

COMMUNITY CANVAS



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1st Co-operate Federation in the Plantation Continues to flourish



The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Federation marked an important milestone in the Federation's ongoing commitment to empowering plantation communities through cooperation, participation, and collective action. The gathering reflected a shared vision of improving the lives and livelihoods of estate workers and their families.

A key highlight of the AGM was the endorsement of a Cooperative Society–Led Plantation Development Programme, which recognizes cooperative societies as the driving force behind sustainable community development. Members emphasized the importance of strengthening grassroots level participation and ensuring that development initiatives directly benefit plantation communities.

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



I am Thangaraj Gopitha from Brunswick Estate, Maskeliya Plantations PLC, Hatton. I have been selected to the University of Ruhuna to pursue a degree in Bio Systems Technology after achieving District Rank 7 in the 2024/2025 G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations. I sincerely thank my parents, teachers, and everyone who supported me throughout this journey.

I am committed to making the best use of this opportunity and would like to give back to my community by contributing to sustainable agricultural development and meaningful social progress in the future.

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Training Session on SMART PHDT System Implementation Successfully Conducted in Badulla



A full-day training session on the implementation of the SMART PHDT System was successfully conducted on 11th and 12th June 2026 at the PHDT Badulla Regional Office Auditorium.

The programme was organized by PHDT–Badulla with the objective of strengthening knowledge and enhancing the effective implementation of the SMART PHDT System among estate and regional staff.

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5th Annual General Meeting of EWHCF...

The Federation further resolved to conduct programmes in a phased manner from July 2026 through selected estate-level pilot activities. With unanimous support from the membership, the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Federation reaffirmed its commitment to build stronger cooperative institutions and creating a future of shared prosperity for all plantation communities.

Article By: Nigalya Rajmogan

Roots to Wings: A Startup Grant Programme...



My name is D. Dadlananthan from Mattakelle Estate, Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC, Nuwara Eliya, a community that has played a key role in shaping my early life. I have been selected to the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka to follow the Arts stream after securing District Rank 165 in the G.C.E. Advanced

Level examinations. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my parents for their unwavering support. I am determined to grow academically and contribute positively to both my estate community and society at large.



I am Selvarasu Samitha from Liddesdale Estate, Mathurata Plantations PLC, Nuwara Eliya. With a District Rank of 126 in the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations, I have been selected to the University of Jaffna to pursue Medical Laboratory Sciences. I aspire to build a strong career in the medical field and

serve society with dedication, precision, and care. Coming from an estate community background, this achievement brings pride to both me and my family.



I am Muththiraja Naveeka from Pedro Estate, Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, Nuwara Eliya. Securing District Rank 179 in the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations, I have been selected to the Eastern University of Sri Lanka to pursue Management studies.

I express my sincere gratitude to my estate community for their continuous support and encouragement. My upbringing in an estate background has greatly influenced my discipline and determination. I aim to strengthen my knowledge in management and

contribute towards both organizational growth and community development in the future.



I am Rameshwaran Prasanth from Fernlands Estate, Elpitiya Plantations PLC, Nuwara Eliya. Having achieved 3 As & District Rank 24 in the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations 2024/2025, I have been selected to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura to pursue Management studies. I thank all those who supported me

throughout my academic journey. Coming from an estate background, I take great pride in this achievement. I am committed to excelling in the field of management and hope to contribute meaningfully to both national progress and organizational development.

Comped By: Rackshana Jayasekaran

Training Session on SMART PHDT System...

Representatives from the following plantation companies and organizations participated in the training programme:

- Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC
- Maskeliya Plantations PLC
- Namunukula Plantations PLC
- Hapugastenne Plaations PLC
- Agarapathana Plantations PLC
- Stassen Natural Foods (Pvt) Ltd
- Janatha Estates Development Board (JEDB)
- Greenfield Bio Plantations (Pvt) Ltd

Participants included Plantation Field Welfare Officers (PFWOs), Child Development Officers (CDOs), estate management representatives, and office staff from the participating organizations. In addition, PHDT representatives, including the Manager – Information Technology (MIT) and Assistant Manager – IT, attended the programme. Regional participants comprised the Regional Director (RD), Information and Communication Technology Officer (ICTO), Manager – Health and Mobilization, Community Development Officer (CDO), and the Programme Assistant – Health.

Outcome of the training session

The training session provided participants with practical knowledge and guidance on the SMART PHDT System, enhancing their understanding of system operations, reporting procedures, and implementation processes. Interactive discussions and hands-on activities contributed to a productive and engaging learning environment throughout the programme. The training concluded successfully with active participation and valuable contributions from all attendees, reflecting the continued commitment of PHDT and its partner organizations toward strengthening digital systems and improving service delivery within the plantation sector.

Article By: Udara Harshana

Watershed Conservation Awareness Programme at PHDT Badulla Region



A Watershed Conservation Awareness Programme was conducted on 05th June 2026 for all allocated three Estates, Namely **Adawatte Estate, Sarnia Estate St. James Estate**, with the participation of the Manager, Assistant Manager, Field Officer, Plantation Family Welfare Officer, Union Leaders (Thalvar, and Thalavi). The programme was sponsored by Rain forest Sri Lanka, and aimed to create awareness on the importance of watershed conservation and the successful implementation of the project. During the discussion, the following key topics were covered:

1. Project Timeline – The activities planned under the watershed conservation project and the implementation schedule were explained to all participants.
2. Advantages of the Programme – The environmental, social, and economic benefits of watershed conservation, including improved water availability, soil conservation, and sustainability of plantation resources, were discussed.
3. Community Contribution – The importance of active participation and support from the community in maintaining and protecting watershed areas was emphasized.
4. Management Support – Management's commitment to providing necessary resources, guidance, and continuous support for the successful implementation of the programme was highlighted.

The participants actively engaged in the discussion and expressed their willingness to contribute towards the conservation efforts. The programme concluded with a collective understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in ensuring the long-term success of the watershed conservation initiative.

Article By: N.Sarojini

Awareness Programme for Beneficiaries of the Indian Housing Assistance Programme at Frocester Estate – Kobowella Division - PHDT Galle

Introduction

An awareness and a coordination visit was conducted at Frocester Estate – Kobowella Division in relation to the implementation of the Indian Housing Assistance Programme. Under this initiative, a total of eight housing units have been approved for eligible beneficiaries in the division. The programme aims to improve the living

conditions of plantation communities by providing safe and permanent housing while ensuring that beneficiaries understand their roles and responsibilities before construction begins. The meeting served as an important platform to introduce the project, clarify implementation procedures, and encourage active participation from all selected beneficiaries.



Objective

The primary objective of the visit was to provide beneficiaries with a comprehensive understanding of the housing project and its implementation process. The programme also sought to explain the “House to House” concept, under which beneficiaries are expected to hand over their existing line rooms to the estate management before occupying their newly constructed houses. In addition, the meeting aimed to promote beneficiary participation in project-related activities, establish a Housing Committee to facilitate coordination, communicate documentation requirements, and raise awareness regarding infrastructure arrangements and future obligations associated with the housing programme.

Activities Implemented

An awareness session was conducted for all selected beneficiaries prior to the commencement of construction activities. During the meeting, detailed information was provided on the overall housing programme, implementation procedures, and the expectations placed upon beneficiaries throughout the project period.

Special emphasis was given to the “House to House” concept. Beneficiaries were informed that the existing line rooms currently occupied by them must be handed over to the estate management before relocating to the newly constructed houses. It was also explained that the estate management had already initiated the necessary arrangements to facilitate this process.

Participants were advised to attend all mandatory beneficiary meetings organized under the housing programme, as regular participation is essential for effective communication, timely decision-making, and the successful implementation of the project. They were further encouraged to provide their fullest cooperation during construction activities to minimize delays and ensure smooth project execution. To strengthen community participation and coordination, a Housing Committee was established with the involvement of the beneficiaries.

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Awareness Programme for Beneficiaries of the Indian Housing Assistance Programme...

The committee is expected to support communication between stakeholders, assist in resolving practical issues, and contribute to the efficient implementation of project activities. The beneficiaries were also informed about the documentation requirements for preparing individual beneficiary files and were requested to submit the necessary information and supporting documents within the stipulated time frame. In addition, discussions were held regarding the proposed water supply project and other infrastructure facilities required for the housing scheme. Furthermore, beneficiaries were made aware that obtaining individual electricity connections would be their own responsibility and that the associated costs would need to be borne by them. They were therefore encouraged to make appropriate financial preparations in advance. The meeting also highlighted that the relevant housing agreements would need to be signed before the commencement of construction, ensuring that all parties clearly understood their respective obligations.

Outputs and Outcomes

The awareness programme successfully enhanced beneficiaries' understanding of the Indian Housing Assistance Programme and clarified the procedures to be followed before and during implementation. Beneficiaries gained a clear understanding of their responsibilities under the "House to House" concept, the importance of participating in project meetings, and the need to cooperate throughout the construction process.

The establishment of the Housing Committee created a structured mechanism for beneficiary representation and coordination, while the guidance provided on documentation and infrastructure requirements helped prepare participants for the administrative aspects of the project. Beneficiaries were educated of their responsibility for obtaining individual electricity connections and the importance of planning for these expenses in advance.

Overall, the visit achieved its intended objectives by fostering transparency, encouraging community participation, and strengthening beneficiary readiness for the implementation of the housing project. The beneficiaries expressed their willingness to cooperate fully and demonstrated a positive commitment towards ensuring the successful completion of the programme and the long-term improvement of their living conditions.

Article By: B.M. Maduka

Health Screening Programme for the Estate Community of Beverly Estate - PHDT Galle Region



A successful health screening programme was held at Beverly Estate, Deniyaya, to support the local plantation community. Organized by PHDT Galle and the RDHS Office, Matara, and sponsored by the Southern Province Ministry of Rural, Fisheries and Estate Infrastructure Development, the initiative targeted the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, and respiratory illnesses. By providing early detection, the programme enabled timely medical intervention while raising awareness to encourage healthier lifestyles and proactive healthcare within the community.

Objective

The primary objective of the programme was to improve the health and well-being of the estate community through the early detection, prevention, management, and awareness of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Programme Outcomes

- The Health Screening Programme achieved significant outcomes, providing valuable healthcare services to the estate community:
- Approximately 125 individuals underwent screening for fasting blood sugar and cholesterol levels. This initiative offered a valuable opportunity for estate residents, many of whom are reluctant or unable to attend regular medical check-ups.
- Of the 125 individuals screened, 35 participants were identified as requiring further medical attention and were referred to the nearest hospital's Suwa Divisayanaya clinic for regular follow-up treatment and management.
- A comprehensive health awareness session was conducted to educate participants on the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases. Medical officers emphasized the importance of maintaining a balanced diet, reducing the intake of foods high in sugar and refined carbohydrates, engaging in regular physical activity, and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.
- An Oral Cancer Screening Programme was also conducted. A total of 58 individuals were screened, of whom 14 were identified with precancerous lesions and referred for further evaluation and appropriate treatment.

Article By: M. D. Amarasinghe

A SMART PHDT System training programme PHDT Hatton



The SMART PHDT Training Programme was successfully conducted on 02.06.2026 and 03.06.2026 at the PHDT Training Center – Strathdon, with the participation of staff members from the following five Plantation compaines.

- Maskeliya Plantation PLC
- Bogawanthalawa Tea Estate PLC
- Kotagala Plantation PLC
- Horana Plantation PLC
- Hatton Plantation PLC

This structured training initiative was designed to ensure users quickly adapt to the newly introduced online data entry system with accuracy, speed, and confidence. The program supports operational efficiency across the Plantation sector, covering Population, Workforce, Health, and Construction data management.

Programme Objective

To equip estate and regional officers with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in navigating and managing the SMART PHDT system effectively, ensuring smooth digital transformation within the plantation sector.

Topics Covered

- Login and User Role Permissions
Understanding access levels and user responsibilities.
- Dashboard Overview
Navigation of the system interface and monitoring tools.
- Data Categories
 - Population
 - Workforce
 - Health
 - Construction
- Field Data Collection Workflow
Step-by-step process from field-level data entry to centralized reporting.

Training Outcome

Participants gained a clear understanding of:

- System navigation
- Role-based data entry procedures
- Reporting flow and data validation
- Efficient digital record management

The session ensured that users are confident and capable of maintaining accurate and timely data within the system.

Article By: S. Linton

Vesak Dansala 2026 - PHDT Hatton Region “Sharing with Compassion, Serving with Kindness.”



Vesak is the most sacred festival in Buddhism, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Lord Buddha. It is a time to reflect on His teachings of compassion, generosity, and loving-kindness.

As part of the Vesak celebrations, our office successfully organized a Vesak Dansala on 28th May 2026. The event brought together staff members and volunteers who worked enthusiastically to prepare and distribute refreshments to the public. Through this act of giving, we were able to share happiness and support the community while promoting the true spirit of Vesak.

The Dansala served many beneficiaries, including local residents, travelers, and workers in the area. The dedication and teamwork displayed by all participants contributed to the success of the programme and strengthened the bonds of unity within the community.

This meaningful initiative reflected the Buddhist values of Dana, compassion, and loving-kindness. It reminded us that even a simple act of sharing can bring joy and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

“Celebrating the spirit of Vesak with unity, kindness, and togetherness.”

Programme Organized by : Regional Director and Staff of PHDT Hatton

Article By: Jenowa Gunaseelan

Health Screening Programmes at Eildonhall, Tillicoultry and Bambarakelly Estates



Health screening programmes were conducted at Eildonhall and Tillicoultry Estates on 21.05.2026 and at Bambarakelly Estate on 22.05.2026 in collaboration with Horana Plantations PLC and the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS), Nuwara Eliya. The programmes were carried out under the guidance of Dr. Randeniya, Regional Dental Surgeon, with the active participation of Dr. Lashan, Dental Surgeon.

1. Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) Screening Programme for Adults

A total of 446 adults from the three estates participated in the OPMD screening programme. During the screening, 48 individuals were identified as having suspected oral lesions or conditions requiring further medical evaluation and were referred to appropriate healthcare facilities for further investigation and management. The programme aimed to facilitate the early detection of oral health conditions and improve access to timely treatment among the estate population.

2. Oral Health Screening Programme for Children

An oral health screening programme was also conducted for children as part of the initiative. A total of 82 children were screened, and 12 children were referred for further dental assessment and treatment. The programme emphasized the importance of oral hygiene practices, preventive dental care, and early identification of dental problems among children. These programmes demonstrate the strong collaboration between plantation management, public health authorities, and dental professionals in promoting oral health and ensuring access to essential healthcare services for both adults and children within the estate community.

Output

The initiative contributed significantly to raising awareness, identifying health concerns at an early stage, and strengthening preventive healthcare services in the plantation sector.

Article By: Yurishiya

Housing Assistance Programme for Plantation Families Affected by Ditwah Disasters



Objective

The objective of the coordination meeting was to discuss and finalize implementation arrangements for the Housing Assistance Programme for plantation families whose houses were fully or partially damaged by the Ditwah disasters, as well as families living in landslide-prone areas. The meeting also aimed to strengthen coordination among relevant stakeholders for the effective implementation of the programme.

Participants

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Secretary, Director – Engineering of the PHDT Head Office, Project Consultant, Regional Director of PHDT Kegalle, Community Development Officer, Project Assistant, and officers of the District Secretariat, Kegalle.

Key Discussions

Participants reviewed the proposed housing assistance programme, which will be implemented in accordance with Disaster Relief Services Guidelines Circular No. 08/2026. The programme targets families whose houses were damaged by the disaster and those identified as living in high-risk landslide areas.

Technical assessments, including National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) reports and land surveys, will be coordinated through the District Secretariat. Discussions also focused on financial arrangements, implementation mechanisms, and institutional responsibilities.

The proposed housing model consists of approximately 650-square-foot houses to be constructed on 10-perch land plots at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 million per house. Financial assistance will be released in three instalments: Rs. 2 million as the first instalment, followed by two instalments of Rs. 1.5 million each.

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Housing Assistance Programme...

The meeting also discussed the “house-for-a-house” concept, under which families currently residing in unsafe line rooms located in landslide-prone areas will receive replacement houses. Beneficiaries who wish to purchase land outside the estate and construct their own houses will also be eligible to receive Rs. 5 million in financial assistance. Funding for construction will be channelled through the District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariats, with payments credited directly to beneficiaries’ bank accounts.

PHDT further proposed that government housing funds be channeled through Estate Workers’ Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS) to facilitate efficient implementation. The proposed construction period for each house is seven months.

The Additional District Secretary confirmed that the District Secretariat would coordinate the approval process with the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure once land allocations are finalized by the respective plantation companies.

Outputs

- Agreed on the implementation framework for the Housing Assistance Programme.
- Confirmed technical assessment procedures through the District Secretariat and NBRO.
- Finalized the proposed housing model, funding mechanism, and phased payment schedule.
- Discussed replacement housing under the “house-for-a-house” concept for families living in unsafe line rooms.
- Agreed on coordination arrangements for obtaining government approvals and implementing the programme.

Outcome

The coordination meeting strengthened collaboration among key implementing agencies and established a common implementation framework for the housing programme. The agreed arrangements are expected to facilitate the timely provision of safe and permanent housing for disaster-affected plantation families while reducing their vulnerability to future natural hazards.

Article By: Dileesha Jayarathna

PHDT Conducts Cluster Review Programmes to Strengthen Health Services in Estates - PHDT Kegalle



Objective

The objective of the Cluster Review Programmes was to assess the progress of health programmes implemented across plantation estates, strengthen coordination between the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and Estate Management, and enhance the capacity of estate personnel to address nutrition and community health issues effectively.

Participants

The programmes were attended by the Regional Director, Project Officer – Health, Community Development Officers (CDOs), Estate Managers, Plantation Field Welfare Officers (PFWOs), and Community Development Officers representing estates under Kegalle Plantations PLC and Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC (MVPL).

Key Activities

The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Kegalle Region conducted two Cluster Review Programmes for Estate Managers during May 2026. The first programme was held at the PHDT Regional Office, Kegalle, on 28 May 2026 for estates managed by Kegalle Plantations PLC, while the second programme was conducted at Moraliyoya Estate on 29 May 2026 for estates under Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC.

The review sessions assessed the implementation and progress of estate health programmes, identified operational challenges, and discussed measures to improve service delivery through closer collaboration between PHDT and Estate Management.

A Nutrition Awareness Session was conducted for Estate Managers and health staff, focusing on the importance of nutrition monitoring, early identification of nutritional deficiencies, and strengthening community-based health interventions. Participants also discussed the responsibilities of estate management in supporting vulnerable groups and promoting healthy lifestyles within plantation communities.

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PHDT Conducts Cluster Review Programme...

Outputs

- Reviewed the progress of health programmes implemented across estates under Kegalle Plantations PLC and Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC.
- Strengthened coordination and communication between PHDT regional staff and Estate Management.
- Enhanced the knowledge and awareness of Estate Managers and health personnel on nutrition monitoring and community health promotion.
- Identified key challenges affecting health service delivery and discussed practical measures to improve programme implementation.
- Reinforced the role of Estate Management in supporting vulnerable families and improving nutritional outcomes within plantation communities.

Conclusion

The Cluster Review Programmes successfully strengthened collaboration between PHDT and Estate Management while enhancing the capacity of estate personnel to support health and nutrition interventions. The programmes provided a valuable platform for reviewing progress, sharing experiences, and identifying priorities for future action. These initiatives are expected to contribute to improved health service delivery, strengthened nutrition interventions, and better living standards for plantation communities across the Kegalle Region.

Article By: Dileesha Jayarathna

Child Protection Training Programme for Plantation Family Welfare Officers on 14th May 2026



Objective

The objective of the training programme was to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of Plantation Family Welfare Officers (PFWOs) on child rights, child protection legislation, and the prevention, identification, reporting, and management of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The programme also aimed to enhance community-based child protection mechanisms within plantation communities.

Participants

The programme was conducted by the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) with facilitation by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT). Fifty Plantation Family Welfare Officers (PFWOs) participated in the training.

Key Activities

Resource persons from the National Child Protection Authority conducted a series of interactive sessions covering Sri Lanka's child protection legal framework, indicators of child abuse and neglect, reporting procedures, case management, referral pathways, and the responsibilities of frontline officers in safeguarding children.

Participants received practical guidance on maintaining confidentiality, supporting vulnerable families, coordinating with relevant service providers, and ensuring timely interventions for children requiring protection.

The programme included group discussions and case study exercises, providing participants with opportunities to share field experiences, discuss challenges encountered in child protection work, and identify practical strategies to strengthen child protection systems within plantation communities.

Outputs

- Enhanced the knowledge and skills of 50 Plantation Family Welfare Officers on child protection laws, policies, and procedures.
- Improved participants' capacity to identify, report, and respond to cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Strengthened understanding of referral mechanisms and inter-agency coordination for child protection.
- Promoted experience sharing and practical problem-solving through interactive discussions and case studies.
- Reinforced the role of Plantation Family Welfare Officers as frontline child protection advocates within plantation communities.

Conclusion

The Child Protection Training Programme successfully strengthened the capacity of Plantation Family Welfare Officers to promote children's rights and respond effectively to child protection concerns. The programme further strengthened collaboration between the National Child Protection Authority, PHDT and contributed to the development of safer, more supportive, and child-friendly plantation communities.

Article By: Gihani Maheshika

Palmeston Estate Reopens Dispensary After 14 Years to Improve Community Access to Healthcare



Objective

The objective of reopening the Palmeston Estate Dispensary was to improve access to essential healthcare services for estate residents by restoring local medical facilities and strengthening preventive and primary healthcare services within the plantation community.

Participants

The reopening ceremony was attended by representatives of the Estate Management, the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), healthcare personnel, community members, and other stakeholders involved in health and welfare initiatives.

Key Activities

Following a closure of 14 years, the Palmerston Estate Dispensary was officially reopened in response to the growing healthcare needs of the estate community and the limited access to nearby medical facilities.

The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) Nuwara Eliya Regional Office supported the reopening by facilitating free grant medicines valued at Rs. 75,000, ensuring the availability of essential medicines during the initial phase of operations.

To strengthen healthcare service delivery, an Estate Medical Assistant from the nearby Mattakelle Estate was assigned to provide medical services at the dispensary. Public Health Midwife (PHM) services were also introduced, enabling estate residents to access maternal and child healthcare, preventive health services, and health education within their own community.

The dispensary was formally handed over to the estate community with encouragement to safeguard and utilize the facility responsibly to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Outputs

- Reopened the Palmeston Estate Dispensary after 14 years, restoring access to primary healthcare services

for the estate community.

- Facilitated the provision of free grant medicines valued at Rs. 75,000 through PHDT.
- Established regular medical services through the Estate Medical Assistant and Public Health Midwife.
- Improved community access to preventive, maternal, and child healthcare services.
- Strengthened collaboration between Estate Management, PHDT, healthcare providers, and the local community.

Conclusion

The reopening of the Palmeston Estate Dispensary represents a significant achievement in improving healthcare access for plantation communities. Through the collaborative efforts of Estate Management, PHDT, and the public health sector, the initiative has restored an essential community health service, reduced barriers to healthcare access, and strengthened preventive and primary healthcare delivery. The dispensary is expected to contribute to improved health outcomes and the overall well-being of Palmeston Estate residents in the years ahead.

Article By: Gihani Maheshika

Reroofing Programme - Sunderland Estate – Sunderland Division - Line No. 07 - PHDT Ratnapura



The Reroofing Programme 2025 was successfully implemented at Sunderland Estate, Sunderland Division, covering 08 housing units at Line No. 07. This initiative aims to improve the living conditions of

estate community members by providing safe, durable, and healthy housing. The programme was made possible through the combined support of Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) and the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure. The RPC contributed Rs. 363,462, while the Ministry provided roofing sheets valued at Rs. 778,720.00.

This valuable investment has enhanced the quality of housing for beneficiary families, helping to create a safer and healthier living environment. The new roofing will protect residents from adverse weather conditions and contribute to their overall well-being. The Reroofing Programme reflects the continued commitment of all stakeholders to improving the living standards of estate communities and promoting a healthier and more sustainable future for residents. Together, we are building stronger homes and healthier lives for the estate community.

Article By: G. A. Maduranga

Cluster Review Meeting at Pussellawa Plantations Ltd



A Cluster Review Meeting was recently conducted by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) Ratnapura Region with the Estate Managers of Pussellawa Plantations Ltd (PPL) at the company's Regional Office in Avissawella.

Objective

The meeting aimed to review development initiatives, operational progress, and community welfare programmes implemented across the Estates.

The meeting was attended by the Senior General Manager, Deputy General Manager, Estate Managers, the Regional Director, and members of the regional team. Discussions focused on improving Estate performance while strengthening services and support for Estate communities.

Key areas covered

A key area of discussion was the progress of the Indian Housing Project (IHP) 4700 Programme. Estate Managers reviewed the current status of project implementation across Estates and discussed the establishment of new bank accounts under the programme to enhance financial management, accountability, and the efficient execution of project activities. Participants also observed the ongoing audit process of the Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Society (EWHCS), including matters relating to final accounts. Emphasis was placed on maintaining transparency, accountability, and sound governance practices in all financial and administrative operations.

Health and nutrition emerged as major priorities during the meeting. Special attention was given to the nutritional status of children living in Estate communities and the progress being made towards achieving standard growth levels. The attendance of children at Child Development Centres (CDCs) was also reviewed, highlighting the importance of regular participation in early childhood development programmes. The Health Sector team presented several strategies to improve the nutritional wellbeing of children attending CDCs. These included enhanced meal planning, regular growth monitoring, and awareness programmes for parents to encourage healthy feeding practices at home. Particular concern was directed towards children under the age of five, with targeted interventions proposed to reduce malnutrition and support healthy physical development. Recommended measures included strengthening coordination between Estate health staff and families and improving the nutritional value of mid-day meals provided at the centres.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of regular health screening programmes conducted by the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) with the facilitation of PHDT. These screenings support the early detection and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among Estate residents.

Conclusion

Concluding the meeting, management reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively to improve Estate operations, strengthen community services, and enhance the overall health and wellbeing of Estate families. The discussions reflected Pussellawa Plantations Ltd continued dedication to sustainable development and the creation of healthier and more prosperous Estate communities.

Article By: Madushika Chamodi

First Mobilization Meeting for the Indian Housing Project – 4700 at the Field Officer's Office of Mohamedi Estate of Agalawatte Plantations PLC on 21st May 2026



Under the guidance of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, arrangements have been made to provide new houses to five beneficiary families under the Indian Housing Project – 4700. To prepare and educate the selected beneficiaries for this important housing programme, the first Mobilization Meeting was held on 21 May 2026 at 10.00 a.m. at the Field Officer's Office of Mohamedi Estate.

The programme commenced with the welcome address delivered by the Estate Superintendent. During his speech, he shared his experiences regarding the hardships faced by families living in unsafe housing, particularly during periods of adverse weather conditions.

Mr. Narada Wijeratne, Regional Director of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT), Ratnapura Regional Office, explained that the housing project is funded by the Government of India and implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure through the PHDT. He also outlined the responsibilities of the beneficiaries, the Estate Management, and the Regional Plantation Company throughout the construction process.

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First Mobilization Meeting for the Indian Housing...

Mr. Prasanna Jinarathna, Director – Engineering of the PHDT Head Office, explained the role and responsibilities of the PHDT in implementing, supervising, and monitoring the housing construction project.

Mr. Maduranga Ganehiarachchi, Engineering Assistant of the PHDT Ratnapura Regional Office, briefed the beneficiaries on the approved house design, land allocation procedures, and their responsibilities regarding the construction of sanitation facilities.

Mrs. Priyanthi Jayanath, Community Development Officer of the PHDT Ratnapura Regional Office, conducted an awareness session on adapting to life in a new house after relocating from line-room housing. She emphasized the importance of maintaining family harmony and explained the roles and responsibilities of husbands, wives, and children in creating a happy family environment. She also highlighted the importance of saving household income for future investments and introduced the Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Society (EWHCS) as a valuable support mechanism.

Mrs. Dimali Chandrasena, Project Officer – Health of the PHDT Ratnapura Regional Office, educated the participants on maintaining a healthy and hygienic home environment. She explained proper waste management practices and highlighted their benefits for both family health and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Prasad Rathnasuriya, Technical Officer of the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA), informed the beneficiaries about the activities and responsibilities they are required to undertake during the housing construction period.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Estate Superintendent. The programme was attended by representatives of the Estate Management, including the Estate Superintendent, the Legal Officer of Agalawatte Plantations PLC, and the Field Officer of the division. Representatives from the Plantation Human Development Trust included the Director – Engineering and Quantity Surveyors from the Head Office, together with the Regional Director, Engineering Assistant, Community Development Officer, and Project Officer – Health from the Ratnapura Regional Office. All five beneficiaries of the Indian Housing Project also participated in the meeting. The first Mobilization Meeting was successfully conducted, providing beneficiaries with essential information and practical guidance to prepare them for the successful construction of their new homes and to support a better future for their families.

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

A Nutritional Awareness Programme for Mothers' Committee members - PHDT Kandy Region



A Nutritional Awareness Programme for Mothers' Committee members was conducted on 27 May 2026 at the Oonanagala Division Child Development Centre (CDC), Madulkelle.

The programme aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on balanced nutrition, healthy eating practices, and the importance of proper nutrition for the growth and development of young children. Discussions focused on preparing nutritious meals using locally available foods, preventing malnutrition, and promoting healthy lifestyles within families. The session also encouraged mothers to play an active role in supporting the nutritional well-being of children attending the CDC and in raising awareness within the wider community.

Output of the awareness programme

The programme contributed to strengthening community participation in child health and nutrition initiatives.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe.

A SMART PHDT System training programme PHDT Kandy Region



The primary objective of the programme was to introduce the SMART PHDT system and provide practical guidance on efficiently entering and managing health and social data using digital technology, with special emphasis on supporting MSWR staff in transforming manual data recording into a streamlined, accurate, and technology-driven process.

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A SMART PHDT System training programme...

- RPCs & estates participated
- A SMART PHDT System training programme was successfully conducted on 22nd May 2026 at the Cooperative Training Center, Palkelele, with the participation of health and welfare staff and CDOs from KPL, PPL, and EPL estates, including Craighead, Kataboola, Westhall, Mooloya, Beaumont, Sogama, Helleboda, Sanquhar, Stellenberg, Geragama, Melfort, Kaloogalla, Delta, Rothschild, Selagama, Elkaduwa, Bandarapola, Nalanda, and Millawana.
- The programme was also attended by key officials including the Manager – IT (HO), Regional Director – PHDT Kandy, Assistant Manager – IT, Assistant Accountant – PHDT Kandy, Project Assistant (Health), ICT Officer, and Community Development Officers.

Article By: Gayan Medagedara

Awareness Session on **Household Cash Management** and Formation of Self-Help Groups - PHDT Kandy Region



Introduction

On 27th May 2026, an awareness session on household cash management and Self-Help Group (SHG) formation was held at the Oonanagala Division Child Development Centre (CDC), Madulkelle Estate. The programme brought together Mothers Committee members and community representatives to address local financial and social challenges, promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities and collective support to improve family well-being.



Objectives

The primary objectives were to enhance financial literacy, promote responsible budgeting, and minimize debt risks among estate families. Additionally, the session aimed to identify community livelihood opportunities, encourage the active formation of Self-Help Groups, and address critical social issues affecting households.

Activities Implemented

The session began with an interactive discussion on family challenges, offering practical guidance on budgeting, prioritizing essential expenses, and avoiding debt traps. Recognizing that many participants were young, unemployed parents with untapped skills in tailoring, embroidery, and baking, the program facilitated plans to form SHGs for economic empowerment. Discussions also addressed domestic violence, emphasizing the necessity of counselling, psychological support, and continuous monitoring.

Outcomes of the Activity

The programme successfully improved participants’ understanding of financial management, budgeting, and debt avoidance. It effectively motivated community members to leverage their home-based skills for income generation and sparked strong interest in forming SHGs to drive collective savings and leadership. Ultimately, it laid a clear foundation for future community interventions and long-term economic security.

Participants: Regional Director, Project Officer- Health, Community Development Officer, PFWO & CDOs, Mothers Committee Members.

Article By: Ravi Sasireka

UPCOMMING EVENTS.....

- Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament - 22nd August 2026

Edited by: **Dr. Paba Palihawadana**
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