



**கார்டியான லார்கால
செயற்திறன் அறிக்கை
Performance Report
2018**



**அதாநாச கார்டாலச
பிரதம அமைச்சர் அலுவலகம்
Prime Minister's Office**



Performance Report 2018

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01. Introduction

1.1. Vision

“Independent, Sovereign and Prosperous Sri Lanka”

1.2. Mission

“To provide leadership for an excellent public sector with good governance practices, by proper co-ordination of government and non-government institutions in order to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Sri Lanka and to uplift their standards of living”

1.3. Functions

The main function of the Prime Minister’s Office is to facilitate the Hon. Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in carrying out his official duties.

This office will also render assistance in the following areas:

- Building the Economy
- Combatting Corruption
- Ensuring Freedom
- Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion
- Educational Reforms

in accordance with the Election Manifesto “Five-Point Plan – A New Country in 60 Months”

Further, Prime Minister’s Office engages in the following:

- Rendering requisite assistance to implement Government policies and decisions
- Facilitation, co-ordination and follow-up action with regard to various Committees and Meetings chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister
- Preparation of answers for Parliamentary questions asked from the Hon. Prime Minister
- Co-ordination of activities pertaining to Bills presented to the Parliament by the Hon. Prime Minister
- Provision of required facilities for the Hon. Prime Minister to maintain and enhance the diplomatic relations.

- Co-ordination of foreign visits of the Hon. Prime Minister
- Facilitating media coverage for State and national functions and special occasions
- Organizing State sponsored national & religious festivals and welfare events.
- Handling public complaints and grievances received by the Hon. Prime Minister and referring them to relevant institutions for redress.
- Proper maintenance of Temple Trees, Prime Minister's Office and Prime Minister's Official Bungalows
- Routine administrative and development functions of the Prime Minister's Office.

02. Policy Formulation & Economic Development

2.1. Officials Committee on Economic Management (OCEM)

Officials Committee on Economic Management (hereinafter “the Committee” or “OCEM”) 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 consisted of the public officials representing major institutions involved in providing policy directions to the whole 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 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.

Eighteen meetings of the Committee have been held between 01st January 2018 and 27th March 2018. The Committee has given its observations and recommendations for more than 194 inquiries including various Cabinet memoranda which were referred to CCEM by way of Cabinet decisions and various other requests forwarded by ministries, departments, State owned enterprises and private entities.

Other than that, the above Committee has contributed in improving various policies to help boost the economy of Sri Lanka. Implementing such policies improve access to better healthcare, education, basic infrastructure and provide Sri Lankans with opportunities to get more and better jobs.

The functions of OCEM was wound up in view of the Cabinet Decision No. CP/18/0576/701/012-1 and dated 28th March 2018.

2.1.1. Performance Tracking & Review Meetings

At present meetings have been held to track and review the performance of the prominent development projects and economic matters of the country under the former chairman of OCEM.

The major objectives of this meetings are as follows:

- 1) To obtain the feedback of the matters discussed in the past meetings and assess the progress of the current situation
- 2) To assist continuation of identified delayed projects by confronting relevant parties (Eg; ERD, JICA, EXIM Bank etc.)
- 3) To check the possibility of carrying out a proposal and direct the proponents on their proposals on the existing legal framework
- 4) To build a platform for public and private entities to have better understanding and exchange of views

Accordingly, twenty-four meetings have been held and more than 100 inquiries have been discussed.

2.2. Accelerated Program for the Construction of Middle-Class Housing & Infrastructure

The Steering Committee, consisting of Mr. J Charitha Ratwatte, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister and senior officials of the relevant stakeholder organizations such as the Ministry of Housing and Construction, National Housing Development Authority and Urban Development Authority, under the Chairmanship of Mr. R Paskaralingam, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs has been appointed for the implementation of National Priority Programme for construction of houses and providing infrastructure for middle income earners, as per “Five-point Plan for creating a new country within 60 months.”

Construction work of 04 Housing Projects continues under this programme which is being implemented as a Public- Private Partnership. In addition to the following Projects, approval process is underway to implement the programme at 5 sites identified as suitable for the purpose.

#	Project	No. of Housing Units
1	Sea Breeze - Wadduwa	196
2	Green Valley - Jalthara	352
3	Lavanya Heights - Ragama	124
4	Mount Clifford - Homagama	860

In this regard, the Government has made the contribution by providing land with all public amenities for construction of houses, providing infrastructure facilities such as pipe borne water, electricity and roads and by granting requisite approvals without delay, for construction of houses.

Further, the purchase price of these houses is determined by the Government and also, action will be taken to award credit facilities to the beneficiaries at concessionary interest rates through State and private sector banks.

2.3. Ministerial Committee to Coordinate United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Recommendations

In 2015, the new Government embarked on major reforms aiming to achieve national reconciliation, respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance, as well as sustainable economic development. The Government of Sri Lanka has taken steps to improve the above, and has also re-engaged with the UN system, in particular the United Nations Human Rights Council (hereinafter “UNHRC”), to which it has made commitments to promote reconciliation, accountability and human rights.

The UNHRC adopted the Resolution 30/1 in 2015 on Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka and, by co-sponsoring such Resolution the Government of Sri Lanka has undertaken a commitment to implement its recommendations.

In March 2017, Sri Lanka co-sponsored another UNHRC Resolution, Resolution 34/1 at the 34th session of the UNHRC, allowing Sri Lanka a period of two more years to implement the commitments made in Resolution 30/1 of 2015. Therefore, for the purpose of central coordination and monitoring of timely implementation of the aforesaid initiatives, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed the following Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe.

- Hon. Thilak Marapone, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media
- Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports & Shipping
- Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science Technology and Research
- Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law & Order and Southern Development
- Hon. Thalatha Athukorala, Minister of Justice and Minister of Foreign Employment
- Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence
- Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, State Minister of National Policies & Economic Affairs

The following Officials’ Sub-Committee was also appointed to assist the above high-level Committee.

- Secretary to the Prime Minister (Chairman)
- Secretary, Ministry of Defence
- Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Secretary, Ministry of Justice

- Secretary, Ministry of Law & Order and Southern Development
- Mr. Nerin Pulle, Deputy Solicitor General, Attorney General's Department
- Ms. Chandima Wickremasinghe, Senior Assistant Secretary to the President

The Officials' Sub-Committee has identified all commitments made in UNHRC Resolution 30/1 into two main categories for monitoring purposes, namely; Transitional Justice Mechanisms and Confidence building measures & steps for ensuring non-recurrence. The Ministerial Committee had a discussion with Officials' Committee and decided to expedite all outstanding actions adhering to the already fixed time line of two years. The Officials' Sub-Committee is currently working on coordinating and monitoring the specific actions dealing with legal reforms, release of lands and other outstanding issues.

The Officials' Sub-Committee met a few times in order to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations and directions were given to submit reports to the UNHRC.

2.4. National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021

Expanding the Government's commitment to protect, promote and fulfil human rights of all Sri Lankans, it was decided to prepare a National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) for 2017-2021 (hereinafter referred to as "the Action Plan") in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including, the Government sector stakeholders, independent institutions such as, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Election Commission, United Nations Agencies, NGOs, civil society actors and the general public. The Action plan envisions Sri Lanka's vision for human rights from 2017 to 2021, with the approval of Cabinet of Ministers on 3rd October 2017. The NHRAP is a formal policy document of the Government of Sri Lanka on implementing action points within the time spans of short, medium and long term.

The Cabinet of Ministers has appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister, to review the progress of implementation of the Action Plan. The NHRAP was officially launched at the inaugural meeting of this Inter-Ministerial Committee which was held on 1st of November 2017 in the Parliament.

An Officials' Committee also was appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers under the direction of Hon. Sagala Rathnayake, Minister of Law & Order and Southern Development, tasked with ensuring timely progress on the implementation of the Action Plan and reporting thereon to the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The Officials' Committee is chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister and comprises Secretaries of lead ministries pertaining to the 10 clusters responsible for implementing each chapter of the NHRAP and representatives of other stakeholders including the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the civil society organizations.

Ten Sectoral Committees have been appointed to coordinate activities of relevant chapters and are chaired by the Secretaries of the lead ministries. Sectoral Committees meet monthly and report to the Officials' Committee regarding the progress. Representatives of civil society organizations, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) and Provincial Councils also participate in the Sectorial Committee meetings.

SCRM which is established under the Prime Minister's Office is entrusted with the monitoring of the NHRAP and reports the implementation barriers to the Officials' Committee and thereon to the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Ten sectoral committees have conducted monthly meetings to expedite the activities during last two years. Officials' Committee has met quarterly to review the progress and to make necessary amendments to the follow - up mechanism.

The agreed time duration for the implementation of short-term activities lapsed in June 2018 and report on the short-term activities has been prepared.

2.5. Policy Development Office

The Policy Development Office (PDO) has been established by a Cabinet decision dated 07th October, 2015 with the following objectives:

- 1) To develop national policies
- 2) To review economic policies and analyze and evaluate economic development
- 3) To review the effectiveness of domestic policies; and
- 4) To review the external factors that would affect the development of Sri Lanka and asses their impact on the development of Sri Lanka

The PDO is assisting Cabinet of Ministers by submitting reports to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), on policy development, policy review and coordination and implementation of government policies. Additionally, the PDO has been entrusted with the following functions;

- 1) To plan, formulate and develop national policies
- 2) To prepare the policy framework for economic development
- 3) To set goals and targets in respect of sectors and government institutions
- 4) To coordinate the implementation of government policies

Progress of the on-going projects

#	Category	Projects
1	Technical, Vocational, Educational and Training (TVET)	Elder Care Assistant Training Programme, Adventure Tourism, Introducing Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for Vocational Training Institutions, TVET Subcommittee on Construction, TVET Advertising campaign, TVET Subcommittee on Child Care, TVET Subcommittee on Mechatronics, TVET Sub Committee on Women, TVET Sub Committee focus on Persons with Disabilities PwDs).
2	National Policy Making	National Policy for Senior Citizens in Sri Lanka, National Women Policy, Day Care Policy, Project on Developing a National Policy on “Commercial Plantation of Timber Trees”.
3	Law reforms	Child Protection and Justice Bill, Bankruptcy Laws.

4	Education	Implementing Career Guidance Units in Schools, 13 Years Guaranteed Education Programme, Science, Mathematics, Technology and Engineering (STEM) Education.
5	Tourism	Sigiriya (Proposal for mitigating over-crowding), Yala Action Plan for increased overall wildlife experience, Digital Marketing in Tourism, Introducing self-regulation for Adventure Tourism and Training, Regulating Ayurveda Tourism in Sri Lanka, Promoting Volunteer Tourism.
6	ICT based projects	Elder Care Website and MIS, Matters connected to Domestic Aviation, Implementation of e-SLIMS, introducing a unique identification number for businesses, Exit Survey, Citizens Database, Computer Based Railway Network Management, e-Solution for spot fine payment collections on traffic fines, Personal Health Number (PHN), Matara High Court E Filing, Development of 'Croplook' web site created by the Department of Agriculture under the Project of "Addressing Cost of Living" , BIT (Online) Scholarship Programme, Digital Payment system for Pregnant Mothers' Nutritious Programme, Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Strategy.
7	Economic, Finance and Development	Business Matchmaking, Microfinance Act, Village Fair Initiative, Battle for Solar Power, Northern Development Coordinating Committee, Labor Demand Survey, "Thurunu Diriya" BoC Loan Scheme.
8	Gender and Women	Survey on Women's Well-being.
9	Rehabilitation	Special Reintegration Program for Adults and Youths affected by violence.
10	Agriculture	Project on "Bamboo Processing for Sri Lanka".

2.6. Millennium Challenge Corporation Project Office

This project has been implemented with the financial assistance of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in the United States of America for a five-year implementation time frame. Currently, following projects have been identified for financing under their compact as an outright grant with the relevant stakeholders.

(1) Land Administration Project

This project mainly focuses on preparation of parcel fabric map and inventory of State land, improving Government capacity to formulate and coordinate land policy, improving land information systems & data on lands and improving deeds registry and the land valuation system in eight districts (Gampaha, Kegalle, Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee).

(2) Transport Development Project

This project encompasses establishing an Advanced Traffic Management System covering the Colombo Metropolitan area, Bus transport sector modernization programme and developing & improving 137 km road sections in the Central Ring Road (CRR) covering and connecting Sabaragamuwa, Uva, North Central and Central Provinces. Connected to this road development, is a study to locate and finance, locations for wholesale storage of agro produce in collaboration with private investors at locations on the CRR network to be developed to improve post-harvest management of produce.

The Current Status of the Projects

The final project proposal has been prepared. Investment memo was submitted to the MCC Investment Management Committee and approval was obtained in September 2018. The project agreement was scheduled to sign in December 2018 in Washington while project preliminary activities was to commence from January, 2019.

However, with the unexpected political crisis took place in October, 2018, the US Government put the project on hold until the Country situation is back to normal. Now the activities are functioning smoothly, a mission from the MCC is expected to be in Colombo to discuss the time line of implementing the project activities. Accordingly, the Project agreement will be signed in 2019 to commence the agreed projects.

2.7. Japan-Sri Lanka Joint Comprehensive Partnership (JCP) Secretariat

The Declaration of Joint Comprehensive Partnership (“JCP”) was agreed upon by the Governments of Japan (GoJ) and Sri Lanka (GoSL) during the Prime Minister’s official visit to Japan in October 2015 and JCP Secretariat has been established with the approval of Cabinet of Ministers in August, 2016.

The activities of the JCPS have been on the basis of bilateral discussions between the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the special envoy for the Hon. Prime Minister of Japan.

The two governments agreed to work in cooperation on areas of advanced agriculture, science and technology for industries, advanced infrastructure and regional development, education and human resources development, and civil security and safety.

The objectives;

- 1) Enable equitable and inclusive development
- 2) Integrate Sri Lanka’s economic activities into global value chain
- 3) Foster excellence in science and technology
- 4) Promote high technology industries in Sri Lanka
- 5) Support e-Government initiatives by focusing on outcome-based HR development in coordinating the activities of two countries

A summary of the activities undertaken by JCP Secretariat in 2018 is given below under its five main pillars.

• Foreign Investment, Technology, Trade and Enterprise

The JCPS supported several companies in Japan to conduct initial studies of investment opportunities in Sri Lanka parallel with the Japanese Trade Mission held in January, 2018. As an outcome of the Trade Mission, many Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) commenced technology transfer initiatives in partnership with local stakeholders.

The initiative on electric three-wheeler, the first example of such high-tech transfers carried out its feasibility study (F/S) including road tests in Sri Lanka of the pilot passenger prototype. The company established the technology entity as a private limited liability company to accommodate Foreign Technology Investments/Foreign Technology Transfers (FTI/FTT) in Sri Lanka in early 2018, and plans are underway to establish a manufacturing entity to start production of the vehicle with potential local stakeholders. The strategy was

finalized to initiate a Pilot Project on eco-tourism using electric wheeler, with the support of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and the financial support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The final report of the F/S is submitted to JICA in December, 2018. It is envisaged that over 80% of the components of vehicle will be manufactured in Sri Lanka.

The Hybrid Ice core team specialized in fast freezing technology for the fisheries sector visited Sri Lanka and incorporated a local company with 100% Japanese investment to undertake research into the introduction of Hybrid Ice into Sri Lanka. The team had discussions with the stakeholders of the fisheries sector in this connection. As the next step, the team expects to make available the prototype machine to create Hybrid Ice.

In concurrence with the Urban Development Authority (UDA) a Sensor Based Early Warning project was submitted through the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) to implement an early warning system in the Greater Kandy area to monitor floods and landslides. It is expected that this pilot project will extend to testing the concept of a smart society. Six representatives from the UDA, University of Peradeniya, Ministry of Education, Megapolis and Digital Infrastructure and Prime Minister's Office participated in a collaborative research programme in this connection. As an outcome of the programme, a sample Nerve Net lab system was installed at the University of Peradeniya.

- **Infrastructure and Power Development**

The JCP Secretariat supported negotiations in relation to the Kandy Expressway is completed and ERD is finalizing the loan agreement.

- **Urban and Regional Development**

Several Local Stakeholder Meetings and four Japan-Sri Lanka Steering Committee Meetings have been held in connection to the Greater Kandy Urban Plan. The Final Plan document was published in October, 2018.

JCP Secretariat initiated discussions to seek the possibility of developing an advanced agro medical hub connected to the Greater Kandy Urban Plan emulating Shiga Prefecture model on health and well-being and visited the prospective site in Kirimetiya in the Central Province.

- **STI-led Human Development/People to People Exchange**

JCP Secretariat initiated discussions with Japanese counterparts in Gunma University-Japan practicing STEM education from elementary school to university level. The counterparts have indicated possibility to organize a 2-weeks to 1-month program to invite Sri Lankan students in the area of robotics, engineering, electricity, programming to Gunma University for interactive classes to experience STEM Robotic Education.

The JCP Secretariat investigated opportunities to set up the School of Government with the support of Shizenkan University and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan.

- **Safety and Security**

Discussions were initiated with the Special Envoy to the Prime Minister in Japan with regard to providing a training and dispatching honorably retired army officials in Sri Lanka to Japan.

After several discussions with JCP, JBIC aligned their strategies with JCP's five pillars; (1) Infrastructure & Power, (2) Urban & Regional Development, (3) Foreign Investment, Trade Technology and Enterprise, (4) People to people exchange, STI led Human Development, and (5) Safety and Security. Furthermore, Japan continues to support improvements to Sri Lanka's international credit ratings by leveraging on its different modalities for investment in Sri Lanka.

2.8. National Media Centre (NMC)

The National Media Center is one of the State agencies that deal with mass media. Media monitoring, media and political analysis and conducting political researches are the main functions of the NMC. In addition, the NMC is involved in making reports and providing information on various government projects.

- **Media Monitoring**

Electronic, print and new media in the country are monitored on daily basis. Under the monitoring section-18 daily newspapers,10 TV channels and 5 radio channels are being monitored and detailed analytical reports are prepared. Social media websites are also being monitored. All such reports have been submitted to authorities concerned, on daily basis.

Monthly reports have been prepared on how Cabinet decisions are telecasted via the television news. Daily report on humanitarian issues that appear in newspapers, which need HE the President's intervention is also prepared, at the request of the President's Media Unit.

- **Media and Political Analysis / Political Research**

Based on media monitoring reports, about 100 special analytical reports on various subjects have been sent to relevant authorities. In addition, supporting the Members of Parliament in parliamentary debates, political TV talk shows, radio programmes and newspaper interviews are being done by providing information and reports.

- **Provide support to Special Media Unit (SMU)**

Providing support to the SMU which was established in the Department of Government Information on submitting special media observation reports and data required for daily News Line.

- **Support to other State Organizations**

Apart from the above activities, the NMC is contributing as a resource center for special government projects relating to Right to Information (RTI) Act, Reconciliation and Enterprise Sri Lanka, and conducts RTI awareness programmes.

According to the gazette extraordinary No. 2103/33 dated 28th December, 2018, this unit is now under the purview of the Ministry of Defence.

2.9. Cabinet Sub-Committee to Identify the Delays Caused in the Implementation of Development Projects

A Cabinet Sub-Committee was appointed by a Cabinet decision dated 26th June, 2018 to make suitable recommendations on matters related to the delays caused in the implementation of the development projects identified to be given priority in keeping with the Government's Development Agenda.

Tasks of the Cabinet Sub-Committee are as follows,

Examine and submit recommendations to the Cabinet on,

- 1) The delayed projects in hand, identified by the respective Ministries to be implemented on priority basis,
- 2) The projects to be implemented on urgent basis in line with the Government's development policies and strategies,

referred to the Cabinet Sub-Committee by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Composition of the Cabinet Sub-Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe | Prime Minister (Chairman) |
| • Hon. Mangala Samaraweera | Minister of Finance and Mass Media |
| • Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugana | Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage |
| • Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka | Minister of Megapolis and Western Development |
| • Hon. Kabir Hashim | Minister of Highways & Road Development |
| • Hon. Malik Samarawickrama | Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade |

The Secretary to the Prime Minister functions as the Convener/Secretary to the above Cabinet Sub-Committee.

Progress of the Meetings

Three meetings were held and following matters were discussed.

- (i) Acceleration of Large-Scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Projects (07) pending due to administrative constraints – Referred by the Cabinet of Ministers

- (ii) 42 delayed foreign funded projects submitted by the Ministry of Health.

The recommendations and decisions of the above meetings were referred to the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Committee decided to request the details of all local/ foreign funded projects in hand from the secretaries of all line Ministries. Accordingly, 26 Ministries have already submitted the relevant information, at the request of the Secretary to the Prime Minister on 18th July 2018 made to all the Ministries to identify delayed projects.

2.10. Special Unit for Monitoring the Development Projects in Northern Province

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, a Special Unit for monitoring the development projects in Northern Province was established in June 2018 at Temple Trees.

This Unit focuses on identifying the main issues related to development projects being implemented in Northern as well as Eastern Provinces.

Hon. Prime Minister had a few meetings in Jaffna and Kilinochchi District Secretariats and during those meetings some major issues directly affecting the people who live in Northern Province were identified. The issues have been already forwarded to the relevant authorities to take necessary actions.

2.11. Project Review and Coordinating Meeting

Main Functions of the Project Review and Coordinating Meeting are as follows:

- 1) To review the progress of the implementation of the development projects of all Ministries, Departments and other Statutory Bodies, identify issues and provide policy directives to resolve those issues.
- 2) To provide guidance to the preparation of the National Investment Programme and facilitation of Private Sector Investments.
- 3) To provide instructions to expedite enactment/ amendment of laws and the implementation of various legislation which have a direct bearing on the investments and economic development of the country.

From 16th of May 2018 to 10th of October 2018, sixteen meetings have been held including two meetings on “Private Sector Committee Recommendation – Short Term Strategies for Accelerating Economic Growth”. More than 132 decisions have been taken under various development and economic related matters. The decisions and directives of the discussions are being continuously followed up.

03. Promotion of International Co-operation

3.1. Hon. Prime Minister's Official Visits

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, has made several official visits during the year 2018 to strengthen the bilateral and multi-lateral relations and cooperation with the aim of obtaining assistance from other countries and international organizations to develop the infrastructure facilities, education, technology and investments. During the bilateral discussions held with Heads of States, Hon. Prime Minister has stated that the vision of the Government is to develop the country as an economic and business hub in the Indian Ocean and to upgrade Sri Lanka as a high-income level country by 2030.

A short description of visits that have been instrumental in obtaining several benefits to the country in the economic, political and social fields are given below;

3.1.1. Invest Sri Lanka Forum in Singapore – March, 2018

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe addressed the “Invest Sri Lanka Forum in Singapore” held on 2nd March 2018 as Chief Guest. The event was organized by the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka together with the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Singapore and Singapore Sri Lanka Business Association. Over 350 companies, investors and fund managers based in Singapore attended to the forum

Given the importance of Singapore as a trade, investment and technology partner, over 60 Sri Lankan business leaders and executives were present at the forum. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe held a bilateral meeting with Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. S. Iswaran to discuss ways to strengthen trade and economic ties between the two countries, during the session.





3.1.2. World Cities Summit in Singapore – July, 2018

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe undertook an official visit with a delegation to Singapore from 8th - 10th July 2018 to attend the “World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week and Clean Environment Summit Singapore – 2018”. Hon. Prime Minister delivered the keynote address at the Summit on 9th July 2018 covering insight, trends and solutions concerning Urban Development and Environment Protection.

During this visit, Hon. Prime Minister met Hon. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, Hon. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, Former Prime Minister Hon. Chok Tong and high-level dignitaries of the Singapore Government.

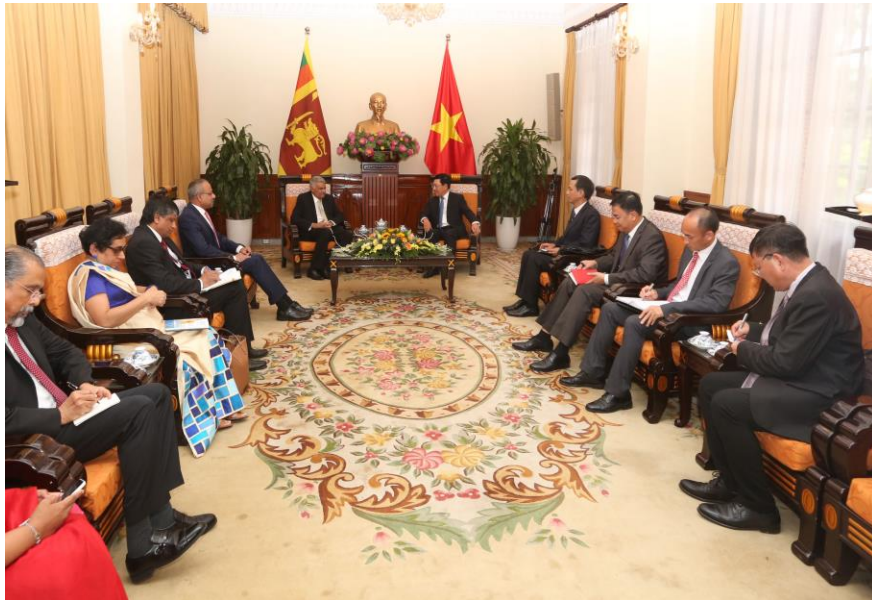




3.1.3. Indian Ocean Conference, Ha Noi, Viet Nam – August, 2018

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe attended the 3rd Edition of the Indian Ocean Conference held in Viet Nam from 27th – 28th August 2018. During this visit Hon. Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with political representatives of other participant countries such as,

- Hon. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam
- Hon. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore
- Hon. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India
- Hon. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Minister of Planning of Bangladesh





3.1.4. World Economic Forum on ASEAN (WEF-ASEAN), Viet Nam - September, 2018

In response to the invitation received, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe undertook an official visit to Viet Nam to attend the “World Economic Forum on ASEAN” from 10th - 13th September 2018.

During this visit, Hon Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with HE Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam and discussed the importance of working towards the target of bilateral trade of US \$ I Billion as agreed in 2017, highlighted the possibility of working on a Joint Submission for “Regional Cumulation” for apparel to EU and noted that the Work Plan on Fisheries between Sri Lanka and Viet Nam is ready to be signed.

On the occasion of the World Economic Forum, Hon. Prime Minister met Hon. Kang Kyung-wha, Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea and expressed the interest of Sri Lanka to have closer cooperation with the Republic of Korea in diverse areas including trade, investment, information and communication technology, development and employment.

At the same time, Hon. Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with HE Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia, HE Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder & Executive Chairman of World Economic Forum and HE Dato Jock Hoi-Lim, Secretary General of ASEAN on International Cooperation.





3.1.5. Official Visit to Norway – October, 2018

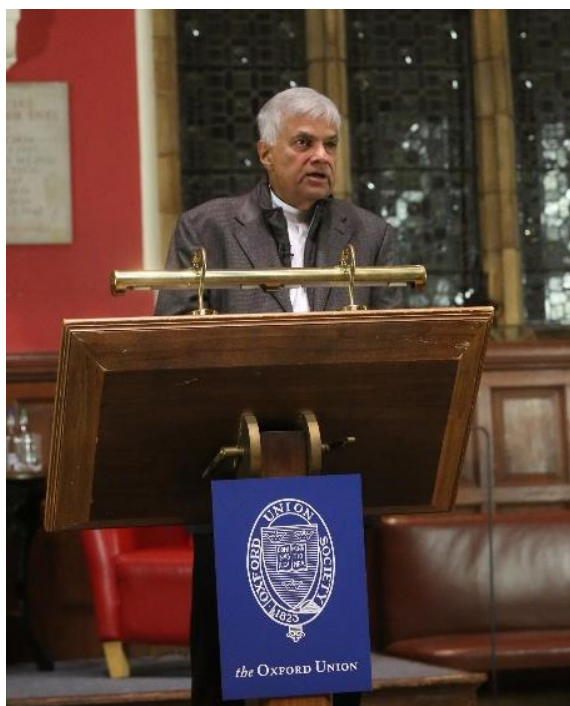
Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe undertook an official visit to Norway from 02nd to 06th of October 2018. During this visit Hon. Prime Minister met Hon. (Ms.) Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway, Hon. (Ms.) Tone Wilhelmsen, President of the Storting, Hon. (Ms.) Ine Eriksen, Foreign Minister of Norway and Mr. Nikolai Astrup, Minister for International Development. The areas that were discussed at the above meetings included, bi-lateral relations, transitional justice and peace, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the environment, the ocean and the fisheries, gender equality, public – private partnerships and multilateralism.

During the discussion with Norwegian Prime Minister, bilateral relations were identified in the fisheries and ocean sectors which are being institutionalized. Both countries had shared interests in the continental shelf, sea bed conservation, sustainable use of marine resources and maritime security.

It was discussed that the importance of promoting public – private partnerships between Sri Lanka and Norway in the areas of fisheries and IT, during the meeting with the Minister of International Development.



3.1.6. Official Visit to United Kingdom – October, 2018



On an invitation extended by the University of Oxford, Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe addressed the Oxford Union on 8th October 2018, during his visit to the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister discussed the Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region in his address followed by the interactive session with international students including Sri Lankan students.

3.1.7. Official Visit to India – October, 2018

A Sri Lankan delegation led by, Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe paid an official visit to India from 18th – 20th October, 2018.

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka held delegation level talks with the Prime Minister of India on 20th October, 2018. Prime Minister also hosted a luncheon for the visiting dignitary.

The visit is part of Indian continuing engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka at the highest level. This multi-faceted partnership has been marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, wide ranging development cooperation, increasing linkages in the fields of education, health, infrastructure, connectivity and capacity building, and broadening people to people contacts. Both the Prime Ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and ways to further deepen the historically close and friendly relations between the two countries. The leaders exchanged views on regional and

global issues. They also reviewed the progress in implementation of various decisions taken during high level exchanges in the recent past, including the visit of Hon. Prime Minister to India in April and November, 2017.



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

No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
01	04.01.2018	Hon. Ranil Jayawardena, All Party Parliamentary Group of UK Parliament on Sri Lanka
02	04.01.2018	Hon. Taro Kono, Foreign Minister of Japan
03	04.01.2018	Dr. Subir Gokarn, Executive Director of IMF
04	15.01.2018	Hon. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & IT of India
05	16.01.2018	Mr. Micha Ramakers, Head of Sector South Asia of European Commission and the Delegation
06	17.01.2018	General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan
07	23.01.2018	Hon. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore
08	24.01.2018	Indonesian Business Delegation
09	25.01.2018	H E Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia
10	25.01.2018	Mr. Chikara Shimizu, Mr. Nimura Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) & Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) delegation of Japan
11	04.02.2018	Hon. Wang Qinmin, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People Political Consultative Committee
12	04.02.2018	Hon. Wataru Takeshita, President of Japan Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship League & Member of the House of Representative of Japan
13	26.02.2018	Hon. Kazuya Nashida, Assistant Foreign Minister of Japan
14	26.02.2018	Ms. Shelia Crowley, CEO of the US Peace Corps
15	07.03.2018	Special Envoy on the Mine Ban Convention HRH Prince Mired Road Al Hussain of Jordan
16	09.03.2018	Mr. Jeffrey Felthman, Under Secretary of UN
17	28.03.2018	Mr. James Quincey, the Global President and CEO of Coca Cola Company

No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
18	28.03.2018	Mr. Wang Xiquan, Chairman, China Bank
19	05.04.2018	Mr. Jan Zahradil, Chair of the INTA delegation
20	19.04.2018	Hon. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
21	04.05.2018	Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan
22	07.05.2018	Hon. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia
23	30.05.2018	US Congressional delegation led by Representative Mac Thornberry
24	19.06.2018	Dr. Mathew Morell, DG/International Rice Research Institute
25	06.07.2018	Ms. Rachael Grimes, President of International Federation of Accounts
26	11.07.2018	Hon. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of Bhutan
27	13.07.2018	Hon. Vijay Gokhle, Foreign Secretary of India
28	13.07.2018	General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand
29	16.07.2018	Belgian Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. (Prof) Petra De Sutter
30	19.07.2018	Ukrain Parliamentary delegation led by Honourable Oksana Bilozir
31	23.07.2018	Commander of the US Army Pacific General Robert B. Brown
32	24.07.2018	The Chief Monk of Wat Sangathan, Temple of Thailand
33	01.08.2018	Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary General
34	01.08.2018	Hon. (Dr) Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian Foreign Minister
35	06.08.2018	Swiss Former Federal Concillor Simonetta Sommaruga
36	21.08.2018	Hon. Itsunori Onodera, Minister of Defense of Japan
37	29.08.2018	Hon. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Foreign Minister of Japan
38	18.09.2018	Mr. Jonathan Nash Chief Operation Officer of the Millennium Challenge Cooperation

No.	Date	Name of Visiting Dignitary
39	21.09.2018	Hon. Milan Stech, President of the Senate of Parliament of the Czech Republic and the delegation
40	11.10.2018	Ambassador Alice Wells, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
41	11.10.2018	Honourable Satoshi Suzuki, Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy of Japan

04. Parliamentary and Legal Affairs

4.1. Parliamentary and Legal Affairs

The Prime Minister's Office is engaged in coordinating numerous legislative affairs coming under the purview of the Prime Minister and acts as the link between the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament.

4.1.1 Submission of Cabinet Memoranda and Notes to the Cabinet to the Cabinet of Ministers

This division has submitted 62 Cabinet Memoranda and 18 Notes to the Cabinet under various subjects from 01st January to 31st December, 2018.

The Prime Minister's Office takes action to implement the decisions and to take follow-up action.

4.1.2 Resolutions

The Prime Minister's Office peruses action to present the proposals referred to the Cabinet by H E the president in form of resolutions, and resolutions relevant to subjects coming under the preview of Prime Minister, in parliament for approval.

Accordingly, the following resolutions were submitted to the Parliament from 01st January 2018 to 31st December, 2018 and steps were taken for their implementation.

- Revision of Remuneration of the Chairman & the Deputy Chairman and Revision of the Allowances of Commission Members of the National Education Commission.
- Amend the salaries and allowances of the Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court.
- Adopt the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on stage vice restriction of Hydrofluorocarbons – HFC.
- Emoluments and other Allowances being paid to the Chairpersons and Members of Independent Commissions.
- Emoluments for the Chairman and the Members of the Office of Missing Persons.
- Determine the salary of the Auditor General, Mr. Gamini Wijesinghe.

4.1.3. Coordination Related to Legal Affairs

The Prime Minister's Office gets involved in legislation in respect of subject matters relating to development of Sri Lanka. The entire process from drafting Bills on various subjects to the passing of the same in Parliament, is coordinated by this division.

Accordingly, this division coordinated the enactment of the following statutes from the beginning of 2018 up to December, 2018.

- **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Act, No. 5 of 2018**

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Act, No. 5 of 2018 that is effective from 21st March 2018 made provisions to enforce International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to ensure the rights to justice and reparations of the victims.

- **National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018**

National Audit Act which came into effect on 01st August 2018 made provisions on powers, duties, and functions of the Audit Services Commission, establishment of the National Audit Office and the Public Audit Service of Sri Lanka and specifies the role of the Auditor General on public finance.

- **Act on Establishment of the Office for Reparations**

Establishment of the Office for Reparation Act No. 34 of 2018, which came into effect from 22nd October, 2018 made provision to be submitted in order to establish the office for Reparations to identify the victims to be compensated and compensate them individually and/or collectively

- **Bill on Counter Terrorism**

Measures were taken jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to publish the Bill on Counter Terrorism in the government gazette dated 17.09.2018 and direct the Parliament to make provisions to protect Sri Lanka and Sri Lankans from terrorism and offenses related to terrorism, for prevention of terrorism and other offences associated with terrorism committed within or outside Sri Lanka, for the prevention of the use of Sri Lankan territory and its people for the preparation for terrorism outside Sri Lanka, detection, apprehension, arrest, custody, detention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of any person who has committed an act of terrorism or any other offence

associated with terrorism and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and to rescind the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No. 48 Of 1979.

- **Bill on Establishment of Parliamentary Budget Office**

Measures are being taken at present to draft a basic legal framework to establish the Parliamentary Budget Office with the key objective of providing services and facilities to the Parliament and the Parliamentary Members.

- **Draft Bill on Lands (Special Provisions)**

This Bill which has been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers which was drafted to formulate a formal legal framework to grant permanent deeds for those who are entitled to State lands under the procedure of issuing permits, making grants or transferring State lands in view of expediting and properly organizing the process of transferring lands in the form of permits and grants in order to integrate government lands to achieve a more efficient land management jointly with the Ministry of Lands and Parliamentary Affairs.

- **Draft Bill on State Land Bank**

This Bill was drafted to formulate a formal legal framework to establish a bank for State lands with the objective of preparing a register of State lands or the lands transferred by the Government and the lands under the administration of the Government, to ease the process of land lease, and has been forwarded to the Cabinet of Ministers.

4.1.4 Attending to Court Cases

The Prime Minister's Office coordinates with the Attorney General's Department in respect of the Fundamental Rights cases and Writ cases filed at the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal wherein the Prime Minister is a respondent.

Accordingly, the following cases have been filed from 01st January to 31st December, 2018.

Supreme Court	-	30 Fundamental Right Cases
Court of Appeal	-	08 Writ Cases

4.1.5 Answering of Parliamentary Questions

Answers have been drafted for ten (10) questions raised from the Prime Minister by the Members of Parliament of the opposition and the ruling party with regard to the Ministries,

Department, Statutory Boards and the Corporations which come under the purview of HE the President and the Hon. Prime Minister.

- Answers have been drafted for eight (08) verbal questions on the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and Ministry of Defence which come under the purview of HE the president.
- Answers have been drafted for two (02) verbal questions with regard to the subjects of the Prime Minister's Office and that come under the purview of Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs.

Answers have been drafted for ten (10) questions referred to the Prime Minister under the Standing Order 27/2 of Parliament.

Answers are given for 04 verbal questions raised from the Prime Minister during the question time from the Prime Minister on the 1st Wednesday of every month which parliamentary session is held based on the policy matters of national importance. Accordingly, answers have been drafted for nineteen (19) verbal questions by 31.12.2018.

Answers have been drafted for (09) proposals on adjournment of the house.

4.1.6 Tabling of Parliamentary Reports

The Division pursued necessary action to table special reports on subjects coming under the purview of the President and Prime Minister such as Annual Reports, Performance Reports and Statements of Accounts in Parliament and 27 such reports on the following subjects have been tabled in Parliament.

- **Annual Reports**
 - (i) National Finance Commission - 2016
 - (ii) National Police Commission - 2014 - 2015
 - (iii) Audit Services Commission - 2017
 - (iv) Ranaviru Seva Authority - 2014
 - (v) Ranaviru Seva Authority - 2015
 - (vi) National Procurement Commission - 2017
- **Progress Reports**
 - (i) National Delimitation Commission - 2017

- **Quarterly Progress Reports**

- (i) Public Service Commission - Report of the first quarter
(01.01.2018-31.03.2018)
- (ii) Commission to Investigate Bribery or Corruption - Report of the Second quarter
(01.04.2018-30.06.2018)
- (iii) Public Service Commission - Report of the Second quarter
(01.04.2018-30.06.2018)

- **Performance Reports**

- (i) Elections Commission - 2017

- **Performance Reports and Accounts Reports**

- (i) Public Service Commission - 2017

- **Annual Reports and Accounts Statement**

- (i) Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) - 2016
- (ii) Judicial Service Commission - 2016
- (iii) Sri Lanka Foundation - (2012 – 2015)
- (iv) National Audit Service Commission – 2016
- (v) Sri Lanka Foundation – 2017
- (vi) National Procurement Commission – 2016
- (vii) National Police Commission - 2016

Observations of the following offices have been referred to the parliament under the submission of the measures taken by the Independent Commissions (in terms of the Standing Order 119 (4)).

- (i) Presidential Secretariat
- (ii) Prime Minister's Office
- (iii) Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)
- (iv) Human Rights Commission
- (v) Elections Commission
- (vi) Finance Commission
- (vii) National Police Commission
- (viii) Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption

05. National Reconciliation, Staff Welfare and Religious Affairs

5.1. National Reconciliation

5.1.1. Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)

The Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) was established in 2015, under the Prime Minister's Office, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. The main objective of the SCRM is to implement decisions, programs and processes related to reconciliation process in Sri Lanka.

The objectives of the SCRM

- 1) Implementation of Transitional Justice Mechanisms
- 2) Facilitating the Implementation of Non- Recurrence and Reconciliations
- 3) Capacity Building
- 4) Communications and Outreach
- 5) Ensure compliance with UNHRC Resolution 30/1 and 34/1

Key activities carried out by the SCRM are as follows;

(1) Implementation of Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Sri Lanka

- **Assist the Office on Missing Persons (OMP)**

Assisted the conducting of regional outreach/ consultation programmes (6 consultations) in Mannar, Matara, Mullativu, Trincomalee, Jaffna and Kilinochchi and provide assistances to the effective issuance of Certificates of Absence.

- **Assist the Office for Reparations**

Coordinated the Office for Reparations Bill - The Office for Reparations Bill was passed in Parliament on 22nd October, 2018 and is now in place as Office for Reparations Act, No.34 of 2018.

- **Assistance for the Establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

Coordinate the process of drafting the concept paper / Bill for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sri Lanka. The draft Bill received the Cabinet approval on 25th September 2018.

(2) Military Dialogues

The SCRM, with a clear understanding of the role of military in conflict and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, conducts Military Dialogue programme with the aim of enhancing the awareness and knowledge of transitional justice and reconciliation in the Defence Sector and thereby promote reconciliation process of Sri Lanka

Accordingly, 5- day ToT programme for 25 participants from military, PSD and Police was conducted in addition to the 12-day ToT programme conducted in Kotalawala Defence Academy.

Further, 9 Military Dialogue Sessions were also conducted in Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Jaffna, Ratmalana, Kalutara and Katunayake.

(3) “Ahanna” Campaign

Initiated and Implemented “Ahanna” campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media to sensitize the Government reconciliation agenda to the general public. The campaign has visited 44 towns and 10 schools for promoting reconciliation.

(4) Capacity Building Programmes

A Dialogue and Knowledge Sharing Programme on Transitional Justice was conducted for the officers of the Attorney General’s Department in July 2018.

In addition, initiatives have been taken to conduct similar programs in future for The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), AG’s Department, Legal Aid Commissions, Government Analyst’s Department/ JMO, and the Judiciary

(5) Follow- up on legal issues relating to transitional justice

SCRM follows-up on the progress of emblematic cases listed in UNHRC Resolution 30/1, matter of detained under the prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) allegedly committed by the military, attacks and threats committed against human rights defenders, Progress of the proposed amendment to the Victims and Witness Protection Act and the periodic progress of the Constitutional Assembly.

(6) Other Activities

SCRM facilitated the visit of Mr. Louis Bickford, Memorialization expert on his visit to Sri Lanka from 2- 6 July, 2018, conducted Donor Briefing events on 26th January 2018 and 20th June 2018, organized meetings for the Oversight Committees on Peace Building Fund (PBF) Projects, assisted the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media with regard to 'Enterprise Sri Lanka', Visited Jaffna, Mullativu and Kilinochchi to support development and reconciliation oriented Budget work in the Northern Province and coordinate the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021 (NHRAP) following up with relevant agencies on the implementation of the goals set out in such Action Plan.

5.2. Staff Welfare

Under the leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister's Office has conducted the following welfare activities in 2018.

5.2.1. Blood Transfusion Programme

The Annual Blood Donation Programme was successfully held on 05th April, 2018 at the auditorium of the Prime Minister's Office creating a precedent for state institutions to cater to the annual blood requirement of the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Around 200 personnel representing the staff of the Prime Minister's Office & the institutions affiliated to the Prime Minister's Office and the Prime Minister's Security Division extended their contribution towards the programme by donating blood.





5.2.2. Welfare

With the objective of further promoting employee welfare activities conducted by the Prime Minister's Office and in order to raise funds for the Welfare Society of the Prime Minister's Office, the stage drama "Reliya" with popular stage artist Tennison Cooray was staged on 31st August, 2018 before an audience of around 2,500 including the Hon. Prime Minister, Chief of Staff, and Minister of Project Management, Youth Affairs and Southern Development, Hon. Sagala Ratnayka, members of the staff of the Prime Minister's Office and their family members.

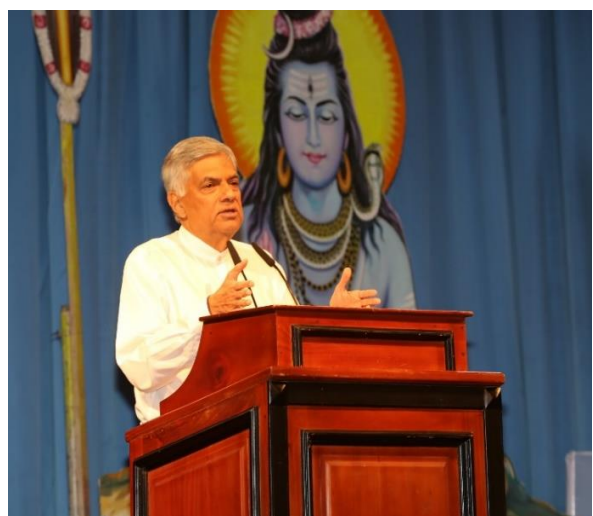


5.3. Religious Affairs

The Government has maintained a strong commitment towards ensuring religious harmony among Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian followers, through the celebration of key religious festivals of importance. Under the aegis of the Prime Minister, the following religious festivals were thus conducted.

5.3.1. Thai Pongal Festival

Thai Pongal festival was celebrated on 15th January 2018 at the Temple Trees together with the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Hindu Affairs. Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe attended as Chief Guest, and Opposition Leader, Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliament also attended.



5.3.2. Navam Perahara – Colombo

The Navam Perahara- 2018 which was jointly organized by the Gangarama Temple, Colombo 02 along with the Prime Minister's Office was conducted on the 28th of February and 01st of March, 2018, in grand scale, parading across the streets of Colombo.

The event was made colourful with the participation of around 44 elephants and tuskars and around 4000 artists with dances of Up Country, Low Country and Sabaragamuwa artistic traditions.

On 28th February 2018, the inaugural day of the pageant, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Prime Minister, graced the occasion when the Gold Casket containing Sacred Relics was ceremoniously placed on the majestic tusker.

A large number of local and foreign visitors were present to witness the event along the streets of Colombo and the event was broadcasted through several television channels for the benefit of a large number of viewers. The procession proved an important opportunity to the local artists to showcase their talents and also to preserve the artistic traditions of Sri Lanka



5.3.3. Exposition of Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha & Archaeological Objects at Temple Trees

The exhibition of Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha including Sacred Relics enshrined in the Mulagandha Kuti Vihara in Sarnath, India, Taxila Sacred Relics from Pakistan, Sacred Relics of Neelagiri and archeological objects from Nepal & Bhutan organized by the Prime Minister's Office along with Gangarama Temple, Colombo 02, was held from 29th April to

02nd of May 2018 at the Temple Trees. On 29th, the inaugural day, the opening was marked by the presence of Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister, Hon. Ministers, Members of Parliament and other distinguished guests.

The exhibition included stalls from the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Education, Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs, Central Cultural Fund, Department of National Museums, Department of National Archives, Department of Buddhist Affairs, National Crafts Council, Board of Handicrafts (Laksala), National Design Centre, Department of Ayurveda and Cultural Ministries of Provincial Councils namely, the Western, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Uva, Southern, Central and Eastern.

Many local and foreign visitors were present at the exhibition which was also broadcasted on several television channels. The event was a great opportunity to witness many items with religious and archeological importance including the sacred relics at one place.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, exhibition of Taxila Sacred Relics of Pakistan at District Level including Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Kandy and Colombo districts were held during the period from 03rd May to 16th May 2018 with the assistance of the chief incumbents of the religious places of relevant districts.





5.3.4. Buddha Rashmi Vesak Festival

Buddha Rashmi National Vesak Festival – 2018 jointly organized by the Gangarama Temple and the Prime Minister’s Office was held in grand manner from 29th April to 02nd of May 2018, covering the area of Gangarama Temple, Temple Trees, Beira Circular Road and Beira Lake.

The opening night of the Vesak Festival was held with the participation of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliament.

This event can be considered as a major religious and cultural festival that included special Buddhist artistic creations mounted on a floating stage in the Beira Lake, Buddhist ballets, street plays depicting various events in Buddhist Jathaka Stories, puppet shows, Vesak lanterns, Vesak pandols and various other artistic creations.

Millions of devotees, including local and foreign tourists were there to witness this event which was broadcasted over a number of television channels for the benefit of many viewers. This was a great opportunity for Sri Lankan artists to showcase their artistic skills as well.





5.3.5. The Annual Esala Pageant of the Valukarama Temple, Kolpetty

The annual Esala Pageant of the Valukarama Temple, Kolpetty was conducted on 07th September 2018, for the 55th time, and was organized by the Prime Minister's Office, with the objective of building national reconciliation through inter-religious harmony.

Hon. Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Members of the Parliament took part to grace the occasion. The pageant held in a grand manner with the participation of numerous elephants and tuskers, included various and colorful dances of up country, low country and Sabaragamuwa artistic traditions.

Many devotees including local and foreign tourists were present to witness this event which was broadcasted over a number of TV channels for the benefit of countless viewers.



5.3.5. Ifthar Festival

The Ifthar Festival, celebrated by the Muslims, was held on 05th June, 2018 with the participation of Maulavi (Chief Priest) and other 1300 devotees under the patronage of Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, at Temple Trees.



06. Redress for Public Complaints and Grievances

6.1. Referring Public Complaints and Grievances Received by the Prime Minister's Office to Relevant State Institutions and Follow-up Actions

Public Relations Division is established, in order to expeditiously handle the problems and grievances referred to the Prime Minister, in an effective and efficient manner. This Division which is functioning under the direct supervision of the Secretary to the Prime Minister has a staff of around 25 members, including two Consultants (Public Relations) to the Prime Minister and a Director.

This Division also does necessary co-ordination for the purpose of finding expeditious solutions to public complaints and requests pertaining to all state organizations. Further, the Division takes follow-up action with regard to the public complaints while following progress achieved by various institutions with regard to the fulfillment of requirements of the general public. In addition, the Division is concerned with the improvement of public relations skills in State institutions, enhancement of facilities and strengthening of public relations strategies.

Objectives

- Improvement of attention pertaining to efficient delivery and streamlining of services
- Facilitation of finding solutions to problems pertaining to public requirements
- Improvement of management process pertaining to public relations concerns in public service
- Proper monitoring of evaluation process pertaining to public relations and access to resolving strategies
- Compilation of a programme to ensure active contribution of State institutions, private sector agencies and political organizations towards settlement of public complaints and improvement of such skills and capacities.
- Facilitation of consultations on behalf of the general public and introduction of co-ordination required for resolving problems
- Identification and strengthening of information technology connectivity for public relations and resolving of problems

- Improvement of community capabilities through participatory development accesses, dialogues and communication and introduction of methods to ensure community participation
- Professional enhancement and introduction of strategies for progression and facilitation of public services

Strategies

The Prime Minister's Office, under the direct supervision of the Hon Prime Minister has taken steps to introduce following strategies for strengthening public relations and giving due attention to the public complaints.

- Establishment of a separate Public Relations Unit under the Prime Minister's Office and thereby providing a suitable and convenient place for the general public to lodge their complaints.
- Establishment of Public Relations Cells connecting all major State institutions in order to strengthen connectivity between the Prime Minister's Office and State institutions.
- Ensure State's responsiveness, accountability and responsibility pertaining to solving public problems and establish a mechanism to review solving process of such complaints through the introduction of a follow-up system.
- Identification of classifications of public complaints and thereby creating policy connectivity for generally minimizing such grievances through an analytical access to public complaints.
- Introduction of an Information Technology instrument for solving public problems and developing such information technology process towards more expeditious accesses to solve public complaints by establishing an institutional network connectivity.
- Introduction of various strategies through management and policy dialogues required for fulfillment of public requirements and solving of problems.

Public Requests /Complaints Received and Actions Taken & the Progress

Month	Total number of letters received	Total number of letters replied
January	4739	2956
February	3069	1458
March	3974	2510
April	3057	1925
May	5446	3374
June	2534	1831
July	5238	3432
August	5633	3649
September	4172	2794
October	3525	2503
November	2544	2129
December	2375	2082
Total	46306	30643

Summary Details

Total number of letters received and answered	30643
Acknowledgements Received	8777
Total numbers of letters were filed as Copies	6200
Letters to be attended as at 31.12.2018	686
Total Number of Letters received	<u>46306</u>

Progress on number of days taken to reply for Public Requests after establishment of the Unit

The Unit is expecting real time delivery and attending solution with respective information technology solution

Stage	Number of days taken to reply
Initial Stage	10 days
2 nd Stage	9.05 days
3 rd Stage	4.38 days
4 th Stage	3.38 days
Expectation in Next Stage	1-day service

Future Plans

- **Strengthening Internet Facilities**

Establishment of a network to solve public complaints through internet facilities, thereby strengthening connectivity with relevant institutions through E-technological facilities and effective co-ordination of problems through E-technology.

- **Establishment of Public Connectivity Network**

Identification of Institutional network connected with the Prime Minister's Office. Further strengthening of public relations in State service by establishing Public Relations Units in every institution.

- **Introduction of Citizens and Public Charter**

Introduction of a Citizens Charter containing policies pertaining to rendering public services in a more streamlined, efficient and responsive manner and thereby creating a creditable mechanism pertaining to delivery of public services.

- **Strengthening of Trade Union Relations**

Identification of strategies for solving institutional and vocational problems through relationships with trade unions in order to deliver institutional services. Co-ordination and capacity development required for minimizing vocational actions obstructing delivery of public services.

6.2. Facilities Provided to Submit Public Complaints / Grievances via Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office




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ரணில் விக்கிரமசிங்க

Ranil Wickremesinghe

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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

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பிரதம அமைச்சர் அலுவலகம்

Prime Minister's Office





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Prime Minister's Office

58, Sir Earnest De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 07.

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Location



07. Establishment Matters

7.1. Human Resources Development

With the aim of enhancing quality of the services by facilitating the efficiency and effectiveness of the staff of the Prime Minister's Office, the officials have been provided local and foreign training opportunities to augment their knowledge, skills and attitudes. Accordingly, such programmes undertaken from 01st January to 31st December, 2018 are as follows.

• Local Training/Post Graduate Programmes

No	Course	Training Institute	Duration	Number of Participants
1	Diploma in English for Junior Executives	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	10 Weeks from 04.01.2018	05
2	English for IELTS	British Council	25.01.2018	01
3	Certificate in English for Employment Purposes (CEEP)	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	30.01.2018	02
4	Project Management & Proposal Writing	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	29.01.2018 30.01.2018	01
5	File Management & General Administration & E Code	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	21.02.2018 23.02.2018	01
6	Advanced MS Excel Skills	PRAG Institute	21.02.2018 22.02.2018	01
7	Master of Regional Development & Planning (MRDP)	University of Colombo	1 Year	01
8	Computerized Government Payroll System (Payroll)	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	26.02.2018 28.02.2018	03
9	Basic Report Writing Skills	Miloda-Academy of Financial Studies	21.03.2018 23.03.2018	01
10	Diploma in Diplomacy and Word Affairs	Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI)	1 Year	01

No	Course	Training Institute	Duration	Number of Participants
11	Master of Public Management (MPM) Degree Programme	Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration	Academic year of 2016-2018	01
12	Diploma in English for Junior Executives	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	10 Weeks from 26.04.2018	03
13	Training Programme on Essence of Procurement Management	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	05.07.2018	02
14	Tamil Language Training Programme	Department of Official Languages	50 Hours from 14.07.2018	26
15	Diploma in English for Junior Executives	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	10 Weeks from 03.09.2018	01
16	Workshop on Event Management	National Institute of Business Management	15.09.2018	02
17	Workshop on Attitudes & Professional Development of Drivers	Skills Development Fund LTD	28.09.2018 29.09.2018	11
18	Training Programme on Hospitality Management for Employees of the Office Employee Service	Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management	29.09.2018	18
19	Master of Business Administration	University of Colombo	2018/2020	01
20	Financial Regulations in the Public Sector	Miloda Academy of Financial Studies	26.11.2018 28.11.2018	03

- **Foreign Training Programmes**

No	Course	Country	Duration	Number of Participants
01	Master of Development Studies	Australia	15.01.2018 31.07.2019	01
02	Master of Development Studies	Australia	15.01.2018 31.12.2018	01
03	Understanding the Digital Economy	India	21.02.2018 22.02.2018	01
04	Executive Training Program for Macroeconomic Policy Makers in Asia/ Macroeconomic Seminar for Asia (JIMS)-2018	Japan	26.02.2018 26.03.2018	01
05	Public Service: 2030 and Beyond	Singapore	09.04.2018 13.04.2018	01
06	2018 Seminar on the Management of Free Trade Zone	China	18.04.2018 08.05.2018	01
07	International Trade in Goods and Services	India	14.05.2018 18.05.2018	01
08	2018 Promoting Development Under Belt & Road Initiative for Developing Countries	China	23.05.2018 12.06.2018	03
09	Annual International Training Course on Sufficiency Economy Practices in Community-Based and Economic Development	Thailand	04.06.2018 06.07.2018	01
10	2018 MCC DCO Leadership Conference	USA	25.06.2018 29.06.2018	01
11	Master's Degree in Urban Development	Korea	09.08.2018 12.01.2020	01

No	Course	Country	Duration	Number of Participants
12	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Thailand	30.09.2018 14.10.2018	01
13	SME Financing – Approaches and Strategies (SMEFAS)	India	12.11.2018 21.12.2018	01
14	Public Expenditure Management	India	26.11.2018 14.12.2018	01

7.2. Making use of Information and Communication Technology Towards the Enhancement of Productivity

In conformity with the E-Gov policy, the primary objective of the Information and Communication Technology Division is to identify and take actions with regard to ICT needs in the Prime Minister's Office and fulfill the ICT requirements to implement State policies and programs. Accordingly, following information and communication technology needs are being performed by the division.

- **Prime Minister's Office Official Website**

The official website of the Prime Minister's Office is frequently updated to disseminate timely and accurate information to its users.

- **Prime Minister's Office E-Mail Service**

Based on latest technology, it has been possible to maintain trusted and effective internal email service at the Prime Minister's office.

- **ICT Infrastructure Enhancement**

The network facilities have been enhanced added in with Wi-Fi facilities at the Temple Trees premises and the Prime Minister's Office premises. With these enhancements, the use of ICT in the Prime Minister's office has been increased commendably.

- **Developing of software for internal uses of the Prime Minister's Office**

The software required to facilitate the internal organizational needs of the Prime Minister's office has been developed by this Division. Accordingly, software developed to follow up of the Cabinet Decisions has been implemented. Also, the software system developed for the transport management of the Prime Minister's Office is on a test run.

In addition to the above main tasks, the Information and Communication Technology Division perform the ICT needs of the Prime Minister's Office as needed.

7.3. Office of the Chief of Staff

This division was established under the Prime Minister's Office as per Cabinet decisions Nos. 15/0004/602/001 of 21.01.2015, 15/0044/602/008 of 05.02.2015 and 15/1253/702/003 of 09.09.2015. The post of the Chief of Staff was initially held by Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka. Since the election in August, 2015 he continues to attend to the duties of this post in addition to his portfolio of a Cabinet minister. A total of 30 staff members have been approved for this office.

The Chief of Staff is responsible for the selection of personal staff of Prime Minister and their supervision, deployment of staff, monitoring of political and people's representatives' affairs and management of information etc. In addition, the Chief of Staff handles the appointment diary schedule of Prime Minister and attends to Prime Minister's important visitors including both local and foreign. Very often he performs the representative duties to brief such visitors on behalf of the Prime Minister.

08. Financial Progress

8.1. Financial Progress

Financial provisions for the annual expenditure of the Office of the Prime Minister were allocated under the Expenditure Head No.2 of the Annual Budget Estimate. These provisions have been set apart for the expenditure of Recurrent and Capital under 05 main projects and 01 sub project. Total provisions amounting to Rs.1,962.7 Mn. consists of Rs.1,128.6 Mn. towards the recurrent expenditure and Rs.834.1 Mn. towards the capital expenditure for the year 2018. Accordingly, the summary of the financial progress of the year 2018 are as follows:

Projects/Sub Project	Total Provision (Rs. Mn.)		Financial Progress Up to 31.12.2018 (Rs. Mn.)			
	Recurrent	Capital	Recurrent		Capital	
Office of the Prime Minister	449.6	297	403.9	89.8%	74.7	25.1%
General Administration and Establishment Services	281.3	24.1	257.2	91.3%	16	66.3%
National Media Center (NMC)	43.5	8.0	34.9	80.2%	0.3	3.7%
Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)	261.4	5.0	124.6	47.6%	1.5	30%
Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)	49.8	500	23.5	46.9%	-	-
Japan-Sri Lanka Joint Comprehensive Partnership Secretariat (JCP) (Sub Project)	43.0	-	14.7	34.1%	-	-
Total	1,128.6	834.1	858.8	76.1%	92.5	11.1%

Under the projects and sub project of the Office of the Prime Minister, the annual expenditure consists of expenses of Administration, Supplies, Maintenance, Acquisition of Capital Assets, Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets, relating to the activities of Temple Trees premises, Prime Minister's Office, Visumpaya, Official Residences of the Prime Minister in Nuwara Eliya and Bentota, National Media Center, Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms, Japan-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Partnership Secretariat(JCP) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.