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Startup Grants Ceremony for University Entrants from the Plantation Community – 2026



The Startup Grants Ceremony organized by the Plantation Human Development Trust was successfully held on 15th May 2026 at the Main Auditorium, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla. The event was organized to recognize and encourage outstanding students from the plantation sector who gained university entrance for the academic year 2025/2026. Over 150 students were awarded Startup Grants based on the order of merit. Over 150 students were based on order of merit awarded Startup Grants in recognition of their exceptional academic achievements and dedication towards higher education.

This initiative is in order to meet the initial requirements to be in par with the rest of the students entering the universities.

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Foundation Laying Ceremony Held for New Housing Project for Disaster-Affected Families - PHDT Badulla



The foundation laying ceremony for the proposed new housing project for disaster-affected families was successfully held on 25th April 2026 at **Nayabedde Estate and Ampitikanda Estate**.

The event was graced by the participation of the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industries, the Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries, the District Secretary of Badulla, the Regional Director of PHDT, and the respective Estate Managers.

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Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Estate Community Development



A successful donor consultative meeting with TWININGS was held on 22nd April, bringing together key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration on sustainable community development initiatives and improve estate-level social and environmental standards. The meeting was chaired by the Director General and attended by senior representatives including Director Finance, MOP, MME, HM, and a Programme Officer, alongside the TWININGS delegation. Representing TWININGS were Anna Jones, Rupert Byerley, Chandana B. De Silva, and Shiva Shankari.

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Scholarship Awards Ceremony for University Entrants from the Plantation Community...

This valuable initiative was generously sponsored by **Ahmad Teas, Ethical Tea Partnership, and Serendib Flour Mills (Pvt) Ltd**, whose continued support has greatly contributed towards contributing to uplifting the educational standards of children from the plantation community.

The ceremony was graced by several distinguished guests and representatives from Government Institutions, Plantation Companies, Trade Unions, and Donor organizations. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Mr. B.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi, Chairman of PHDT. Among the other notable participants were Mr. Gunadasa Samarasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure; Mrs. W.M.D.T. Wickremasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs; Mr. K.S. Wijayakeerthi, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure; Mr. S.P. Vijekumaran, National Organizer of the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union (LJEWU) and Board Director of PHDT, Mrs. Sonali Neomi, representing of Ahmad Teas Pvt Ltd; Mrs. Yoga Perera representing Ethical Tea Partnership; Mr. Kalinga Wijesekara, representing of Serendib Flour Mills (Pvt), Director General PHDT, Internal and Regional Directors and Staff.

The ceremony highlighted PHDT’s continued commitment towards enhancing educational opportunities within plantation communities and motivating the younger generation to pursue higher education and contribute meaningfully towards the development of society and the nation.

Article By: Diluk Priyantha

Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Estate Community Development...

Objectives

The primary objectives of the meeting were to enhance estate-level social and environmental standards and to raise awareness among PHDT representatives on the importance and criteria of the TWININGS Community Needs Assessment Programme (TCNA).

Key areas discussed

- During the discussions, PHDT presented its ongoing work as a non-profit organization, highlighting initiatives focused on childcare, welfare services, housing, water and sanitation, and broader community development programmes.

- Future development plans were also shared, emphasizing the continued need for donor support to further strengthen housing, water quality, sanitation, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and human rights initiatives within estate communities.
- The TWININGS team underscored the significance of the TWININGS Community Needs Assessment Programme (TCNA), outlining key criteria required to maintain and improve estate-level social and environmental standards.
- The team stressed the importance of identifying existing gaps and implementing necessary improvements to ensure long-term sustainability and community well-being.
- Reaffirming their commitment to sustainable development, TWININGS noted that a portion of the company’s profits is allocated towards supporting such community initiatives.
- A presentation on the Model Estate Initiative was also conducted, demonstrating how collaborative efforts can be effectively aligned within a broader sustainability framework.

Output of the discussion

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing their commitment to strengthening the partnership and working together to drive meaningful and sustainable change within estate communities.

Article By: Paba Palihawadana

Foundation Laying Ceremony Held for New Housing Project for Disaster-Affected Families...

Aim of the project

This housing initiative aims to provide safe and secure homes for families affected by disasters, while supporting long-term community recovery and welfare within the plantation sector.

The ceremony marked the official commencement of the project and symbolized a significant step toward improving the living conditions of affected families.

During the event, officials emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring sustainable housing solutions and enhancing the well-being of estate communities. Community members and stakeholders also gathered to witness the occasion and extend their support for the initiative. The successful commencement of the housing project reflects the continued commitment of the Government, PHDT, and plantation sector stakeholders toward uplifting disaster-affected families and promoting sustainable community development.

Article By: A M C P Kumara

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



I am Nadesan Sanjeevan, from Strathspey Estate (Maskeliya Plantations PLC). I completed my G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations, achieving a District Rank of 36. I am incredibly proud to share that I have been admitted to the Faculty of Medicine at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. My educational journey began at our Estate Child Development Centre



My name is Robin Johnson Benadic John from Bogawanthalawa Estate, Bogawanthalawa Tea Estates PLC. I am incredibly proud to share that I have been admitted to the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Moratuwa. This achievement means a great deal to my family and me, especially coming from an estate community background.

I am determined to make the most of this opportunity by working hard, expanding my knowledge and skills, and using my education to give back to my community and contribute towards building a better future for the country.



My name is Vijayan Vidhushan from Vellaioya Estate, Hatton Plantations PLC. I am proud to share that I have been selected to the Faculty of Arts at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka with a District Rank of 109. This achievement is a proud moment for my family and me, especially coming from an estate community background. I am determined to continue my higher education with dedication and hard work while using my knowledge and experience to serve my community and contribute to the development of the country.



My name is Augustin Kisanthani from Venture Estate, Madulsima Plantations PLC. I am proud to share that I successfully passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination with 3 "A" passes and obtained District Rank 17. I have been selected to the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Peradeniya.

Coming from an estate worker family, this achievement is a great milestone for me and my parents. I am determined to continue my higher education with dedication and hard work while using my knowledge and experience to support my community and contribute positively to the country.



I am Karuppaiyah Sarukshana from Derryclare Estate, Kotagala Plantations PLC. I am proud to share that I successfully passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination with 3 "A" passes and obtained District Rank 26. I have been selected to the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya.

This achievement is a proud moment for me and my family, especially coming from an estate community background. I am determined to continue my higher education with dedication and hard work while using my education and experience to contribute positively

Article By: W.A. Lakmali wijesinghe

Nurturing Mothers, Nourishing Futures: UNICEF Supports Breastfeeding Corners in Plantation Child Development Centres - Badulla Region

With the support of UNICEF, breastfeeding corners have been established in 10 selected Child Development Centres (CDCs) representing all seven Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) in the Badulla region.

Objective

This initiative aims to create a safe, comfortable, and mother-friendly environment for breastfeeding mothers within plantation communities. The breastfeeding corners were introduced to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and infants, while promoting healthy breastfeeding practices during the crucial early stages of child development. Each corner has been equipped with a specially designed toolkit including a name board, railing with cloth curtains for privacy, coffee table, comfortable chair with foot stool, dustbin, and a corner sink to ensure hygiene and convenience.

Output of the initiative

All facilities have now been successfully established in the selected CDCs, and estate managements have shown strong commitment towards ensuring the proper maintenance and effective utilization of these breastfeeding spaces. For plantation families, where mothers often balance demanding work responsibilities with childcare, these breastfeeding corners provide much-needed support, dignity, and encouragement for mothers to continue breastfeeding safely and comfortably.

Outcome

This initiative is expected to contribute positively towards improving maternal and child health, early childhood nutrition, and the overall wellbeing of plantation communities in the Badulla region.

Article By: R. M. Chinthani Dineshika

Full-Day Training Session on SMART PHDT System Implementation Conducted in PHDT Badulla Region



A full-day training session on the implementation of the SMART PHDT System was successfully conducted on 23 April 2026 at the PHDT Badulla Regional Office Auditorium.

Objective

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

Representatives from the following Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) participated in the session:

- Balangoda Plantations PLC
- Madulsima Plantation PLC

Participants included PFWOs, CDOs, and office staff from both plantation companies. In addition, PHDT representatives including the MIT and ICT Administrator also attended the programme. Regional participants comprised the Regional Director (RD), Information and Communication Technology Officer (ICTO), and the Programme Assistant – Health.

Outcome

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 learning environment throughout the day.

The programme concluded successfully with active participation and valuable engagement from all attendees, reflecting the continued commitment of PHDT and partnering organizations toward improving digital systems and service delivery within the plantation sector.

Article By: Udara Harshana

Full-Day Training Session on SMART PHDT System Implementation Conducted in PHDT Badulla Region

An Accounts Training Programme for Vanisa Service Assistants was conducted successfully on 28th May 2026 at the PHDT Regional Office.

The programme was organized with the objective of improving the accounting knowledge and financial record-keeping skills of the participants.



The training session was attended by Vanisa Service Assistants and relevant officers. During the programme, practical guidance and explanations were provided on maintaining accurate financial records and ensuring proper accounting procedures.

The following subjects were discussed during the training programme:

• Cash Book

Participants were trained on the proper maintenance of the cash book, including recording daily income and expenditure accurately and systematically.

• Cash Summary

Explanations were given on preparing cash summaries, balancing accounts, and monitoring financial transactions effectively.

• Ledger

The participants were instructed on maintaining ledger accounts correctly and the importance of recording financial transactions under the appropriate account headings.

Output of the training programme

The training programme provided valuable knowledge and practical understanding to the participants, which will help improve financial management and reporting within their respective service areas. The programme concluded successfully with appreciation expressed to all participants and organizers for their active participation and support.

Article By: N. Sarojini

PHDT and Stakeholder Review Meeting on IHP 4700 Implementation - PHDT Galle Region

A progress review meeting jointly organized by the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) and the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) was held on 08th May 2026 at the PHDT Galle auditorium under the patronage of the Director General of PHDT.

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PHDT and Stakeholder Review Meeting...



The meeting was attended by the PHDT Directors and head Office staff, the Regional Director and PHDT staff of the Galle region, as well as District Managers and staff members of NHDA representing the Galle, Matara, and Kalutara districts.

Aim of the activity

The primary focus of the discussion was the Indian Housing Project. This was the second progress review meeting held following the first meeting conducted on 23rd February 2026. The meeting mainly aimed to review the shortcomings identified during the first progress review meeting, discuss the corrective actions that had been taken, evaluate the current progress, identify newly emerged issues, and explore possible solutions to address them.

Starting the session, the Director General delivered a brief explanation regarding the Indian Housing Project. He elaborated on the NBRI preliminary report and the second-stage report. It was explained that the preliminary

NBRI report is used to determine whether a selected land area is suitable for the housing project, while the second report focuses on block-out planning and mapping activities. The Director General further stated that, in order to avoid potential issues during the implementation of disaster housing projects, the Ministry conducts boundary surveys and block-out surveys. Since these activities involve considerable costs, discussions are currently underway to determine whether the Ministry could provide the necessary financial allocations. He also emphasized that only government-registered surveyors should be engaged for these tasks.

Following this, NHDA District Managers were given an opportunity to present the issues faced in their respective districts. The NHDA District Manager of Galle stated that the Lelwala and Nakiyadeniya projects were progressing without major obstacles. Community Development Officer Mrs. Maduka also shared her views regarding the role of cooperative societies and the challenges they face during project implementation. During the meeting, with the collective participation of all officers were scheduled for field visits and monitoring activities in order to accelerate the progress of the projects.

At the conclusion of the programme, the Director Engineering delivered the final remarks, emphasizing

that all parties should work together collectively and collaboratively to ensure the timely completion of these housing projects

Article By: Roshini Tharindi

Training of Trainers Programme on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for Early Childhood Health Promotion in the Estate Sector



The Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for Early Childhood Health Promotion in the Estate Sector was conducted from 11th to 13th May 2026 by the Health Promotion Bureau /Ministry of Health at their auditorium. This was a residential training programme with the participation of 36 participants representing PHDT staff, including Manager Health/Project Officer Health (MH/POH) and Community Development Officers (CDOs).

Aim & Objective

The programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of participants to function as Master Trainers in promoting healthy behaviours among preschool children, parents, and caregivers in estate sector communities. Each participant received an SBCC package containing communication and educational materials to be utilized in preschools within their respective areas.

The training package focused on preschool teachers, parents, caregivers, and children, with emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles, emotional well-being, hygiene practices, nutrition, environmental responsibility, and positive parenting practices.

Key Concepts Covered During the Training

- Child-Focused Components
- Encouraging children to adopt an active lifestyle from an early age
- Motivating children to enjoy sports and play activities
- Promoting hygiene practices and self-care habits
- Teaching environmentally friendly waste disposal practices
- Helping children recognize and express emotions positively

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Training of Trainers Programme on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC)....

- Encouraging participation in play without excessive competitiveness
- Understanding the importance of nutrients and healthy foods
- Providing learning experiences throughout the day
- Ensuring adequate nutrition to achieve proper growth and development
- Protecting children from physical, mental, and sexual abuse
- Preventing addiction to digital screens from an early age

Parent and Caregiver-Focused Components

- Supporting parents and caregivers to improve emotional well-being through joyful daily planning
- Encouraging parents and caregivers to be kind and act as positive role models
- Improving self-awareness through mindfulness and emotional regulation
- Promoting shared parenting responsibilities between mother and father
- Strengthening problem-solving skills through emotion regulation
- Encouraging parents to spend at least one meaningful hour daily with their children
- Appreciating and valuing positive behaviour in children
- Promoting money management skills to reduce stress caused by financial difficulties

Training Methodology

The programme was conducted using participatory and interactive learning methods, including:

- Active group activities
- Group discussions
- Experience sharing
- Practical demonstrations and exercises

Output

- The programme provided important knowledge and practical skills to strengthen early childhood health promotion activities within estate sector communities.
- PHDT/Health division will focus on reviewing the concepts introduced during the TOT programme, strengthening facilitation skills, and discussing future implementation strategies for preschool health promotion activities within estate sector communities.

The organizers appreciated the commitment and contribution of the PHDT staff and Child Development Officers who participated in the programme. PHDT

acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the Health Promotion Bureau for conducting this highly useful and valuable training programme for PHDT staff and Plantation Child Development Officers.

Article By: Paba Palihawadana

Household Cash Management and Saving Method Awareness Program for Model Estates in Hatton Region



A community awareness program on Household Cash Management and Saving Methods was successfully conducted for the residents of model estates with the objective of improving financial literacy, promoting effective budgeting practices, and encouraging long-term savings habits among families.

The awareness sessions were organized at the following estates:

- Drayton Estate — 24.05.2026
- Battalgalla Estate — 06.05.2026
- Venture Estate — 06.05.2026

The objective of the program

To improve financial literacy among estate families and encourage effective household budgeting and saving practices.

Activities completed during the awareness session

- Participants were educated on managing household income, controlling unnecessary expenses, planning monthly budgets, and the importance of regular savings for future financial security.
- The sessions also highlighted practical saving methods such as maintaining savings accounts, participating in community savings groups, and developing disciplined financial habits.
- Community members actively participated in the discussions and showed great interest in applying the knowledge gained to improve their family financial management.

Output of the session

These awareness programs contribute significantly to strengthening the economic well-being of estate communities and promoting sustainable development.

Article By: E Jenowa

Community-Based Nutritional Awareness Programme Conducted at Shannon Estate as Part of Model estate Programme - PHDT Hatton



A community-based nutritional awareness programme was successfully conducted at **Shannon Estate, Hatton Plantations**, with the active involvement of parents, the Child Development Officer, and technical guidance from the PHDT Regional Office.

The programme was fully organized through a **joint effort between parents and the CDO**, demonstrating a strong model of community-led health promotion. More than **20 parents participated actively** in the session, reflecting strong community interest and commitment towards improving child nutrition and well-being.

The session focused on creating awareness among parents of underweight children on the importance of balanced nutrition and healthy feeding practices. Practical demonstrations were conducted on preparing **Kola Kenda** and a **locally available nutritious food mix**, using simple and affordable ingredients that can be easily prepared at household level.

Strength of Community Ownership

A key highlight of this programme was the strong sense of **community ownership**. Unlike externally driven interventions, this programme was initiated and organized with active participation from parents themselves, together with the CDO. This approach encouraged greater responsibility among families and increased their engagement in addressing child malnutrition within their own community.

When parents are directly involved in planning and implementation, they are more likely to understand the importance of nutrition education and apply the knowledge in daily life. This participatory approach helps build trust, confidence, and long-term commitment toward improving child health outcomes.

Role of PHDT Regional Guidance and Teamwork

The PHDT Regional Office provided essential technical guidance and support, ensuring the programme was well-structured and aligned with public health objectives. The collaboration between the regional team, CDO, and parents demonstrated effective **multi-level teamwork**,

where each stakeholder contributed meaningfully. Such teamwork ensured better coordination, improved quality of health education, and effective delivery of practical demonstrations. It also strengthened the link between field-level implementation and regional-level supervision, enhancing the overall quality and impact of the intervention.

Impact of the Programme

The participation of more than 20 parents created a positive learning environment where experiences were shared, doubts were clarified, and practical skills were developed. The interactive nature of the session helped improve understanding of child nutrition and encouraged parents to adopt healthier feeding practices at home.

Overall, the programme highlighted that **community-led initiatives supported by strong teamwork and technical guidance can create sustainable improvements in child nutrition**. The Shannon Estate initiative stands as a successful example of how collaboration between parents, CDOs, and PHDT can effectively address malnutrition at the grassroots level.

Article By: Anjalika Kumary

“Wawili Praja Suwa Diviya” Health Programme Benefits Plantation Communities - PHDT Kegalle



The Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) – Kegalle Region, in collaboration with the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and respective Medical Officers of Health (MOH),

successfully conducted two comprehensive health clinics under the initiative “Wawili Praja Suwa Diviya” on 22nd April 2026.

The programme was held at Urumiwela Estate under Kelani Valley Plantations PLC with the objective of improving the health and wellbeing of plantation communities.

The initiative mainly focused on early disease detection, preventive healthcare services, and raising awareness regarding critical health conditions among estate residents.

A total of 59 estate residents participated in the programme, which was conducted with an overall programme value of LKR 1,165,000.00. The clinics provided a wide range of medical and health-related services for the benefit of the community.

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“Wawili Praja Suwa Diviya” Health Programme...

Output of the Health screening programme

- During the programme, 28 individuals received dental screening services, while 38 residents underwent eye examinations. Body Mass Index (BMI) assessments were conducted for all 59 participants, and residents were also provided with random and fasting blood sugar testing services.
- In addition, blood pressure and cholesterol level assessments were carried out to identify potential non-communicable health conditions.
- The programme also included Nutrition and Medical Counselling sessions together with health education programmes aimed at encouraging healthier lifestyles among estate communities.
- Specialized health screenings were conducted for several critical health conditions, including oral cancer screening for 28 individuals, tuberculosis (TB) screening for 22 participants, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening for 30 individuals.
- A well-women clinic was also organized as part of the programme to support women’s health and wellbeing.

The successful implementation of the clinics was made possible through the support and dedication of the RDHS Kegalle Health Team, MOH Offices in Yatiyanthota, the Chest Clinic in Kegalle, and several regional hospitals. The programme also received active participation and assistance from estate management, PHDT officials, medical officers, Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), Public Health Midwives (PHMs), and other supporting staff members.

Through initiatives such as “Wawili Praja Suwa Diviya,” PHDT continues to strengthen its commitment towards enhancing healthcare access, promoting preventive health practices, and improving the overall quality of life of plantation communities in the Kegalle Region.

Article By: Sammani Perera

SMART PHDT Training Programme Successfully Conducted in Kegalle Region



The SMART PHDT Training Programme, organized by the PHDT Kegalle Region, was successfully conducted with the participation of several plantation companies and estate sector stakeholders.

Main Objective

The programme was implemented with the objective of digitalizing estate population data in a comprehensive and systematic manner across all estates in the Kegalle Region.

Special objectives

- The SMART PHDT initiative focuses on establishing a centralized digital system to maintain detailed and accurate information related to estate communities, including family profiles, housing conditions, infrastructure facilities, and health status.
- The programme was designed to strengthen data management practices and support effective planning and decision-making within the plantation sector.

Activities

- The first phase of the programme was held on 05th May 2026 at the Dewalakanda Training Center for Kelani Valley Plantations PLC.
- The second phase was conducted on 14th May 2026 at the PHDT Regional Training Center with the participation of Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC, Lalan Rubbers (PVT) LTD, Kurunegala Plantations Ltd, Chilaw Plantations Ltd, and Bogawanthalawa Plantations PLC.

The training sessions brought together several key stakeholders, including the Regional Director of PHDT Kegalle, the Manager – Information Technology of the Head Office, representatives from Apps Technologies, Community Development Officers, Project Assistants, ICT Officers, Estate Medical Assistants, Plantation Field Welfare Officers, and Child Development Officers representing estates in the Kegalle Region.

Output of the training programme

- During the sessions, participants received practical training and technical knowledge on digital data collection, data management, and reporting procedures.
- Special attention was given to the importance of maintaining accurate and real-time information to improve efficiency, transparency, and service delivery across estates.

Expected Outcome

The SMART PHDT system is expected to play a vital role in enhancing future development planning by providing reliable and well-structured data for plantation community development programmes. Through this initiative, PHDT further reaffirmed its commitment to adopting digital innovation to uplift the living standards and overall well-being of estate communities across all plantations in the Kegalle Region.

Article By: Dileesha Jayarathna

Nourishing Strength, Building Healthier Lives

A recommitment to continue the distribution of Iron and Vitamin C supplements at TTEL plantations on 27th April 2026 on Logie Estate



Objective

This special initiative, a step towards creating healthier families, stronger workers, and brighter futures within the estate community.

Activity

Supporting the Workforce with Essential Supplements

This thoughtful initiative reflects PHDT-NEL's continued commitment towards strengthening preventive healthcare services within plantation communities.

- Special attention was given to the importance of taking Iron together with Vitamin C to improve absorption
- also advising workers to avoid drinking tea or coffee immediately after taking supplements, as it can reduce the effectiveness of iron absorption.

PHDT/Estate Representatives

Regional Director, Estate manager, MH & M, PAH and health staff

A Small Tablet, A Big Difference

Through programmes like these, PHDT-NEL continues to remind communities that even the smallest health intervention can create a lasting impact on lives.

Healthy workers build healthy families... and healthy families build stronger communities

Article By: K B Gihani Maheshika

Oral Cancer Awareness & Screening Programme at Court Lodge Estate on 30th April 2026

An Oral Cancer Awareness & Screening Programme together with a Child Dental Care Programme was successfully conducted at Court Lodge Estate under UPL.

Objective

To promote good oral health practices and encourage early detection of oral diseases within the estate community. The programme focused on identifying Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD), reducing betel chewing

habits, and creating awareness on the importance of proper dental hygiene and regular oral screenings.



During the programme, community members received valuable awareness on:

- Early signs of oral cancer and OPMD
- Risks of harmful oral habits such as betel chewing
- Good dental care practices for adults and children

Beneficiaries

Adults Screened: 161 | Referred for Further Treatment: 17
Children Examined: 60 | Identified for Further Dental Treatment: 25

Output of the screening programme

Individuals diagnosed with OPMD were referred by the Regional Dental Services (RDS) for further treatment and follow-up care.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Randeniya, Regional Dental Surgeon, Nuwara Eliya, and Dr. Lashan, Dental Surgeon, Nuwara Eliya. The screening was coordinated by PHDT Nuwara Eliya region and facilitated by estate management. The initiative highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare and early detection in protecting the wellbeing of plantation communities.

Article By: V Abinajah

Training Program on Preparation of Annual Development Plan and Budget Estimates - PHDT Ratnapura Region



A training program on the preparation of the Annual Development Plan and its related budget estimates was successfully held on 28th April 2026 at the Balangoda Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies' Auditorium. The program was conducted with the financial and technical support of the Ratnapura Cooperative Development Department.

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Training Program on Preparation of Annual Development Plan and Budget Estimates - PHDT Ratnapura Region

This training program was specifically conducted for the Community Secretaries of the Estate Worker Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCSs) of the Estates.

It is a legal requirement that every Cooperative Society must hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) once a year. At this meeting, the properly prepared Annual Development Plan and the budget estimates required to implement the plan must be presented and approved by the members. This is one of the main purposes of the AGM.

Objective of the training programme

To improve the capacity of participants in preparing proper annual development plans and corresponding budget estimates for EWHCSs.

Output of the programme

- participants were guided to identify the responsibilities of a Cooperative Society and to organize their needs into a structured development plan.
- They were also trained on how to prepare a suitable budget based on the plan.
- practical sessions were conducted on how to present these plans at the AGM, how to obtain approval from member representatives, and the legal procedures related to the process.

The program provided comprehensive practical knowledge to strengthen planning and budgeting practices within Cooperative Societies.

Article By: Priyanthi Jayanath

Commencement of the Ministry Re-Roofing Programme - PHDT Ratnapura



The Ministry Re-Roofing Programme was officially commenced on 13th May 2026 at Pelmadulla Estate, covering No. 06 Division, Line No. 02, benefiting 22 housing units. This housing development project is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure and Kahawatte Plantations PLC with a total

project value of Rs. 3 million. Technical support is provided by the Plantation Human Development Trust.

The commencement ceremony was attended by Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, community members, and staff of the Plantation Human Development Trust – Ratnapura Region.

Objective of this reroofing project

- The programme aims to improve the quality of life of estate residents by providing safer and more comfortable housing conditions.
- The new roofing facilities will help protect families from adverse weather conditions by providing proper shelter and shade.
- Furthermore, the initiative is expected to enhance the well-being of estate workers.

This project reflects the continued commitment of the Ministry and partner institutions towards the social and economic development of estate families.

Article By: Lankani Munasinghe

Plantation Health Steering Committee Meeting Ratnapura Region



The Health Steering Committee Meeting was held on 30th April 2026 with the participation of officials from the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS), Medical Officer – Non-Communicable Diseases (MO/NCD), Medical Officer – Maternal & Child Health (MO/MCH), RPC representatives, Director of Health – PHDT Head Office, Manager of Health – PHDT Head Office, Regional Director – PHDT and his team, and other healthcare staff. PHDT presented Estate Health Statistics and health-related data for the region.

Areas covered during the meeting

- Distribution of Thripasha.
- ongoing Health Screening Programme conducted in the estates.
- A request to the RDHS to organize combined Mental Health Awareness Programmes, Drug Prevention Counselling Sessions, STD Awareness Programmes in collaboration with the relevant health authorities.
- importance of strengthening community awareness and preventive healthcare services among estate workers and their families.
- Prevention & control of dengue.

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Plantation Health Steering Committee Meeting...

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Regional Director of PHDT conveyed his sincere gratitude to all RDHS officials, MOHs, and the entire medical staff for their valuable contribution and dedicated service rendered during the previous year in successfully conducting the Health Screening Programmes and all other assistance rendered to plantations. The meeting ended with a commitment from all stakeholders to continue working together to improve the health and wellbeing of estate community.

Article By: Dimali Chandrasena

An Awareness Programme on Early Childhood Development - PHDT Kandy Region



An Awareness Programme on Early Childhood Development was successfully conducted for the Parents' Committee of the Factory Division Child Development Centre (CDC), Hantane Estate, on 24th April 2026.

Aim of the awareness programme

The programme aimed to enhance parents' understanding of the importance of early childhood development and their vital role in supporting the physical, emotional, and cognitive growth of children.

The event was attended by the Regional Director, Project Officer – Health, Community Development Officer, PFWO & CDO, and 16 parents.

Output of the activity

The session highlighted key areas such as the significance of early childhood development in shaping a child's future, proper nutrition and health practices, the importance of early learning, and the role of parents in creating a safe, stimulating, and supportive environment for children. The programme also provided an interactive platform for parents to discuss their concerns and share experiences, making the session both informative and engaging.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

“Root of Wellness” Screening Programme - PHDT Kandy

Objective

The objective of the “Root of Wellness” screening

programme was to promote early detection and prevention of common health conditions among estate communities and school children, while improving access to essential health services through multi-disciplinary health screening and referral support.



Activities

The “Root of Wellness” Screening Programme was successfully conducted on 29th April 2026 at the Dispensary, Melfort Estate, with the participation of 22 doctors and health staff from Kandy RDHS. The programme was attended by the Estate Manager, Project Officer (Health), Community Development Officer, five estate staff members, 120 estate residents, and 10 school children. A range of important health services was provided during the clinic, including dental and oral cancer screening, non-communicable disease (NCD) screening, TB screening, and eye screening.

Output

A total of 130 beneficiaries were screened during the programme, including 120 estate residents and 10 school children. As a result of the screenings, one patient was referred for further dental treatment and three patients were referred for follow-up care related to NCDs. The programme played a significant role in promoting community health by identifying health issues at an early stage and ensuring necessary referrals for further treatment and care.

Article By: Hashini Wickramasinghe

Awareness session on Waste Management - PHDT Kandy

Introduction

An awareness programme on waste management and pollution control was conducted at Melfort Estate on 29th of April 2026 with the objective of educating community members on the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment through proper waste management practices. Improper disposal of waste has become a growing concern in many estate communities, contributing to environmental pollution, health risks, and unsanitary living conditions. Therefore, the programme was organized to create awareness among participants regarding effective waste segregation, safe disposal methods, and responsible environmental practices that can contribute towards sustainable community development.

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Objectives

The primary objectives of the programme were to raise awareness about environmental pollution caused by improper waste disposal, educate participants on proper waste segregation and safe disposal methods, encourage responsible waste management practices within households and the community, and promote collective responsibility in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Activities Implemented

The programme commenced with an awareness session highlighting the increasing environmental and health issues caused by improper waste disposal. Participants were informed about how improperly managed waste contributes to land, water, and air pollution, negatively affecting both human health and the surrounding environment. The session focused on minimizing pollution through proper waste segregation, safe handling, and disposal methods. Special emphasis was placed on responsible waste management initiatives that can be practiced at household and community levels. Participants were encouraged to adopt environmentally friendly habits such as reducing unnecessary waste generation, reusing materials whenever possible, and supporting recycling practices. The importance of maintaining cleanliness within homes, public spaces, and surrounding areas was also highlighted. Participants were encouraged to work collectively in promoting cleanliness and environmental protection within the estate community. The programme emphasized that protecting the environment is a shared responsibility and requires active participation from all members of the community.

Outcomes of the Activity

- **Boosted Awareness:** Taught participants proper waste segregation, safe disposal, and the environmental impacts of pollution.
- **Inspired Action:** Encouraged households to immediately adopt better daily waste management and hygiene habits.
- **Community Impact:** Laid the foundation for a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally conscious neighborhood.

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UPCOMING EVENTS.....

- Be Angels Programme - Distribution of school items and gifts to children in Mathurata area
- Inter Plantation Cricket Tournament - 22nd August 2026

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