaries** were screened during the programme, comprising **115 estate residents and 39 school children**. The screening enabled the early identification of health conditions and ensured timely referrals for further medical assessment and treatment where required. The programme strengthened access to preventive healthcare services, enhanced community awareness on disease prevention, and contributed to improving the overall health and well-being of the estate population.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Comprehensive Estate Visit Highlights the Need for Stronger Early Childhood Development Services at Poongalla Estate - PHDT Badulla



Introduction

On 2nd July 2026, I conducted a comprehensive monitoring visit to Poongalla Estate under Maskeliya Plantations PLC as part of PHDT Badulla Region’s continuous efforts to strengthen Early Childhood Development (ECD) services in plantation communities. Although the Estate Management has demonstrated a genuine commitment to supporting child welfare activities, the existing challenges require a

more comprehensive and coordinated approach. Poongalla Estate is one of the largest estates in the region, with a resident population of approximately 6,000 people. Despite its size, the estate currently operates without a Plantation Family Welfare Officer (PFWO), leaving welfare coordination and monitoring responsibilities largely with the Estate Medical Assistant (EMA).

This has created a significant gap in the continuous supervision and follow-up required to maintain quality welfare and child development services

Activities

- The visit was initiated after routine monitoring indicated a decline in Child Development Centre (CDC) attendance and concerns regarding the overall functioning of the centres.
- During the visit, I assessed all five Child Development Centres (CDCs) in the estate.

Issues identified

- The assessment identified several priority areas that require immediate attention.
- Two CDCs are currently being managed by temporary personnel, emphasizing the urgent need to appoint qualified Child Development Officers to ensure that children receive quality early childhood care and education.
- In addition, several CDC buildings require comprehensive physical improvements to provide a safe, child-friendly, and stimulating environment.
- I also observed that the existing resources within the centres—including children’s play materials, furniture, and learning equipment—are not being utilized to their full potential.

Corrective measures

- These resources should be effectively incorporated into daily learning activities, while division-level programmes
- community events should be organized regularly to increase children’s participation, strengthen parental engagement, and create greater enthusiasm for CDC activities within the estate.
- Dedicated Child Development Officers are essential, but their commitment alone is not sufficient. Equally important are safe and well-maintained facilities, adequate learning resources, continuous monitoring, and strong institutional support.
- These elements must work together to create an environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive.

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Comprehensive Estate Visit...

- Providing the necessary human resources, particularly key welfare staff, is critical to ensuring the effective functioning of Child Development Centres. Continuous monitoring, technical guidance, and timely decision-making are equally essential. Without these support mechanisms, even the most committed Estate Managers and Child Development Officers face considerable challenges in delivering quality services.

Overall, I was encouraged by the positive attitude and willingness of the Estate Superintendent to improve the welfare of children and families. With strengthened institutional support, the appointment of qualified personnel, improved infrastructure, and enhanced monitoring systems, I am confident that Poongalla Estate can significantly improve the quality of its Early Childhood Development services and create a better future for its youngest generation.

Article By: R M C D Rathnayake

Strengthening Digital Service Delivery through the SMART PHDT Awareness and Training Programme - PHDT Nuwara Eliya Region



CHANGES TOWARDS OPERATIONAL EVOLUTION

As part of its commitment to strengthening digital transformation and improving service delivery across plantation communities, the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) conducted a SMART PHDT Awareness and Training Programme on 22 June 2026 at the PHDT Nuwara Eliya Regional Office.

The programme brought together PFWOs and CDOs representing Agarapathana Plantations PLC, Agalawatte Plantations PLC, Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC, Maturata Plantations PLC, Kegalle Plantations PLC, Udapussellawa Plantations PLC, and the Tea Research Institute. The session was facilitated by the Manager - Information Technology (MIT) and Assistant Manager - Information Technology (AMIT), with the participation of the Regional Director, Manager Health, Community Development Officer and ICT Officer of the Nuwara Eliya Region.

Output

- The training introduced participants to the SMART PHDT system and its role in enhancing programme

management through efficient digital record-keeping and reporting.

- Key areas covered included user roles and responsibilities, accurate data entry procedures, record management, report generation, and effective monitoring of programme activities. Practical demonstrations enabled participants to gain hands-on experience and confidence in using the system in their day-to-day responsibilities.
- The implementation of the SMART PHDT system represents an important step towards improving the quality, accuracy, and accessibility of programme data across PHDT.
- Strengthening the digital capacity of field staff will support timely reporting, effective monitoring, and informed decision-making, ultimately contributing to the efficient delivery of services to plantation communities.
- The programme reflected PHDT's ongoing commitment to embracing digital solutions that enhance organizational efficiency, strengthen programme management, and support the effective implementation of community development initiatives across the plantation sector.

Article By: C. Devaranjan

Watershed Conservation Programme for Beneficiaries on Sarnia Estate and St. James Estate - PHDT Badulla



Introduction

A Watershed Conservation Programme was conducted on **14th July 2026** for the beneficiaries of **Sarnia Estate & St. James Estate**. The programme was organized to promote awareness & active participation in the protection, conservation, & sustainable management of water sources & their surrounding ecosystems.

Watersheds are important natural resources that support drinking water supplies, agriculture, biodiversity, & the overall well-being of communities. Therefore, protecting water sources & their catchment areas is essential for ensuring the availability of clean & sufficient water for present & future generations.

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Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament - PHDT Hatton



The Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament – 2026 was successfully held on 4th July 2026 at the Dickoya Maskeliya Cricket Club, Dickoya, under the organization of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Hatton Region. The event was graced by Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Director Health, PHDT, and Mr. Roshan Liyanage, Manager Administration & HRD, PHDT, as the Chief Guests, together with Company Representatives as Special Guests. Teams representing Maskeliya Plantations PLC, Horana Plantations PLC, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, Madulsima Plantations PLC, and Kotagala Plantations PLC participated in the tournament, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, and competitive spirit. Kotagala Plantations PLC emerged as the Tournament Champion, while Kelani Valley Plantations PLC secured the Runner-up title. Horana Plantations PLC won the Plate Championship, Maskeliya Plantations PLC claimed the Bowl Championship, and Madulsima Plantations PLC received the Participation Award. Individual honours were awarded to Mr. Hasthika of Kelani Valley Plantations PLC as the Best Batsman, Mr. Charith of Horana Plantations PLC as the Best Bowler, and Mr. Kaathir of Kotagala Plantations PLC as the Man of the Series. The tournament was a great success, fostering friendship, unity, and healthy competition among the participating Regional Plantation Companies while strengthening the spirit of collaboration within the plantation community.

Organized By, Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Hatton Region. The Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament 2026 successfully brought together teams from Regional Plantation Companies, promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and unity among plantation communities. Congratulations to all the winners and participants for making the tournament a memorable and exciting event!

Article By: Jenowa

Southern Cup Xii – PHDT Galle



The Southern Cup XII – Inter Plantations Cricket Tournament 2026, organized by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Galle Region, was successfully held on July 11, 2026, at the BOI Ground, Koggala. The event brought together teams from various Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) to foster friendship, teamwork, unity, and healthy competition among executives in the plantation sector.

Following a series of highly competitive matches, the Elpitiya Plantations PLC – A Team claimed the main Championship, with Maturata Plantations Ltd finishing as the Runner-Up. In the Plate Championship, Namunukula Plantations PLC emerged victorious, while Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC took the Plate Runner-Up spot. Exceptional individual performances were also recognized, with Mr. Pramod Bandara of Elpitiya Plantations PLC – A Team earning the prestigious Man of the Series award. Mr. Tharuka Panduwawala of Maturata Plantations Ltd was named Best Batsman, and Mr. Yasitha Koswatte of Elpitiya Plantations PLC – A Team received the award for Best Bowler. The tournament featured enthusiastic participation from several RPCs, including teams from Elpitiya, Namunukula, Kotagala, Maturata, Talawakelle, Horana, and Watawala Plantations. The event was graced by distinguished Chief Guests Mr. Chaminda Senaratne (COO, Maturata Plantations Ltd.) and Mr. Geeth Kumara (CEO, Elpitiya Plantations PLC), alongside Guest of Honour Mr. Lal Perera (Director General, PHDT). Several other special guests and senior management representatives from across the industry were also in attendance to support the teams and encourage greater interaction among employees.

The Southern Cup XII successfully celebrated unity across the plantation community. The PHDT – Galle Region sincerely thanks all guests, participants, and sponsors for making the event a memorable success that strengthened industry bonds.

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Objectives of the Programme

The main objectives of the programme were:

- To create awareness among beneficiaries about the importance of watershed conservation.
- To promote the protection of natural water sources & catchment areas.
- To encourage community participation in environmental conservation activities.
- To reduce soil erosion & the degradation of water sources.
- To promote tree planting & the protection of vegetation around water sources.
- To encourage responsible & sustainable use of water resources.
- To strengthen the role of beneficiaries in protecting the environment.

Programme Activities

The following activities were carried out during the programme:

1. Awareness Creation

Beneficiaries were educated on the importance of watersheds & the relationship between forests, soil, rainfall, streams, springs, & water availability. Special attention was given to the importance of protecting water sources from pollution & environmental degradation.

2. Conservation of Water Sources

The participants were encouraged to protect natural water sources by:

- Keeping the surrounding areas clean.
- Preventing the disposal of waste near water sources.
- Avoiding activities that may cause contamination.
- Protecting vegetation around streams & springs.
- Preventing unnecessary destruction of trees & plants.

3. Tree Planting & Vegetation Protection

4. Soil & Land Conservation

5. Community Participation

Beneficiary Participation

Beneficiaries from Sarnia Estate & St. James Estate participated in the programme. Their participation

Watershed Conservation Programme ...

demonstrated the importance of community involvement in environmental protection & natural resource management. The participants actively engaged in discussions & gained knowledge about the importance of protecting water sources and maintaining a healthy environment.

Outcomes of the Programme

The programme successfully:

- Increased awareness among beneficiaries regarding watershed conservation.
- Improved understanding of the importance of protecting water sources.
- Encouraged community responsibility for environmental protection.
- Promoted the protection of vegetation & natural ecosystems.
- Highlighted the importance of preventing water pollution & soil erosion.
- Encouraged future community-based environmental conservation activities.

Conclusion

The Watershed Conservation Programme conducted on 14 July 2026 for beneficiaries of Sarnia Estate & St. James Estate was successfully completed.

The programme provided an important opportunity to educate & motivate beneficiaries regarding the conservation of water sources & the protection of watershed areas. The active participation of the community demonstrated their willingness to contribute towards environmental conservation & the sustainable management of natural resources.

Continued awareness programmes & practical conservation activities are recommended to ensure the long-term protection of watersheds & the availability of safe.

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UPCOMMING EVENTS.....

- Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament - 22nd August 2026
- CEO's Forum - 3rd September 2026

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