

# Performance Report

## 2015

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1. 1. Vision**

"To create a prosperous Sri Lanka"

### **1.2. Mission**

“To extend support to the leadership through an excellent public sector conscious of good governance best practices, via a process of proactive engagement with state and non state sector stakeholders towards fulfilling the people’s aspirations while uplifting their standards of living”

### **1.3. Functions**

The Prime Minister’s Office provides facilities for the implementation of official functions of the Hon. Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, the function of this office falls in line with the development policy statement of the government namely the **“Five Point Plan- A New Country in 60 Months”**, towards empowering the wellbeing of the country through activities such as building the economy, fighting corruption, ensuring freedom, development of infrastructure & enhancing investment potential and elevating the quality and standard of education etc.

Accordingly;

1. To assist the process of implementation of government policies and decisions
2. To facilitate and co-ordinate various meetings presided over by the Hon. Prime Minister and to monitor the progress
3. To prepare answers for the questions asked from the Hon. Prime Minister in Parliament
4. To engage in activities pertaining to the cabinet memoranda, note to the cabinet and bills presented to the Parliament by the Hon. Prime Minister
5. To facilitate the Hon. Prime Minister to continue cordial relations with diplomatic missions and the officials in the diplomatic service

6. To coordinate the arrangements concerning the overseas visits of the Hon. Prime Minister
7. To organize media coverage for the state and national functions as well as the other special occasions in which the Hon. Prime Minister participates as the Chief Guest
8. To grant Hon. Prime Minister's permission for government officials and MPs to travel abroad for various purposes
9. To organize and conduct special religious ceremonies and social welfare activities under state patronage
10. To direct the public complaints and grievances referred to the Hon. Prime Minister, to the relevant institutions towards taking necessary measures to provide relief
11. Maintenance of the Temple Trees, the Prime Minister's Office, the Official Residence of the Hon. Prime Minister and the circuit bungalows and ensuring that they are maintained up to standard.
12. To conduct training and the other career development programmes for the officers of the Prime Minister's Office
13. To perform administrative and development activities of the Prime Minister's Office

## **2. Promotion of International Relations**

### **2.1. Prime Minister's Official Overseas Visits**

Prime Minister has made several visits to overseas with the aim of extending the mutual relations with other countries as well as international organizations on economic, social, political and cultural affairs.

#### **2.1.1. Official Visit to India**



The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka undertook his first official visit to India on 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2015 – this visit served to strengthen the long standing cordial relationship with India, Sri Lanka's closest neighbor. The Indian President, H.E Pranab Mukherjee met the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and reaffirmed that the emergence of a suitable political climate in Sri Lanka has reinforced the process of National Reconciliation– he added that it would also pave the way for the consolidation of the historical ties between the two nations. He extended his good wishes to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and the new Government of Sri Lanka.

At the meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi stressed that he, along with the people of India has the fullest confidence in His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka Hon. Maithripala Sirisena and the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. He further

reiterated that India was ready to extend its fullest cooperation to Sri Lanka in the international arena. He further assured Sri Lanka that India would provide assistance for the multi-faceted development of infrastructure facilities, economic issues, energy, tourism, education, religion, agriculture and transport etc.

During the Hon. Prime Minister's official visit to India, Sri Lanka signed the following agreements with India, which are supportive towards expediting the development programmes of the new Government of Sri Lanka.

- (i). The agreement pertaining to providing assistance and grants for the small scale development undertakings via Local Government Authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations, Educational and Vocational Training Institutions.
- (ii). The Agreement concerning the supply of medical equipment for the 200 bed ward of the Vavuniya District Hospital.
- (iii). The Agreement to provide Indian Government grants for setting up of Emergency Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka.

Further, the two nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the SAARC Satellite.

During this visit the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe met the Minister of External Affairs of India, Hon. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj; Mrs Swaraj confirmed that she truly appreciated the persistent support extended by the Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe towards the strengthening of the political and social affiliation between the two countries.

At this meeting, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka affirmed that it was worthy to engage in a full review of the Security of the Indian Ocean and The Process of Intelligence Sharing. Additionally, at the lengthy discussions held with the Finance Minister of India, many key issues such as attracting Indian investors and tourists to Sri Lanka were discussed.

Following this official visit, the Hon. Prime Minister, has decided to implement initiatives via different Ministries with the objective of developing various sectors in Sri Lanka. The porgrammes and the Ministries are as follows.

S. No.	Programme	Responsible Ministries
01.	Taking necessary steps to sign the Indo-Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement	Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade  National Policy and Economic Affairs.
02.	Activating the process of Defence and Security Cooperation between India and Sri Lanka and enforce control of Narcotics	Ministry of Defence.  Ministry of Foreign Affairs  Ministry of Law and Order, Prison Reforms
03	To implement the Emergency Ambulance service project centered in the North and East Provinces with the grant assistance of the Indian Government	Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine
04	To implement the joint venture project towards the construction of oil refineries and oil tanks Obtaining the assistance of Indian Companies in the exploration of gas  To introduce a flexible pricing formula for petroleum  Revamping the Sapugaskanda Refinery and giving Indian companies the opportunity to bid for oil exploration processes  To expedite the opening of branches of the Indian Oil Corporation in Sri Lanka	Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development
05	To improve the education available in the Science Stream at the Tamil Medium Schools in the plantation areas.	Ministry of Education
06	Development of Trincomalee	Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development  Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply

S. No.	Programme	Responsible Ministry
07	To develop housing and basic infrastructure facilities in North and East areas	Ministry of Rehabilitation Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs  Ministry of Housing and Construction
08	Invitation to Hon. Indian Prime Minister and other key Ministers to visit Sri Lanka while also giving the opportunity for the Sri Lankan MPs elected newly to Parliament, to visit India	Ministry of Foreign Affairs  Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Journalism
09	Implementation of the construction of the Sampur Coal Power Plant Project	Ministry of Petroleum & Resources Development  Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy
10	Commencing the setting up of zones exclusively for Indian investments  To strengthen trade and provide connectivity for potential investments in the pharmaceutical and textile sectors  To conduct the Executive Officer's Forum of Indian Investors before 20 <sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in Sri Lanka  To establish a special economic zone in Trincomalee	Ministry of Development Strategies & International Trade
11	To conduct the International Buddhist Conference in Sri Lanka	Ministry of Buddha Sasana
12	Introducing direct flights to Palali Airport  Revival of KKS Port  Starting of Ferry Service between Tuticorin& Colombo, Rameswaram and Mannar	Ministry of Ports & Shipping  Ministry of Defence  Ministry of Foreign Affairs



S. No.	Programme	Responsible Ministry
13	Removing non-tariff barriers	Ministry of Finance
14	Collaboration with state universities for production of high valued agricultural products	Ministry of University Education & Highways Ministry of Agriculture.
15	To allocate 500 acres for model project of solar power and wind power	Ministry of Power & Renewable Energy
16	Taking action to construct a flyover to connect Sri Lanka and India	Ministry of University Education and Highways
17	Resolving the issue of Sri Lankan and Indian fishermen	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
18	Developing Ports for the large volume of cargo to be transported	Ministry of Ports and Shipping
19	To develop railways in Sri Lanka To implement a joint programme to develop tourism	Ministry of Transport
20	To improve Indian investment opportunities	Ministry of Tourism Development & Christian Affairs
21	To develop the Palali Airport as a state and private sector project	Ministry of Defence

### 2.1.2. Official Visit to Japan



The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka embarked on an official visit to Japan during 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 on the invitation of the Hon. Prime Minister of Japan. During this visit, Sri Lanka was able to obtain several positive outcomes with regard to many areas of relevance such as economic, social cultural, political, educational and technological sectors.

While in Japan, the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was able to meet with many significant individuals. Together with the Hon. Prime Minister of Japan, he was able to consolidate the strong relationship between the two countries and lay the foundation for future cooperation.

In keeping with these developments, the following multi disciplines will be targeted for growth and development under the “Extensive Partnership” process.

- (i) Promotion of investment and trade
- (ii) Sustaining cooperation towards the National Development Plan of Sri Lanka
- (iii) Taking the initial steps towards the creation of a National Reconciliation and Peace Building Process

The Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has taken the initiative to implement many programmes through various Ministries towards fueling growth in the aforementioned sectors.

The said programmes and the Ministries concerned are as follows

S. No.	Programmes	Responsible Ministries
01	To conduct the Science and Technology Society Forum with the participation of Regional Scientists in Sri Lanka (It is envisioned to invite Japanese scientists to Sri Lanka to commence a dialogue with local scientists)	Ministry of Science, Technology and Research
02	The Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) Expansion Project To construct terminal buildings and runways To develop the Bandaranaike International Airport as a hub in the South East Region	Ministry of Transport
03	To implement the digitalization of Television Broadcasting as proposed by Japan	Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure
04	To encourage the Japanese private companies to invest in the country	Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade
05	To execute the next generation of economic reforms by removing barriers and financial constraints towards doing business while initiating free trade agreements	Ministry of Development Strategies & International Trade
06	To ensure the fullest support of the Sri Lankan Government towards Japan in their effort to obtain a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

S. No.	Programmes	Responsible Ministries
07	To implement a Public and Private Sector joint project with the cooperation of Japanese firms for the purpose of solid waste management	Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development  Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply
08	To convert the Hambantota Port into a logistical harbour by charging concessional harbour dues	Ministry of Ports and Shipping
09	To discuss the economic and political matters that exists between Sri Lanka and Japan with key ministers and officials of both countries	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10	To carry out a detailed study on the Sri Lankan economy	Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
11	To develop Colombo and Trincomalee Ports	Ministry of Ports and Shipping
12	Development of Trincomalee with Japanese assistance	Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply  Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade
13	To Develop the North and the East Provinces	Ministry of Rural Economy  Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Affairs
14	To develop the city of Kandy under the Kandy City Development Project	Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development  Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply
15	To develop cultural tourism and eco-tourism sectors	Ministry of Tourism and Christian Affairs

S. No.	Programme	Responsible Ministry
16	Obtaining budgetary support from Japan for the budget of the Sri Lankan Government	Ministry of Finance  Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
17	Taking action to enhance Maritime Security	Ministry of Defence
18	To exchange new technology towards the development of industrial and agricultural sectors	Ministry of Agriculture  Ministry of Primary Industries
19	To improve the economic strength of Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs	Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
20	Receiving port calls of Japanese vessels	Ministry of Defence
21	To develop the Colombo Dockyard	Ministry of Ports and Shipping
22	Seeking Japanese cooperation for human resource development, nation building and improvement of good governance	Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
23	Taking necessary action to declare 5 <sup>th</sup> of November as the World Tsunami Day	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Prime Minister of Japan congratulated the new Government of Sri Lanka for its commitment towards providing immediate solutions for the socio- economic issues faced by those affected in the North-East conflict.

Additionally, the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was able to secure the assistance of the Japanese Government for the following activities.

- To develop community infrastructure facilities including water supply
- To improve the provision of meals for school children in addition to the provision of educational facilities in the Mannar District

- To obtain Japanese support towards the development of Sri Lanka's power sector including the preparation of a master plan for the generation and distribution of power
- To obtain the advanced scientific know-how and technology from Japan for major projects such as the expressways and Kandy city plan etc.

The visit of the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to Japan has strengthened the cordial relationship between the two countries while highlighting opportunities for mutual cooperation and agreement.

The Prime Minister of Japan and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka made a joint request for North Korea to pay attention to the issues concerning the international community, including ensuring a speedy solution to the issue of abduction. During this official visit, the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka also stated that he would support all processes in connection with nuclear disarmament for a world free of nuclear weapons; he further called for the execution of immediate reforms at the United Nations Security Council.

### 2.1.3. Official Visit to Singapore



Prime Minister made an official visit to Singapore during 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. During this visit, he engaged in key strategic discussions that would facilitate the speedy economic plans of the new Government.

At this meeting, the Singaporean Prime Minister stressed that the new political climate created in Sri Lanka would definitely reinforce the good relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was able to lay the groundwork for the strengthening of Sri Lanka – Singaporean relations that cover a wide range of subjects such as educational, economic and technological sectors. As a prelude to this, Singapore will provide training opportunities for Officers of Sri Lankan Civil Service in Singapore; Singapore will also facilitate the restructuring of the training facilities in Sri Lanka.

During this official visit, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was able to address Singaporean investors regarding investing in Sri Lanka and also initiated new trade agreements with the Government of Singapore.

In addition, the following activities are to be carried out through various Ministries.

S. No.	Programme	Responsible Ministry
01	<p>Providing training opportunities for Officers of Sri Lankan Civil Service in Singapore thereby empowering the public service</p> <p>To restructure the facilities available at the training institutions in Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Management</p> <p>Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Higher Education and Highways</p> <p>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Prime Minister's Office</p>
02	<p>Providing investment opportunities for Singaporeans to invest in Sri Lanka</p> <p>To implement the process of linking the airport with the port</p> <p>To take action to sign free trade agreements between Sri Lanka and Singapore</p>	<p>Ministry of Development Strategies &amp; International Trade</p>
03	<p>Setting up of an agency for the development of Sri Lanka</p> <p>To Develop North and East Provinces. Assisting towards producing agricultural products with value addition</p> <p>Taking action to develop Sri Lanka with priority given to IT and tourism sectors</p>	<p>Ministry of National Policies &amp; Economic Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development</p> <p>Ministry of Southern Development Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Ministry of Tourism Development &amp; Christian Religious Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Science, Technology and Research</p>
04	<p>Formulation of plans to restructure public enterprises</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Enterprises Development</p>
05	<p>Taking action to restructure the public service</p> <p>To establish 2500 units of GramaRajya Centers</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Management</p> <p>Ministry of Home Affairs</p>



## 2.2. Meetings with Diplomats and Foreign Dignitaries by the Hon. Prime Minister

S.No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
1.	2015.01.15	Hon. Mohamed Nasheed, Former President of Maldives
2.	2015.01.28	Rt. Hon. Hugo Swire, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office
3.	2015.02.02	His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General
4.	2015.02.02	Ms. Nisha Biswal, US Assistant Secretary of State
5.	2015.02.06	Hon Liu Jianchao, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government
6.	2015.02.20	Ms. Annette Dixon, Vice President/South Asia Region of World Bank
7.	2015.02.24	Hon. K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Law of Singapore
8.	2015.02.24	Hon. Nomaindiya Mfeketo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa
9.	2015.02.25	Hon. Dato' Seri Utama S SamyVellu, Special Envoy of Malaysia
10.	2015.03.06	Mr. Jan Zahradil, Member of the European Parliament
11.	2015.03.07	Hon. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India
12.	2015.03.07	Hon. Minoru Kiuchi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
13.	2015.03.13	His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
14.	2015.03.17	His Excellency Dr. Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss
15.	2015.03.20	Mr. Subhash Chandra Garg, World Bank Executive Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka
16.	2015.03.31	Congressional Delegation led by Mr. Paul Grove of US
17.	2015.04.10	His Excellency T Sheering Tobago, The Prime Minister of Bhutan
18.	2015.05.02	His Excellency John Kerry, Secretary of State, USA
19.	2015.05.05	Hon Peter Dutton, Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

S.No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
20.	2015.05.12	Mr. Brotin Banerjee, MD/CEO – Tata Housing Development Company
21.	2015.05.12	A Group from The Westminster Foundation
22.	2015.05.21	Hon Samy Vellu, Malaysian Special Envoy
23.	2015.05.27	Hon. Anthony Gates, Chief Justice of Fiji
24.	2015.05.27	Tata Group Executive Delegation led by Mr. Madhu Kannan
25.	2015.06.04	Mrs. Dagmar Wohrl, Special Envoy of Germany
26.	2015.06.08	Gen Rahil Sheriff, Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan
27.	2015.06.11	Prof M S Swaminathan, Founder Chairman UNESCO Chair in Eco- Technology
28.	2015.06.26	His Excellency Dr. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India
29.	2015.07.21	Mr. Christian Preda, Chief EU Election Observer
30.	2015.08.12	GVK Team from India
31.	2015.08.15	Delegation of European Parliamentarians
32.	2015.08.24	Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Former Prime Minister of UK
33.	2015.08.25	Ms. Nisha Biswal, US Assistant Secretary of State
34.	2015.09.01	Hon. Hamid Karzai, Former President of Afghanistan
35.	2015.09.04	His Excellency Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa
36.	2015.09.18	Ms. Annette Dixon, Vice President of South Asia Region of World Bank
37.	2015.09.08	Mr. Richard Armitage, United States Deputy Secretary of State and President of Armitage International
38.	2015.09.22	His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister of Germany
39.	2015.10.09	Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

S.No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
40.	2015.10.21	Mr. Brad Adams, Asia Director of Human Rights Watch and Mr. James Ross, Legal Policy Director  Mr. Moto Nuguchi, Prosecutor of the Supreme Prosecutors Office of Japan and Former Int. Judge of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
41.	2015.10.22	Mr. Miroslav Jenca, Asst. Secretary General of the Dept. of Political Affairs of the UN
42.	2015.10.23	Dato Sami Vellu, Special Envoy of Malaysia
43.	2015.11.02	Sir Don McKinnon, Chairman of Regional Facilities, Auckland, New Zealand
44.	2015.11.10	Hon. Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce of Pakistan  Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner of USA and Delegation
45.	2015.11.16	Mr. Laurence Hart, Director of the Department of Migration Management in IOM Head Quarters, Geneva  Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)
46.	2015.11.17	Mr. Cesar Deben, Principal Advisor of the DG/MARE & Delegation
47.	2015.11.23	H E Samantha Power, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations
48.	2015.11.30	Investor George Soros & Delegation, US  Gen. Dalbir Singh, Chief of the Army Staff of Indian army
49.	2015.12.16	Ambassador Thomas Shannon, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

### **3. Formulation of Policies and Economic Development Activities**

The government's economic programme is based on a knowledge based economy that can thrive in a socially competitive market. With an aim of developing the economy, the following activities have been undertaken towards adapting appropriate policies and the implementation process of development programmes and projects.

#### **3.1 Cabinet Committee on Economic Management (CCEM)**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Management was appointed by a Cabinet Decision on 22/09/2015 to make suitable recommendations on matters related to Economic Management and the functions of the committee are as follows:

1. To examine Cabinet Memoranda relating to economic affairs, monetary and fiscal policy and financial affairs and submit recommendations to the cabinet;
2. To provide guidance in the preparation of the National investment Programme, Public Investment Programme and facilitation of Private Sector Investment;
3. To submit recommendations to the Cabinet on proposals with economic and financial implications; and
4. To oversee the implementation of various legislation which have direct bearing on the investment/ economic development of the Country

#### **Composition of the committee**

1	Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe	Prime Minister (Chairman)
2	Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva	Minister of Transport
3	Hon. Rauf Hakeem	Minister of City Planning & Water Supply
4	Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa	Minister of Disaster Management
5	Hon. Ravi Karunanayake	Minister of Finance
6	Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka	Minister of Megapolis and Western Development
7	Hon. Kabir Hashim	Minister of Public enterprises Development
8	Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga	Minister of Ports & Shipping
9	Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka	Minister of Law & Order and Southern Development
10	Hon. Malik Samarawickrama	Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade
11	Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama	Minister of Special Assignment

Secretary to the Prime Minister functions as the secretary to the committee. So far eleven meetings of the committee have been held up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015; given below is a summary of the decisions taken/ policy directives given on each sector.

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision taken/ Policy directives given
Labour & Trade Union relations	To bring legislation to implement the proposed private sector wage increase
	To find ways of linking wages increase with productivity improvement and flexibility of the work force
	To obtain the approval of the Parliament to amend the Wage Boards Ordinance to increase payments for Wages Board sittings
	To recommend to the Cabinet to approve Budgetary relief allowance of workers draft bill
Finance	To review the welfare benefits given to various groups at the GramaNiladari level
	To import 4 months requirement of Maize in order to fill the shortage
	To cancel the Tourism Development Levy by the Budget proposals 2016 and to collect the same levy using a different methodology under a different name and to create a separate fund under the Treasury reserved only for Tourism promotions
	To make the funds available for the upfront payment for school uniform voucher system
	To provide at least 10 % of the subsidy cash payment proposed for fertilizers to compost bins in order to encourage organic fertilizer
	To establish a separate office for debt management activities as suggested by the World Bank report on Debt Management Performance Assessment
	To settle the payments owed to the Bank of Ceylon and Peoples Bank by the PMB, as a priority from the money collected by Paddy sales
	Policy directives on Budget 2016 and system for revenue collection

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision Taken/ Policy directives given
Transport & Civil Aviation	To transfer the SLTB lands to set off money they owe to EPF
	To stop further recruitment to SLTB and adhere to the optimal level of cadre as suggested by the Ministry of Finance
	To prepare a plan to make SLTB depots more revenue oriented
	To restructure railway management to improve service to the General Public
	To prepare and implement a restructuring plan for SLTB
	To consider the available two options for the construction of a second runway at BIA and facilitate a study by technical experts
	To allow Fly Dubai to De-link Mattala subject to withdrawing concessions given on the agreement to operate flights to Mattala
	To relocate the Ratmalana Airport to an area close to Colombo or Kalutara areas
	Policy directives given on the resurfacing of the BIA existing runway and location of the second runway for BIA
	Policy directives on the restructuring of SLTB to make it a financially viable venture
	To call tenders for BIA fuel hydrant system giving both options to quote with and without funding to minimize delays
	To convert the following Airports to independent profit centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Katunayaka Airport</li> <li>- Mattala Airport</li> </ul>
	To utilize Indian credit line for Railways to purchase rolling rocks and to rehabilitate the railway tracks subject to following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stringent quality assessment</li> <li>- Follow the procurement guidelines issued by the Indian High Commission</li> </ul>
Disaster Management	To conduct a survey on the how the flood water recedes using Air Force drone to check whether the small culverts are hindering flood water flow
	To publish data of the families who are getting disaster relief in order to track the beneficiaries
	To approve Composite Plan for Disaster Management submitted by the Ministry of Disaster Management

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision Taken/ Policy directives given
Plantation Industries	To prepare a plan to launch tea products in new international markets
	To prepare a plan to increase productivity and bring down cost of production of the tea sector
	To prepare a comprehensive workable time based action plan for Rubber sector development
	To expand cultivation of Oil Palm in Mahaweli areas without any restriction placed on the extent cultivated,subject to environmental clearance required
	To bear the loss of interest incurred by the Tea Board by extending a loan to Regional Plantation companies to administer festival advance as a loan to plantation workers for Deepavali 2015, by the Treasury.
	To study and prepare a plan for the Rubber industry for the next 3 years.
	To identify lands suitable for Cocoa cultivation to supply the growing demand for Cocoa
	To extend the Oil Palm cultivation to lands other than the Mahaweli areas inclusive of those managed by Regional Plantation Companies
	To appoint a committee to oversee Rubber sector issues
	Policy directives on providing subsidy for plantation sectors
City Planning & Water Supply	To implement the Chilaw – Puttalam and Maharagama – Boralesgamuwa sewerage project
	To create a business model to increase the usage of these sewerage projects
	To prioritize sewerage projects to be implemented in future and to liaise with Megapolis project for such projects in Western province
	a) To submit Imaduwa Water Supply project to Water supply projects Review Committee b) To call RFP and Submit financial and other project details to the review committee for water supply projects in Deniyaya, Angunakolapelessa, Urubokka, Galenbidunawewa, Hataraliyadda, Morawaka and Muruthawela Barawakumbura.
	Policy directive on the water project procurement process for better credibility – these projects are already in the pipe line with unsolicited concessional funding

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision Taken/ Policy directives given
Higher Education & Highways	To extend the Marine drive up to Dehiwala
	To expedite the legal clearances by AG's department to commence flyover projects to solve traffic congestion in Rajagiriya and Battaramulla areas
	To review the progress of the Central Expressway Project and provide policy directives when required
	To setup Vocational & Engineering Facilities for University of Sri Jayewardenapura & University of Kelaniya
	To initiate a solution to meet the lack of academic staff at Engineering faculties of Eastern University and Jaffna University
Ports & Shipping	To expedite the tender procedure of the East container Terminal project
	To renegotiate with the contractor regarding equipment prices of the Hambantota Phase 2 construction
	To identify an integrated mechanism to operate Hambantota port and Mattala Airport as a viable commercial operation
	To setup a committee and prepare a composite plan to make Sri Lanka a viable Air- Sea hub in the region
	Policy directives on investments at Port of Hambantota and Port of Trincomalee
	Policy directives on the Port City project
	<p>To convert the following ports to independent profit centers</p> <p>Hambantota Port</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trincomalee Port</li> <li>- Galle Port</li> <li>- Colombo - South Port, South Asia Gateway Terminal Pvt Ltd , Jaya Container Terminal, East Port</li> </ul>



Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision Taken/ Policy directives given
Development strategies and International Trade	To expedite the implementation of decisions taken on the Prime Minister's India & Japan visits
	To allocate a land to CEB to establish power supply for Shangri La and ITC projects
	To approve a list of actions to accelerate investments and promote exports
	To identify lands in and around Kuliapitiya area to be developed as industrial parks
	To collaborate any type of overseas promotion under the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade and to approve overseas promotions at the CCEM
	To grant approval in principle for the Refinery and Bio- Fuels Blending Facility in Hambantota
	To obtain Advisory services on Investment Promotion from Tony Blair Associates
	To instruct the BOI to study and report on using the land available at Valachchenai paper mill to establish a Golf course and to set up an IT industrial zone which can create employment for youth in Batticaloa and Kalmunai
	To approve the General Affairs Committees for the Agency for Development and Agency for International Trade to be set up under the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade
Foreign Affairs	To submit for approval by the Parliament the bilateral agreements which are pending to be ratified and to renegotiate if necessary after obtaining approval of Parliament
	Reviewing progress on obtaining GSP+ Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) – To enact new legislation as the existing legislation is outdated
Sustainable Development & wild life	To further study the environmental concerns of the small scale hydro power plant at Nayaa Ganga , Deraniyagala and recommend a suitable solution

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision Taken/ Policy directives given
National Policies & Economic Affairs	To plan a donor conference to obtain funding assistance to North, East and Uva provinces
	To sell the Golden Key Eye & ENT hospital in Rajagiriya
	To repair provincial council roads using Decentralized Budget Funds (DCB)
	Policy directives on proposed Public Investment Programme (PIP) for 2016-2020
	To adopt Swiss Challenge method in public procurement in Sri Lanka along with other traditional methods in order to fast track infrastructure development
	To allow the state owned entities to select any bank which is approved by the Central Bank, which they consider to be suitable in obtaining banking services, in order to ensure uninterrupted banking facilities to state owned entities
Public Enterprises Development	Policy directives on the restructuring of Sri Lankan Airlines
	To establish a review committee to study on enacting law to acquire enterprises which are under performing and/or abandoned by the owner (Under Performing Enterprises Act)
	To approve in principal, the suggested process for the restructuring of JEDB/SLSPC/ Elkaduwa Plantations
	To appoint a steering committee to guide the plantation restructuring unit which is to be established within Ministry of Public Enterprises Development
	Policy directives on issues related to lands located in No 175, Vauxhall street and Bohil Estate , Nawalapitiya
	To approve the appointment of the Public Enterprises Board
Megapolis & Western Development	To involve IFC for analyzing Garbage disposal proposals and pay them the advance payment of US \$ 400,000
	To allocate a land for Western Power Company Ltd to establish the waste disposal plant
	Policy directives on the Megapolis project
	To grant approval in principle for the Transport Sector Master Plan prepared by Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development
	To set up of inter-agency task force for integrated Transport Development Plan for the Colombo Metro
	To revoke the earlier decision to involve IFC for selecting garbage disposal projects and to appoint a Secretaries Committee to select suitable garbage disposal projects with the support of the local experts as suggested by the Ministry of Megapolis.

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision taken/ Policy directives given
Petroleum Resources Development	To recommend to the Cabinet to approve establishment of a Bonded warehouse for Bitumen
	To recommend to the Cabinet approval for the sale of Bitumen to the local market
	To approve a total of Rs 256.15 million allocation for the Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat (PRDS)
Justice	To acquire 4 acres' land belongs to B.C.C. Ceylon Ltd., for the construction of new court and office complex in Colombo
	To issue instructions to expedite the pending legal opinions to be obtained from the AG's Department
Fisheries & Aquatic Resources	To expedite and finalize amendments to the Fisheries Act regarding EU Fishing Ban
	To recruit 80 graduates directly to the Ministry of Fisheries to carry out the monitoring work related to EU fishing Ban
Telecommunication & Digital Infrastructure	Policy directives on Digitalization of Terrestrial Television Channels
	To appoint a procurement committee and Technical Evaluation committee for the proposed acquisition of Hutch by Mobitel
Environment	To cancel the license of local gem companies if they are found to be a proxy company of a foreign company
	To form a committee on Gem Industry to recommend solutions to the issues faced by the industry
Home Affairs	To expedite the road projects outside the RDA road network under the Ministry of Home Affairs and also the projects initiated by provincial authorities
	To authorize District Secretaries to function as Supervising and Monitoring Authority for incomplete projects at a provincial level and to endorse the payments to expedite the work
Housing& Construction	To approve in principle to proceed with the Development of the Bambalapitiya Flats
	To recommend to the Cabinet to approve the accelerated program for the development of Middle Income Housing & Infrastructure

Sector/Relevant Ministry	Decision taken/ Policy directives given
Education	Policy directives on issuing uniform materials to the students for the year 2016
Social Empowerment & Welfare	To consider issuing rice to Samurdhi beneficiaries using the excess Paddy stocks available in PMB.
Law and Order and Southern Development	To prepare a single composite development plan for Hambantota
Rural Economic Affairs	Policy directives on Paddy purchasing 2015 – Maha season
	To encourage web based registration for farmers to sell their paddy to PMB
Tourism	To proceed with the outstanding payments to international media organizations for the global mega promotional campaign carried out in 2014, after a proper audit by SLTPB whether these promotions were carried out as agreed
Agriculture	To open up the supply of fertilizer for Paddy to the private sector in order to create open market competition
	To approve a proposal for commercial agriculture development targeting five selected crops namely Potato, B Onion, Maize, Soy Bean and Chili to increase the productivity of the agriculture sector

### **3.2. Officials Committee on Economic Management (OCEM)**

Official Committee on Economic Management was appointed by Hon Prime Minister to make suitable recommendations on matters related to Economic Management to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Management (CCEM). The committee consists of the public officials representing major institutions involved in providing policy directions to the entire economy in the country. Major functions of the committee are as follows:

1. To study Cabinet Memoranda referred to the CCEM, relating to economic affairs, monetary and fiscal policy and financial affairs and submit recommendations to the CCEM;
2. To provide suitable policy directives to the various project proposals submitted by Private Sector Investors;
3. To provide instructions and guidance for the matters referred to the OCEM and select most important matters to be referred to the CCEM;
4. To monitor the progress of the decisions taken at the OCEM and CCEM.

#### **Composition of the Committee**

01. Mr. R. Paskaralingam	Advisor to the Ministry of National Policy & Economic Affairs (Chairman)
02. Mr. Charitha Ratwatte	Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister
03. Mr. Sumith Abeysinghe	Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers
04. Dr. R H S Samarathunga	Secretary, Ministry of Finance
05. Mr. M I M Rafeek	Secretary, Ministry of National Policies & Economic Affairs
06. Mr. M C L Rodrigo	Addl. Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Eight meetings of the committee have been held up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. The committee has given its observations and recommendations for more than 75 inquiries including various cabinet memoranda which were referred to Cabinet Committee on Economic Management (CCEM) by cabinet decisions and various other requests forwarded by ministries, departments, state owned enterprises, and private entities.

### **3.3. Establishment of Policy Development Office**

A Policy Development Office has been established at the Prime Minister's office, to develop coherent, acceptable and equitable policies towards achieving Sri Lanka's expansion goals ; it is set up with an objective of contributing towards the acceleration of the state mechanisms in developing Sri Lanka efficiently, and targets achieving the following goals.

1. Planning and formulation of national policies
2. Preparation of National Policy Framework
3. Formulation and development of objectives and targets
4. Co-ordination of implementation policies
5. Review and evaluation of policies
6. Review the development of external sectors and its impact on Sri Lanka

The Policy Development Office has issued relevant guidelines for the subjects such as, health, land acquisition, information technology, elders' security, safety net, child care, micro finance and aquiculture etc.

### **3.4. Study Groups appointed for the formulation of National Policies**

#### **3.4.1. Study Group on “Incentives for investment, Levies and Taxes”**

The Prime Minister’s Office setup a Study Group on “Incentives for investment, Levies and Taxes” on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, chaired by Mr. R. Paskaralingam, Advisor to the Hon. Minister of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs. Mr.Charitha Ratwatte (Senior Advisor to the Hon. Prime Minister) Mr. Arjuna Mahendran (Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka) Mr. A. K. Senevirathne (Director General, Department of Fiscal Policy) Mrs. Sonali Wijeratne (Director General, Department of Commerce) Mr. Ranjith Asoka (Director General, Department of Trade and Investment Policy) Ms. Champika Malalgoda (Director, BOI) Prof. Rohan Samarajiva (Founding Chair and CEO, Linne Asia) Mr. Hans Wijesuriya (CEO, Dialog Axiata PLC) Mr. Murtaza Jafferjee (Chief Executive Officer, JB Securities (Pvt) Ltd) who are among the Committee Members. The key objectives addressed by this study group is to identify issues related to attracting investment and developing strategies towards improving the investment climate.

The Committee has met several times since inception and has discussed issues relevant to its objectives. Accordingly, a report on “Bridging the Investment Gap: Addressing the Issues Related to The Investment Climate”, has been prepared by the Research & Policy Advocacy Department of BOI. Based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee Members regarding the said report, the BOI has drafted a concept paper which has been submitted for the observations of the Hon. Prime Minister.

### **3.4.2. Committee on establishment of a 'National Pensions Office' (NPO) and a 'National Pensions Advisory Committee' (NPAC)**

A multidisciplinary study group has been appointed under the chairmanship of E. M. S. B Ekanayake, Secretary to the Prime Minister to study and analyze the social security benefit schemes available in the country. Mr. K. A. Thilakarathna (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Samurdhi), Mr. Sunil Hettiarachchi (Director General of Pensions), Mr. Dinesh Weerakkody (Chairman, National Human Resource Development Council), Mr. Manjula De Silva (Chairman, National Insurance Trust Fund), Mr. R. A. Jayalath (Superintendent (EPF), Central Bank of Sri Lanka) are the members of the Committee. The Committee plans to take into consideration pension schemes of countries such as UK, India and Malaysia. The key objective of the study is to establish a 'National Pension Office' (NPO) and a 'National Pensions Advisory Committee' (NPAC) via the integration of existing social security schemes towards streamlining administration and increasing overall cost-efficiency and effectiveness.

A draft concept note has already been prepared for the establishment of new Pensions Office and a Pension Advisory Committee. A World Bank team also has agreed to facilitate this task. Currently, an in- depth study is being conducted with regard to the miscellaneous pension and social welfare schemes available in the country. A brief concept note is in the process of being prepared on the EPF /ETF benefits and providing retirement benefits through EPF for formal sector workers. Accordingly, actions will be initiated to augment the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund. Actions have been taken to establish a single Management Information System (MIS), connecting all social security benefit schemes available in order to avoid duplication by rationalizing the regulatory procedures, enhancing benefits offered while expanding the schemes to cover all eligible workers, and ensure a better fund management.



### **3.4.3. Study Group on Development of Housing and Infrastructure Facilities for the Middle Income Earners**

In keeping with “The Five Point Plan- a New Country in 60 Months”, a Study Group was appointed by the Hon. Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. Paskaralingam, the Senior Advisor to the Hon. Minister of the National Policy and Economic Affairs, along with Mr. Charitha Ratwatte, Senior Advisor to the Hon. Prime Minister and Senior officials of the affiliated institutions inclusive of the Ministry of Housing Construction, National Housing Development Authority, and Urban Development Authority. Construction work of 04 Housing Schemes is scheduled to commence before the end of this year through this programme, which is to be implemented as a Public- Private Partnership. Government inputs for this will be in the form of providing land with access to transport amenities, infrastructure facilities and preparation of plans required to construct houses. The Housing Development Authority will construct the houses under the supervision of the Government while the selling price of housing units will also be decided by the Government.

Further, action has been initiated to provide loan facilities under concessionary interest rates by state and private banks enabling the recipients to purchase the houses.

Suitable lands have already been identified for the construction of the 04 Housing Schemes while procurement activities required to identify appropriate housing development institutions are in progress.

#### **3.4.4. Study Group on Sports Law of Sri Lanka**

The newly elected Government has already confirmed in its manifesto that The National Sports Development Authority of Sri Lanka will be established. A Committee has been appointed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports towards setting up of a suitable institution in this connection. A task that requires a comprehensive review of the Sports Sector to understand existing issues and causes, will address and identify relevant strategies and mechanisms towards the successful formation of the institution.

Towards this, the Committee would be required to take into consideration concerns expressed by a number of International Sporting Bodies such as the International Olympic Committee, that the laws governing sports should be free of political interference in all management and decision making processes within NSAs. However, it is also noted that the GOSL allocates a considerable amount of funds for the maintenance and development of sports and the sporting infrastructure in the country annually – these are approved by Parliament, for which the Minister of Sports is held accountable.

The Committee will therefore seek to strike a balance between meeting the requirements of all the stakeholders in the best possible manner.

The objective of the Committee is to recommend to GOSL, any changes it may deem necessary to be made to the existing laws that govern sports in Sri Lanka, while addressing the current issues facing the process of management and development of sports. The Committee will also review the GOSL's efforts towards the establishment of a sound institutional framework free of any political interference, resulting in enriched and sustainable sporting achievements whilst ensuring that all Sri Lankans can take part in any sport.

In the short-term, the assignment will enable the GOSL to consider potential means of addressing and improving identified shortcomings in the Sports Sector towards satisfying all stakeholders. In this regard, it is essential to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different sporting institutions, as well as identifying the structure and processes currently in place for the Management and Development of Sports, including the National Sports Associations.

In the long-term, the assignment seeks to increase and enhance the country's sporting infrastructure, including empowering talented sportsmen and women towards attaining world class sporting achievements.

The Study Group has been re-appointed on 05.11.2015 and which is comprised of the following members;

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Mr. Jagath Fernando, CEO/Jagro (Pvt) Ltd                               | - Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, President Counsel                            | - Member   |
| 3. Mr. K D S Ruwan Chandra, Director General, Dept. of Sports Development | - Member   |
| 4. Mr. Harsha Amarasekara, President Counsel                              | - Member   |
| 5. Mr. Manoj Bandara, Attorney at Law                                     | -Member    |
| 6. Mr. Jayantissa Ratwatte, Director, Tea Small Holders Factories PLC     | - Member   |
| 7. Mr. Hemasiri Fernando, President, National Olympic Committee           | - Member   |
| 8. Mr. Deepthi Lamahewa, Advisor to the Hon. Minister of Sports           | - Member   |

A draft concept paper has been submitted for the observations of the Hon. Prime Minister.

### **3.4.5. Establishment of Parliamentary Oversight Committees**

The Parliament has approved the establishment of 16 Sectoral Oversight Committees on 19.12.2015 after considering a report submitted by the committee appointed by the Hon. Prime Minister. These committees are empowered to examine all Bills, Resolutions, Treaties, Reports and Other Matters relating to subjects within their jurisdiction.

The sixteen committees are as follows: -

1. Economic Development
2. International Relations
3. National Security
4. Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources
5. Women and Gender
6. Education and Human Resources Development
7. Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment
8. Transport and Communication
9. Agriculture and Lands
10. Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media
11. Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage
12. Business and Commerce
13. Energy
14. Manufacturing and Services
15. Internal Administration and Public Management
16. Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction

### **3.4.6. Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms**

According to the cabinet decision dated 16.12.2015, a committee has been appointed for Public Representations on Constitutional Reforms with the chairmanship of Mr. Lal Wijenayake (Attorney-at-Low) including a multidisciplinary group of members such as Mr. Faiz Musthapa, Prof. Gamini Samaranayake and Mr. N. Selvak Kumaran.

This committee is expected to obtain the written representations from Religious Leaders, Political Party Leaders, Professionals, Civil Societies and Organizations, including general public and any other parties.

The draft report will be submitted to the Hon. Prime Minister by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **3.4.7. Steering Committee on Revoking EU- Fishing Ban**

The European Commission, in October 2014, proposed to ban seafood exports from Sri Lanka, due to the government's failure to demonstrate that it has taken sufficiently measures to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The ban was effective Jan. 13, 2015. Sri Lanka is the second largest exporter of fresh and chilled swordfish and tuna to the EU, with imports of €74m in 2013. As a result, Sri Lanka lost a approximately \$100m in revenue.

In this backdrop Hon. Prime Minister appointed a Steering Committee to follow up the revoking of the formal listing of Sri Lanka as a non-cooperating country under the EU-IUU fishing regulation, chaired by Secretary to the Prime Minister and comprising representatives of Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Commerce, Attorney General's Department, and Seafood Exporters' Associations. This crucial committee comprised of all the relevant stakeholders.

Establishment of the Vessel Monitoring Centre, recruitment and training of new personal, introduction of necessary regulations and sanctions, additional budget allocations, and awareness programs were included in the significant tasks completed within last year under the guidance and supervision of the Steering Committee.

The steering committee regularly monitored the progress of the road map adapted to have the ban revoked and reported to the Cabinet of Ministers through the Cabinet Committee on Economic Management.

Concurrently, the Director General of Maritime Affairs (DG MARE) of the European Commission was actively engaged in observing progress— as a result, a delegation visited in November 2015 to ensure that the management measures are actually in place.

Following intense activities, the final discussion between the Fisheries authorities and DG MARE took place on 6 April 2016 where DGMARE accepted that Sri Lanka has

comprehensive and robust management systems for fisheries Industry and to combat IUU fishing.

GOSL is optimistic that the final decision by the Council of the European Union on revoking the ban on Sri Lanka may be possible before July 2016 towards the recommencing of seafood exports to The EU.

#### **3.4.8. Committee to Draft Laws with regard to Public Finance Management**

Hon Prime Minister appointed committee on Colombo Cultural Hub under the chairmanship of Mr. Mano Chanmugam towards obtaining recommendations on the proposed Colombo Cultural Hub status. Prof. Sarath Amunugama, Mr. Chandraguptha Thenuwara, Ms. Sundarie David Rodrigo and Mr. Lionel Fernando were among the other committee members. The objectives of establishing the “Colombo Cultural Hub” is to create a focal point for visual and performing arts for South Asia and the promotion of tourism.

This committee has taken number of decisions such as having in place standards of acoustic and visual perfection for International Performing Artistes in Sri Lanka’s main performing theaters such as Nelum Pokuna, John De Silva theatre, Elphinstone and Navaragahala.

The State Symphony Orchestra, State Combined Orchestra (Western, Oriental Orchestra and Drums) and the National Dance Company are to be supervised under this Hub.

Committee is looking forward to organize the event “Asia Pacific Choir Games “2017 which will help to develop the tourism industry in Sri Lanka.

#### **3.4.9 Committee to Provide Recommendations on the Establishment of Colombo Cultural Hub**

Hon Prime Minister appointed committee on Colombo Cultural Hub under the chairmanship of Mr. Mano Chanmugam towards obtaining recommendations on the proposed Colombo Cultural Hub status. Prof. Sarath Amunugama, Mr. Chandraguptha Thenuwara, Ms. Sundarie David Rodrigo and Mr. Lionel Fernando were among the other committee members. The objectives of establishing the “Colombo Cultural Hub” is to create a focal point for visual and performing arts for South Asia and the promotion of tourism.

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The State Symphony Orchestra, State Combined Orchestra (Western, Oriental Orchestra and Drums) and the National Dance Company are to be supervised under this Hub.

Committee is looking forward to organize the event "Asia Pacific Choir Games "2017 which will help to develop the tourism industry in Sri Lanka.

## **4. Events of importance in National Reconciliation, Social Services and Religious Affairs**

### **4.1. National Reconciliation**

In 2009, Sri Lanka was successfully able to conclude the ruthless civil war that commenced in 1983. However, as Sri Lankans, we have not succeeded in achieving the true spirit of reconciliation up to now. This Government has a mandate to put in place mechanisms within the local legislative framework towards true reconciliation – following discussions with all ethnic and religious communities in the country.

The new Government has taken the initiative to sustenance of an equal society in which all Sri Lankans, irrespective of their ethnicity or religious convictions can live in unity. It has also displayed a commitment to encourage inter-religious harmony by celebrating significant religious festivals of all religions under the patronage of Hon. Prime Minister.

#### **4.1.1. Hon. Prime Minister's visit to the Northern Province**



The official visit of the Hon. Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe to the Northern Province took place on 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2015. It was a significant occasion for the people of the North and for all Sri Lankans. The Hon. Prime Minister reviewed several key areas, gave instructions and handed over tasks to relevant public officials concerning pressing issues of the area.



The proposed programmes, aimed at uplifting the livelihood of the people in the Northern Province while expediting its development activities are briefly indicated as follows.

- To establish a National Centre for Women Headed Households in Kilinochchi for the purpose of enhancing their social economic conditions
- To appoint a Committee to study the issues faced by women headed households in the Northern Province
- Submission of a detailed plan for resettlement in the Divisional Secretariat divisions for which the lands are to be released by the military
- To transfer the ownership of lands, which have been occupied by the armed forces to their respective owners following the affirmation of ownership
- To appoint a study committee for the implementation of the Indian Housing Scheme
- To assign the task of checking the possibility of resettling the civilians in Iranathive Island to the Sri Lanka Navy
- To expedite the process of issuing land permits
- Resettlement in the areas considered as forests
- Taking necessary action to resettle people in Aiyakachchi
- To submit a Cabinet Memorandum for the recruitment of teachers to schools in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu Districts
- To appoint a Committee for the purpose of submitting a comprehensive plan on improving the quality of education in the schools of the Northern Province
- To submit positive proposals regarding the service of teachers paid by the Civil Security Department
- To submit a comprehensive report on the current situation of the Gamini Maha Vidyalaya- Vavuniya
- Providing the facilities needed to play basketball to all the schools in Mannar District
- To submit a proposal to write off 50% of the loans granted to the fishermen
- Taking necessary action to settle the issue of Indian fishermen
- To distribute fishing nets among fishermen after ascertaining the quality of such nets by the Ministry of Fisheries
- Enforcing laws stringently against fishing using illegal methods

- Commencement of restructuring the damaged places of worship including the places within the High Security Zones
- To discuss the drinking water issue in detail and sourcing the possibility of obtaining the assistance of Foreign Agencies for community water supply projects
- Paying due attention to the complaints made by women to the Police Stations
- To appoint a Committee to study the needs of the disabled people
- To set up a regional centre in Kilinochchi for the purpose of providing services to the disabled
- To submit a comprehensive report on problems faced by the business community
- To appoint a committee to submit a comprehensive report on the development of reservoirs in the Northern Province including Iranamadu Tank
- Deciding to hold the National Sports Festival – 2016 in Jaffna and appointing a committee to accelerate the ongoing reconstruction work on the playgrounds
- To establish the first ever Regional Youth Centre in Jaffna
- Setting up of Wi-Fi hot spots in Jaffna under the provision of providing free Wi-Fi facilities
- Taking action to recruit 400 Police personnel from the Northern Province
- Construction of an Air Strip at Palali by a landfill.
- To formulate a mechanism for running preschools under the Northern Provincial Council
- Enforcing law strictly against illicit liquor
- Construction of a 3 storied building, providing a 26 seaterbus and a gymnasium to Hartley College
- To set up an industrial zone in the Northern Province
- Recruitment of teachers to teach Christianity

## **4.2 Social Services and Religious Affairs**

### **4.2.1. Social Services**

Under the leadership and guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, The Prime Minister's Office has conducted the following social welfare and religious activities.

#### **4.2.1.1. Sinhala and Hindu New Year Festival**

Organized every year by the Welfare Society of the Prime Minister's Office, the Sinhala & Hindu New Year Festival was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, at the grounds of The Police Field Force Headquarters. Professor Maithree Wickremesinghe was the Chief Guest at this event, in which about 600 people, including members of the staff and their families, participated. Many activities for both individual and group categories were held with an objective of improving inter-personal relationships, building team work etc.

#### 4.2.1.2 Providing of Relief to Earth Quake Hit Nepal

Following a directive by the Hon. Prime Minister, The Office of the Prime Minister, undertook to provide urgent and much needed relief to earthquake hit Nepal in April, 2015.

The relief measures included the dedicated use of a C 130 aero plane, one of the largest transporters of the Sri Lanka Air Force, to send water, essential goods and medicine much needed by the communities in Nepal. A voluntary relief team on board accompanied the cargo, making the Sri Lankan team one of the first three foreign teams to arrive in Nepal in the aftermath of the disaster. The aircraft brought back 42 Sri Lankans including students were stranded in Nepal. The plane also carried goods and medicines donated by the members of the public and collected by the Disaster Management Centre.

A team of senior public servants including Hon. A.H.M.Fowzie, Minister of Disaster Management, Deputy Minister Hon (Dr.) Anoma Gamage and Mr. M.S.B.Ekanayake, Secretary to the Prime Minister also went to Nepal to overlook relief measures and the intended rehabilitation programmes. The aircraft that came back to Sri Lanka with 21 evacuees went back on 01.05.2015 with more stocks of dried food and medicine.

Donations amounting to Rs. 3,445,390.00 were received by the Office of the Prime Minister and handed over to the Ministry of Disaster Management towards there construction of The Ananda Kuti Buddhist Temple in Swayambhu and Rato Machindranath Hindu Kovil in Lalithpur that were affected by the earth-quake.



#### **4.2.1.3. Blood Donation**

A blood donation programme was held by the Prime Minister's office in collaboration with National Blood Transfusion Service on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Prime Ministers' office. About 100 officers of Prime Minister's office donated blood for this worthy cause.

#### **4.2.1.4. Renovation of Elders Home at Meerigama**

The Prime Minister's Office organized a rehabilitation program together with The Mayura Amman Welfare Association to house more elders at Seth Sevana – Elders Home of Department of Social Service at Meerigama. One ward for elderly ladies was fully renovated with floor tiles, new beds, mattresses, pillows and bed sheets. In addition, 100 ruit trees were planted while the Secretary to the Prime Minister opened the renovated ward on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



### 4.2.2. Religious Affairs

Since its inception, The Government has maintained a strong commitment towards ensuring religious harmony among all, through the celebration of key religious festivals of importance. Under the aegis of the Hon. Prime Minister, the following religious festivals were thus observed.

#### 4.2.2.1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Buddha Rashmi Vesak Festival

The 9<sup>th</sup> Buddha Rashmi Vesak Festival was held successfully in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office and The Gangaramaya Temple on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

Seen as the most prominent Vesak festival in the city, this event was staged with a view of achieving the inner peace & tranquility highlighted in Buddhism" Buddhalammana Prithiya". It was further enhanced with the exhibition of Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha, display of beautiful Vesak Lanterns, Buddhist Paintings created by school children, Bakthi Gee (Buddhist devotional songs), Theatre productions based on Buddhist Jathaka Stories, Display of Vesak Pandals, Dansal – stalls with free food distribution commonly associated with Vesak, String-puppet shows and other festivities associated with the celebration of Vesak.

The event took place in the area surrounding The Beira Lake, The Gangarama Temple, the environs of Colombo 02 covering Jinarathana Mawatha, Muttiah Road, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Perahara Mawatha, Sri Uththarananda Mawatha and Nawam Mawatha.





#### 4.2.2.2. Iftar Festival

The Iftar Festival, celebrated by the Muslim community, was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 with the participation of Maulavi (Chief Priest) and other 1500 devotees under the patronage of His Excellency the President and Hon. Prime Minister, at Temple Trees.



#### 4.2.2.3. Deepawali Festival

This Hindi National Festival of significance was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at The Temple Trees under the aegis of The Hon. Prime Minister, by the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs in association with The Prime Minister's Office. The triumph of good over evil and light over darkness were the theme of the Deepawali Festival, which coincides with the Hindu New Year. Poojas to God Vishnu and cultural activities by school children were held at this event.





#### 4.2.2.4. Christmas Celebrations

The annual Christmas services was held at Temple Trees on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 under the patronage of HE the President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe and several Hon. Ministers were also present at the event which saw the participation of over 100 children.

Christmas carols and Christmas dramas were held while the children were served with refreshments and given gifts. H.E. Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith led prayers at this event.



## **5. Providing Relief for Public Complaints and Grievances**

### **5.1. Referring the Public Complaints / Grievances received by the Prime Minister's Office to the Relevant State Institutions and Follow-up**

Members of the general public have sent in a considerable number of letters to the Hon. Prime Minister concerning issues that have remained unsolved for a significant period of time. A separate division has been established at the Prime Minister's Office with the objective of efficiently handling such complaints and recommending possible solutions.

As identified by the said division, public complaints / grievances can be categorized as follows;

- Land disputes
- Housing problems
- Issues relating to judgments
- Request for subsidies / public assistance
- Request for admission of children to schools
- Employment issues -
  - Applying for employment
  - Requests for reinstatement of service
  - Transfers
- Common facilities
  - Construction of roads and renovations
  - Request for obtaining pipe born water and electricity
- Irregularities
  - Complaints against Police
  - Corruption and fraud
  - Irregularities in the appointment of Heads of Institutions
- Acts of Political Revenge



A summary report on received letters and respondents during the year 2015 is as follows.

#	Month	Public Complaints / Grievances	Responded letters
1	January	700	620
2	February	390	350
3	March	530	512
4	April	470	466
5	May	800	750
6	June	436	422
7	July	510	500
8	August	552	551
9	September	917	865
10	October	1256	1247
11	November	1590	1586
12	December	3204	3201
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,355</b>	<b>11,070</b>

With a view towards providing solutions, these are referred to the following institutions /officials by the Prime Minister's Office as speedily as possible.

- Secretaries to the Ministries.
- District Secretaries.
- Heads of Departments.
- Heads of Corporations / Companies / Statutory Bodies.
- Divisional Secretaries.
- Heads of Local Government Authorities.






## 5.2. Facilities Provided to Submit Public Complaints / Grievances Via Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office



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ரணில் விக்கிரமசிங்க  
Ranil Wickremesinghe

ශ්‍රී ලංකා අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය  
இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය කාර්යාලය  
பிரதம அமைச்சர் அலுவலகம்  
Prime Minister's Office



The Prime Minister's Office official website  
of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Home Prime Minister PM Office Initiatives Temple Trees Special Events Downloads Vacancies Contact Us

### Prime Minister's Office

58, Sir Earnest De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 07.

#### Submission of Public Grievances, Complaints and Comments.

Your feedback will help us to serve you better.

First Name

Last Name

Email address


Contact Number

Please mention your grievances, complaints and requests here.

If you have any comments, please mention.

other

### Location



## **6. Parliamentary Affairs and Other Functions**

### **6.1. Cabinet Memoranda, Notes to the Cabinet, Proposed Bills and Furnishing of Answers for Parliamentary Questions**

A Unit for Parliamentary Affairs has been established in the PM's office entrusted with the above tasks.

- a) This division has a mandate to formulate the cabinet memoranda, notes to the Cabinet and Bills proposed by Hon. Prime Minister to the Cabinet of Ministers. Accordingly, the Hon. Prime Minister through the Secretary has submitted 94 cabinet memoranda and 27 notes to the Cabinet of Ministers.
- b) This unit also handles the process of providing answers for the questions asked of the Hon. Prime Minister by Hon. Members of Parliament, in consultation with the relevant institutions. In addition, this unit co-ordinate the annual reports and financial reports of the commissions, statutory bodies and state corporations which are to be tabled by the Hon. Prime Minister. Correspondingly, this division has tendered 48 answers for the parliamentary questions that requested a response by the Hon. Prime Minister. In addition, 05no's of Annual Reports and Financial Reports have been tabled.
- c) Further, this unit co-ordinate the required processes in the instances where issues raised concerning cabinet decisions in response to cabinet memoranda have been directed at the Secretary to the Prime Minister for an appropriate response.

## 6.2. Overseas Leave

The Summary of Granting Overseas Leave from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015 is as follows.

S.No.	Ministry/ Institute	Total Officers
1	Prime Minister's Office	13
2	Parliament of Sri Lanka (Staff Only)	55
3	Governor's Secretariat	5
4	Ministry of National Policies & Economic Affairs	10
5	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	78
6	Ministry of Justice	87
7	Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Hindu Religious Affairs	12
8	Ministry of Tourism Development & Christian Religious Affairs	38
9	Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife	11
10	Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation	193
11	Ministry of Social Empowerment & Welfare	30
12	Ministry of Labor & Trade Unions Relations	22
13	Ministry of Higher Education & Highways	745
14	Ministry of City Planning & Water Supply	123
15	Ministry of Disaster Management	102
16	Ministry of Science, Technology & Research	63
17	Ministry of Law & Order and Southern Development	2
18	Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine	382
19	Ministry of Finance	848
20	Ministry of Skills Development & Vocational Training	88
21	Ministry of Home Affairs	13
22	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development & Cultural Affairs	32
23	Ministry of Industry & Commerce	266
24	Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development	12
25	Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development	85
26	Ministry of Plantation Industries	119

27	Ministry of Power & Renewable Energy	241
28	Ministry of Agriculture	326
29	Ministry of Buddha Sasana	7
30	Ministry of Rural Economic Affairs	33
31	Ministry of Public Enterprise Development	7
32	Ministry of Public Administration & Management	39
33	Ministry of Parliamentary Reforms & Mass Media	10
34	Ministry of Housing & Construction	11
35	Ministry of Ports & Shipping	20
36	Ministry of Lands	56
37	Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure & Community Development	3
38	Ministry of Women & Child Affairs	15
39	Ministry of Foreign Employment	108
40	Ministry of Education	144
41	Ministry of Post, Postal Services & Muslim Religious Affairs	37
42	Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development	2
43	Ministry of Sports	13
44	Ministry of Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure	15
45	Ministry of Primary Industries	12
46	Ministry of Irrigation & Water Resources Management	54
47	Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government	7
48	Ministry of Development Strategies & International Trade	49
49	Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue & Official Languages	0
50	Ministry of Special Assignment	0
<b>Ministries that were there prior to Parliamentary Elections</b>		
01	Sri Lanka of Parliament	8
02	Ministry of Law & Order and Prison Reforms	9
03	Ministry of Higher Education & Research	1245
04	Ministry of Power & Energy	451
05	Ministry of Tourism & Sports	156

06	Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply & Drainage	66
07	Ministry of Housing & Samurdhi	34
08	Ministry of Highways & Investment Promotion	77
09	Ministry of Public Administration & Home Affairs	92
10	Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment	10
11	Ministry of Social Services, Welfare & Livestock Development	49
12	Ministry of Public Order & Christian Religious Affairs	16
13	Ministry of Provincial Councils & Regional Development	8
14	Ministry of Plantation Infrastructure Development	2
15	Ministry of Special Projects	9
16	State Ministry of Cultural Affairs	10
17	State Ministry of Child Affairs	8
18	State Ministry of Plantation Industries	3
19	State Ministry of Education	2
20	State Ministry of Youth Affairs	25
21	State Ministry of Higher Education	54
22	State Ministry of Aviation	39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7016</b>



## **7. Development of Human Resources, Enhancement of Infrastructure Facilities and Financial Progress**

### **7.1. Development of Human Resources**

With the aim of increase, the efficiency and effectiveness of the Prime Minister's Office, the officials are provided foreign and local trainings to enhance their knowledge, skills and attitudes. Accordingly, programme details of the year 2015 are as follows.

- **Foreign Training Programmes**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Training Period</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1.	Workshop on Human Resource Development	2015.04.28 - 2015.04.30	India	1
2.	Seminar on Development & Management of Service Out-sourcing for Developing Countries	2015.05.11 - 2015.05.28	China	1
3.	Migration & Development Challenges and Way-forward for SAARC Region	2015.06.07 - 2015.06.11	Bangladesh	2
4.	Computer Training Program	2015.06.10 - 2015.07.11	China	1
5.	Capacity Building	2015.09.06- 2015.09.18	Malesia	1
6.	Government Human Resources Management for Developing Countries	2015.09.08 - 2015.09.30	China	2
7.	Seminar on Inclusive Growth and Rural Sustainable Property Reduction for Asian Developing Countries	2015.09.11 - 2015.09.27	China	1
8.	Seminar on Public Administration for Civil Servant of Asia Countries	2015.10.09 - 2015.10.31	China	1
9.	Seminar on Public Administration for Civil Servant of Asia Countries	2015.10.09 - 2015.10.29	China	1
10.	Study Tour Policy & Leadership for Senior Public Sector	2015.11.27 - 2015.12.07	Australia	1

- **Local Training Programmes**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Courses</b>	<b>Training Institute</b>	<b>Study/ Training Period</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1.	Diploma in Information Technology	SLIDA	10 days	2
2.	Advanced Diploma in English for Professionals	SLIDA	10 days	1
3.	Tamil Language	Department of Official Languages	62 hours	50
4.	Scientific Forum Via Subodhya Consultancy	Department of Social Services	5 ½ hours	50
5.	English Language Programmes	Department of Official Languages	40 hours	20
6.	Telephone Technique & Front Office Management	SLIDA	2 days	50
7.	Master Degree of Economics (MFE – 2015)	University of Colombo	2 years	3
8.	Master Degree Programme	University of Colombo	2 years	1
9.	Master Degree of Social Science	University of Kelaniya	2 years	1
10.	Advanced Certificate Course in Secretariat Practices	National Institute of Business Management (NIBM)	1 year	1

## **7.2. Making use of Information & Communication Technology towards the enhancement of productivity**

Keeping in mind the dynamic nature and scope of the Prime Minister's Office, an Information and Communication Technology Division has been established towards the creation of an effective and an efficient information & communication service. This division is operated under the supervision of an Assistant Director in the SLIT Service.

The main objective of the Information and Communication Technology Division is to identify weaknesses and recommend solutions within the field of Information and Communication Technology at the Prime Minister's Office and to fulfill the need for information and communication technology required for the implementation of government policies & programmes based on the e- governance policy.

- **Supply of Internet facilities and Anti-virus protection**

A new firewall system was set up for the network system of the Prime Minister's Office, through which an efficient Internet connection has been provided to all.

The computer network has been protected with antivirus systems, with the establishment of a central antivirus centre.

- **The Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office**

An informative and a comprehensive website has been developed for the Prime Minister's Office by Sri Lanka Telecom, in keeping with the information requirements. It is regularly updated and provides a relevant window on the activities of the Hon. Prime Minister's Office.

The website has been set up on a new virtual server for the purpose of identifying and repelling any security threats that may exist, with the removal of defects in the source code enabled.

The official website of the Prime Minister's Office is active throughout 24 hours for 365 days of the year. The Information and Communication Technology Division is entrusted with the overall management of the web site.

- **The internal Internet mail server of the Prime Minister's Office**

Security of the internal mail server of the Prime Minister's office has been strengthened with the setting up of the new Firewall System.

- **Production of Software for the Internal Use of the Prime Minister's Office**

Information and Communication Technology Division has made arrangements to develop software with capability to be upgraded, to facilitate the activities of the Prime Minister's Office. Accordingly, the expenses incurred in this connection would be minimized.

- A document management system has been developed to manage external and internal documents. It is implemented at the Secretary's Branch and Public Grievances Branch.
- Evaluation of open source software for the setting up of an e-library system for the archiving of the documents of the Prime Minister's office.

Fulfillment of Information & Communication requirements needed for the implementation of government policies & programmes.

The Information & Communication Technology Division is involved in fulfilling the information & communication technology requirements pertaining to the government policies & programmes implemented through the Prime Minister's Office.

Accordingly, the Sri Lanka Telecom Services Institute is entrusted with the creation of a website to process information for the Village Fair Development Project.

In addition, assistance of the Information & Communication Technology Division is extended towards the following activities of the institute.

1. To recognize the practical training requirements on information & communication technology for the staff and to provide them with relevant training
2. Updating and implementation of the Information Technology Action Plan

3. To sign service agreements pertaining to the information & communication technology, and to maintain and update them as required
4. To prepare specifications for the purchase of relevant information & communication technology and provide recommendations for the same

### 7.3 Financial progress

Construction of the new three storied building at the “Temple Trees” is almost completed. Labour for this purpose is provided by The Sri Lanka Navy while building materials are supplied by the Prime Minister’s Office. This has resulted in a minimum cost being incurred with maximum results obtained.

The Total capital expenditure for the year 2015 is as follows

#	Activities	Total Expenditure	Note
1	Construction of new buildings	Rs, 10,068,857.02	1
2	Building Maintenance	Rs, 31,249,562.96	2
3	Acquisition of Vehicles	Rs. 5,190,446.00	3
4	Acquisition of Furniture and Office Equipment	Rs. 24,483,193.11	-
5	Acquisition of Plant, Machinery & Equipment	Rs. 481,546.19	-

#### Note 1

- Approved estimated amount for construction of the building Rs. 36,926,488.50
- Value of building materials supplied by President Office during the year 2015  
Rs. 20,652,159.20
- Value of building materials supplied by Prime Minister's Office during the year 2015 Rs. 9,974,250.77
- Allocation received from Treasury for 2015 Rs. 16,000,000

#### Note 2

- The Prime Minister’s Office, Residence at Temple Trees & the Residence at Nuwara Eliya have been renovated.

#### Note3

- Two motor cycles have been purchased to expedite the distribution of mails/ letters of the Prime Minister’s Office and the amount spent for this purpose is Rs.324, 200
- Four vehicles have been purchased under leasing facilities for the Prime Minister’s Office and the amount spent for this purpose during the year 2015 is Rs. 4, 866,246