

Performance Report – 2015
Department of National Planning

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1. Vision, Mission, Functions and Responsibilities of the Department

Vision

To be the most competent development advisor and facilitator to the Nation.

Mission

Optimizing the use of country's limited resources through adopting a well-planned approach for development of policies, programmes and projects by maintaining the highest level of professionalism while continuous upgrading of the planning skills to the international standard.

Core Responsibilities

- Preparation of Long Term/ Medium Term Development Plans and the Public Investment Programme and facilitating line agencies to prepare sectoral plans, programmes and projects
- Development of the macro economic framework and strategies
- Review economic development polices, strategies and programmes
- Appraisal of project proposals submitted by line agencies
- Provision of technical inputs for the preparation of the Capital Budget
- Preparation and updating of the Project Pipe-line
- Implementation of special tasks assigned to the Department in relation to the project planning and policy development
- Capacity Development of staff
- General Administration

2. Divisions and the Clusters of the Department

In order to carry out the functions of the department smoothly, the Department has been divided into 11 clusters and the clusters again subdivided into 26 sectors covering all the

areas of economic development. Each Sector is responsible for Policy formulation, Plan preparation and other development activities of the line Ministries and Departments.

Clusters of the Department

- Macro Economic Development
- Agriculture, Irrigation, Land, livestock and Fisheries
- Industries & Trade
- Infrastructure – Road, Ports & Transport
- Urban Development, Housing, Water and Environment
- Power & Energy
- Health & Indigenous Medicine
- Education, Higher Education & Skills Development, IT, Science and Technology
- Regional Development & Social Protection
- Public Management and Governance

In addition, there are three separate units to carry out functions relates to information dissemination and administration of the Department.

- Center for Development Information
- Administration Unit
- Finance Unit

3. Sector Wise Performance

3.1 Agriculture, Irrigation and Land

Agriculture Sector

The agriculture sector, though it showed a declining trend over the past few years in respect to the contribution to the GDP, continuous to be the back bone of Sri Lankan economy as it provides employments for about 28.5 percent of the work force (2014) and forms the resource base for a number of agro-based industries as well as the services in the economy. The sector simulates the growth of all other sectors and the entire economy through the integration of value chain linkages.

Crop Agriculture

Crop agriculture constitutes of paddy, vegetables, other field crops (OFCs), fruits, export agricultural crops including spices, floriculture & foliage plants. Approximately 0.9 mn ha is occupied by these crops being the paddy accounts the majority; nearly 70% of the land extent used by these crops.

The total capital investment on crop agriculture in 2015 was around Rs. 4.8 billion and in addition about Rs. 35 billion has been spent for the fertilizer subsidy.

Special events:

- Presented the overview of government involvement in the rice sector in Sri Lanka with especial reference to the article on “Rice in Asia”, published in the magazine "Economist", to the relevant stakeholders
- Prepared an article on “Rice Puzzle” to publish in new paper
- Prepared Agriculture Sector Development Interventions in the North East Development Plan
- Prepared Agriculture Sector Development Interventions in the Pollonnaruwa Development Plan

Tasks completed by the agriculture sector of NPD

- Appraised 08 project proposals and submitted observations to the Department of National Budget and to the Department of External Resources.
- Submitted 04 Cabinet observations for the Cabinet Memoranda forwarded by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Submitted comments for 02 Aide Memoire to the Department of External Resources
- Prepared the project pipeline related to the agriculture sector.
- Participated progress review meetings and policy review meetings.

Plantation Sector

Plantation sector that mainly consists of tea, rubber and coconut plays a pivotal role in the economy of Sri Lanka by contributing 2% to the GDP. In addition, sugar, palm oil, cashew and palmyrah also make a contribution for the development of plantation sector. Plantation sector is dominated mainly by smallholders and contributes nearly 70% of the total production. The remaining 30% is supplemented by the Regional Plantation Companies and state owned plantation companies.

Tasks completed by the agriculture sector of NPD

- Appraised 30 project proposals and submitted observations to the Department of National Budget and to the Department of External Resources.
- Submitted 05 Cabinet observations for the Cabinet Memoranda related to the plantation sector.
- Submitted comments for 01 Aide Memoire to the Department of External Resources.
- Participated progress review meetings and policy review meetings.

Livestock

The Livestock sector plays a multiple role in the livelihood development of the people and comprises mainly with diary, poultry, swine, goat and sheep sub sectors. The sector presently contributes 0.8% to the GDP, ensure food and nutritional security, provide employment and improve economic and social status of the community.

The total allocation for this sector was Rs. 8,573 million in 2015. The capital expenditure of Rs.8,490 million was allocated mainly for the development of the livestock sector through the importation of dairy animals, modernization of processing factories of MILCO, livestock health improvement programme and research and capacity development.

- Prepared Livestock Sector Development Interventions in the North East Development Plan
- Appraised 10 project proposals and submitted observations to the Department of National Budget and Department of External Resources

- Prepared the project pipeline related to the Fishery sector
- Participated progress review meetings and policy review meetings.

Irrigation and Land Sector

Total expenditure of the irrigation sector in 2015 amounted to Rs. 50.27 bn. of which Rs. 44.58 bn was on capital expenditure. Under Water Resources Development, Mahaweli Water Security Investment Programme, Gin-Nilwala Diversion project, Thalpitigala Reservoir project and Kivul Oya Project are continued. A number of rehabilitation projects have also been undertaken to provide water for agriculture and the other water uses.

Total expenditure of the Land sector in 2015 amounted to Rs. 7,246 mn of which Rs. 3,006 mn was on capital expenditure. A significant amount of public expenditure has been made in land title programme (Bim Saviya) (Rs. 413 mn), land acquisition for state purposes (Rs. 2,045 mn), Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Committee/LLRC (Rs. 134 mn) and other development programmes (Rs. 414 mn) during 2015.

Special studies undertaken:

- Preparation of irrigation and land sector completed and on ongoing development projects reports for Ministry of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs.
- Preparation of North and East Development plan for donor assistance with the collaboration of district planning secretariats of the two provinces.

Tasks completed of the irrigation sector by NPD

- Appraised 8 irrigation and Land project proposals, submitted observations to the Department of National Budget and Department of External Resources.
- Submitted 5 Cabinet observations for the Cabinet memoranda forwarded by the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and Ministry of Lands.

- Provided technical inputs to prepare a Terms of Reference (ToR) for river basins investment plans under the Climate Resilience Improvement Project (CRIP).
- Provided technical inputs to prepare an additional financing of Climate Resilience Improvement Project (CRIP).
- Participated in Steering committee meetings of the Moragahakanda & Kaluganga Reservoirs Development Project, Dam Safety and Water Resources Management Project, Iranamadu Irrigation Development project and Climate Resilience Improvement Project (CRIP) and Mahaweli Water Security Investment Programme.
- Participated in progress review meetings and Policy review meetings of ongoing development projects.

Fisheries

The fisheries sector in Sri Lanka has been considered as one of the major potential areas for expansion of the economy. The sector plays a vital role with respect to provision of direct and indirect employment opportunities for 560,000 and livelihood for 2.6 million people, generation of income, foreign exchange earnings and to maintain food security in the country.

The total allocation for this sector was Rs. 6081 million in 2015. The capital expenditure of Rs. 4497 million was allocated mainly to develop fisheries infrastructure including harbours, anchorages and landing sites, increase inland and aquaculture fish production and to improve the socio economic status of the fishing community.

- Prepared Fishery Sector Development Interventions in the North East Development Plan
- Appraised 25 project proposals and submitted observations to the Department of National Budget and Department of External Resources
- Submitted 06 cabinet observations for the Cabinet Memoranda forwarded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development
- Prepared the project pipeline related to the Fishery sector
- Participated progress review meetings and policy review meetings

3.2 Power and Energy Sector

Electricity:

- The total installed capacity and electricity generation of Sri Lanka are 3392MW and 12,357Gwh respectively. The maximum demand is 2152MW. Sri Lanka's electricity requirement increased at an average rate of 5-7% annually and in future, the energy demand will be increased by 4-6 %. This requires approximate additions of about 200MW each year through low cost power generation options.
- The electrification level (access to electricity) is almost 98% at the moment and government expects to increase it up to 100% during 2015/16. It is observed that 270,000 families in the country are not still being provided electricity either through grid or off grid options.
- The overall transmission and distribution losses encountered for 10.5% which showed a lower position compared to most of the countries in the region and it is expected to reduce upto 8% by 2020.

Petroleum Sector

Down Stream Petroleum Industry

Present Status:

- Current oil demand of Sri Lanka is about 100 kilo barrels per day and will grow further at about 5% per annum. The government spends approximately US\$ 5000-5500mn per year to import petroleum products.

Upstream Petroleum Industry

Present Status:

Based on the volumetric analysis carried out in Mannar Basin, it was revealed that Sri Lanka has a good potential of commercially viable natural gas which can be used for future energy requirements of the country. The current challenges are to further analyze the economic viability of the discovery, identify and quantify the sectoral impact of domestic gas production in terms of demand, economy and environment.

Power and Energy Sector Contribution to the development of the country

Projects Approved during 2015

During this period 11 projects were approved by the Department of National Planning for the energy sector developments.

In addition, following activities were done by Power and Energy Sector of the Department of National Planning during 2013 period.

- Provided observations to 04 Cabinet papers including direct and supportive observations
- Prepared observations for the energy sector missions
- Assisted to prepare petroleum pricing formula.
- Prepared issues and concept papers related to energy sector

3.3 Economic Infrastructure , Transport , Road, Ports, and Civil Aviation

Road Sector

Government's development policy highlights that the road network of the country has to be developed in order to facilitate the economic growth of the country by creating an efficient road network connecting large and emerging cities, urban and economic centers, rural hubs while ensuring safety and equity. This has created several challenges such as, ensure high mobility among growth centers, emerging cities and provincial capitals, respond to the increasing travel demand of people and goods, increase capacity of the existing network to facilitate rising number of vehicles, remove bottlenecks of the road network such as narrow and weak bridges, provide space for pedestrians, sustainable maintenance of existing road network and ensure accident free roads.

Transport

The government is of the view to enhance the capacity of the transport sector to achieve the required dynamism to cater to the continuously growing demand for land transportation in a lower middle income country. Therefore, sustained investment was continued mainly on developing transport related infrastructure specially the railway infrastructure such as railway tracks, rolling stocks and signaling system, and development of inter-modal transport system. This kind of interventions in the sector aims to transform the sector to be customer oriented, efficient and competitive. In addition, the government intends to provide a solution to heavy traffic congestion in major corridors through promoting public transport modes.

Ports

Sri Lanka ports and shipping sector was able to improve container handling as well as the number of ship arrivals during the year 2015 although it showed a drop in number of ship arrivals in 2013. The total cargo handling in ports increased by 4.3 percent to 77.6 million in MT and total container handling increased by 5.3 percent to 5.6 million TEUs compares to 2014.

Civil Aviation

Bandaranayke International Airport (BIA) shows a steady growth in handling passengers, air cargo and aircraft movements. It handled 8.5 million passengers in 2015, which was a 9 percent growth compares to 2014. Total number of aircrafts movement handled by the BIA increased to 58,729 indicating a growth of 6 percent and total air cargo handling increased to 215,032 MT by 12 percent.

Special Events

- Appraised 11 new projects and programmes submitted by the relevant line ministries.
- Prepared the Project Pipeline for the Road, Transport, Port, and Aviation sectors.
- Provided technical inputs to the relevant ministries in formulating the respective policies and strategies.
- Prepared chapters on Road, Transport, Port, and Aviation sectors for the policy document
- Prepared chapters on Road, Transport, Port, and Aviation sectors for Northern and Eastern Province Development Plan
- Perpetration of Public Investment table for 2015-2018 (draft)
- Analysis of current sector related issues
- Prepared Observations on cabinet memoranda and policy papers submitted by the Ministry of Higher Education & Highways, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Port & Aviation or any ministry that submits Cabinet Memoranda relating to road and transport
- Submitted total of 21 Cabinet observations for Cabinet memoranda.
- Participated nearly 20 meetings including Steering Committee , Progress Review and Foreign Missions

3.4 Housing, Urban Development, Water and Sanitation and Environment

Ministry of Housing & Construction and Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development are coming under the purview of these two sectors.

Within year 2015, Cabinet Observations have been provided to 08 Cabinet Memoranda and 13 project proposals have been appraised for the Ministry of Housing & Construction. In the same time, 06 Cabinet Observations have been provided and 22 project proposals have been appraised on behalf of the Ministry of Megapolis & Western Development.

Special Activities

- Preparation of concept papers for Housing & Urban Development sectors incorporating future development strategies.
- Assisting the launch of “Semata Sewana” housing programme specially targeting vulnerable people island wide to assure decent living for all.
- Preparation of Project Pipeline.
- Preparation of “ Development Plan for Northern & Eastern Provinces”
- Conduction of a series of discussion with construction industry agencies in order to facilitate the development of local construction industry.

Water Supply:

The need for water facility is not only fundamental to all citizens in the country but also prerequisite for the socio economic development of the country. Therefore, the policy direction of the government is to provide equitable access to safe drinking water & sanitation for the entire population in order to increase socio economic condition as well as living standards of the people in the country while accommodating increasing demand of water supply of the commercial and industrial sector. Accordingly, the sectoral investment priorities in this year as well as during the medium term mainly focuses on bridging the gaps of regional disparities in water and sanitation facilities while giving area based high priority in providing good quality water to the areas where there is high prevalence of CKDu. At the same time rural community based water supply will also be promoted to provide pipe water to the villages with less density.

Sector Specific Activities completed:

- 16 project proposals, received from the Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply and other relevant institutes, were screened and submitted appraisals of 13 projects to the relevant departments such as Department of National Budget and Department of External Resources.
- Submitted Cabinet observations for the 03 Cabinet Memoranda forwarded by the Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply.
- Preparation of draft sectoral Public Investment Programme (2015-2018).
- Submitted comments on 10 Aide Memoires pertaining to the development projects to the Department of External Resources.
- Participated around 30 meetings including Steering Committee meetings, progress review meetings and foreign missions meetings.
- Preparation of sectoral chapter for Northern and Eastern Development Plan.
- Preparation of sectoral project pipeline.

Environment

The national policy of this sector is to facilitate a robust economic growth with required investment while taking measures to ensure environmental quality and safety of Sri Lanka by reducing potential disaster risks and impacts on people, property and the economy leading to sustainable development.

With growing populations and increasing demand for food, water, energy, land, and other natural resources, the world faces a massive challenge in achieving a vision for a green, clean, and resilient development. Climate change, which is both an outcome and a driver of further environmental degradation, presents a special set of challenges. The accelerating impacts of climate change are narrowing the options for sustainable development, shortening the time frame for addressing poverty, and requiring a move toward cleaner, more efficient and equitable patterns of growth.

Therefore, environment can be considered as a cutting edge sector in development economies and it is an emerging area in the territory of economic science. Environment sector aims at achieving low carbon, clean and green environment, reduced pollution, rich biodiversity and ecosystem services, reduction of environment risk, efficient and sustainable resource

consumption resulting improved human well-being, social equity and reduced natural disaster impacts.

To derive the eco-benefits; Environmental Pollution Control, Forest Conservation and Development, Sustainable Land Management, Wildlife-Human Coexistence, Bio Resource Conservation and Institutional Restructuring and Promotion will be followed as major policy directions under the environment sector public investment program.

Following are key targets of the environment sector;

- To create a country with proper waste management with no waste issue by 2018
- Make the marine environment around the island a pollution free zone by 2018
- Increase the Green Cover from 29.7% to 32% by 2018 with increase of 60,000 ha of forest
- Erection and maintenance of 3,050 km of electric fence simultaneously with the live fence to eliminate Human-Elephant conflict by 2025
- Increase the electric vehicles up to 25% of the total vehicles imported by 2020
- increase the contribution of renewable energy to national grid up to 20% by 2020
- Substantially reduce disaster related mortality by 2030, compared to 2005-2015
- Improve the accuracy of weather forecast from 70% up to 72% by 2018
- Eradication of life losses due to landslides by 2018
- Reduce flood affected people by 50% in 2018

Special Events

- Appraising 21 project proposals submitted by relevant line ministries
- Providing observations to 11 Cabinet Memoranda submitted by relevant line ministries
- Prioritization of projects under the environmental management sector
- Providing necessary technical assistance to relevant line ministries and agencies for preparation of policies and strategies

3.5 Industries, Trade, Tourism, Labour and Foreign Employment

This cluster consists of five sub divisions namely, Industry, Trade and Investment, Tourism, Labour and Foreign Employment.

Industry Division

The Industry division mainly consists of three sub sectors; Industries, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Since, the Government has identified Industry Sector as a main driver for the economic development and sustainability, the Department of National Planning focuses to strengthen Industries, SMEs and SOEs through providing necessary inputs and interventions to achieve overall development objectives of the country. The Government's policy on Industry sector aims at supporting private sector development in export oriented industries with emphasis on the diversification of products and geographical location and more effective industrial harmony, high value added and productivity driven industrialization. It aims at creating a diversified, environment friendly, value added, regionally distributed and globally competitive industry sector. With the aim of supporting to achieve these objectives the division has completed the following tasks during the year 2015.

Tasks Completed

- Apprised 30 project proposals and the observations were submitted to the Department of National Budget, Department of External Resources and to the other relevant line agencies.
- Prepared Cabinet Observations for 06 Cabinet Memoranda submitted by the line ministries.
- Provided technical assistance for the preparation of "National policy Framework for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)Development"

- Conducted a workshop on Economic Corridor Development with the participation of all stakeholders in collaboration with ADB and provided technical support to conduct the study.
- Cleared the Missions visited the country related to Industry sector and provided comments for the Aide Memorandum submitted by the different development partners such as World Bank, ADB through the Department of External Resources

Tourism

Tourism sector is the third largest foreign exchange earner in the country. The current contribution of tourism sector to GDP is around 3.5 percent. In 2015, the number of tourist arrivals to the country is around 1.79 million and consequently, the tourist earnings also increased to US\$ 2.92 billion in 2015. Since tourism is a private sector driven industry, the government plays the role of a facilitator by creating a conducive environment. The following activities related to the tourism industry were carried out during the year 2015.

Special Activities

- The total number of project proposals received from the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religion Affairs is 2 and out of that 2 proposals were recommended for funding.
- Observations were provided for 1 Cabinet Memorandum

Labour and Foreign Employment Sector

The labour and foreign employment policy intended to protect and foster rights of the workers and achieving healthy industrial relations which are essential to achieving economic progress. In this context, while enforcing existing laws and regulations, all necessary reforms need to be made to meet the emerging circumstances and to bring them in line with international best practices. Having identified this need, the following activities were completed during 2015.

- Appraised three project proposals.
- Submitted observations for three Cabinet Memoranda and Aid memos.
- Prepared the labour and foreign employment sector note and the list of projects for the 2016-2018 Public Investment Programme, Economic Development Plan and National Development Policy.
- Updated the project pipeline.

- Collate data on defaulters of Employment Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees Trust Fund (ETF).
- Prepared an update of national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy for the 70th Session of the UNGA.

3.6 Health, Culture, Religion, National Integration and Indigenous medicine

Health

A healthy nation is vital to cater the impressive economic growth of the country. Hence, Government policy on health sector is to improve National Health Service targeting a healthy nation with necessary institutional & policy reforms and increased investment on health.

- Apprised 33 project proposals are recommended for implementation. The observations were submitted to the Department of National Budget, Department of External Resources and to the relevant line agencies.
- Prepared Cabinet Observations for 6 Cabinet Memoranda submitted by Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine.
- Provided required inputs to prepare action plan for Health Sector Development Project.
- Conducted several meetings and provided observations/ inputs to officials of WHO, World Bank, KOICA, JICA etc. to obtain financial assistance for the implementation of foreign funded projects.
- Provided necessary inputs to prepare Multi Sectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of NCD's
- Analyzed health sector need for Northern and Eastern provinces and prepared an action plan for health sector development in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Performance Report Religious, Cultural, National Heritage and National Language and Social Integration Sector

This sector consists with seven ministries such as Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Ministry of Rehabilitation Resettlement and Hindu Affairs, Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs, Ministry of Post, postal services and Muslim Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayaba Development and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education and Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Language. These seven ministries cover fields of

Buddhism, Hindu, Christianity and Muslim, Cultural, Heritage, National Archives, National Museums, Official Languages and Social Integration.

Special Events

- Prepared 02 Cabinet Observations for Cabinet Memoranda
- Appraised 51 project proposals during the year of 2015
- Participated the steering committee meeting in Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Language.

Sports Sector

The sports sector has made considerable progress in winning medals at international sports events such as Asian Youth Athletic, Doha Open International boxing Campaign, Asian Grand prix, 21st Asian Athletic Championship, Thailand Open Athletic Championship, 5th Common Wealth Youth Sports Championship, 8th Common Wealth Karate Championship, Thailand Junior Athletics Sports Championship, 25th International Open Karate Championships, Asian Athletic Championship, Common Wealth Weight Lifting Championship, Malaysia Open Athletic Sports Championship etc. Government invested on Sports sector mainly targeting to improve necessary infrastructure facilities. The following tasks were completed by the Department of National Planning during the year 2015.

- Appraised 04 project proposals and recommended for implementation. The observations were submitted to the Department of National Budget, Department of External Resources and to the relevant line agencies.
- Prepared Cabinet Observation for 01 Cabinet Memorandum submitted by the Ministry of Sports and Tourism.
- Conducted meetings with Ministry of Sports and Tourism and other relevant agencies to clarify some issues of project proposals submitted by the Ministry of Sports and Tourism.

3.7 Education, Higher Education, Skill Development, ICT, Technology and Research

Education

The school education system in Sri Lanka aims to generate balanced individuals who are not just equipped with knowledge, but also with skills, aptitudes, values and attitudes to cope up with the challenges of a knowledge driven economy. The Education sector has achieved major milestones in the year of 2015 in line with the vision of creating a Knowledge Economy.

Year 2015 was marked as the year where discussions on many policy reforms were initiated in the sector including 13 years of compulsory education, establishment of school boards and teacher recruitment and management. Major emphasis was placed on development of quality of education with focused efforts to improve the quality of teachers and promotion of interactive ways of learning, especially e-learning.

Tasks Completed

- Actively participated in the discussions on the way forward of the General Education Sector held with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders.
- Participated in the Steering Committee Meetings and organized and participated in Mission Meetings of Education Sector Development Programme (ESDP) and Transforming School Education System as a Foundation of a Knowledge Hub Project (TSEP).
- Actively participated in the workshops and meetings with regard to the project for “Setting up of ICT Hubs in Provincial Level and Zonal Level to establish comprehensive ICT strategy in General Education System including the National e-learning platform” which will facilitate further integration of ICT in to the General Education system of Sri Lanka.
- Facilitation for the implementation of the 100 day activity on Development of Estate Schools
- Updated the Project Pipeline incorporating new proposals submitted by the ministries and line agencies.
- Conducted initial meetings and discussions on the Development of the Public Investment Programme 2017-2019
- Prepared a report on needs and requirements of schools of the Northern and Eastern Provinces
- Prepared 08 observations on cabinet memoranda submitted by the Ministry of Education
- Appraised 42 new projects and programmes on Education

Higher Education

Higher Education is offered virtually by the government through 17 universities, 7 post graduate institutes and 9 other degree granting institutes. At present, about 108,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, 5,610 academic staff and 11,953 supportive staff are in the university

system, served in 86 departments. While the state university system plays a major role as the main provider of university education, private participation in university education is also encouraged to create wider avenues for an increased number of students who are willing as only a limited number of students qualify for university education gain admission to state universities.

Higher education, the top cream of the education pyramid, is supposed to serve skilled full, job market oriented graduates to the country and produce useful research to contributing the social well being of the population. To reach all expectations which contributed to the economic development of the country Higher Education sector needs to be sufficiently and efficiently resourced.

Tasks Completed

- Actively participated in the discussions on the way forward of the Higher Education Sector held with the Ministry of Higher Education and other relevant stakeholders.
- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Higher Education in formulating development projects, such as Development of University Townships and organized special meetings with the relevant stakeholders to prepare and finalize the project proposals.
- Organized and participated in meetings for the missions for major higher education sector foreign funded projects such as Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century Project.
- Updated the Project Pipeline incorporating new proposals submitted by the ministries and line agencies.
- Prepared 3 observations on cabinet memoranda and policy papers submitted by the Ministries of Higher Education.
- Appraised 16 new projects and programmes in Higher Education sector.

Skills Education

Availability of highly skilled labor force is essential to cater the impressive economic growth of the country. Hence, Government aims to produce 250,000 skilled youth per annum by 2020 including 175,000 NVQ holders with the policy direction of making every Sri Lankan skilled to enable full employment in the global economy while improving their competencies, soft skills, affordability and access for quality vocational education.

Tasks Completed in 2015

- Altogether 34 project proposals have been received for appraisal while 15 projects were appraised and the rest of the proposals directed to the respective ministry for clarifications and revisions. The observations were submitted to the Department of National Budget, Department of External Resources and to the relevant line agencies.
- Conducted several meetings with officials of skills education institutions, development partners to discuss project formulation matters and presentation of required information in the project proposals. As well as discussions went through on project prioritization and preparation of public investment programme in the sector.
- Furthermore, major emphasis has been placed on to increase the intake for vocational training especially among school drop outs. Therefore, initiated several discussions with the National Cadet Corps, Ministry of Skills and Vocational Training, National Youth Corps to formulate a National Youth Development Programme.
- Prepared National Youth Development Framework was submitted to the Prime Minister Secretariats.
- Conducted discussions with officials involved in implementation of the Master Plan for the National Human Resources and Employment Policy to facilitate their problematic areas.
- Conduct an equipment and teaching facility gap analysis in vocational training in Northern and Eastern provinces.
- Prepare a public investment plan for vocational training and future direction of the sector.

Information and Communication (ICT) Sector

The information and communication sector has been identified in the areas of Information Technology (IT), Posts and Telecommunications. Information Technology includes revenue earning industries such as Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Information & Communications Technology / Business Process Outsourcing (ICT/BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (ICT/KPO).

The information and communication sector has mainly been identified as knowledge based service sector where the government gives priority to enhancing ICT facility, access to information and communication, improving e-Governance and regulatory facilities while the private sector plays a dominant role in providing services and related infrastructure aiming to upgrade the systems to the international standard.

Tasks Completed

- Appraised 11 new projects and programmes submitted by the relevant line ministries.
- Prepared the Project Pipeline for the Information & Communication sectors.
- Prepared observations on Cabinet Memoranda and policy papers submitted by the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure, Ministry of Postal Services, Ministry of Mass Media and Parliamentary Reforms.
- Submitted total of 3 Cabinet observations for Cabinet Memoranda
- Preparation of the ICT sector note and investment table for the Public Investment Programme
- Data collection and submission reports for the North and East Development Plan
- Organized and participated in meetings for the missions in ICT sector

Technology and Research:

Development of Research and Technology to the world standard is one of the major targets of the government. High tech industrialization leads to rapid economic development of a country. The government has taken several steps to promote high tech industries in the country to improve quality, productivity and competitiveness of local firms. Research and Development on high tech fields including nanotechnology and biotechnology have been added a value to many industries such as food processing, tissue culture and fertilizer.

Tasks Completed

- Prepared the Project Pipeline for the research and technology sector.
- Submitted observations for 5 Cabinet Memoranda.
- Attended to several discussions on Evaluation of Project Proposals at Ministry of Technology and Research.

- Preparation of the Science and Technology sector note and investment table for the Public Investment Programme
- Data collection and submission reports for the North and East Development Plan
- Actively participated and necessary information was provided to the National Research and Development Framework

3.8 Macro Economic Planning

The macro economic planning and labour is responsible for development of macroeconomic policies, review and identifying current macro-economic problems and issues and make suitable recommendations. This division deals with the matters relating to macro variables like GDP, employment, inflation and balance of payment.

Tasks Completed

- Preparation of the Macro Economic Framework.
- Submitted observations for four Cabinet Memoranda.
- Prepared Macro chapter for the Public Investment Programme (2016-2018), Economic Development Plan and National Development Policy.
- Submitted four comments on Aid Memos related to the Macroeconomic aspects.
- Provided observations/ comments on the Development Policy Loan.
- Prepared speech for the Seminar on Cross-border Maritime Traffic in South Asia.
- Donor coordination activities were done.

3.9 Regional Development and Social Protection

Social Protection

In the field of Social Protection, works have been done with the corporations of several line Ministries as Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare, Ministry of Women and Affairs and

Ministry of Prison Reforms, Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Hindu Religious Affairs. Sri Lanka is experiencing a significant change in the demographic and social dimension of the society. As a result of this, vulnerability of certain segments of the population like Children, Disadvantaged Women, Elders and the Disabled have increased. However, necessary interventions have taken with the Line Ministries through a group specific intervention to uplift the living standard of these groups and mainstream them into the society. In 2015 government has spent around Rs.1,525 mn for Social Protection sector and out of this Samurshi , disable and elder payment allowances are significant.

Task Completed

- Appraised 08 project proposals and submitted 7 cabinet observations for the cabinet memoranda forwarded by the Line Ministries.
- Necessary inputs were provided to complete the relevant sections of the annual report of Ministry of Finance.
- Prepared a development programme aiming “Northern and Eastern provinces”- 8 reports for 8 District covering major sector.
- Attended to the steering committee meetings and progress review meetings conducted by relevant line agencies of the Sector and provided necessary input to uplifts the Sector Performance.
- Organized the meeting and coordinated the works related to the training of Sri Lankan Nurses in German.

Regional Development

Enhance the living standard of community to a decent level by identifying regional potentials, uniqueness and diverse nature of resources in respective regions is the policy element of Regional Development Sector. The sector is closely linked with other national level development initiatives since it is a cross cutting sector.

Regional Development Sector highlights the importance of sustainable utilization of resources available at regional level for the development of the country. The analysis based on current economic growth, human development and social indicators and their recent trends in 09 Provinces reveals the existing issues, gaps and challenges that need to be addressed in regional development perspective.

Regional disparity is one of key issues which need to be addressed as it is closely linked with living standards, HDI Indices, the level of industrial, agricultural and infrastructural development. This has been given a high priority by the successive governments after the independence. Accelerated Mahaweli Development Program, District Development Committees, Establishment of Provincial Councils, Gam Udawa, Integrated Rural Development Program, Regional Economic Advancement Program, Gama Neguma and Puraneguma are some of major key initiatives implemented in the country to address this issue. The Economic Policy Statement

of the government has also given high priority for this issue and proposed targets and strategies have been formulated.

Medium Term Targets

- Reduction of poverty mainly in lagging areas including Northern, Eastern and Uva provinces to national average by 2020.
- Development of 1000 1AB schools and 5000 feeder schools.
- Increase the student intake by 50% to vocational training and technical education by 2020.
- Reducing maternal mortality to national average by 2020 in provinces such as Central, Northern and North Central.
- Reducing infant mortality to national average by 2020 in provinces such as Central, Northern and North Western.
- Construction of 100,000 housing units for urban underserved people by 2020.
- Provision of housing with basic facilities to 65% of plantation families by 2020.
- Development of around 150,000 full time new entrepreneurs island wide and facilitating around 350,000 families to earn additional income mainly through self-employment.
- Rehabilitation of more than 50% of small and medium irrigation systems on priority basis.

Specific events

- Providing observations to two Cabinet Memoranda submitted by relevant line Ministries.
- Appraising two project proposals submitted by relevant line Ministries.
- Providing necessary technical assistance to relevant line Ministries and Agencies for preparation of policies and strategies related to achieve mid and long run targets.

3.10 Public Management and Governance

The regular improvement of the public sector of the country in institutional, human resources and productivity of service providing is essential for the efficient and effective delivery of public service. The government recognizes the significant role that the public sector plays in facilitating the private sector to engage in development activities. Therefore it is very important to focus on improve capacities both in human and capital for efficient and effective public service. Therefore, the Department of National Planning has contributed to improve the sector in many ways during the last year as described in below.

- The approval has given for 17 project proposals for implementation and recommendation letters were sent to Department of National Budget and the Department of External Resources.
- 20 Cabinet observations were submitted to the Cabinet received from various ministries which are relevant to the Public Management Cluster
- Attended to the Steering committee meetings and progress review meetings conducted by relevant line agencies of the sector and provided necessary inputs to up lift the sector performance.
- Provided required inputs to prepare Action Plan for Sector Development Project for the Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Law and Order, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Initial Preparation of Public Investment Program for the governance sector.
- Preparation of Action plan for North and East Development Program.
- Proposed a program for the improvement of arbitration centers in Sri Lanka.
- Provided technical inputs to the relevant ministries in formulating the respective policies and strategies.

4 Centre for Development Information

The Center for Development Information (CDI) operates as a special library and documentation center of information services on Economics and related subjects. It serves the information needs of the professional staff of all the departments under the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs. It also serves the information needs of outside

researchers and University students. CDI serves as the national focal point for the SAARC member states.

Organization of the Library

- I. Acquiring and classifying incoming materials
- II. Upgrading the periodical section
- III. Processing material before they are made available to users.
- IV. Upgrading and re-arranging the library book collection.

Circulation, Inquiry and Reference Services

- I. Attended to inquiries on information needs.
- II. Provided literature searches based on computer data bases.
- III. Developed and maintained a computerized system for circulation.
- IV. Indexed periodicals and newspaper articles.
- V. Delivered the scanned articles and news items for user requirement.

Other Services

- I. Access to wide range of online resources like INSAP, eLibraryUSA
- II. News Alert Service
- III. Maintained and updated the Union List of Periodicals
- IV. Prepared entries using standard procedures to be included in other participating networks organized by National Science Foundation.
- V. Maintained the Inter Library Loans based on the electronic media.
- VI. Continued the Sri Lanka National Library Network activities.

5 Human Resource Development and General Administration

Staff of the department as at 31.12.2015

No.	Name	Post
01	Mr. S.S Mudalige	Director General
02	Mrs. M. Gangatharan	Additional Director General
03	Mrs. S.D. Rathnayaka	Additional Director General
04	Mr. K.D.S.R. Perera	Additional Director General
05	Miss. N. Wijeweera	Director(Finance)

06	Mr. U.N. Mallawarachchi	Director
07	Mrs. C. Senanayake	Director
08	Mr. T.A.D.D. Premarathna	Director
09	Mr. T.M.J. Bandara	Director
10	Mr. A.M.F. Mubarak	Director
11	Mrs. T. Prassanth	Director
12	Mr. A.R. Wickramarathna	Director
13	Mr. A.K. Gunasekara	Director
14	Mrs. P.H. Chandima	Asst .Director
15	Mrs. D.P. Niharepola	Asst .Director
16	Mr. P.M.S. Jayathilake	Asst .Director
17	Mr. K.N.P. Jayarathne	Asst .Director
18	Mr. T.M.D.P. Tennakoon	Asst .Director
19	Mrs.W.L.P. Fernando	Asst .Director
20	Mrs.R.K.L. Jagoda	Asst. Director
21	Mrs. T.Y.L. Munasinghe	Asst .Director
22	Mr. R.D.A. Maithreerathna	Asst .Director
23	Mrs. G.R.C. Hevawasam	Asst .Director
24	Mrs. M.A.G. Thushari	Asst Director
25	Mrs. D.A.C.D. Peiris	Asst Director
26	Mrs. W.A.J.C. Wickramaarrachchi	Asst .Director
27	Mrs. D.A. Manorathna	Asst. Director
28	Mrs. W.A. Walpita	Asst. Director
29	Mrs. D.H.R.D. Wijewardana	Asst. Director
30	Mr. K.G.R.G.R. Wickramawardhana	Asst .Director
31	Mrs. R.H.C.K. Ramasinghe	Asst .Director
32	Mrs. I.T.N. Mendis	Asst .Director
33	Mrs. H.D.N.K. Hettiarachchi	Asst .Director
34	Mr. K.B.S.S. Fernando	Asst .Director
35	Mrs. M.A.S. Dabarera	Asst .Director

36	Mr. L.H.M.R.B. Lansakara	Asst .Director
37	Mrs. S.M.D.D. Samarakoon	Asst .Director
38	Mrs. U.A.W.L. Sumanasekara	Asst .Director
39	Mrs. K.D.C. Thamarasi	Asst .Director
40	Miss. W.M. Hansani	Asst .Director
41	Miss. M.G.P.K.T. Gunawaradhana	Asst .Director
42	Mrs. K.A.H.K. Perera	Asst .Director
43	Miss. P.A.N. Abesekara	Asst .Director
44	Mrs. A.D. Nakanadala	Asst .Director
45	Mr. B.D.S.P. Kaseelal	Administrative Officer
46	Mrs. J.M.A.K. Jayasekara	Development Officer
47	Miss. G. Rathnawali	Development Officer
48	Mrs.K.G.P.Damayanthi	Management Asst. I
49	Mrs. P.K.K.R.Rajakaruna	Management Asst. I
50	Mrs. J.A.D.C. Jayakodi	Management Asst. I
51	Mrs. W.D.P. Fernando	Management Asst. I
52	Miss. K.L.W.C.L. De Silva	Management Asst. II
53	Mrs. A.D.N. Melani	Management Asst. II
54	Mrs. N.E. Liyanage	Management Asst. II
55	Mr. P.S.R.Pieris	Management Asst. III
56	Mr. P.W.N.S. Pathiraja	Management Asst. III
57	Mr. E.A.C.S. Edirisinghe	Management Asst. III
58	Mr. N.R.Hettiarachchi	K K S I
59	Mr. U.U.Rathnakumara	K K S I
60	Mr. M.D. Rasanjana Fernando	K K S I
61	Mr. M.A.L. Nalin	K K S I
62	Mr. P.S.Ajith	K K S I
63	Mr. P. Dharmasiri	K K S I
64	Mr. S. Irudayaraj	K K S I
65	Mr. D.M. Upul Kumara	K K S I

66	Mr. M. Chandana Pradeep	K K S II
67	Mr. M.P.R. Rathnayaka	K K S II
68	Mr. A.M.R.S.D. Kumara	K K S II
69	Mr. G.S. Rohana	K K S II
70	Mr. P. Saman Kumara Perera	K K S II
71	Mr. W.S.U.K. Silva	K K S II
72	Mr. W.G.S.B. Thennakoon	K K S III
73	Mr. K.V.D.A.P. Karawita	Driver I
74	Mr. A. Wijethunga	Driver I
75	Mr. A.M. Lalith Deepal	Driver I
76	Mr. S. Jayasooriyar	Driver II
77	Mr. P.S. Ananda	Driver II
78	Mr. P.D.D. Pushpakumara	Driver II
79	Mr. W.M.N. Karunathilaka	Driver II
80	Mr. D.M.D. Shiron	Driver II
81	Mr. D.B. Dissanayake	Driver II
82	Mr. D.G. Besil Samantha	Driver II
83	Mr. E.A.S.S. Edirisingha	Driver II
84	Mr. J.G.U. Wimalasiri	Driver II
85	Mr. Sunil Liyanaarachchi	Driver II

2015 Officers Transferred to the Department

	Name	Post
01	Mr. A.R. Wickramarathna	Director
02	Miss. A.K. Gunasekara	Director
03	Mrs. T. Prashanth	Director
04	Mrs. R.H.C.K. Ramasingha	Asst .Director
05	Mr. K.G.R.G.R. Wickramawaradhana	Asst .Director

06	Mrs. M.A.S. Dabarera	Asst .Director
07	Mrs. S.M.D.D. Samarakoon	Asst .Director
08	Mrs. K.A.H.K. Perera	Asst .Director
09	Mrs. A.D. Nakanadala	Asst .Director
10	Mrs. I.T.N. Mendis	Asst .Director
11	Mr. B.D.S.P. Kaseelal	Administrative Officer
12	Miss. G. Rathnawali	Development Officer
13	Mr. P. Dharmasiri	K K S I
14	Mr. S. Irudayaraj	K K S I
15	Mr. D.M. Upul Kumara	K K S I
16	Mr. W.G.S.B. Thennakoon	K K S III
17	Mr. Sunil Liyanarachchi	Driver II

2015 Officers Transferred from the Department

	Name	Post
01	Mrs. C.Wijayawardhana	Director General
02	Mr. N.U.N.Mendis	Director
03	Mr. R.P.S.J. Gunawardhana	Asst .Director
04	Mr. V.C. Wijewardhana	Asst .Director
05	Mr. K.G.R.G.R. Wickramawardhana	Asst .Director
06	Mr. R.K.M.N.N. Palipana	Asst .Director
07	Mr.G.Arunan	Asst .Director
08	Mr. D.P.S.M. Dayasekera	Asst .Director
09	Mr. R.G.P. De Silva	Asst .Director
10	Mrs. A.D. Nakanadala	Asst .Director
11	Mrs. R.A.D. Laxmie	Administrative Officer
12	Mrs. R.A.D.K.Rajapakse	Management Asst. II
13	Mr. B.Priyantha	K K S II
14	Mr. K.K.C.Karasnagala	K K S II
15	Mr. M.A.S.K. Jayawardhana	Driver

16	Mr. P.D.D. Pushpakumara	Driver
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2015 Officer Pensioned from the Department

	Name	Post
01	Mr. B.D.S.P. Kaseelal	Administrative Officer

Foreign Training/ Events – 2014			
	Name of Programme	Foreign Country	Duration
Mr. S.S Mudalige, Director General	Regional Consultation Workshop which is scheduled.	Philippine	26 th to 27 th March 2015.
	South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation (SASER) 2025, Regional Consultation Workshop.	Singapore	14 -15 October 2015
	South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Trade Facilitation and Transport Working Group Meeting	Japan	25 th 26 th November 2015
Mrs. M. Gangatharan, Additional Director General	Second Meeting of Working Group on the Development of Seamless Connectivity	Thailand	26 th 27 th March 2015,
	Asia Women Leaders Program,	Cambodia.	2 nd to 5 th November 2015
Mrs. Shiranthi Dammika Rathnayaka Additional Director General	Invitation to South- South Learning Forum "Emerging Social Protection Systems in an Urbanizing World"	china	November 9-13, 2015
Mr. K.D.S.R Perera, Additional Director General	Evaluation Learning Event: Think Sustainable, Act Responsible 03rd Session of the ESCAP Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction &	Manila	15 th to 16 th September 2015

	Inclusive Development	Thailand	1-3 December 2015
Miss. WK Nishanthi Director (Finance)	Seminar on Introduction and Utilization of Foreign Capital of Inland Regions for Developing countries	China	19 th October to 12 th November 2015
Mrs. U.N. Mallawaarachchi Director	The Asia – pacific Forum on Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Transport Infrastructure Development Draft of the Loan Agreement.	Thailand Saudi Arabia	21 st to 22 nd January 2015 12 to 16 June 2015
Mrs. Chandrika Senanayake, Director	Strategic Thinking and Whole-of-Government Decision Making	Malaysia.	09 th to 11 th March 2015,
Mr. T.A.D. Dammika Premarathna Director	Regional Development Cooperation Policy Core Course of 2015 Shanghai International Program for Development Evaluation Training,	Korea China	12 th October to 01 nd November 2015, November 9-15
Mr. T.M.J. Bandara, Director	Abu Dhabi Ascent High Level Preparatory Meeting for Climate Summit Singapore - Qatar Regional Training Center for Public Administration: Course on “Town Planning” Special Topics Course of 2015 Shanghai International Program for Development Evaluation Training	UAE Doha China	4-5 May from 23 rd to 26 th March 2015 November 16-20
Mr. M. F. A. Mubarak Director	Training on Sustainable urban Planning Course on Sustainable Urban Development and Integrated Town Planning Asia Leadership Programme on Sustainable & Climate Change	Qatar Singapore Japan	3-6 March 16 th to 25 th March 2015 02 nd to 07 th March 2015,
Mr. A.K.Gunasekara Director	Development Cooperation Policy	Korea	12 th to 24 th October 2015,

Mrs. Chandima Punchihewa Assistant Director	5th ADB Skill International Forum	Phillippines	1 - 3 Dec 2015
Disna Awanthi Niharepola Assistant Director	Impact Evaluation (IE) for Development Effectiveness	Manila.	10 - 11 November 2015,
Mr. P.M.S Jayathilaka Assistant Director	Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post - 2015 Development Agenda Capacity Building for Census Department to Conduct Post - war census	New York. Australia.	20 th to 31 st July 2015 02 nd to 27 th November 2015,
W. L. P. Fernando Assistant Director	Post - 2015 Development Agenda Negotiations at United Nations Headquarters	New York	18 th - 22 nd May 2015
Mrs. R. K. L. Jagoda Assistant Director	Course on Public Private Partnership in Development of Infrastructure Projects,	Singapore	16 to 20 November 2015
Ms.T.Y.L. Munasinghe, Assistant Director	Planning of Agricultural Policy. Global Transformation Forum (GTF) -	Japan Malaysia	16 th Aug to 19 th Sep 2015- 21 st to 23 rd October 2015 ,
Mrs. D.A.C.D Peiris, Assistant Director	Project Management Towards Organizational Sustainability	Malaysia	08 th to 21 st August 2015
Mrs. W. Mahesha Hansani Assistant Director	Seminar on Introducing Foreign Expertise and Global Professionals Development for Government Officials	China	12 th May to 01 st June 2015
Mr. K. B. S. S. Fernando Assistant Director	Seminar on Infrastructure Construction and Planning for Sri Lanka Enhancement of Solid Waste Management Capacity (Advance, Planning & Policy)	China Japan	March 19 th April 07 th 2015 26 th October to 21 st November 2015,
Mrs. H. G. V. K. Thilini Gunawardane Assistant Director	Training Programme on your Ladders for Sri Lanka	Japan	19 th Jan to 05 th Feb 2015
Ms. U. A. W. Lakmali Sumanasekara Assistant Director	Seminar on Economic Globalization and Made	China	May 21 st to June 10 th , 2015

Ms. M. A. S. Dabarera Assistant Director	Seminar on Cooperation in Industrial Park Construction Between China and ASEAN Countries	China	May 28 th to June 17 th 2015
Mrs. K.A.H.K.Perera Assistant Director	Seminar on Infrastructure Planning for Eurasia Countries	China	28th July to 17th August 2015
Mrs. S.M.D.D.Samarakoon Assistant Director	Developing Human Resources Development Policy for Sustainable National Competitiveness	China	from 06 th August 2015 to 26 th August 2015
Miss. G.Ratnawalie Development Officer	Workshop on Creation of Digital Repository	Maldives	09 th to 13 th August 2015,

6 Financial Performance – 2015

As per the Appropriation Accounts of the Department of national Planning submitted to the Department of Auditor General, the Total Expenses, Recurrent and Capital Expenditures are summarized as follows.

Name of the Programme	2014		2015		Percentage of Difference (%) (Based on the Actual Expenditure of year 2014)
	Total Allocation (Rs.)	Total Expenses (Rs.)	Total Allocation (Rs.)	Total Expenses (Rs.)	
Recurrent	75,251,500.00	73,526,902.00	76,110,000.00	68,486,950.40	93.15
Capital	98,112,500.00	72,142,779.00	15,600,000.00	13,025,664.15	18.06
Total	173,364,000.00	145,669,681.00	91,710,000.00	81,512,614.55	55.96